



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
September 2002 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 (PCFR) 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 777,447 postal code records, existing as of September 2002, to the 301 federal ridings.

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 postal 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 September 2002. If the addresses in a user's administrative file are not updated to September 2002, 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 September 2002 Postal Codes produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, December 2002.

In the fourth case, postal codes are given the representative point co-ordinates of a block-face, block or of a dissemination area. Where a 1996 Federal Electoral District boundary splits a 2001 DA, block or block-face, the postal codes linked to that DA, block 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) December 2002 Postal Code Conversion File, which links postal codes (provided by Canada Post Corporation on the Postal Code Address Master File, updated to September 2002) to codes for all 2001 Census geographic areas, including province (PR) codes and federal electoral district (FED) codes and to geographic point co-ordinates representing the postal codes. The December 2002 Postal Code Conversion File contains over 1,888,000 postal code records linked to the geographical areas used in the 2001 Census. These geographical areas have a reference date of January 1, 2001.
- 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 December 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 777,447 postal code records of which 768,313 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 4,274 postal codes (9,134 records) are linked to from 2 to 5 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 777,447 postal codes found on this file, there are 768,313 postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 4,274 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	3,809	7,618
3	357	1,071
4	95	380
5	13	65
Total	4,274	9,134

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 September 2002 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_SEP02.EXE (Atlantic provinces)	93,095
PCFRQUE_SEP02.EXE (Quebec)	192,260
PCFRONT_SEP02.EXE (Ontario)	260,934
PCFRWEST_SEP02.EXE (Prairie provinces, N.W.T. and Nunavut)	119,536
PCFRBC_SEP02.EXE (B.C. & Yukon)	112,146
PCFRNAT_SEP02.EXE (Canada)	777,447

3 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Physical Medium Description

The PCFR is an 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), 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, and **59** - British Columbia.

Territory (TERR)

Three major political divisions of Canada, namely the Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. 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 Territory, **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	151
10002	Burin - St. George's	569
10003	Gander - Grand Falls	780
10004	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1562
10005	Labrador	370
10006	St. John's East	4111
10007	St. John's West	2141
11001	Cardigan	147
11002	Egmont	953
11003	Hillsborough	1892
11004	Malpeque	40
12001	Bras d'Or - Cape Breton	3342
12002	Cumberland - Colchester	1711
12003	Dartmouth	2909
12004	Halifax	3108
12005	Halifax West	3054
12006	Kings - Hants	1454
12007	Pictou - Antigonish - Guysborough	1257
12008	Sackville - Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore	1502
12009	South Shore	599
12010	Sydney - Victoria	4930
12011	West Nova	678
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4872
13002	Beauséjour - Petitcodiac	9543
13003	New Brunswick Southwest	6875
13004	Fredericton	3523
13005	Fundy - Royal	7106
13006	Madawaska - Restigouche	4528
13007	Miramichi	4636
13008	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4643
13009	Saint John	3715
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	6394
24001	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik	1728
24002	Ahuntsic	2435
24003	Anjou - Rivière-des-Prairies	2389
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1984
24005	Beauce	2384
24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2340
24007	Beauport - Montmorency - Côte-de-Beaupré - Île-d'Orléans	2856
24008	Bellechasse - Etchemins - Montmagny - L'Islet	710

24009	Berthier - Montcalm	373
24010	Bourassa	2007
24011	Brome - Missisquoi	2681
24012	Brossard - La Prairie	2550
24013	Chambly	3224
24014	Champlain	2759
24015	Charlesbourg - Jacques-Cartier	3471
24016	Charlevoix	1735
24017	Châteauguay	2287
24018	Chicoutimi - Le Fjord	3341
24019	Compton - Stanstead	1136
24020	Drummond	3535
24021	Frontenac - Mégantic	1971
24022	Bonaventure - Gaspé - Îles-de-la-Madeleine - Pabok	643
24023	Gatineau	3970
24024	Hochelaga - Maisonneuve	1997
24025	Hull - Aylmer	3643
24026	Joliette	3217
24027	Jonquière	2960
24028	Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup - Témiscouata - Les Basques	1199
24029	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2353
24030	Lac-Saint-Jean - Saguenay	2187
24031	Lac-Saint-Louis	4475
24032	LaSalle - Émard	1769
24033	Laurentides	3605
24034	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2337
24035	Laval Centre	3353
24036	Laval East	3610
24037	Laval West	3541
24038	Lévis-et-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	4387
24039	Longueuil	2247
24040	Lotbinière-L'Érable	863
24041	Louis-Hébert	3597
24042	Manicouagan	1339
24043	Matapédia - Matane	1665
24044	Mercier	2777
24045	Mount Royal	2389
24046	Outremont	1616
24047	Papineau - Saint-Denis	1806
24048	Pierrefonds - Dollard	3012
24049	Pontiac - Gatineau - Labelle	2188
24050	Portneuf	1979
24051	Québec	4195
24052	Québec East	4037
24053	Repentigny	3656
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	2915
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	2759

24056	Rimouski-Neigette-et-la Mitis	2222
24057	Roberval	2683
24058	Rosemont - Petite-Patrie	1748
24059	Témiscamingue	1679
24060	Rivière-des-Mille-Îles	3267
24061	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	2944
24062	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2116
24063	Saint-Jean	2704
24064	Saint-Lambert	2636
24065	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2550
24066	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1866
24067	Saint-Maurice	3322
24068	Shefford	2137
24069	Sherbrooke	3692
24070	Terrebonne - Blainville	3682
24071	Trois-Rivières	3294
24072	Vaudreuil - Soulanges	2034
24073	Verchères - Les-Patriotes	1823
24074	Verdun - Saint-Henri - Saint-Paul - Pointe Saint-Charles	1797
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3907
35001	Algoma - Manitoulin	635
35002	Barrie - Simcoe - Bradford	3814
35003	Beaches - East York	2423
35004	Bramalea - Gore - Malton - Springdale	2939
35005	Brampton Centre	2242
35006	Brampton West - Mississauga	3240
35007	Brant	4151
35008	Toronto - Danforth	1843
35009	Bruce - Grey - Owen Sound	1686
35010	Burlington	3237
35011	Cambridge	3774
35012	Davenport	1576
35013	Don Valley East	1751
35014	Don Valley West	2632
35015	Dufferin - Peel - Wellington - Grey	1349
35016	Durham	2029
35017	Eglinton - Lawrence	2460
35018	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2626
35019	Erie - Lincoln	2270
35020	Essex	2451
35021	Etobicoke Centre	2673
35022	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3366
35023	Etobicoke North	2144
35024	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	1059
35025	Ottawa - Orléans	2570
35026	Guelph - Wellington	3424
35027	Haldimand - Norfolk - Brant	1491
35028	Halton	3601
35029	Hamilton East	3441

35030	Hamilton Mountain	3284
35031	Hamilton West	3306
35032	Hastings - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	783
35033	Huron - Bruce	982
35034	Kenora - Rainy River	1607
35035	Chatham - Kent Essex	2463
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3657
35037	Kitchener Centre	3226
35038	Kitchener - Waterloo	3757
35039	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1439
35040	Lanark - Carleton	3477
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1535
35042	London North Centre	3660
35043	London - Fanshawe	2495
35044	London West	2923
35045	Markham	3407
35046	Mississauga Centre	1983
35047	Mississauga East	1893
35048	Mississauga South	2828
35049	Mississauga West	2613
35050	Nepean - Carleton	2453
35051	Niagara Centre	3733
35052	Niagara Falls	3431
35053	Nickel Belt	774
35054	Nipissing	2193
35055	Northumberland	2382
35056	Oak Ridges	3646
35057	Oakville	3617
35058	Oshawa	3616
35059	Ottawa Centre	4075
35060	Ottawa South	3247
35061	Ottawa - Vanier	3257
35062	Ottawa West - Nepean	3004
35063	Oxford	2928
35064	Parkdale - High Park	1804
35065	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1062
35066	Perth - Middlesex	1907
35067	Peterborough	2980
35068	Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge	2501
35069	Prince Edward - Hastings	1739
35070	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	2935
35071	Sarnia - Lambton	2822
35072	Sault Ste. Marie	2905
35073	Scarborough - Agincourt	1544
35074	Scarborough Centre	2426
35075	Scarborough East	1965
35076	Scarborough - Rouge River	2151
35077	Scarborough Southwest	2158

35078	Simcoe - Grey	1005
35079	Simcoe North	2243
35080	St. Catharines	4039
35081	St. Paul's	2221
35082	Stoney Creek	3009
35083	Stormont - Dundas - Charlottenburgh	2146
35084	Sudbury	3040
35085	Thornhill	2871
35086	Thunder Bay - Atikokan	2123
35087	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2227
35088	Timiskaming - Cochrane	964
35089	Timmins - James Bay	1852
35090	Toronto Centre - Rosedale	3069
35091	Trinity - Spadina	2134
35092	Vaughan - King - Aurora	3438
35093	Haliburton - Victoria - Brock	964
35094	Waterloo - Wellington	2225
35095	Ancaster - Dundas - Flamborough - Aldershot	2625
35096	Whitby - Ajax	3332
35097	Willowdale	2607
35098	Windsor - St. Clair	3152
35099	Windsor West	4330
35100	York Centre	1959
35101	York North	2275
35102	York South - Weston	2119
35103	York West	1477
46001	Brandon - Souris	2068
46002	Charleswood St. James - Assiniboia	1994
46003	Churchill	744
46004	Dauphin - Swan River	700
46005	Portage - Lisgar	1237
46006	Provencher	236
46007	Saint Boniface	2377
46008	Selkirk - Interlake	865
46009	Winnipeg North Centre	2366
46010	Winnipeg Centre	2702
46011	Winnipeg South	2179
46012	Winnipeg South Centre	1948
46013	Winnipeg North - St. Paul	1822
46014	Winnipeg - Transcona	2258
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1103
47002	Blackstrap	1717
47003	Churchill River	264
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1067
47005	Palliser	2708
47006	Prince Albert	1473
47007	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1792
47008	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1745
47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1465

47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1742
47011	Souris - Moose Mountain	1180
47012	Saskatoon - Wanuskewin	1762
47013	Wascana	2620
47014	Yorkton - Melville	810
48001	Athabasca	1543
48002	Calgary Centre	5108
48003	Calgary East	3323
48004	Calgary Northeast	3304
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	3219
48006	Calgary Southeast	2832
48007	Calgary Southwest	2952
48008	Calgary West	3790
48009	Crowfoot	1101
48010	Edmonton Centre-East	4698
48011	Edmonton North	3362
48012	Edmonton Southeast	3054
48013	Edmonton Southwest	3433
48014	Edmonton - Strathcona	4456
48015	Edmonton West	4789
48016	Elk Island	2376
48017	Lakeland	1394
48018	Lethbridge	3426
48019	Macleod	1098
48020	Medicine Hat	2768
48021	Peace River	1890
48022	Red Deer	2701
48023	St. Albert	2169
48024	Wetaskiwin	2101
48025	Wild Rose	1820
48026	Yellowhead	837
59001	Burnaby - Douglas	3404
59002	Cariboo - Chilcotin	1697
59003	Delta - South Richmond	4339
59004	Dewdney - Alouette	3456
59005	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3367
59006	Fraser Valley	3499
59007	Kamloops, Thompson and Highland Valleys	2844
59008	Kelowna	4343
59009	Kootenay - Columbia	1508
59010	Langley - Abbotsford	3275
59011	Nanaimo - Alberni	3386
59012	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2909
59013	New Westminster - Coquitlam - Burnaby	3923
59014	Okanagan - Shuswap	2662
59015	North Vancouver	4319
59016	Okanagan - Coquihalla	1779
59017	Port Moody - Coquitlam - Port Coquitlam	3887

59018	Prince George - Bulkley Valley	2268
59019	Prince George - Peace River	3115
59020	Richmond	3245
59021	Saanich - Gulf Islands	3938
59022	Skeena	1741
59023	South Surrey - White Rock - Langley	3619
59024	Surrey Central	4169
59025	Surrey North	3514
59026	Vancouver Centre	3312
59027	Vancouver East	3775
59028	Vancouver Island North	3133
59029	Vancouver Kingsway	3196
59030	Vancouver Quadra	4217
59031	Vancouver South - Burnaby	3619
59032	Victoria	4639
59033	Kootenay - Boundary - Okanagan	2385
59034	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast	2740
60001	Yukon	924
61002	Western Arctic	494
62001	Nunavut	30