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## INDUSTRY

2011 Census

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

**THE SENATE**

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

*[Translation]***INDUSTRY**

## 2011 CENSUS

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):**

Honourable senators, we learned last week that long- and short-form questionnaires were distributed to some 110,000 suburban households in Montreal, Quebec City and Red Deer in May 2009. The purpose of this exercise, which cost over \$1 million, was to test the 2011 census mechanism. In fact, everything was in place just one month before the Conservative government decided to do away with the mandatory long-form questionnaire.

Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate tell us about this test, which cost over \$1 million, and share the results?

*[English]***Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government):**

Honourable senators, I do not have that information, as the honourable senator quite rightly knows. This government believes that the long-form mandatory census was an invasion of Canadians' privacy. It asked overly intrusive personal questions. Statistics Canada is free to ask Canadians those questions, but this government believes that Canadians should respond to those questions on a voluntary basis and should not have to do it under threat of further actions by the government for refusing to answer questions that they deem to be an invasion of their privacy and overly intrusive.

The long-form household survey, as I have said many times before, has the same number of questions. Honourable senators can get over that because they know we have a long-form survey. The only difference is that we trust Canadians to fill out the forms accurately. We do not demand that they fill them out. As we know from many examples, Canadians used other means to answer them when they were under threat.

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