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André Loranger
Chief Statistician of Canada
Statistics Canada
150 Tunney's Pasture Driveway
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6

Dear Chief Statistician,

I am writing to introduce my project, Data for Canada, and to share why Statistics Canada's historical and current statistical products are so important to the work we are doing.

Data for Canada is a public-interest initiative focused on making Canadian data more usable for regular citizens, researchers, civic technologists, and community organizations. The project is motivated by a simple concern: even when data is technically public, it is often difficult for non-specialists to discover, interpret, combine, and preserve for long-term public benefit. Our goal is to help bridge that gap by transforming important Canadian public datasets into formats and documentation that are easier to access, analyze, and reuse.

A major focus of the project so far has been Statistics Canada data. On the census side, Data for Canada has already processed and published 2021 Census of Population datasets (https://www.dataforcanada.org/docs/d4c-pkgs/d4c-datapkg-statistical/statistics_canada/census_data/) in Parquet format for all available geographic levels. The project has also processed Statistics Canada statistical and administrative boundary products (https://www.dataforcanada.org/docs/d4c-pkgs/d4c-datapkg-statistical/statistics_canada/statistical_administrative_boundaries/) for 2021 in both digital and cartographic forms across all available geographic levels. In parallel, I have written publicly (<https://www.diegoripley.ca/blog/2025/what-i-learned-from-processing-all-statcan-tables/>) about the need to process Statistics Canada's wider universe of data tables so that they become easier to use in modern analytical workflows.

More broadly, this work reflects a commitment not only to accessibility, but also to preservation. Historical statistical products matter. They support longitudinal research, historical interpretation, geographic comparability, and civic understanding. They also deserve durable public stewardship so that they remain available even when technologies, institutional priorities, or dissemination practices change over time. My project is especially interested in making historical statistical data products available to the community and in supporting data preservation so that these resources remain accessible even when government priorities may shift.

For that reason, I have submitted a number of ATIP requests intended to support these public-interest goals. These requests are aimed at improving transparency, reproducibility, preservation, and long-term access to Statistics Canada records that have significant research and public value. These requests are being tracked publicly in my GitHub repository so that the process remains transparent and so that any resulting records can be linked back to clearly documented research needs.

For ease of reference, the ATIP files I would like to bring to your attention include the following tracked requests:

- **EA2026_0164872** — List of StatCan geographic-level datasets and field metadata — <https://github.com/dataforcanada/d4c-datapkg-statistical/issues/36>
- **EA2026_0164878** — Best practices and limitations for Census of Population, Agriculture, and tables data — <https://github.com/dataforcanada/d4c-datapkg-statistical/issues/41>
- **EA2026_0164912** — Historical and current StatCan geographic hierarchy datasets and associated documentation — <https://github.com/dataforcanada/d4c-datapkg-statistical/issues/35>
- **EA2026_0163202** — Historical & current census boundary files, all geographies/vintages, with crosswalks & DGUIDs <https://github.com/dataforcanada/d4c-datapkg-statistical/issues/34>
- **EA2026_0164896** — Historical hydrography used for geographic boundaries and roads — <https://github.com/dataforcanada/d4c-datapkg-statistical/issues/29>
- **EA2026_0161338** — StatCan basemap docs, toponym rankings, and current basemap generation code — <https://github.com/dataforcanada/d4c-datapkg-statistical/issues/30>

I want to be clear that this work is not adversarial. My hope is that Data for Canada can complement Statistics Canada's public mission by improving downstream usability for the broader community, especially for users who are not specialists in statistical dissemination systems. I also believe there is a strong public-interest case for preserving historical statistical data products, supporting reproducibility, and ensuring that valuable public records remain accessible over the long term.

Statistics Canada has produced some of the most important public statistical resources in Canada. My project is, in many ways, an effort to help those resources travel further: to more users, in more usable forms, with stronger preservation and clearer linkages across time.

Thank you for your time and for the work that Statistics Canada does in support of Canadians. I would be glad to share more about the project, the processing work completed to date, and the public-interest rationale behind these preservation and access efforts.

Sincerely,

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