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PROTECTED

Adjusting the Census of Population for COVID-19

October 2020





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Change of Environment

- Scenario planning for:
 - No vaccine available by May 2021
 - COVID-19 present during the conduct of the census enumeration phase
 - Restrictions on mobility of people or movement of materials
 - Behavioural requirements



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Goals in adaption to COVID-19

- To ensure the health and safety of Canadians, as well as the staff working on the Census
- To maintain response rates which are amongst the highest in the world



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Minimize face to face contact and movement of staff

- New emphasis on self-response, and avoidance of face to face contact with enumerators
- Elimination of canvasser activity (2% of population, North and Reserve)
- No travel teams to North and Reserves
- All early enumeration planned for February-March 2021 (northern regions) moved to April-July 2021
- Introduction of “no-contact NRFU” (non-response follow-up)
- No enumerator will visit a seniors residence or other facility where vulnerable Canadians live
- Personal Protective Equipment for all enumerators



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Minimize group activities

- All office staff will work remotely.
 - Available leased space (30 offices) will be fitted-up as “barebones” facilities for distribution of materials and equipment or for recruitment activity only.
- All training for new employees will be done via videoconferencing

Maintain data quality

- Creation of a statistical contingency, as was done in 2016 for Ft McMurray



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Non-response Follow-up

- Scenario
 - COVID limits close, face-to-face contact with respondents
- Adaptations:
 - Begin NRFU with a large-scale telephone operation
 - Dual approach for respondent contact.
 - Early strategy: encourage self-response, but active offer at the doorstep
 - Later strategy: do not encourage self-response, active offer at doorstep only
 - Establishment of social distancing protocol (“no-contact” NRFU)
 - No dwelling entry
 - Six feet apart
 - Provision of personal protective equipment to enumerators for in-field activities,
 - Provision of piece of identifying uniform (vest, cap etc.)



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Early Enumeration and Canvasser

- Scenario
 - COVID leads to restrictions on travel to remote communities
- Adaptations:
 - Employ List/Leave collection methodology
 - Enable self-response
 - “No-contact” NRFU with 100% local staff, through partnership with First Nations and Territorial Focal Points
 - Move operation to April-July 2021
 - Increase efforts on community engagement – participation, tailoring plan, staffing
 - Time to develop L/L and self-response approach, recruit and develop local staff
 - Weather more amenable to “No-contact” NRFU



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Collective Dwellings

- Scenario
 - COVID prevents enumerators from visiting facilities at higher risk of transmission (e.g. seniors residences, corrective institutions)
- Adaptation:
 - Contact only with collective administrator
 - Introduce E-questionnaire for administrator
 - “No-contact” NRFU for all, telephone contact only for most collective types
 - Build special database of 2021 Census results, supplemented by other sources



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Temporary Census Offices and Call Centres

- Scenario
 - COVID prevents office operations for our offices (30) and call centres (5)
- Adaptations:
 - All office-based staff to work from home
 - Boost VPN capacity for Statistics Canada
 - Purchase of IT and telephony equipment
 - Complete “barebones” fit-up of offices, to be used as potential recruitment and distribution of materials.