



Liberals take action to restore mandatory long form census

June 23, 2011 – (Ottawa) Geoff Regan, MP for Halifax West helped bring legislation before Parliament that would reinstate the mandatory long form census.

Regan seconded Bill C-260, an Act to amend the Statistics Act (mandatory long-form census questionnaire) which was introduced by fellow Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett. If passed, this bill would ensure accountability and meet the needs of the many Canadians who rely on this data.

“The decision to remove the long form census was made without any public consultation and without regard for its impact on Canadians,” said Regan. “The long-form census is vital to the collection of statistics that help all levels of government, businesses, and non-profit organizations provide services to Canadians.”

The Conservative government’s new “voluntary” census will cost taxpayers \$30 million more to administer, and will provide seriously flawed data that will under represent certain groups in society. In past years, data from the long-form questionnaire have been used to inform program and policy decisions in communities across Canada.

“I heard from nurses, social workers, municipal planners and representatives from numerous non-profit organizations in Halifax West who told me the decision to scrap the long form will have a serious impact on their ability to deliver programs and services in our community, including transit, recreation, police and fire services and seniors programs,” said Regan.

Bill C-260 will make certain that future programs and policies developed in Canada will be based on solid information,

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