

**STEP
F**

If more than six persons live here, you will need an extra questionnaire; call 1 877 594-3006.

You have now completed your questionnaire. Please mail it today.

Thank you for your cooperation.

COMMENTS

I would comment. But as usual it would fall on deaf ears, closed eyes and closed and locked minds.

I am sure that this statement represents transgender people country wide.

**REASONS WHY WE ASK THE QUESTIONS**

Steps A to D and Question 1 are asked to determine who should complete this questionnaire. Questions 2 to 6 are asked to learn about the living arrangements of people living in Canada. This information is used for planning social programs, such as Old Age Security and the Canada Child Tax Benefit. It is also used by towns and cities to plan a variety of services such as day-care centres, schools and senior citizens homes. Question 7 on languages is asked to implement programs that protect the rights of Canadians under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It also helps to determine the need for language training and services in English or French. Question 8 ensures that each person is given the opportunity to make an informed decision about what happens to his or her name-identified census information in 92 years.

THE LAW PROTECTS WHAT YOU TELL US

The confidentiality of your census responses is protected by law. All Statistics Canada employees have taken an oath of secrecy. Your personal census information cannot be given to anyone outside Statistics Canada without your consent. This is your right.

Your census information will be retained in accordance with legislative requirements and will be stored securely. You can ask to see the information about yourself on your 2006 Census questionnaire after November 2008. To do this, write the Privacy Coordinator, Statistics Canada, 25th Floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Dear M.P. McTeague:

I recently received the 2001 Census form. As a citizen of this country, I'm always glad to participate in this sort of survey. As a computer professional, I understand the importance of quality data in understanding the "big picture". As a transsexual, I am angry and hurt that I am forced to select "Male" or "Female" when filling in my data.

I'm writing to you to ask your assistance in moving towards providing an opportunity for the transgender communities to provide accurate data for the censuses to come. This could be accomplished by adding a third choice in the gender category, "T" for transgendered.

In case you aren't educated in the matter, here is a useful definition, taken from a paper written by Dr. Ann Scott:

"Transgender" is an umbrella term used to describe those who live outside of normative sex and gender relations. These are people who identify with a core gender identity that society believes is not congruent with their external genitalia. Six of the groups within the transgendered community are transsexuals, transgendered people, intersexed people, cross-dressers, drag kings and queens, and transvestites.

This census marks the first time same sex partnership is defined, in black and white. After years of fighting, the gays have at least the opportunity to provide accurate data when participating in the census. It's obviously indicative of the growing tolerance and acceptance by the general public towards diverse lifestyles.

I live my life as a female. My family and friends accept me. My neighbours accept me as a female. When I go to the supermarket, I am addressed as Ma'am. When I changed my legal name I was informed that I must select the "Male" category. This causes others and myself embarrassment at the Doctor's office, at banks, and at other places where my identification is required.

All legal forms and documents the Government provides have only two gender options. In my case, to be recognized in the female category, I will have to undergo surgery. Surgery that the psychiatric community defines as "genital mutilation". The transgendered community is a wide spectrum of individuals - some of these individuals choose to have complete sex-change operations, including the genital mutilation, and others choose to live

somewhere between the black and white borders of "Male" and "Female". Regardless of moral opinion, we exist. We live amongst you, we work, and we pay taxes.

After receiving the 2001 Census form, I am at a loss. Is the Canadian Government not ready to move into the twenty- first century? Why does it take so long for minority groups to be recognized? Do we always have to demonstrate publicly or draw massive media attention? Why can't a group just be recognized quietly? You would think a Census would be the perfect way to find out, how many of us there are. But, we are not even mentioned or recognized.

There must be a change in policy. We should not be forced to physically change our genders to be recognized. We should either be allowed to choose the gender we are comfortable with, or have a third gender added to all legal documents. Our genitals should not categorize us. The gender we are born with is not always the gender we are comfortable with. A total sex change is not always the answer. Only our doctors or partners should be concerned about our genitals. I would like the general public and our Government to mind their own business regarding this.

The Census is primarily about obtaining quality data about Canadians so the world and we will know more about who we are. Even if the government is not yet ready to accept or support a third gender, wouldn't the Census be an ideal place to begin giving transgendered people a sense of validity? After all, it boils down to a simple matter of counting and categorizing all the people of the country - shouldn't we have the appropriate amount of categories, so our data is more accurate?

I will be awaiting your prompt response. Thank you for your time in reading my letter.

Ember Amanda Taylor

Dear Mr. Mervin Witter:

I recently received the 2001 Census form. As a citizen of this country, I'm always glad to participate in this sort of survey. As a computer professional, I understand the importance of quality data in understanding the "big picture". As a transsexual, I am angry and hurt that I am forced to select "Male" or "Female" when filling in my data.

I'm writing to you to ask your assistance in moving towards providing an opportunity for the transgender communities to provide accurate data for the censuses to come. This could be accomplished by adding a third choice in the gender category, "T" for transgendered.

In case you aren't educated in the matter, here is a useful definition, taken from a paper written by Dr. Ann Scott:

"Transgender" is an umbrella term used to describe those who live outside of normative sex and gender relations. These are people who identify with a core gender identity that society believes is not congruent with their external genitalia. Six of the groups within the transgendered community are transsexuals, transgendered people, intersexed people, cross-dressers, drag kings and queens, and transvestites.

This census marks the first time same sex partnership is defined, in black and white. After years of fighting, the gays have at least the opportunity to provide accurate data when participating in the census. It's obviously indicative of the growing tolerance and acceptance by the general public towards diverse lifestyles.

I live my life as a female. My family and friends accept me. My neighbours accept me as a female. When I go to the supermarket, I am addressed as Ma'am. When I changed my legal name I was informed that I must select the "Male" category. This causes others and myself embarrassment at the Doctor's office, at banks, and at other places where my identification is required.

All legal forms and documents the Government provides have only two gender options. In my case, to be recognized in the female category, I will have to undergo surgery. Surgery that the psychiatric community defines as "genital mutilation". The transgendered community is a wide spectrum of individuals - some of these individuals choose to have complete sex-change operations, including the genital mutilation, and others choose to live

somewhere between the black and white borders of "Male" and "Female". Regardless of moral opinion, we exist. We live amongst you, we work, and we pay taxes.

After receiving the 2001 Census form, I am at a loss. Is the Canadian Government not ready to move into the twenty- first century? Why does it take so long for minority groups to be recognized? Do we always have to demonstrate publicly or draw massive media attention? Why can't a group just be recognized quietly? You would think a Census would be the perfect way to find out, how many of us there are. But, we are not even mentioned or recognized.

There must be a change in policy. We should not be forced to physically change our genders to be recognized. We should either be allowed to choose the gender we are comfortable with, or have a third gender added to all legal documents. Our genitals should not categorize us. The gender we are born with is not always the gender we are comfortable with. A total sex change is not always the answer. Only our doctors or partners should be concerned about our genitals. I would like the general public and our Government to mind their own business regarding this.

The Census is primarily about obtaining quality data about Canadians so the world and we will know more about who we are. Even if the government is not yet ready to accept or support a third gender, wouldn't the Census be an ideal place to begin giving transgendered people a sense of validity? After all, it boils down to a simple matter of counting and categorizing all the people of the country - shouldn't we have the appropriate amount of categories, so our data is more accurate?

I will be awaiting your prompt response. Thank you for your time in reading my letter.

Ember Amanda Taylor

