



Statistics Canada

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (1996 Representation Order)

Reference Guide



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**Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File
(1996 Representation Order)
User Guide**

**Updated File Including
November 2000 Postal Codes**

**Produced by the Geography Division
Statistics Canada
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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended for users of the Postal Code/Federal Riding file. It includes an overview of the file and its intended use, a description of the general methodology used to create the file and of the data quality and limitations of the file contents. A record layout of the fields in the file and a glossary of the terms used in this document are also included.

This guide is based on the best information available at the time of its release. It in no way constitutes a warranty in the event that users should observe characteristics that deviate from those stated in this document.

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POSTAL CODE/1996 FEDERAL RIDING FILE

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The postal code/1996 federal riding file is a digital file, which provides a link between the six character postal code and Canada's federal ridings. The current version of the postal code/federal riding file links 755,719 postal code records, existing as of November 2000, to the 301 federal ridings.

The official term for a federal riding or constituency is federal electoral district (FED). Elections Canada defines a federal electoral district as any place or territorial area entitled to return a member of Parliament (MP) to serve in the House of Commons. FED legal limits and descriptions are the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer, and are usually revised every 10 years after the results of the decennial census. There are 301 FEDs based on the 1996 Representation Order, the most recent revision of the federal riding limits.¹

1.2 Purpose of the Postal Code /1996 Federal Riding File

The postal code/1996 federal riding file was conceived as a tool for use with administrative files containing postal codes. By using the postal code as a link, data from administrative files may be organized and/or tabulated by federal riding. Using this tool, federal government departments will be able to respond more quickly and easily to MPs requests for information about their ridings. For example, the number and value of contracts awarded to a particular riding could be summarized. The ridings where petition signatories reside could also be identified in order to notify the appropriate Members of Parliament. Conversely, the postal codes for a given riding could be identified for general mailings to constituents; however, it should be noted that some postal codes do straddle one or more riding boundary. Before using this file, users should first familiarize themselves with the information provided in the following section on data quality.

¹ Note that the terms "federal riding" and "federal electoral district" or "FED" are used interchangeably in this user guide.

2 DATA QUALITY STATEMENT

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of a data quality statement is to provide detailed information for users to evaluate the appropriateness of the data or product for a particular use.

Before using the postal code/1996 federal riding file with administrative files containing postal codes, users should be aware of some characteristics of postal codes that may affect their linkage to federal ridings on the postal code/federal riding file:

- 1) postal delivery areas do not always respect federal riding boundaries;
- 2) postal codes may be associated with post office boxes at a postal station that is not in the same riding as the client using the post office box;
- 3) Canada Post Corporation regularly retires postal codes and may also reactivate retired codes for use again.
- 4) Inclusion or exclusion of postal codes in a federal riding.

In the first case, a postal delivery area (as represented by the six-digit postal code) may straddle one or more federal riding boundaries, which means that, in the postal code/1996 federal riding file, the same postal code may be linked to two or more (adjacent) federal ridings. Most ridings are affected in this way in both urban and rural areas. Refer to section 2.3 *Logical Consistency* in this guide for further details.

In the second case, the postal code linkage to the federal riding is based on the mailing address information, and therefore it is the physical location of the post office that is linked to the riding rather than the ultimate destination of mail delivery - the residential, industrial or commercial location of the client renting a post office box - which could be located in another riding.

In the third case, users of the postal code/1996 federal riding file must keep in mind that the file contains only the postal codes from Canada Post that were active as of November 2000. If the addresses in a user's administrative file are not updated to November 2000, there may be non-matches with the postal code/federal riding file because some of the postal codes in the user's file may have been retired, or may even have been reactivated and re-assigned by Canada Post to another range of addresses outside the riding where they had previously been used. Statistics Canada maintains an audit trail of the "birth" dates and "retirement" dates of postal codes in the Postal Code Conversion File. Users may wish to contact their nearest Regional Reference Centre (addresses given at the end of this user guide) where detailed information about the Postal Code Conversion File is available in the *Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF) User Guide, Updated File including November 2000 Postal Codes* produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, January 2001.

In the fourth case, postal codes are given the representative point co-ordinates of a block-face or of an enumeration area. Where a 1996 Federal Electoral District boundary splits a 1996 EA or block-face, the postal codes linked to that EA or block-face are included in the federal riding in which their co-ordinates fall.

A description of how the postal code/federal riding file was produced and statements about its data

quality (under the headings: lineage, logical consistency, attribute accuracy and completeness) follow.

2.2 Lineage

Lineage includes descriptions of the source material from which the data were derived and the methods of derivation, including the dates of the source material and all transformations involved in producing the final digital product.

2.2.1 Source Files

Two existing products of the Geography Division at Statistics Canada have been used to derive the postal code/1996 federal riding file:

- 1) January 2001 Postal Code Conversion File, which links postal codes (provided by Canada Post Corporation on the Postal Code Address Master File, updated to November 2000) to codes for all 1996 Census geographic areas, including province (PR) codes and federal electoral district (FED) codes and to geographic point co-ordinates representing the postal codes. The January 2001 postal code conversion file contains over 954,000 postal code records linked to the geographical areas used in the 1996 Census. These geographical areas have a reference date of January 1, 1996.
- 2) The **Federal Electoral District (FED) Names File**, which contains the official name of each federal riding (based on the 1996 Representation Order) and its associated identification code.

2.2.2 Method of Derivation

The postal code/1996 federal riding file was created by merging a subset of the January 2001 postal code conversion file with the federal electoral district names file using the federal electoral district code as the common field which exists on both of the source files.

The subset of the postal code conversion file was created by extracting unique occurrences of postal codes linked to a federal electoral district. Then all records representing retired postal codes within each federal electoral district were identified and deleted. The resulting postal code/1996 federal riding file contains 755,719 postal code records of which 750,374 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 2,634 postal codes (5,345 records) are linked to from 2 to 4 federal electoral districts (further details are provided in section 2.3 below). The number of postal code records by federal electoral district is provided in Appendix "A".

2.3 Logical Consistency

Logical consistency describes the fidelity of relationships encoded in the data structure of the digital spatial data (i.e., how well elements of the data structure follow the rules imposed on them).

Of the 755,719 postal codes found on this file, there are 750,374 postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 2,634 postal codes that are linked to two or more federal ridings. The following table summarizes them.

Postal codes linked to 2 or more Federal Ridings

Number of Federal Ridings	Number of postal codes	Number of records on postal code/federal riding file
2	2,561	5,122
3	69	207
4	4	16
Total	2,634	5,345

2.4 Attribute Accuracy

Attribute accuracy refers to the quality of the non-positional information attached to each postal code.

The attribute accuracy of the postal code/1996 federal riding file is dependent on the accuracy of the postal code conversion file used as a data source. Please refer to the Postal Code Conversion File User Guide for further details.

2.5 Completeness

Completeness expresses the degree to which the geographic entities (features) are captured according to the data capture specifications.

Completeness in the context of the PCFR is the degree to which all valid postal codes are accounted for. All postal codes, valid as of June 2000 according to Canada Post Corporation, have been linked to census geography.

The Federal Electoral District Names file contains 301 records, one for each federal electoral district (1996 Representation Order).

The final digital files contain the following number of records:

Filename	Number of records
PCFREAST_NOV00.EXE (Atlantic provinces)	87,368
PCFRQUE_NOV00.EXE (Quebec)	187,717
PCFRONT_NOV00.EXE (Ontario)	254,348
PCFRWEST_NOV00.EXE (Prairie provinces, N.W.T. and Nunavut)	115,572
PCFRBC_NOV00.EXE (B.C. & Yukon)	110,714
PCFRNAT_NOV00.EXE (Canada)	755,719

3 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Physical Medium Description

The PCFR is a flat ASCII file and does not include any software.

3.2 Record Layout

The record layout for the postal code/1996 federal riding file follows:

Field	Size	Position	Type	Title
1	6	1-6	AN	Postal Code
2	5	7-11	AN	Federal riding (FED) code
3	56	12-67	AN	English Federal riding (FED) name
4	56	68-123	AN	French Federal riding (FED) name

4 POSTAL CODE/FEDERAL RIDING FILE GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Federal Riding or Federal Electoral District (FED)

A federal electoral district is any place or territorial area entitled to return a member to serve in the House of Commons. FED legal limits and descriptions are the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer, and are usually revised every 10 years after the results of the decennial census. The 1996 Representation Order is the most current revision, and is based on 1991 Census population data.

Postal Code

The postal code is a six-character alphanumeric code defined and maintained by Canada Post Corporation for the processing (sortation and delivery) of mail.

The alphanumeric characters are arranged in the form ANA NAN, where "A" represents a letter of the alphabet and "N" a numeric digit. The first character of a postal code (allocated in alphabetic sequence from east to west across Canada) represents a province or territory or a major sector entirely within a province.

The first three characters represent a set of well-defined and stable areas known as the Forward Sortation Area (FSA). Rural FSAs are identifiable by the presence of a "0" in the second position of the FSA code.

The last three characters identify the Local Delivery Unit (LDU). In established urban areas, the LDU can specify a small and easily defined area within an FSA such as block-face (one side of a city street between consecutive intersections with streets or similar physical features), an apartment building, an office building, or a large firm or organization which does large volume business with the post office. In rural areas, the LDU denotes a service area - the area serviced by rural route delivery from a post office or station, e.g., a rural route, general delivery or post office box.

Province (PROV)

The major political division of Canada. From a statistical point of view, it is a basic unit for which data are tabulated and cross-classified. The province codes are: **10** - Newfoundland and Labrador, **11** - Prince Edward Island, **12** - Nova Scotia, **13** - New Brunswick, **24** - Quebec, **35** - Ontario, **46** - Manitoba, **47** - Saskatchewan, **48** - Alberta, **59** - British Columbia.

Territory (TERR)

Two major political divisions of Canada, namely the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. From a statistical point of view, these territories are equivalent to a province, i.e., a basic unit for which data are tabulated and cross-classified. The territory codes are: **60** - Yukon, **61** - Northwest Territories, and **62** - Nunavut.

APPENDIX A:

POSTAL CODE / 1996 FEDERAL RIDING FILE
NUMBER OF POSTAL CODES (or PCs) PER FEDERAL RIDING (or FED)

PR/FED	FEDERAL RIDING NAMES	# OF PCs
10001	Bonavista - Trinity - Conception	152
10002	Burin - St. George's	538
10003	Gander - Grand Falls	754
10004	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1125
10005	Labrador	366
10006	St. John's East	2242
10007	St. John's West	2105
11001	Cardigan	71
11002	Egmont	913
11003	Hillsborough	1795
11004	Malpeque	43
12001	Bras d'Or - Cape Breton	2807
12002	Cumberland - Colchester	1686
12003	Dartmouth	2891
12004	Halifax	3100
12005	Halifax West	2482
12006	Kings - Hants	803
12007	Pictou - Antigonish - Guysborough	1211
12008	Sackville - Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore	1323
12009	South Shore	552
12010	Sydney - Victoria	4742
12011	West Nova	670
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4821
13002	Beauséjour - Petitcodiac	9323
13003	New Brunswick Southwest	6790
13004	Fredericton	3431
13005	Fundy - Royal	7045
13006	Madawaska - Restigouche	4438
13007	Miramichi	4569
13008	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4541
13009	Saint John	3609
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	6430
24001	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik	1729
24002	Ahuntsic	2470
24003	Anjou - Rivière-des-Prairies	2359
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1572
24005	Beauce	2357
24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2324
24007	Beauport - Montmorency - Côte-de-Beaupré - Île-d'Orléans	2787

24008	Bellechasse - Etchemins - Montmagny - L'Islet	703
24009	Berthier - Montcalm	369
24010	Bourassa	2002
24011	Brome - Missisquoi	2643
24012	Brossard - La Prairie	2503
24013	Chambly	3160
24014	Champlain	2749
24015	Charlesbourg	3445
24016	Charlevoix	1722
24017	Châteauguay	2247
24018	Chicoutimi	3328
24019	Compton - Stanstead	1117
24020	Drummond	3150
24021	Frontenac - Mégantic	1968
24022	Bonaventure - Gaspé - Îles-de-la-Madeleine - Pabok	646
24023	Gatineau	3929
24024	Hochelaga - Maisonneuve	1925
24025	Hull - Aylmer	3597
24026	Joliette	3195
24027	Jonquière	2898
24028	Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup - Témiscouata - Les Basques	1189
24029	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2344
24030	Lac-Saint-Jean	1635
24031	Lac-Saint-Louis	4370
24032	LaSalle - Émard	1752
24033	Laurentides	3143
24034	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2295
24035	Laval Centre	3255
24036	Laval East	3501
24037	Laval West	3446
24038	Lévis-et-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	4338
24039	Longueuil	2224
24040	Lotbinière	847
24041	Louis-Hébert	3551
24042	Manicouagan	1336
24043	Matapédia - Matane	1170
24044	Mercier	2763
24045	Mount Royal	2392
24046	Outremont	1605
24047	Papineau - Saint-Denis	1792
24048	Pierrefonds - Dollard	3058
24049	Pontiac - Gatineau - Labelle	2168
24050	Portneuf	1944
24051	Québec	4172
24052	Québec East	3979
24053	Repentigny	3563
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	2879
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	2717

24056	Rimouski - Mitis	2189
24057	Roberval	2648
24058	Rosemont	1783
24059	Témiscamingue	1629
24060	Rivière-des-Milles-Îles	3236
24061	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	2913
24062	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2072
24063	Saint-Jean	2673
24064	Saint-Lambert	2635
24065	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2512
24066	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1830
24067	Saint-Maurice	3296
24068	Shefford	2089
24069	Sherbrooke	3669
24070	Terrebonne - Blainville	3608
24071	Trois-Rivières	3273
24072	Vaudreuil - Soulanges	1969
24073	Verchères - Les-Patriotes	1778
24074	Verdun - Saint-Henri	1793
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3821
35001	Algoma - Manitoulin	636
35002	Barrie - Simcoe - Bradford	3691
35003	Beaches - East York	2350
35004	Bramalea - Gore - Malton - Springdale	2776
35005	Brampton Centre	2152
35006	Brampton West - Mississauga	2811
35007	Brant	4125
35008	Broadview - Greenwood	1821
35009	Bruce - Grey	1692
35010	Burlington	3206
35011	Cambridge	3710
35012	Davenport	1562
35013	Don Valley East	1642
35014	Don Valley West	2354
35015	Dufferin - Peel - Wellington - Grey	1317
35016	Durham	1958
35017	Eglinton - Lawrence	2418
35018	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2569
35019	Erie - Lincoln	2260
35020	Essex	2430
35021	Etobicoke Centre	2627
35022	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3383
35023	Etobicoke North	2144
35024	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	917
35025	Carleton - Gloucester	2440
35026	Guelph - Wellington	3379
35027	Haldimand - Norfolk - Brant	1493
35028	Halton	3203

35029	Hamilton East	3443
35030	Hamilton Mountain	3258
35031	Hamilton West	3298
35032	Hastings - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	787
35033	Huron - Bruce	990
35034	Kenora - Rainy River	1608
35035	Chatham - Kent Essex	2470
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3634
35037	Kitchener Centre	3203
35038	Kitchener - Waterloo	3648
35039	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1389
35040	Lanark - Carleton	3210
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1532
35042	London North Centre	3674
35043	London - Fanshawe	2436
35044	London West	2885
35045	Markham	3240
35046	Mississauga Centre	1963
35047	Mississauga East	1932
35048	Mississauga South	2784
35049	Mississauga West	2503
35050	Nepean - Carleton	2250
35051	Niagara Centre	3717
35052	Niagara Falls	3395
35053	Nickel Belt	750
35054	Nipissing	2186
35055	Northumberland	2366
35056	Oak Ridges	3417
35057	Oakville	3534
35058	Oshawa	3599
35059	Ottawa Centre	4140
35060	Ottawa South	3156
35061	Ottawa - Vanier	3246
35062	Ottawa West - Nepean	3001
35063	Oxford	2895
35064	Parkdale - High Park	1773
35065	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1044
35066	Perth - Middlesex	1818
35067	Peterborough	2956
35068	Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge	2421
35069	Prince Edward - Hastings	1724
35070	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	2905
35071	Sarnia - Lambton	2809
35072	Sault Ste. Marie	2905
35073	Scarborough - Agincourt	1519
35074	Scarborough Centre	2533
35075	Scarborough East	1998
35076	Scarborough - Rouge River	2036
35077	Scarborough Southwest	2171

35078	Simcoe - Grey	958
35079	Simcoe North	2235
35080	St. Catharines	4035
35081	St. Paul's	2171
35082	Stoney Creek	2940
35083	Stormont - Dundas - Charlottenburgh	2145
35084	Sudbury	3048
35085	Thornhill	2836
35086	Thunder Bay - Atikokan	2061
35087	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2223
35088	Timiskaming - Cochrane	514
35089	Timmins - James Bay	1847
35090	Toronto Centre - Rosedale	2983
35091	Trinity - Spadina	2058
35092	Vaughan - King - Aurora	3111
35093	Haliburton - Victoria - Brock	958
35094	Waterloo - Wellington	1605
35095	Wentworth - Burlington	2587
35096	Whitby - Ajax	3210
35097	Willowdale	2569
35098	Windsor - St. Clair	3080
35099	Windsor West	4210
35100	York Centre	1936
35101	York North	2213
35102	York South - Weston	2120
35103	York West	1457
46001	Brandon - Souris	2075
46002	Charleswood St. James - Assiniboia	1982
46003	Churchill	745
46004	Dauphin - Swan River	699
46005	Portage - Lisgar	1234
46006	Provencher	241
46007	Saint Boniface	2375
46008	Selkirk - Interlake	782
46009	Winnipeg North Centre	2374
46010	Winnipeg Centre	2678
46011	Winnipeg South	2116
46012	Winnipeg South Centre	1955
46013	Winnipeg North - St. Paul	1799
46014	Winnipeg - Transcona	2240
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1066
47002	Blackstrap	1699
47003	Churchill River	266
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1025
47005	Palliser	2701
47006	Prince Albert	1470
47007	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1778
47008	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1746

47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1398
47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1729
47011	Souris - Moose Mountain	1182
47012	Wanuskewin	1806
47013	Wascana	2601
47014	Yorkton - Melville	812
48001	Athabasca	1462
48002	Calgary Centre	4966
48003	Calgary East	3323
48004	Calgary Northeast	3193
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	3107
48006	Calgary Southeast	2724
48007	Calgary Southwest	2887
48008	Calgary West	3730
48009	Crowfoot	1080
48010	Edmonton East	4472
48011	Edmonton North	3202
48012	Edmonton Southeast	2907
48013	Edmonton Southwest	3165
48014	Edmonton - Strathcona	4418
48015	Edmonton West	4631
48016	Elk Island	2320
48017	Lakeland	1356
48018	Lethbridge	3380
48019	Macleod	712
48020	Medicine Hat	2733
48021	Peace River	1773
48022	Red Deer	2466
48023	St. Albert	2072
48024	Wetaskiwin	2040
48025	Wild Rose	1509
48026	Yellowhead	853
59001	Burnaby - Douglas	3393
59002	Cariboo - Chilcotin	1701
59003	Delta - South Richmond	4313
59004	Dewdney - Alouette	3415
59005	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3369
59006	Fraser Valley	3449
59007	Kamloops, Thompson and Highland Valleys	2829
59008	Kelowna	4315
59009	Kootenay - Columbia	1455
59010	Langley - Abbotsford	3247
59011	Nanaimo - Alberni	3369
59012	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2890
59013	New Westminster - Coquitlam - Burnaby	3886
59014	Okanagan - Shuswap	2588
59015	North Vancouver	4303
59016	Okanagan - Coquihalla	1762
59017	Port Moody - Coquitlam - Port Coquitlam	3864

59018	Prince George - Bulkley Valley	2256
59019	Prince George - Peace River	3093
59020	Richmond	3231
59021	Saanich - Gulf Islands	3935
59022	Skeena	1736
59023	South Surrey - White Rock - Langley	3532
59024	Surrey Central	4064
59025	Surrey North	3380
59026	Vancouver Centre	3423
59027	Vancouver East	3536
59028	Vancouver Island North	3038
59029	Vancouver Kingsway	3135
59030	Vancouver Quadra	4181
59031	Vancouver South - Burnaby	3603
59032	Victoria	4554
59033	Kootenay - Boundary - Okanagan	2256
59034	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast	2726
60001	Yukon	887
61002	Western Arctic	487
62001	Nunavut	30