



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  
June 2001 Postal Codes**

**Produced by the Geography Division  
Statistics Canada  
July 2001**

## **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.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
1 OVERVIEW .....	4
1.1 Introduction .....	4
1.2 Purpose of the Postal Code/1996 Federal Riding File.....	4
2 DATA QUALITY STATEMENT .....	5
2.1 Introduction .....	5
2.2 Lineage .....	6
2.2.1 Source Files .....	6
2.2.2 Method of Derivation .....	6
2.3 Logical Consistency .....	7
2.4 Attribute Accuracy.....	7
2.5 Completeness.....	8
3 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS .....	9
3.1 Physical Medium Description.....	9
3.2 Record Layout.....	9
4 POSTAL CODE/1996 FEDERAL RIDING FILE GLOSSARY OF TERMS .....	10
APPENDIX "A" .....	11

## 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 761,374 postal code records, existing as of June 2001, 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.<sup>1</sup>

#### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 June 2001. If the addresses in a user's administrative file are not updated to June 2001, 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 June 2001 Postal Codes* produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, July 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) July 2001 Postal Code Conversion File, which links postal codes (provided by Canada Post Corporation on the Postal Code Address Master File, updated to June 2001) 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 July 2001 postal code conversion file contains over 961,000 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 July 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 761,374 postal code records of which 756,019 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 2,639 postal codes (5,355 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 761,374 postal codes found on this file, there are 756,019 postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 2,639 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**

<b>Number of Federal Ridings</b>	<b>Number of postal codes</b>	<b>Number of records on postal code/federal riding file</b>
2	2,566	5,132
3	69	207
4	4	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>5,355</b>

## 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 2001 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:

<b>Filename</b>	<b>Number of records</b>
PCFREAST_JUN01.EXE (Atlantic provinces)	89,450
PCFRQUE_JUN01.EXE (Quebec)	188,802
PCFRONT_JUN01.EXE (Ontario)	255,627
PCFRWEST_JUN01.EXE (Prairie provinces, N.W.T. and Nunavut)	116,491
PCFRBC_JUN01.EXE (B.C. & Yukon)	111,004
PCFRNAT_JUN01.EXE (Canada)	761,374

### 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)**

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, **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)**

<b>PR/FED</b>	<b>FEDERAL RIDING NAMES</b>	<b># OF PCs</b>
10001	Bonavista - Trinity - Conception	148
10002	Burin - St. George's	563
10003	Gander - Grand Falls	776
10004	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1145
10005	Labrador	368
10006	St. John's East	2813
10007	St. John's West	2111
11001	Cardigan	71
11002	Egmont	949
11003	Hillsborough	1809
11004	Malpeque	43
12001	Bras d'Or - Cape Breton	3320
12002	Cumberland - Colchester	1709
12003	Dartmouth	2883
12004	Halifax	3105
12005	Halifax West	2507
12006	Kings - Hants	1154
12007	Pictou - Antigonish - Guysborough	1252
12008	Sackville - Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore	1412
12009	South Shore	589
12010	Sydney - Victoria	4793
12011	West Nova	675
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4840
13002	Beauséjour - Petitcodiac	9351
13003	New Brunswick Southwest	6820
13004	Fredericton	3483
13005	Fundy - Royal	7038
13006	Madawaska - Restigouche	4491
13007	Miramichi	4603
13008	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4549
13009	Saint John	3624
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	6456
24001	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik	1731
24002	Ahuntsic	2474
24003	Anjou - Rivière-des-Prairies	2362
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1581
24005	Beauce	2362
24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2338
24007	Beauport - Montmorency - Côte-de-Beaupré - Île-d'Orléans	2826

24008	Bellechasse - Etchemins - Montmagny - L'Islet	703
24009	Berthier - Montcalm	370
24010	Bourassa	2002
24011	Brome - Missisquoi	2653
24012	Brossard - La Prairie	2500
24013	Chambly	3182
24014	Champlain	2754
24015	Charlesbourg	3458
24016	Charlevoix	1731
24017	Châteauguay	2267
24018	Chicoutimi	3328
24019	Compton - Stanstead	1120
24020	Drummond	3193
24021	Frontenac - Mégantic	1967
24022	Bonaventure - Gaspé - Îles-de-la-Madeleine - Pabok	642
24023	Gatineau	3935
24024	Hochelaga - Maisonneuve	1918
24025	Hull - Aylmer	3610
24026	Joliette	3205
24027	Jonquière	2943
24028	Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup - Témiscouata - Les Basques	1193
24029	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2345
24030	Lac-Saint-Jean	1652
24031	Lac-Saint-Louis	4400
24032	LaSalle - Émard	1760
24033	Laurentides	3153
24034	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2303
24035	Laval Centre	3285
24036	Laval East	3572
24037	Laval West	3504
24038	Lévis-et-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	4359
24039	Longueuil	2227
24040	Lotbinière	849
24041	Louis-Hébert	3574
24042	Manicouagan	1338
24043	Matapédia - Matane	1177
24044	Mercier	2765
24045	Mount Royal	2394
24046	Outremont	1605
24047	Papineau - Saint-Denis	1792
24048	Pierrefonds - Dollard	3048
24049	Pontiac - Gatineau - Labelle	2180
24050	Portneuf	1952
24051	Québec	4177
24052	Québec East	4009
24053	Repentigny	3600
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	2901
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	2756

24056	Rimouski - Mitis	2211
24057	Roberval	2655
24058	Rosemont	1796
24059	Témiscamingue	1680
24060	Rivière-des-Milles-Îles	3253
24061	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	2936
24062	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2104
24063	Saint-Jean	2698
24064	Saint-Lambert	2641
24065	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2524
24066	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1845
24067	Saint-Maurice	3320
24068	Shefford	2104
24069	Sherbrooke	3677
24070	Terrebonne - Blainville	3650
24071	Trois-Rivières	3273
24072	Vaudreuil - Soulanges	2002
24073	Verchères - Les-Patriotes	1788
24074	Verdun - Saint-Henri	1787
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3854
35001	Algoma - Manitoulin	637
35002	Barrie - Simcoe - Bradford	3701
35003	Beaches - East York	2362
35004	Bramalea - Gore - Malton - Springdale	2834
35005	Brampton Centre	2178
35006	Brampton West - Mississauga	2897
35007	Brant	4130
35008	Broadview - Greenwood	1822
35009	Bruce - Grey	1693
35010	Burlington	3210
35011	Cambridge	3718
35012	Davenport	1566
35013	Don Valley East	1642
35014	Don Valley West	2362
35015	Dufferin - Peel - Wellington - Grey	1329
35016	Durham	1980
35017	Eglinton - Lawrence	2419
35018	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2575
35019	Erie - Lincoln	2275
35020	Essex	2461
35021	Etobicoke Centre	2629
35022	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3384
35023	Etobicoke North	2151
35024	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	934
35025	Carleton - Gloucester	2479
35026	Guelph - Wellington	3392
35027	Haldimand - Norfolk - Brant	1493
35028	Halton	3258

35029	Hamilton East	3444
35030	Hamilton Mountain	3266
35031	Hamilton West	3302
35032	Hastings - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	789
35033	Huron - Bruce	991
35034	Kenora - Rainy River	1611
35035	Chatham - Kent Essex	2474
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3644
35037	Kitchener Centre	3205
35038	Kitchener - Waterloo	3689
35039	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1389
35040	Lanark - Carleton	3241
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1534
35042	London North Centre	3682
35043	London - Fanshawe	2438
35044	London West	2889
35045	Markham	3279
35046	Mississauga Centre	1969
35047	Mississauga East	1941
35048	Mississauga South	2787
35049	Mississauga West	2544
35050	Nepean - Carleton	2308
35051	Niagara Centre	3722
35052	Niagara Falls	3404
35053	Nickel Belt	750
35054	Nipissing	2187
35055	Northumberland	2370
35056	Oak Ridges	3496
35057	Oakville	3535
35058	Oshawa	3601
35059	Ottawa Centre	4148
35060	Ottawa South	3170
35061	Ottawa - Vanier	3260
35062	Ottawa West - Nepean	3002
35063	Oxford	2897
35064	Parkdale - High Park	1773
35065	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1046
35066	Perth - Middlesex	1824
35067	Peterborough	2960
35068	Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge	2438
35069	Prince Edward - Hastings	1726
35070	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	2918
35071	Sarnia - Lambton	2818
35072	Sault Ste. Marie	2907
35073	Scarborough - Agincourt	1535
35074	Scarborough Centre	2551
35075	Scarborough East	2010
35076	Scarborough - Rouge River	2053
35077	Scarborough Southwest	2170

35078	Simcoe - Grey	963
35079	Simcoe North	2236
35080	St. Catharines	4041
35081	St. Paul's	2175
35082	Stoney Creek	2961
35083	Stormont - Dundas - Charlottenburgh	2146
35084	Sudbury	3054
35085	Thornhill	2847
35086	Thunder Bay - Atikokan	2067
35087	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2210
35088	Timiskaming - Cochrane	514
35089	Timmins - James Bay	1848
35090	Toronto Centre - Rosedale	3008
35091	Trinity - Spadina	2067
35092	Vaughan - King - Aurora	3214
35093	Haliburton - Victoria - Brock	966
35094	Waterloo - Wellington	1623
35095	Wentworth - Burlington	2599
35096	Whitby - Ajax	3252
35097	Willowdale	2574
35098	Windsor - St. Clair	3087
35099	Windsor West	4210
35100	York Centre	1937
35101	York North	2227
35102	York South - Weston	2121
35103	York West	1461
46001	Brandon - Souris	2087
46002	Charleswood St. James - Assiniboia	1995
46003	Churchill	748
46004	Dauphin - Swan River	699
46005	Portage - Lisgar	1234
46006	Provencher	241
46007	Saint Boniface	2380
46008	Selkirk - Interlake	790
46009	Winnipeg North Centre	2374
46010	Winnipeg Centre	2682
46011	Winnipeg South	2124
46012	Winnipeg South Centre	1955
46013	Winnipeg North - St. Paul	1794
46014	Winnipeg - Transcona	2239
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1067
47002	Blackstrap	1708
47003	Churchill River	266
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1074
47005	Palliser	2702
47006	Prince Albert	1473
47007	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1785
47008	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1749



47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1399
47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1730
47011	Souris - Moose Mountain	1184
47012	Wanuskewin	1808
47013	Wascana	2602
47014	Yorkton - Melville	812
48001	Athabasca	1484
48002	Calgary Centre	4983
48003	Calgary East	3346
48004	Calgary Northeast	3245
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	3134
48006	Calgary Southeast	2753
48007	Calgary Southwest	2902
48008	Calgary West	3755
48009	Crowfoot	1090
48010	Edmonton East	4467
48011	Edmonton North	3218
48012	Edmonton Southeast	2933
48013	Edmonton Southwest	3194
48014	Edmonton - Strathcona	4414
48015	Edmonton West	4636
48016	Elk Island	2341
48017	Lakeland	1363
48018	Lethbridge	3392
48019	Macleod	785
48020	Medicine Hat	2743
48021	Peace River	1819
48022	Red Deer	2633
48023	St. Albert	2110
48024	Wetaskiwin	2053
48025	Wild Rose	1624
48026	Yellowhead	856
59001	Burnaby - Douglas	3394
59002	Cariboo - Chilcotin	1699
59003	Delta - South Richmond	4311
59004	Dewdney - Alouette	3415
59005	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3376
59006	Fraser Valley	2475
59007	Kamloops, Thompson and Highland Valleys	2835
59008	Kelowna	4333
59009	Kootenay - Columbia	1459
59010	Langley - Abbotsford	3261
59011	Nanaimo - Alberni	3382
59012	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2893
59013	New Westminster - Coquitlam - Burnaby	3884
59014	Okanagan - Shuswap	2590
59015	North Vancouver	4306
59016	Okanagan - Coquihalla	1773
59017	Port Moody - Coquitlam - Port Coquitlam	3871

59018	Prince George - Bulkley Valley	2256
59019	Prince George - Peace River	3096
59020	Richmond	3237
59021	Saanich - Gulf Islands	3936
59022	Skeena	1739
59023	South Surrey - White Rock - Langley	3541
59024	Surrey Central	4078
59025	Surrey North	3395
59026	Vancouver Centre	3439
59027	Vancouver East	3541
59028	Vancouver Island North	3129
59029	Vancouver Kingsway	3135
59030	Vancouver Quadra	4183
59031	Vancouver South - Burnaby	3606
59032	Victoria	4557
59033	Kootenay - Boundary - Okanagan	2267
59034	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast	2726
60001	Yukon	884
61002	Western Arctic	487
62001	Nunavut	30