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Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) 2003 Representation Order, Reference Guide



April 2007 Postal codes



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Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

What's new?

- The postal code reference date for this update is April 2007. This is the same as for the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF). The Postal Code by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) refers to the federal ridings based on the 2003 Representation Order.
- The 'unique link' is a new variable that indicates if the postal code is linked to one FED or more.
- The names of 38 Federal Electoral Districts were changed through legislation on September 1, 2004. These changes are reflected in the Federal electoral district names file – 2003 Representation Order (FED03_CEF03.dat).
- Since the last release of the PCFRF, the names of two federal electoral districts were changed (back to their original names in the 2003 Representation Order) through legislation on February 24, 2005. These changes are also reflected in the Federal electoral district names file – 2003 Representation Order (FED03_CEF03.dat).
- The boundaries between the Federal Electoral District of Miramichi (13006) and the Federal Electoral District of Acadie-Bathurst (13001) in New Brunswick were changed through legislation passed on February 24, 2005. The following three CSDs which belonged to Miramichi are now part of Acadie-Bathurst: 1315006 (Allardville, P), 1315008 (Bathurst, P), and 1315010 (Pabineau 11, IRI).

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1. About this guide

This reference guide is intended for users of the Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF). The guide provides an overview of the file, the general methodology used to create it, and important technical information for users.

Geographic terms and concepts are briefly described in the glossary (Appendix A). More details can be found in the *2006 Census Dictionary* (Catalogue no. 92-566-XWE). Supplementary information is provided in the appendices.

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2. Overview

The Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) is a digital file which provides a link between the six-character postal code and Canada's federal ridings. The current version of the PCFRF links 811,445 active postal code records, existing as of April 2007, to the 308 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. Federal electoral district (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 308 FEDs in the 2003 Representation Order, the most recent revision of the federal riding limits¹. The FEDs are based on the 2001 Census population data.

Reference dates

The reference date is April 2007 for postal codes contained in the PCFRF. This is the same date as the postal codes contained in the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF) product released in October 2007.

The geographic reference date is a date determined by Statistics Canada to finalize the geographic framework for which the census data are collected, tabulated and reported. The geographic reference date for the 2006 Census is January 1, 2006.

1. Note that the terms 'federal riding', 'federal electoral district' and 'FED' are used interchangeably in this reference guide.

3. How to use this product

Purpose of the product

The Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) was conceived as a tool for use with files containing postal codes. By using the postal code as a link, data from files may be organized and/or tabulated by federal riding.

Limitations

It should be noted that some postal codes straddle one or more federal riding boundaries. Before using this file, users should first familiarize themselves with the information provided in Section 4, Data quality.

Content

The PCFRF contains postal code data under license from Canada Post Corporation. The most recent Canada Post Corporation file from which this data was copied is dated April 2007.

Comparison with other products

Linkage of postal codes to more detailed geographic areas, such as dissemination area or dissemination block, is available in the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF).

4. Data quality

Linkage data quality elements provide information on the fitness-for-use of a spatial database by describing why, when and how the data are created, and how accurate the data are. The elements include an overview describing the purpose and usage, as well as specific quality elements reporting on the lineage, attribute accuracy, logical consistency and completeness. This information is provided to users for all linkage data products disseminated for the census.

Postal code characteristics

Before using the Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) 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 PCFRF.

Postal delivery areas do not respect federal riding boundaries

A postal delivery area (as represented by the six-character postal code) may straddle one or more federal riding boundaries. This means that, in the Postal Code 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 Logical consistency later in this section for further details.

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

The postal code associated with a lock box (post office box) may be geocoded to the physical location of the associated postal installation (post office). This could be located in a federal riding that is different from the ultimate destination of the mail delivery – the residential, industrial, or commercial location of the client renting the lock box.

Canada Post Corporation (CPC) regularly retires postal codes and may also reactivate retired postal codes for use again

Users of the PCFRF must keep in mind that the file contains only the postal codes from CPC that are active as of April 2007.

If the addresses of postal codes in a user's administrative file are not updated to April 2007, there may be non-matches with the PCFRF 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 CPC 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 PCCF. Users may wish to consult the *Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF), Reference Guide*, available on the Statistics Canada website. An updated version of the file including April 2007 postal codes is released in October 2007.

Lineage

Lineage describes the history of the linkage data, including descriptions of the source material from which the data were derived, and the methods of derivation. It also contains the dates of the source material, and all transformations involved in producing the final digital files.

Sources

Two existing products of the Geography Division at Statistics Canada have been used to derive the PCFRF:

- The October 2007 PCCF links postal codes (provided by CPC on the Postal Code Address Master File updated to April 2007) to geographic codes for all 2006 Census geographic areas, including province and federal electoral district 2003 Representative Order codes. It also provides the geographic point coordinates representing the postal codes. The October 2007 PCCF contains over 1.6 million postal code records linked to the geographic areas used in the 2006 Census. These geographical areas have a reference date of January 1, 2006, except for the Federal electoral district – 2003 Representation Order.
- The Federal electoral district names file (FED03_CEF03.dat) contains the name of each federal riding – 2003 Representation Order and its associated identification code. This file is updated based on name changes provided by Elections Canada. Where changes to the electoral boundaries have been provided by Elections Canada, the correspondence between federal electoral district 2003 Representation Order and postal codes is updated.

Method of derivation

The PCFRF was created by linking the active postal codes included in the October 2007 PCCF, containing April 2007 postal codes, to the list of federal electoral districts – 2003 Representation Order codes and names, using either the dissemination block or dissemination area geography as linkage variables.

The resulting PCFRF file contains 811,445 active postal code records of which 804,099 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 7,346 active postal codes (15,594 records) are linked to more than one federal electoral district (further details are provided in Logical consistency later in this section). The number of postal code records by federal electoral district is provided in Appendix B, Postal codes by federal ridings.

Attribute accuracy

Attribute accuracy refers to the accuracy of the quantitative and qualitative information attached to each feature (such as population for an urban area, street name, census subdivision name and code).

The attribute accuracy of the PCFRF is dependent on the accuracy of the PCCF and the table linking the dissemination blocks or dissemination areas to the federal ridings.

Logical consistency

Logical consistency describes the fidelity of relationships encoded in the data structure of the digital linkage data.

Of the 811,445 active postal code records found on this file, there are 804,099 active postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 7,346 active postal codes that are linked to two or more federal ridings. The following table summarizes them.

Table 4.1 Count of postal codes linked to federal electoral districts (FEDs)

Number of federal electoral districts	Active postal codes	Number of records
1	804,099	804,099
2	6,654	13,308
3	552	1,656
4	95	380
5	26	130
6	14	84
7	4	28
8	1	8
Total	811,445	819,693

Consistency with other products

Data contained in the PCFRF are consistent with all 2006 Census related geographic products with the exception of the 2006 Census Forward Sortation Area Boundary File (Catalogue no. 92-170-XWE, XCE), which represents only the forward sortation areas reported in the 2006 Census. The PCFRF is derived from the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF), and is consistent with that file.

Completeness

Completeness refers to the degree to which geographic features, their attributes and their relationships are included or omitted in a dataset. It also includes information on selection criteria, definitions used, and other relevant mapping rules.

Completeness in the context of the PCFRF is the degree to which all valid postal codes are accounted for. All postal codes, valid and active as of April 2007 according to CPC, have been linked to census geography.

The Federal Electoral District Names file contains 308 records, one for each federal electoral district – 2003 Representation Order.

The data files are named using a file naming convention described in Section 5, Technical specifications. Each file contains the following number of active postal code records:

Table 4.2 Number of postal code records per region in Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) data files

File name	Number of records
pcfrfEastFED2003_APR07_fcpcefEstCEF2003.zip	98,047
pcfrfQueFED2003_APR07_fcpcefQuéCEF2003.zip	206,056
pcfrfOntFED2003_APR07_fcpcefOntCEF2003.zip	274,436
pcfrfWestFED2003_APR07_fcpcefOuestCEF2003.zip	126,011
pcfrfBCFED2003_APR07_fcpcefCBCEF2003.zip	115,143
pcfrfNatFED2003_APR07_fcpcefNatCEF2003.zip	819,693

Table 4.3 lists abbreviations for the region names used in the data file names and the province and territories that they represent.

Table 4.3 Region abbreviations and associated province and/or territory in Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) data files

English abbreviation - region name	Associated province and/or territory - English	French abbreviation - region name	Associated province and/or territory - French
East	Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick	Est	Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nouvelle-Écosse, Nouveau-Brunswick
Que	Quebec	Qué	Québec
Ont	Ontario	Ont	Ontario
West	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut	Ouest	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Territoires du Nord-Ouest, Nunavut
BC	British Columbia, Yukon Territory	CB	Colombie-Britannique, Territoire du Yukon
Nat	Canada	Nat	Canada

5. Technical specifications

File specifications

The current version of the Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) is an ASCII file and does not include any software or instructions on how to use the product within specific Geographical Information Systems (GIS) or mapping packages.

Record layout

Table 5.1 Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) record layout

Position	Size	Type ¹	Description
1	6	C	Postal code
7	5	N	Federal riding code
12	56	C	Federal riding name - English
68	56	C	Federal riding name - French
124	1	C	Unique link

1. The field type 'N' refers to numeric values while 'C' refers to both alphabetic and numeric characters

Data descriptions

Postal code

The postal code is a six-character alphanumeric code defined and maintained by CPC for the 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).

Federal riding code

A federal electoral district (FED) 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 2003 Representation Order is the most current revision, and is based on 2001 Census population data. This code uniquely identifies a federal electoral district – 2003 Representation Order. The first two digits identify the province or territory.

Unique link

The unique link value given in the file can be either '1', which indicates the postal code is linked to one FED, or '2', which indicates that the postal code is linked to two or more FEDs.

File naming convention

The naming convention for PCFRF data files is bilingual and reflects the reference date of the CPC data used in the release.

Data files in this release are:

National file

pcfrfNatFED2003_APR07_fcpcefNatCEF2003.zip

Regional files

pcfrfEastFED2003_APR07_fcpcefEstCEF2003.zip
 pcfrfQueFED2003_APR07_fcpcefQuéCEF2003.zip
 pcfrfOntFED2003_APR07_fcpcefOntCEF2003.zip
 pcfrfWestFED2003_APR07_fcpcefOuestCEF2003.zip
 pcfrfBCFED2003_APR07_fcpcefCBCEF2003.zip

Table 5.2 File name structure of Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF)

Name component	Description
pcfrf	file name - english
region – english (Nat, East, Que, Ont, West, BC)	english abbreviation of region (see Table 4.3 for region definitions)
FED2003	FED representation order - english
APR07	reference date of CPC postal code data (month, year)
fcpcef	file name - french
region – french (Nat, Est, Qué, Ont, Ouest, CB)	french abbreviation of region (see Table 4.3 for region definitions)
CEF2003	FED representation order - french

Appendix A Glossary

Adjusted counts

'Adjusted counts' refer to previous census population and dwelling counts that were adjusted (i.e., recompiled) to reflect current census boundaries, when a boundary change occurs between the two censuses.

Block-face

A block-face is one side of a street between two consecutive features intersecting that street. The features can be other streets or boundaries of standard geographic areas.

Block-faces are used for generating block-face representative points, which in turn are used for geocoding and census data extraction when the street and address information are available.

Cartographic boundary files

Cartographic boundary files (CBFs) contain the boundaries of standard geographic areas together with the shoreline around Canada. Selected inland lakes and rivers are available as a supplementary layer.

Census agricultural region

Census agricultural regions (CARs) are composed of groups of adjacent census divisions. In Saskatchewan, census agricultural regions are made up of groups of adjacent census consolidated subdivisions, but these groups do not necessarily respect census division boundaries.

Census consolidated subdivision

A census consolidated subdivision (CCS) is a group of adjacent census subdivisions. Generally, the smaller, more urban census subdivisions (towns, villages, etc.) are combined with the surrounding, larger, more rural census subdivision, in order to create a geographic level between the census subdivision and the census division.

Census division

Census division (CD) is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county, *municipalité régionale de comté* and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province/territory level and the municipality (census subdivision).

Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the urban core. A CA must have an urban core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data.

If the population of the urban core of a CA declines below 10,000, the CA is retired. However, once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained as a CMA even if its total population declines below 100,000 or the population of its urban core falls below 50,000. The urban areas in the CMA or CA that are not contiguous to the urban core are called the urban fringe. Rural areas in the CMA or CA are called the rural fringe.

When a CA has an urban core of at least 50,000, it is subdivided into census tracts. Census tracts are maintained for the CA even if the population of the urban core subsequently falls below 50,000. All CMAs are subdivided into census tracts.

Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration influenced zone

The census metropolitan area and census agglomeration influenced zone (MIZ) is a concept that geographically differentiates the area of Canada outside census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs). Census subdivisions outside CMAs and CAs are assigned to one of four categories according to the degree of influence (strong, moderate, weak or no influence) that the CMAs and/or CAs have on them.

Census subdivisions (CSDs) are assigned to a MIZ category based on the percentage of their resident employed labour force that has a place of work in the urban core(s) of CMAs or CAs. CSDs with the same degree of influence tend to be clustered. They form zones around CMAs and CAs that progress through the categories from 'strong' to 'no' influence as distance from the CMAs and CAs increases.

Census subdivision

Census subdivision (CSD) is the general term for municipalities (as determined by provincial/territorial legislation) or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes (e.g., Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories).

Census tract

Census tracts (CTs) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population of 2,500 to 8,000. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations with an urban core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

A committee of local specialists (for example, planners, health and social workers, and educators) initially delineates census tracts in conjunction with Statistics Canada. Once a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) has been subdivided into census tracts, the census tracts are maintained even if the urban core population subsequently declines below 50,000.

Coordinate system

A coordinate system is a reference system based on mathematical rules for specifying positions (locations) on the surface of the earth. The coordinate values can be spherical (latitude and longitude) or planar (such as Universal Transverse Mercator).

Cartographic boundary files, digital boundary files, representative points and road network files are disseminated in latitude/longitude coordinates.

Datum

A datum is a geodetic reference system that specifies the size and shape of the earth, and the base point from which the latitude and longitude of all other points on the earth's surface are referenced.

Designated place

A designated place (DPL) is normally a small community or settlement that does not meet the criteria established by Statistics Canada to be a census subdivision (an area with municipal status) or an urban area.

Designated places are created by provinces and territories, in cooperation with Statistics Canada, to provide data for submunicipal areas.

Digital boundary files

Digital boundary files (DBFs) portray the boundaries used for 2006 Census collection and, therefore, often extend as straight lines into bodies of water.

Dissemination area

A dissemination area (DA) is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada.

Dissemination block

A dissemination block (DB) is an area bounded on all sides by roads and/or boundaries of standard geographic areas. The dissemination block is the smallest geographic area for which population and dwelling counts are disseminated. Dissemination blocks cover all the territory of Canada.

Economic region

An economic region (ER) is a grouping of complete census divisions (CDs) (with one exception in Ontario) created as a standard geographic unit for analysis of regional economic activity.

Ecumene

Ecumene is a term used by geographers to mean inhabited land. It generally refers to land where people have made their permanent home, and to all work areas that are considered occupied and used for agricultural or any other economic purpose. Thus, there can be various types of ecumenes, each having their own unique characteristics (population ecumene, agricultural ecumene, industrial ecumene, etc.).

Federal electoral district

A federal electoral district (FED) is an area represented by a member of the House of Commons. The federal electoral district boundaries used for the 2006 Census are based on the 2003 Representation Order.

Forward sortation area

The forward sortation area (FSA) is identified by the first three characters of the postal code. FSAs are associated with a postal facility from which mail delivery originates. The average number of households served by an FSA is approximately 8,000, but the number can range from zero to more than 60,000 households. This wide range of households can occur because some FSAs may serve only businesses (zero households) and some FSAs serve very large geographic areas.

Geocoding

Geocoding is the process of assigning geographic identifiers (codes) to map features and data records. The resulting geocodes permit data to be linked geographically.

Households, postal codes and place of work data are linked to block-face representative points when the street and address information is available; otherwise, they are linked to dissemination block (DB) representative points. In some cases, postal codes and place of work data are linked to dissemination area (DA) representative points when they cannot be linked to DBs. As well, place of work data are linked to census subdivision representative points when the data cannot be linked to DAs.

Geographic code

A geographic code is a numerical identifier assigned to a geographic area. The code is used to identify and access standard geographic areas for the purposes of data storage, retrieval and display.

Geographic reference date

The geographic reference date is a date determined by Statistics Canada for the purpose of finalizing the geographic framework for which census data will be collected, tabulated and reported. For the 2006 Census, the geographic reference date is January 1, 2006.

Land area

Land area is the area in square kilometres of the land-based portions of standard geographic areas.

Land area data are unofficial, and are provided for the sole purpose of calculating population density.

Locality

'Locality' (LOC) refers to the historical place names of former census subdivisions (municipalities), former designated places and former urban areas, as well as to the names of other entities, such as neighbourhoods, post offices, communities and unincorporated places.

Map projection

A map projection is the process of transforming and representing positions from the earth's three-dimensional curved surface to a two-dimensional (flat) surface. The process is accomplished by a direct geometric projection or by a mathematically derived transformation.

The Lambert conformal conic map projection is widely used for general maps of Canada at small scales and is the most common map projection used at Statistics Canada.

National Geographic Database

The National Geographic Database (NGD) is a shared database between Statistics Canada and Elections Canada. The database contains roads, road names and address ranges. It also includes separate reference layers containing physical and cultural features, such as hydrography and hydrographic names, railroads and power transmission lines.

The NGD was created in 1997 as a joint Statistics Canada/Elections Canada initiative to develop and maintain a national road network file serving the needs of both organizations. The active building of the NGD – that is, integrating the files from Statistics Canada, Elections Canada and Natural Resources Canada – occurred from 1998 to 2000. Thereafter, Statistics Canada and Elections Canada reconciled their digital boundary holdings to the new database's road network geometry so that operational products could be derived.

Since 2001, the focus of the NGD has been on intensive data quality improvements, especially regarding the quality and currency of its road network coverage. There has been considerable expansion of road names and civic addresses ranges, as well as the addition of hydrographic names. Priorities were determined by Statistics Canada and Elections Canada, enabling the NGD to meet the joint operational needs of both agencies in support of census and electoral activities.

Place name

'Place name' refers to the set of names that includes current census subdivisions (municipalities), current designated places and current urban areas, as well as the names of localities.

Population density

Population density is the number of persons per square kilometre.

Postal code

The postal code is a six-character code defined and maintained by Canada Post Corporation for the purpose of sorting and delivering mail.

Province or territory

Province and territory refer to the major political units of Canada. From a statistical point of view, province and territory are basic areas for which data are tabulated. Canada is divided into 10 provinces and three territories.

Reference map

A reference map shows the location of the geographic areas for which census data are tabulated and disseminated. The maps display the boundaries, names and codes of standard geographic areas, as well as major cultural and physical features, such as roads, railroads, coastlines, rivers and lakes.

Representative point

A representative point is a point that represents a line or a polygon. The point is centrally located along the line, and centrally located or population weighted in the polygon.

Representative points are generated for block-faces, dissemination blocks, dissemination areas, census subdivisions, urban areas and designated places.

Households, postal codes and place of work data are linked to block-face representative points when the street and address information is available; otherwise, they are linked to dissemination block (DB) representative points. In some cases, postal codes and place of work data are linked to dissemination area (DA) representative points when they cannot be linked to DBs. As well, place of work data are linked to census subdivision representative points when the data cannot be linked to DAs.

Road network file

The road network file (RNF) contains roads, road names, address ranges and road ranks for the entire country. Most commonly, address ranges are dwelling-based and are mainly available in the large urban centres of Canada.

Rural area

Rural areas include all territory lying outside urban areas. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Rural population includes all population living in the rural fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as population living in rural areas outside CMAs and CAs.

Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), formerly known as the National Geographic Base (NGB), is an internal, maintenance database that is not disseminated outside of Statistics Canada. It contains roads, road names and address ranges from the National Geographic Database (NGD), as well as boundary arcs of standard geographic areas that do not follow roads, all in one integrated line layer. The database also includes a related polygon layer consisting of basic blocks (BB) (basic blocks are the smallest polygon units in the database, and are formed by the intersection of all roads and the arcs of geographic areas that do not follow roads), boundary layers of standard geographic areas, and derived attribute tables, as well as reference layers containing physical and cultural features (such as hydrography, railroads and power transmission lines) from the NGD.

The SDI supports a wide range of census operations, such as the maintenance and delineation of the boundaries of standard geographic areas (including the automated delineation of dissemination blocks, dissemination areas and urban areas), and geocoding. The SDI is also the source for generating many geography products for the 2006 Census, such as cartographic boundary files and road network files.

Spatial data quality elements

Spatial data quality elements provide information on the fitness for use of a spatial database by describing why, when and how the data are created, and how accurate the data are. The elements include an overview describing the purpose and usage, as well as specific quality elements reporting on the lineage, positional accuracy, attribute accuracy, logical consistency and completeness. This information is provided to users for all spatial data products disseminated for the census.

Standard Geographical Classification

The Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) is Statistics Canada's official classification for three types of geographic areas: provinces and territories, census divisions (CDs) and census subdivisions (CSDs). The SGC provides unique numeric identification (codes) for these hierarchically related geographic areas.

Statistical Area Classification

The Statistical Area Classification (SAC) groups census subdivisions according to whether they are a component of a census metropolitan area, a census agglomeration, a census metropolitan area and census agglomeration influenced zone (strong MIZ, moderate MIZ, weak MIZ or no MIZ), or the territories (Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories and Nunavut). The SAC is used for data dissemination purposes.

Thematic map

A thematic map shows the spatial distribution of one or more specific data themes for standard geographic areas. The map may be qualitative in nature (e.g., predominant farm types) or quantitative (e.g., percentage population change).

Urban area

An urban area has a minimum population concentration of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre, based on the current census population count. All territory outside urban areas is classified as rural. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Urban population includes all population living in the urban cores, secondary urban cores and urban fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as the population living in urban areas outside CMAs and CAs.

Urban core, urban fringe and rural fringe

'Urban core, urban fringe and rural fringe' distinguish between central and peripheral urban and rural areas within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA).

'Urban core' is a large urban area around which a CMA or a CA is delineated. The urban core must have a population (based on the previous census) of at least 50,000 persons in the case of a CMA, or at least 10,000 persons in the case of a CA.

The urban core of a CA that has been merged with an adjacent CMA or larger CA is called the 'secondary urban core'.

'Urban fringe' includes all small urban areas within a CMA or CA that are not contiguous with the urban core of the CMA or CA.

'Rural fringe' is all territory within a CMA or CA not classified as an urban core or an urban fringe.

Urban population size group

The term 'urban population size group' refers to the classification used in standard tabulations where urban areas are distributed according to the following predetermined size groups, based on the current census population.

1,000	to	2,499
2,500	to	4,999
5,000	to	9,999
10,000	to	24,999
25,000	to	49,999
50,000	to	99,999
100,000	to	499,999
500,000	and over	

Tabulations are not limited to these predetermined population size groups; the census database has the capability of tabulating data according to any user-defined population size group.

Appendix B Postal codes by federal ridings

Table B.1 Number of postal codes by federal ridings

FEDCODE	Federal Electoral District name	Number of postal codes
10001	Avalon	665
10002	Bonavista - Gander - Grand Falls - Windsor	871
10003	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1,618
10004	Labrador	372
10005	Random - Burin - St. George's	910
10006	St. John's East	3,574
10007	St. John's South - Mount Pearl	2,654
11001	Cardigan	374
11002	Charlottetown	1,767
11003	Egmont	1,019
11004	Malpeque	38
12001	Cape Breton - Canso	3,236
12002	Central Nova	1,301
12003	Dartmouth - Cole Harbour	3,193
12004	Halifax	3,513
12005	Halifax West	2,287
12006	Kings - Hants	1,531
12007	Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley	1,929
12008	Sackville - Eastern Shore	1,942
12009	South Shore - St. Margaret's	1,228
12010	Sydney - Victoria	5,136
12011	West Nova	699
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4,969
13002	Beauséjour	8,279
13003	Fredericton	4,595
13004	Fundy Royal	6,861
13005	Madawaska - Restigouche	4,274
13006	Miramichi	4,701
13007	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4,674
13008	New Brunswick Southwest	7,905
13009	Saint John	4,475
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	7,457
24001	Abitibi - Témiscamingue	2,535
24002	Ahuntsic	2,267
24003	Alfred-Pellan	3,410
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1,934
24005	Beauce	2,633
24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2,422
24007	Beauport - Limoilou	3,636
24008	Berthier - Maskinongé	2,336
24009	Bourassa	2,144
24010	Brome - Missisquoi	2,899
24011	Brossard - La Prairie	2,780
24012	Chambly - Borduas	3,419
24013	Charlesbourg - Haute-Saint-Charles	3,808

Table B.1 Number of postal codes by federal ridings (suite)

FEDCODE	Federal Electoral District name	Number of postal codes
24014	Montmorency - Charlevoix - Haute-Côte-Nord	1,808
24015	Châteauguay - Saint-Constant	2,815
24016	Chicoutimi - Le Fjord	3,617
24017	Compton - Stanstead	1,645
24018	Drummond	3,727
24019	Gaspésie - Îles-de-la-Madeleine	1,422
24020	Gatineau	3,435
24021	Hochelaga	2,054
24022	Honoré-Mercier	2,544
24023	Hull - Aylmer	4,007
24024	Jeanne-Le Ber	2,783
24025	Joliette	1,513
24026	Jonquière - Alma	4,570
24027	Lac-Saint-Louis	3,835
24028	La Pointe-de-l'Île	2,942
24029	LaSalle - Émard	1,773
24030	Laurentides - Labelle	1,945
24031	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2,492
24032	Laval	2,964
24033	Laval - Les Îles	3,024
24034	Lévis - Bellechasse	2,597
24035	Longueuil - Pierre-Boucher	2,728
24036	Lotbinière - Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	2,181
24037	Louis-Hébert	3,706
24038	Louis-Saint-Laurent	3,440
24039	Manicouagan	2,237
24040	Marc-Aurèle-Fortin	3,604
24041	Haute-Gaspésie - La Mitis - Matane - Matapédia	2,393
24042	Mégantic - L'Érable	3,112
24043	Montcalm	2,426
24044	Mount Royal	2,422
24045	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2,956
24046	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik - Eeyou	1,472
24047	Outremont	1,498
24048	Papineau	1,729
24049	Pierrefonds - Dollard	2,820
24050	Pontiac	2,484
24051	Portneuf - Jacques-Cartier	2,454
24052	Québec	4,220
24053	Repentigny	3,930
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	3,030
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	3,095
24056	Rimouski-Neigette - Témiscouata - Les Basques	2,265
24057	Rivière-des-Mille-Îles	2,547
24058	Montmagny - L'Islet - Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup	1,705
24059	Rivière-du-Nord	3,355

Table B.1 Number of postal codes by federal ridings (suite)

FEDCODE	Federal Electoral District name	Number of postal codes
24060	Roberval - Lac-Saint-Jean	2,808
24061	Rosemont - La Petite-Patrie	1,762
24062	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	3,010
24063	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2,458
24064	Saint-Jean	2,886
24065	Saint-Lambert	2,824
24066	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2,641
24067	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1,888
24068	Saint-Maurice - Champlain	4,040
24069	Shefford	2,443
24070	Sherbrooke	3,737
24071	Terrebonne - Blainville	2,597
24072	Trois-Rivières	4,320
24073	Vaudreuil-Soulanges	2,232
24074	Verchères - Les Patriotes	1,480
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3,386
35001	Ajax - Pickering	2,555
35002	Algoma - Manitoulin - Kapuskasing	1,062
35003	Ancaster - Dundas - Flamborough - Westdale	2,716
35004	Barrie	2,834
35005	Beaches - East York	2,280
35006	Bramalea - Gore - Malton	2,969
35007	Brampton - Springdale	1,955
35008	Brampton West	2,734
35009	Brant	4,239
35010	Burlington	3,894
35011	Cambridge	3,755
35012	Carleton - Mississippi Mills	2,014
35013	Chatham-Kent - Essex	2,548
35014	Durham	1,847
35015	Davenport	1,680
35016	Don Valley East	1,600
35017	Don Valley West	2,592
35018	Dufferin - Caledon	2,737
35019	Eglinton - Lawrence	2,381
35020	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2,726
35021	Essex	2,473
35022	Etobicoke Centre	2,864
35023	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3,432
35024	Etobicoke North	1,935
35025	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	1,010
35026	Bruce - Grey - Owen Sound	1,742
35027	Guelph	3,568
35028	Haldimand - Norfolk	1,898
35029	Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock	1,010
35030	Halton	2,672
35031	Hamilton Centre	3,889

Table B.1 Number of postal codes by federal ridings (suite)

FEDCODE	Federal Electoral District name	Number of postal codes
35032	Hamilton East - Stoney Creek	3,795
35033	Hamilton Mountain	3,501
35034	Huron - Bruce	1,030
35035	Kenora	1,220
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3,753
35037	Kitchener Centre	3,155
35038	Kitchener - Conestoga	2,467
35039	Kitchener - Waterloo	3,702
35040	Lanark - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	2,721
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1,567
35042	London - Fanshawe	2,517
35043	London North Centre	3,753
35044	London West	3,098
35045	Markham - Unionville	2,693
35046	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1,670
35047	Mississauga - Brampton South	2,743
35048	Mississauga East - Cooksville	1,704
35049	Mississauga - Erindale	2,261
35050	Mississauga South	3,128
35051	Mississauga - Streetsville	1,996
35052	Nepean - Carleton	2,701
35053	Newmarket - Aurora	2,874
35054	Niagara Falls	4,313
35055	Niagara West - Glanbrook	1,466
35056	Nickel Belt	1,146
35057	Nipissing - Timiskaming	2,218
35058	Northumberland - Quinte West	2,546
35059	Oak Ridges - Markham	2,959
35060	Oakville	3,928
35061	Oshawa	3,515
35062	Ottawa Centre	4,176
35063	Ottawa - Orléans	2,653
35064	Ottawa South	3,357
35065	Ottawa - Vanier	3,273
35066	Ottawa West - Nepean	3,108
35067	Oxford	3,026
35068	Parkdale - High Park	1,743
35069	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1,103
35070	Perth - Wellington	1,939
35071	Peterborough	3,061
35072	Pickering - Scarborough East	2,222
35073	Prince Edward - Hastings	1,702
35074	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	3,000
35075	Richmond Hill	2,466
35076	St. Catharines	4,468
35077	St. Paul's	2,216
35078	Sarnia - Lambton	2,866

Table B.1 Number of postal codes by federal ridings (suite)

FEDCODE	Federal Electoral District name	Number of postal codes
35079	Sault Ste. Marie	2,937
35080	Scarborough - Agincourt	1,644
35081	Scarborough Centre	2,126
35082	Scarborough - Guildwood	1,795
35083	Scarborough - Rouge River	1,913
35084	Scarborough Southwest	2,197
35085	Simcoe - Grey	1,535
35086	Simcoe North	2,302
35087	Stormont - Dundas - South Glengarry	2,179
35088	Sudbury	3,203
35089	Thornhill	3,198
35090	Thunder Bay - Rainy River	2,676
35091	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2,531
35092	Timmins - James Bay	1,947
35093	Toronto Centre	2,627
35094	Toronto - Danforth	2,151
35095	Trinity - Spadina	3,134
35096	Vaughan	2,643
35097	Welland	4,411
35098	Wellington - Halton Hills	1,931
35099	Whitby - Oshawa	3,468
35100	Willowdale	2,497
35101	Windsor - Tecumseh	3,309
35102	Windsor West	4,283
35103	York Centre	2,249
35104	York - Simcoe	1,851
35105	York South - Weston	2,136
35106	York West	1,433
46001	Brandon - Souris	2,124
46002	Charleswood - St. James - Assiniboia	2,236
46003	Churchill	777
46004	Dauphin - Swan River - Marquette	719
46005	Elmwood - Transcona	2,221
46006	Kildonan - St. Paul	2,049
46007	Portage - Lisgar	1,306
46008	Provencher	484
46009	Saint Boniface	2,444
46010	Selkirk - Interlake	885
46011	Winnipeg Centre	2,844
46012	Winnipeg North	2,153
46013	Winnipeg South	1,873
46014	Winnipeg South Centre	2,170
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1,131
47002	Blackstrap	1,768
47003	Desnethé - Missinippi - Churchill River	271
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1,065
47005	Palliser	2,742

Table B.1 Number of postal codes by federal ridings (suite)

FEDCODE	Federal Electoral District name	Number of postal codes
47006	Prince Albert	1,490
47007	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1,794
47008	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1,839
47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1,461
47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1,989
47011	Saskatoon - Wanuskewin	1,713
47012	Souris - Moose Mountain	1,196
47013	Wascana	2,732
47014	Yorkton - Melville	823
48001	Fort McMurray - Athabasca	1,384
48002	Calgary East	3,780
48003	Calgary Centre-North	4,244
48004	Calgary Northeast	2,608
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	2,151
48006	Calgary Centre	4,857
48007	Calgary Southeast	2,893
48008	Calgary Southwest	2,813
48009	Calgary West	3,215
48010	Crowfoot	1,391
48011	Edmonton - Mill Woods - Beaumont	2,791
48012	Edmonton Centre	5,278
48013	Edmonton East	4,630
48014	Edmonton - Leduc	3,389
48015	Edmonton - St. Albert	3,539
48016	Edmonton - Sherwood Park	3,331
48017	Edmonton - Spruce Grove	2,898
48018	Edmonton - Strathcona	4,711
48019	Lethbridge	3,639
48020	Macleod	1,054
48021	Medicine Hat	2,953
48022	Peace River	2,076
48023	Red Deer	2,835
48024	Vegreville - Wainwright	1,549
48025	Westlock - St. Paul	1,097
48026	Wetaskiwin	1,263
48027	Wild Rose	1,895
48028	Yellowhead	913
59001	Abbotsford	2,880
59002	Burnaby - Douglas	3,438
59003	Burnaby - New Westminster	3,100
59004	Cariboo - Prince George	3,960
59005	Chilliwack - Fraser Canyon	2,076
59006	Delta - Richmond East	3,542
59007	Pitt Meadows - Maple Ridge - Mission	3,570
59008	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3,525
59009	Fleetwood - Port Kells	2,580
59010	Kamloops - Thompson - Cariboo	2,965

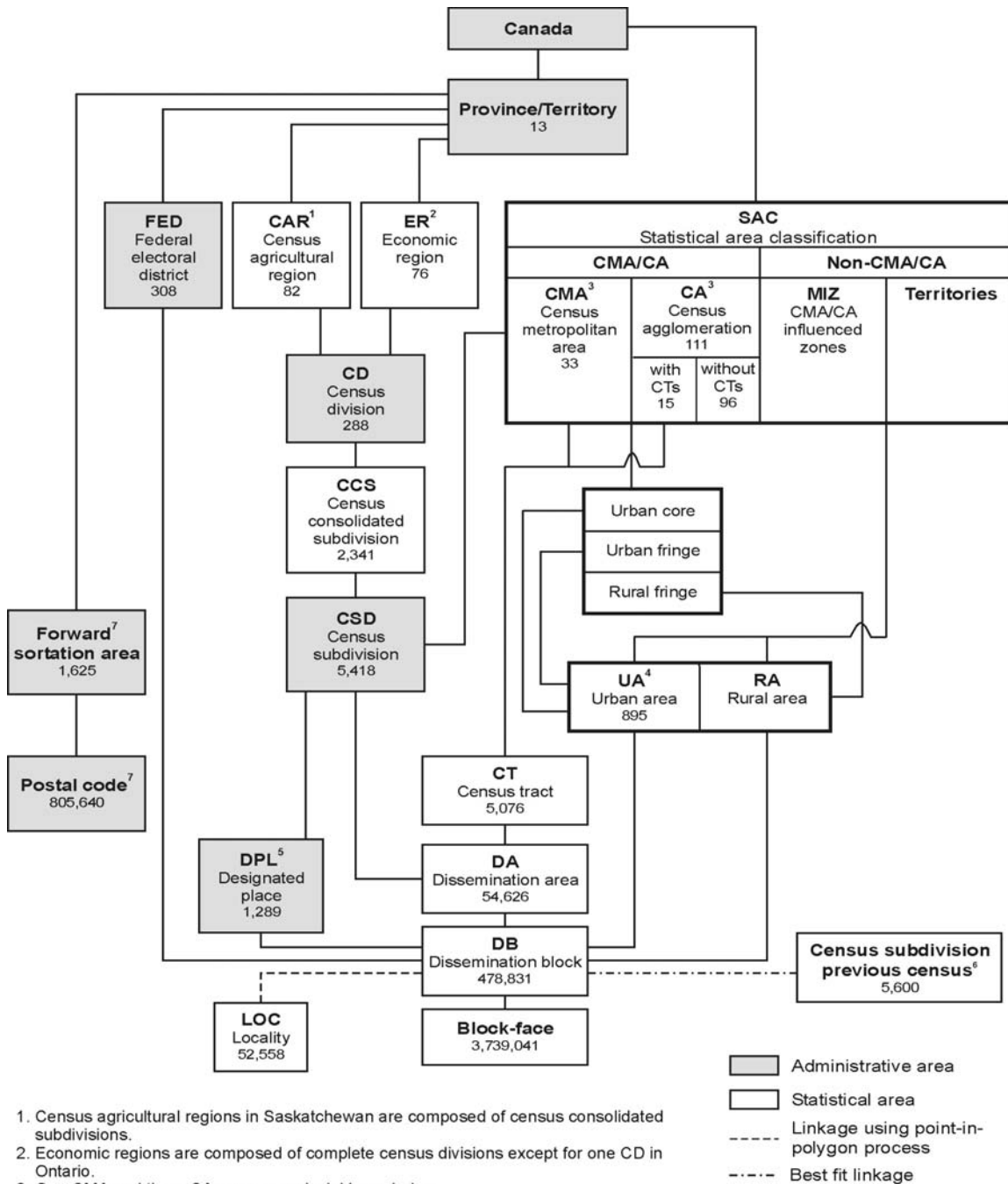
Table B.1 Number of postal codes by federal ridings (suite)

FEDCODE	Federal Electoral District name	Number of postal codes
59011	Kelowna - Lake Country	3,994
59012	Kootenay - Columbia	1,531
59013	Langley	3,167
59014	Nanaimo - Alberni	3,681
59015	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2,974
59016	Newton - North Delta	3,093
59017	New Westminster - Coquitlam	3,838
59018	Okanagan - Shuswap	2,794
59019	North Vancouver	4,035
59020	Okanagan - Coquihalla	2,404
59021	Port Moody - Westwood - Port Coquitlam	2,685
59022	Prince George - Peace River	3,396
59023	Richmond	2,503
59024	Saanich - Gulf Islands	4,010
59025	Skeena - Bulkley Valley	1,806
59026	British Columbia Southern Interior	2,422
59027	South Surrey - White Rock - Cloverdale	3,357
59028	Surrey North	3,239
59029	Vancouver Centre	2,932
59030	Vancouver East	3,302
59031	Vancouver Island North	3,216
59032	Vancouver Kingsway	3,199
59033	Vancouver Quadra	4,094
59034	Vancouver South	3,071
59035	Victoria	4,632
59036	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast - Sea to Sky Country	3,189
60001	Yukon	943
61001	Western Arctic	506
62001	Nunavut	29
Total		819,693

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population; Canada Post Corporation, May 2006.

Appendix C Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2006 Census

Figure C.1 Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2006 Census



1. Census agricultural regions in Saskatchewan are composed of census consolidated subdivisions.
2. Economic regions are composed of complete census divisions except for one CD in Ontario.
3. One CMA and three CAs cross provincial boundaries.
4. Five UAs cross provincial boundaries.
5. Designated places respect CSD boundaries, but do not cover the total area of CSDs.
6. For the 2006 Census, a best fit linkage is created between the 2001 CSDs and 2006 DBs to facilitate historical data retrieval.
7. Postal codes and forward sortation areas valid as of May 2006 (Canada Post Corporation).

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population; Canada Post Corporation, May 2006.

Appendix D Geographic units by province and territory, 2006 Census

Table D.1 Geographic units by province and territory, 2006 Census

Geographic unit	Canada 2001	Canada 2006	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
Federal electoral district (2003 Representation Order)	301 ¹	308	7	4	11	10	75	106	14	14	28	36	1	1	1
Economic region	76	76	4	1	5	5	17	11	8	6	8	8	1	1	1
Census agricultural region	82	82	3	3	5	4	14	5	12	20	8	8	0	0	0
Census division	288	288	11	3	18	15	98	49	23	18	19	28	1	2	3
Census consolidated subdivision	2,446	2,341	89	68	43	151	1,008	316	127	300	77	156	1	2	3
Census subdivision (CSD)	5,600	5,418	377	113	100	276	1,294	585	297	984	453	836	35	37	31
CSD dissolutions (January 2, 2001 to January 1, 2006)	340	...	9	0	0	0	282	5	7	29	4	4	0	0	0
CSD incorporations (January 2, 2001 to January 1, 2006)	...	158	5	0	2	1	100	4	6	11	5	24	0	0	0
Designated place	1,261	1,289	182	0	49	167	83	88	58	159	262	240	1	0	0
Census metropolitan area	27	33	1	0	1	2	6 ²	15 ²	1	2	2	4	0	0	0
Census agglomeration (CA)	113	111	3	2	4	5 ²	26 ²	28 ²	3	7 ²	12 ²	22	1	1	0
CA with census tracts	16	15	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
CA without census tracts	94	96	3	2	4	4 ²	23 ²	24 ²	3	7 ²	9 ²	18	1	1	0
Census tract	4,798	5,076	46	0	88	99	1,289	2,136	168	105	491	654	0	0	0
Urban area	913	895	32	7	36	32 ²	226 ²	260 ²	38 ²	58 ²	107 ²	95	1	3	5
Locality	52,291	52,558	2,445	964	3,924	3,450	12,617	10,905	2,349	3,898	3,472	7,708	363	173	290
Dissemination area	52,993	54,626	1,062	292	1,633	1,439	13,408	19,177	2,152	2,431	5,357	7,471	78	84	42
Dissemination block	478,707	478,831	8,199	3,251	14,656	14,864	108,751	126,244	30,421	51,729	65,071	52,808	1,261	967	609
Block-face	3,764,232	3,739,041	78,376	26,190	154,564	132,873	835,458	942,567	198,063	361,069	507,859	473,418	11,888	11,620	5,096
Forward sortation area	1,595	1,625	35	7	76	110	415	522	64	48	150	189	3	3	3
Postal code	758,658	805,640	10,378	3,157	25,313	57,355	202,972	269,676	23,943	21,541	76,924	112,904	942	506	29

... not applicable

1. Federal electoral districts (1996 Representation Order).
2. Census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations and urban areas crossing provincial boundaries are counted in both provinces, and, therefore, do not add up to the national total.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population; Canada Post Corporation, May 2006.

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