



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 2001 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 767,135 postal code records, existing as of November 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.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 2001. If the addresses in a user's administrative file are not updated to November 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 November 2001 Postal Codes* produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, January 2002.

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 2002 Postal Code Conversion File, which links postal codes (provided by Canada Post Corporation on the Postal Code Address Master File, updated to November 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 January 2002 postal code conversion file contains over 968,000 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 2002 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 767,135 postal code records of which 761,793 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 2,633 postal codes (5,342 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 767,135 postal codes found on this file, there are 761,793 postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 2,633 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	68	204
4	4	16
Total	2,633	5,342

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 November 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:

Filename	Number of records
PCFREAST_NOV01.EXE (Atlantic provinces)	90,615
PCFRQUE_NOV01.EXE (Quebec)	190,489
PCFRONT_NOV01.EXE (Ontario)	257,297
PCFRWEST_NOV01.EXE (Prairie provinces, N.W.T. and Nunavut)	117,341
PCFRBC_NOV01.EXE (B.C. & Yukon)	111,393
PCFRNAT_NOV01.EXE (Canada)	767,135

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)

PR/FED	FEDERAL RIDING NAMES	# OF PCs
10001	Bonavista - Trinity - Conception	151
10002	Burin - St. George's	563
10003	Gander - Grand Falls	776
10004	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1150
10005	Labrador	370
10006	St. John's East	3103
10007	St. John's West	2119
11001	Cardigan	129
11002	Egmont	950
11003	Hillsborough	1849
11004	Malpeque	43
12001	Bras d'Or - Cape Breton	3336
12002	Cumberland - Colchester	1712
12003	Dartmouth	2876
12004	Halifax	3106
12005	Halifax West	2548
12006	Kings - Hants	1161
12007	Pictou - Antigonish - Guysborough	1254
12008	Sackville - Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore	1442
12009	South Shore	591
12010	Sydney - Victoria	4828
12011	West Nova	677
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4864
13002	Beauséjour - Petitcodiac	9405
13003	New Brunswick Southwest	6853
13004	Fredericton	3496
13005	Fundy - Royal	7070
13006	Madawaska - Restigouche	4500
13007	Miramichi	4608
13008	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4591
13009	Saint John	3629
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	6465
24001	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik	1731
24002	Ahuntsic	2477
24003	Anjou - Rivière-des-Prairies	2367
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1886
24005	Beauce	2371
24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2338
24007	Beauport - Montmorency - Côte-de-Beaupré - Île-d'Orléans	2829

24008	Bellechasse - Etchemins - Montmagny - L'Islet	709
24009	Berthier - Montcalm	370
24010	Bourassa	2001
24011	Brome - Missisquoi	2659
24012	Brossard - La Prairie	2519
24013	Chambly	3195
24014	Champlain	2754
24015	Charlesbourg	3460
24016	Charlevoix	1731
24017	Châteauguay	2272
24018	Chicoutimi	3327
24019	Compton - Stanstead	1120
24020	Drummond	3208
24021	Frontenac - Mégantic	1968
24022	Bonaventure - Gaspé - Îles-de-la-Madeleine - Pabok	642
24023	Gatineau	3939
24024	Hochelega - Maisonneuve	1921
24025	Hull - Aylmer	3628
24026	Joliette	3209
24027	Jonquière	2949
24028	Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup - Témiscouata - Les Basques	1195
24029	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2347
24030	Lac-Saint-Jean	2173
24031	Lac-Saint-Louis	4403
24032	LaSalle - Émard	1762
24033	Laurentides	3158
24034	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2306
24035	Laval Centre	3298
24036	Laval East	3575
24037	Laval West	3510
24038	Lévis-et-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	4374
24039	Longueuil	2229
24040	Lotbinière	857
24041	Louis-Hébert	3579
24042	Manicouagan	1339
24043	Matapédia - Matane	1663
24044	Mercier	2766
24045	Mount Royal	2397
24046	Outremont	1605
24047	Papineau - Saint-Denis	1792
24048	Pierrefonds - Dollard	3053
24049	Pontiac - Gatineau - Labelle	2184
24050	Portneuf	1973
24051	Québec	4179
24052	Québec East	4022
24053	Repentigny	3609
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	2905
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	2757

24056	Rimouski - Mitis	2220
24057	Roberval	2665
24058	Rosemont	1797
24059	Témiscamingue	1680
24060	Rivière-des-Milles-Îles	3259
24061	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	2942
24062	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2105
24063	Saint-Jean	2699
24064	Saint-Lambert	2641
24065	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2533
24066	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1849
24067	Saint-Maurice	3311
24068	Shefford	2115
24069	Sherbrooke	3682
24070	Terrebonne - Blainville	3665
24071	Trois-Rivières	3277
24072	Vaudreuil - Soulanges	2016
24073	Verchères - Les-Patriotes	1798
24074	Verdun - Saint-Henri	1788
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3877
35001	Algoma - Manitoulin	638
35002	Barrie - Simcoe - Bradford	3747
35003	Beaches - East York	2361
35004	Bramalea - Gore - Malton - Springdale	2860
35005	Brampton Centre	2188
35006	Brampton West - Mississauga	3017
35007	Brant	4135
35008	Broadview - Greenwood	1823
35009	Bruce - Grey	1693
35010	Burlington	3221
35011	Cambridge	3753
35012	Davenport	1567
35013	Don Valley East	1642
35014	Don Valley West	2373
35015	Dufferin - Peel - Wellington - Grey	1332
35016	Durham	2006
35017	Eglinton - Lawrence	2420
35018	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2581
35019	Erie - Lincoln	2276
35020	Essex	2464
35021	Etobicoke Centre	2629
35022	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3386
35023	Etobicoke North	2156
35024	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	939
35025	Carleton - Gloucester	2492
35026	Guelph - Wellington	3408
35027	Haldimand - Norfolk - Brant	1493
35028	Halton	3417

35029	Hamilton East	3447
35030	Hamilton Mountain	3271
35031	Hamilton West	3305
35032	Hastings - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	789
35033	Huron - Bruce	991
35034	Kenora - Rainy River	1610
35035	Chatham - Kent Essex	2487
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3647
35037	Kitchener Centre	3208
35038	Kitchener - Waterloo	3717
35039	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1404
35040	Lanark - Carleton	3279
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1535
35042	London North Centre	3695
35043	London - Fanshawe	2442
35044	London West	2892
35045	Markham	3294
35046	Mississauga Centre	1970
35047	Mississauga East	1946
35048	Mississauga South	2795
35049	Mississauga West	2585
35050	Nepean - Carleton	2325
35051	Niagara Centre	3733
35052	Niagara Falls	3405
35053	Nickel Belt	751
35054	Nipissing	2193
35055	Northumberland	2379
35056	Oak Ridges	3544
35057	Oakville	3586
35058	Oshawa	3604
35059	Ottawa Centre	4155
35060	Ottawa South	3186
35061	Ottawa - Vanier	3269
35062	Ottawa West - Nepean	3003
35063	Oxford	2906
35064	Parkdale - High Park	1772
35065	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1052
35066	Perth - Middlesex	1829
35067	Peterborough	2972
35068	Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge	2463
35069	Prince Edward - Hastings	1732
35070	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	2923
35071	Sarnia - Lambton	2820
35072	Sault Ste. Marie	2906
35073	Scarborough - Agincourt	1540
35074	Scarborough Centre	2562
35075	Scarborough East	2011
35076	Scarborough - Rouge River	2056
35077	Scarborough Southwest	2173

35078	Simcoe - Grey	1005
35079	Simcoe North	2240
35080	St. Catharines	4045
35081	St. Paul's	2175
35082	Stoney Creek	2972
35083	Stormont - Dundas - Charlottenburgh	2148
35084	Sudbury	3054
35085	Thornhill	2868
35086	Thunder Bay - Atikokan	2084
35087	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2214
35088	Timiskaming - Cochrane	953
35089	Timmins - James Bay	1849
35090	Toronto Centre - Rosedale	3024
35091	Trinity - Spadina	2080
35092	Vaughan - King - Aurora	3232
35093	Haliburton - Victoria - Brock	967
35094	Waterloo - Wellington	1634
35095	Wentworth - Burlington	2614
35096	Whitby - Ajax	3281
35097	Willowdale	2585
35098	Windsor - St. Clair	3097
35099	Windsor West	4211
35100	York Centre	1937
35101	York North	2247
35102	York South - Weston	2122
35103	York West	1463
46001	Brandon - Souris	2074
46002	Charleswood St. James - Assiniboia	1997
46003	Churchill	747
46004	Dauphin - Swan River	699
46005	Portage - Lisgar	1238
46006	Provencher	241
46007	Saint Boniface	2396
46008	Selkirk - Interlake	790
46009	Winnipeg North Centre	2372
46010	Winnipeg Centre	2690
46011	Winnipeg South	2139
46012	Winnipeg South Centre	1955
46013	Winnipeg North - St. Paul	1799
46014	Winnipeg - Transcona	2240
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1102
47002	Blackstrap	1704
47003	Churchill River	266
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1074
47005	Palliser	2702
47006	Prince Albert	1475
47007	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1784
47008	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1753

47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1410
47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1732
47011	Souris - Moose Mountain	1184
47012	Wanuskewin	1808
47013	Wascana	2598
47014	Yorkton - Melville	812
48001	Athabasca	1511
48002	Calgary Centre	4999
48003	Calgary East	3350
48004	Calgary Northeast	3269
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	3181
48006	Calgary Southeast	2772
48007	Calgary Southwest	2911
48008	Calgary West	3770
48009	Crowfoot	1095
48010	Edmonton East	4471
48011	Edmonton North	3246
48012	Edmonton Southeast	2942
48013	Edmonton Southwest	3205
48014	Edmonton - Strathcona	4420
48015	Edmonton West	4653
48016	Elk Island	2351
48017	Lakeland	1377
48018	Lethbridge	3402
48019	Macleod	1052
48020	Medicine Hat	2751
48021	Peace River	1858
48022	Red Deer	2656
48023	St. Albert	2146
48024	Wetaskiwin	2073
48025	Wild Rose	1719
48026	Yellowhead	862
59001	Burnaby - Douglas	3389
59002	Cariboo - Chilcotin	1701
59003	Delta - South Richmond	4314
59004	Dewdney - Alouette	3422
59005	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3387
59006	Fraser Valley	3482
59007	Kamloops, Thompson and Highland Valleys	2839
59008	Kelowna	4341
59009	Kootenay - Columbia	1463
59010	Langley - Abbotsford	3271
59011	Nanaimo - Alberni	3385
59012	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2902
59013	New Westminster - Coquitlam - Burnaby	3879
59014	Okanagan - Shuswap	2612
59015	North Vancouver	4309
59016	Okanagan - Coquihalla	1775
59017	Port Moody - Coquitlam - Port Coquitlam	3880

59018	Prince George - Bulkley Valley	2264
59019	Prince George - Peace River	3105
59020	Richmond	3239
59021	Saanich - Gulf Islands	3947
59022	Skeena	1740
59023	South Surrey - White Rock - Langley	3558
59024	Surrey Central	4089
59025	Surrey North	3397
59026	Vancouver Centre	3475
59027	Vancouver East	3559
59028	Vancouver Island North	3127
59029	Vancouver Kingsway	3137
59030	Vancouver Quadra	4185
59031	Vancouver South - Burnaby	3609
59032	Victoria	4559
59033	Kootenay - Boundary - Okanagan	2384
59034	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast	2733
60001	Yukon	935
61002	Western Arctic	488
62001	Nunavut	30