



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
January 2003 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
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 780,271 postal code records, existing as of January 2003, 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 are active as of January 2003. If the addresses in a user's administrative file are not updated to January 2003, 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 January 2003 Postal Codes produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, July 2003.

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) July 2003 Postal Code Conversion File, which links postal codes (provided by Canada Post Corporation on the Postal Code Address Master File, updated to January 2003) 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 July 2003 Postal Code Conversion File contains over 1,940,000 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 July 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 780,271 postal code records of which 770,746 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 4,456 postal codes (9,525 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 780,271 postal codes found on this file, there are 770,746 postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 4,456 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	3,966	7,932
3	380	1,140
4	97	388
5	13	65
Total	4,456	9,525

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 January 2003 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_JAN03.EXE (Atlantic provinces)	93,387
PCFRQUE_JAN03.EXE (Quebec)	193,150
PCFRONT_JAN03.EXE (Ontario)	261,736
PCFRWEST_JAN03.EXE (Prairie provinces, N.W.T. and Nunavut)	119,669
PCFRBC_JAN03.EXE (B.C. & Yukon)	112,329
PCFRNAT_JAN03.EXE (Canada)	780,271

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	150
10002	Burin - St. George's	570
10003	Gander - Grand Falls	782
10004	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1566
10005	Labrador	370
10006	St. John's East	4141
10007	St. John's West	2151
11001	Cardigan	148
11002	Egmont	958
11003	Hillsborough	1896
11004	Malpeque	40
12001	Bras d'Or - Cape Breton	3344
12002	Cumberland - Colchester	1715
12003	Dartmouth	2919
12004	Halifax	3108
12005	Halifax West	3077
12006	Kings - Hants	1463
12007	Pictou - Antigonish - Guysborough	1260
12008	Sackville - Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore	1522
12009	South Shore	602
12010	Sydney - Victoria	4937
12011	West Nova	679
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4869
13002	Beauséjour - Petitcodiac	9565
13003	New Brunswick Southwest	6894
13004	Fredericton	3544
13005	Fundy - Royal	7118
13006	Madawaska - Restigouche	4529
13007	Miramichi	4644
13008	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4706
13009	Saint John	3716
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	6404
24001	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik	1730
24002	Ahuntsic	2441
24003	Anjou - Rivière-des-Prairies	2398
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1992

24005	Beauce	2385
24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2339
24007	Beauport - Montmorency - Côte-de-Beaupré - Île-d'Orléans	2858
24008	Bellechasse - Etchemins - Montmagny - L'Islet	709
24009	Berthier - Montcalm	374
24010	Bourassa	2007
24011	Brome - Missisquoi	2700
24012	Brossard - La Prairie	2561
24013	Chambly	3231
24014	Champlain	2760
24015	Charlesbourg - Jacques-Cartier	3475
24016	Charlevoix	1739
24017	Châteauguay	2289
24018	Chicoutimi - Le Fjord	3356
24019	Compton - Stanstead	1142
24020	Drummond	3544
24021	Frontenac - Mégantic	1973
24022	Bonaventure - Gaspé - Îles-de-la-Madeleine - Pabok	644
24023	Gatineau	3984
24024	Hochelaga - Maisonneuve	1997
24025	Hull - Aylmer	3656
24026	Joliette	3222
24027	Jonquière	2962
24028	Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup - Témiscouata - Les Basques	1201
24029	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2355
24030	Lac-Saint-Jean - Saguenay	2192
24031	Lac-Saint-Louis	4482
24032	LaSalle - Émard	1768
24033	Laurentides	3922
24034	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2335
24035	Laval Centre	3361
24036	Laval East	3615
24037	Laval West	3553
24038	Lévis-et-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	4405
24039	Longueuil	2248
24040	Lotbinière-L'Érable	866
24041	Louis-Hébert	3595
24042	Manicouagan	1339
24043	Matapédia - Matane	1665
24044	Mercier	2777
24045	Mount Royal	2390
24046	Outremont	1616

24047	Papineau - Saint-Denis	1806
24048	Pierrefonds - Dollard	3019
24049	Pontiac - Gatineau - Labelle	2190
24050	Portneuf	1987
24051	Québec	4204
24052	Québec East	4043
24053	Repentigny	3672
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	2917
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	2775
24056	Rimouski-Neigette-et-la Mitis	2221
24057	Roberval	2688
24058	Rosemont - Petite-Patrie	1752
24059	Témiscamingue	1895
24060	Rivière-des-Mille-Îles	3274
24061	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	2947
24062	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2118
24063	Saint-Jean	2701
24064	Saint-Lambert	2637
24065	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2548
24066	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1870
24067	Saint-Maurice	3323
24068	Shefford	2150
24069	Sherbrooke	3696
24070	Terrebonne - Blainville	3700
24071	Trois-Rivières	3303
24072	Vaudreuil - Soulanges	2032
24073	Verchères - Les-Patriotes	1839
24074	Verdun - Saint-Henri - Saint-Paul - Pointe Saint-Charles	1798
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3911
35001	Algoma - Manitoulin	636
35002	Barrie - Simcoe - Bradford	3838
35003	Beaches - East York	2423
35004	Bramalea - Gore - Malton - Springdale	2964
35005	Brampton Centre	2242
35006	Brampton West - Mississauga	3331
35007	Brant	4157
35008	Toronto - Danforth	1844
35009	Bruce - Grey - Owen Sound	1696
35010	Burlington	3222
35011	Cambridge	3791
35012	Davenport	1590
35013	Don Valley East	1752
35014	Don Valley West	2633
35015	Dufferin - Peel - Wellington - Grey	1351

35016	Durham	2062
35017	Eglinton - Lawrence	2462
35018	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2624
35019	Erie - Lincoln	2272
35020	Essex	2464
35021	Etobicoke Centre	2663
35022	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3366
35023	Etobicoke North	2146
35024	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	1086
35025	Ottawa - Orléans	2575
35026	Guelph - Wellington	3446
35027	Haldimand - Norfolk - Brant	1493
35028	Halton	3674
35029	Hamilton East	3442
35030	Hamilton Mountain	3287
35031	Hamilton West	3307
35032	Hastings - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	792
35033	Huron - Bruce	993
35034	Kenora - Rainy River	1604
35035	Chatham - Kent Essex	2472
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3667
35037	Kitchener Centre	3227
35038	Kitchener - Waterloo	3758
35039	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1443
35040	Lanark - Carleton	3500
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1534
35042	London North Centre	3677
35043	London - Fanshawe	2500
35044	London West	2936
35045	Markham	3421
35046	Mississauga Centre	1994
35047	Mississauga East	1898
35048	Mississauga South	2827
35049	Mississauga West	2630
35050	Nepean - Carleton	2461
35051	Niagara Centre	3742
35052	Niagara Falls	3436
35053	Nickel Belt	776
35054	Nipissing	2197
35055	Northumberland	2389
35056	Oak Ridges	3708
35057	Oakville	3630
35058	Oshawa	3618

35059	Ottawa Centre	4082
35060	Ottawa South	3248
35061	Ottawa - Vanier	3269
35062	Ottawa West - Nepean	3009
35063	Oxford	2929
35064	Parkdale - High Park	1804
35065	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1064
35066	Perth - Middlesex	1884
35067	Peterborough	2991
35068	Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge	2513
35069	Prince Edward - Hastings	1737
35070	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	2939
35071	Sarnia - Lambton	2828
35072	Sault Ste. Marie	2906
35073	Scarborough - Agincourt	1546
35074	Scarborough Centre	2430
35075	Scarborough East	1965
35076	Scarborough - Rouge River	2159
35077	Scarborough Southwest	2157
35078	Simcoe - Grey	1022
35079	Simcoe North	2249
35080	St. Catharines	4039
35081	St. Paul's	2213
35082	Stoney Creek	3013
35083	Stormont - Dundas - Charlottenburgh	2151
35084	Sudbury	3040
35085	Thornhill	2893
35086	Thunder Bay - Atikokan	2126
35087	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2227
35088	Timiskaming - Cochrane	964
35089	Timmins - James Bay	1852
35090	Toronto Centre - Rosedale	3044
35091	Trinity - Spadina	2145
35092	Vaughan - King - Aurora	3452
35093	Haliburton - Victoria - Brock	970
35094	Waterloo - Wellington	2219
35095	Ancaster - Dundas - Flamborough - Aldershot	2638
35096	Whitby - Ajax	3370
35097	Willowdale	2608
35098	Windsor - St. Clair	3153
35099	Windsor West	4333
35100	York Centre	1968
35101	York North	2302
35102	York South - Weston	2120

35103	York West	1477
46001	Brandon - Souris	2070
46002	Charleswood St. James - Assiniboia	1995
46003	Churchill	746
46004	Dauphin - Swan River	700
46005	Portage - Lisgar	1246
46006	Provencher	243
46007	Saint Boniface	2384
46008	Selkirk - Interlake	866
46009	Winnipeg North Centre	2365
46010	Winnipeg Centre	2699
46011	Winnipeg South	2184
46012	Winnipeg South Centre	1949
46013	Winnipeg North - St. Paul	1821
46014	Winnipeg - Transcona	2259
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1105
47002	Blackstrap	1717
47003	Churchill River	271
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1073
47005	Palliser	2714
47006	Prince Albert	1481
47007	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1795
47008	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1751
47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1470
47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1744
47011	Souris - Moose Mountain	1184
47012	Saskatoon - Wanuskewin	1763
47013	Wascana	2624
47014	Yorkton - Melville	812
48001	Athabasca	1573
48002	Calgary Centre	5118
48003	Calgary East	3329
48004	Calgary Northeast	3350
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	3252
48006	Calgary Southeast	2859
48007	Calgary Southwest	2972
48008	Calgary West	3820
48009	Crowfoot	1112
48010	Edmonton Centre-East	4698
48011	Edmonton North	3385
48012	Edmonton Southeast	3072
48013	Edmonton Southwest	3448
48014	Edmonton - Strathcona	4463

48015	Edmonton West	4797
48016	Elk Island	2400
48017	Lakeland	1406
48018	Lethbridge	3447
48019	Macleod	1130
48020	Medicine Hat	2780
48021	Peace River	1902
48022	Red Deer	2728
48023	St. Albert	2190
48024	Wetaskiwin	2143
48025	Wild Rose	1897
48026	Yellowhead	844
59001	Burnaby - Douglas	3406
59002	Cariboo - Chilcotin	1703
59003	Delta - South Richmond	4347
59004	Dewdney - Alouette	3468
59005	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3371
59006	Fraser Valley	3501
59007	Kamloops, Thompson and Highland Valleys	2847
59008	Kelowna	4357
59009	Kootenay - Columbia	1509
59010	Langley - Abbotsford	3282
59011	Nanaimo - Alberni	3393
59012	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2909
59013	New Westminster - Coquitlam - Burnaby	3920
59014	Okanagan - Shuswap	2664
59015	North Vancouver	4318
59016	Okanagan - Coquihalla	1784
59017	Port Moody - Coquitlam - Port Coquitlam	3892
59018	Prince George - Bulkley Valley	2271
59019	Prince George - Peace River	3122
59020	Richmond	3256
59021	Saanich - Gulf Islands	3949
59022	Skeena	1750
59023	South Surrey - White Rock - Langley	3642
59024	Surrey Central	4208
59025	Surrey North	3509
59026	Vancouver Centre	3308
59027	Vancouver East	3769
59028	Vancouver Island North	3134
59029	Vancouver Kingsway	3185
59030	Vancouver Quadra	4232
59031	Vancouver South - Burnaby	3627
59032	Victoria	4643

59033	Kootenay - Boundary - Okanagan	2386
59034	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast	2741
60001	Yukon	926
61002	Western Arctic	493
62001	Nunavut	30