
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

May 24-25, 1989

Ottawa, Ontario



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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

MINUTES

Meeting of May 24 and 25, 1989

Ottawa, Ontario

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1. Opening Remarks

The Chairperson, Dr. Ivan Fellegi, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. On behalf of all members of the Council, a plaque was presented to Mr. Harvey Ford, Director of the Alberta Bureau of Statistics, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of a statistical agency in Alberta.

The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting (May 25-26, 1988) were approved without amendment. Two items were proposed for discussion under Other Business: 1) proposed collaboration between the Central Statistics Bureau of British Columbia and the Washington State Data Center and 2) a proposal from the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography for a special federal-provincial meeting on the use of health insurance records in the development of demographic statistics.

2. Report of the Chief Statistician of Canada

Dr. Fellegi presented an overview of major developments and achievements of Statistics Canada over the preceding year and summarized the significant initiatives planned for 1989-90 (summary attached as Appendix 1).

In discussion, it was inquired whether Statistics Canada's new ministerial reporting relationship would affect funding mechanisms for the Agency. Dr. Fellegi informed delegates that the funding system for the federal government had been totally revised and described the new system. It was noted that federal expenditure reserves were very small.

In response to an inquiry concerning possible loss of detailed information through harmonization of trade statistics between Canada and the United States, Dr. Fellegi noted that the two countries have undertaken to accommodate each other's needs in regard to the information collected on customs documents. Also in relation to trade statistics, it was agreed that provision would be made to ensure that documents necessary for the interpretation of codes used in trade tabulations would be available in the Agency's regional offices.

3. Provincial and Territorial Program Reports

Provincial and territorial members presented reports on the current status and activities of their respective statistical agencies (written reports and a summary of oral reports are attached as Appendix 2).

In discussion, Dr. Fellegi welcomed the active participation of the Province of British Columbia in efforts to reduce 1991 Census undercoverage in that province from levels experienced in the 1986 Census. Other discussion concerned Ontario's exploration of the use of retail sales tax records for statistical purposes, a compendium data base of U.S. and Canadian industrial data developed in Ontario, the Social Policy Simulation Data Base/Model distributed to statistical focal points and a data base on large businesses being developed in Manitoba.

It was agreed the new Program Committee would consider the desirability of presentations at the next Council meeting on work done by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics in the measurement of the effectiveness of statistical agencies. Likewise the cost-recovery programs of Statistics Canada and the provincial and territorial statistical agencies might be an item for discussion.

4. Program Committee Report

Mr. John Palmer, Chairperson of the Program Committee, presented a report on the activities of the committee (Appendix 3).

The Council accepted the recommendation of the Program Committee that the terms of reference of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography and the Federal-Provincial Committee on Small Area Data be adopted as distributed with the Program Committee report.

The proposal for an annual documentation of the programs, resources, products and services of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies (attached as Appendix 7) was dealt with as part of the Program Committee report.

In discussion of this item, several members expressed concern over the potential for abuse of the information that would be generated if the proposal were implemented, while others emphasized its potential usefulness. Suggestions for alternatives to the tabled proposal included more comprehensive written annual reports to the Council by provincial and territorial members and a structured summary of services and outputs of each agency only.

It was agreed that the new Program Committee would develop a more comprehensive proposal for a periodic, structured review and summary of the programs, services and outputs of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies. The review would exclude resources. If agreement can be reached on content and format, the review would be conducted by Statistics Canada.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Mr. Denis Desjardins, summarized the report distributed to members in advance of the meeting (attached as Appendix 4).

At the request of the Program Committee, Mr. Desjardins tabled a draft Decision Record for the Council compiled by the Council Secretariat. Council members were asked to adopt the decision record and to indicate what measures, if any, should be taken for maintaining the decision record in future. Also, a small number of past decisions at variance with current practice were identified and Council members were asked to agree that these decisions are no longer in effect.

Following some discussion it was agreed that the Secretariat would confirm the wording of section 2.3.1 in the Decision Record to ensure it conformed to the 1985 decision of the Council as recorded in the minutes and that past decisions of the Council that were not implemented would be deleted but listed as an appendix to the Decision Record. It was also agreed that focal points would be advised of new agreements under section 11 of the Statistics Act when negotiations begin toward the agreement rather than when the agreement is finalized.

Mr. Desjardins also clarified the agreement reached by the Dissemination Committee with regard to redistribution outside provincial and territorial administrations of Statistics Canada products purchased by focal points. Given the small number of cases of this type, the Dissemination Committee had agreed to refer each instance to the Secretariat for a statement of Statistics Canada position. In the event of a disagreement between the Secretariat and the focal point, the focal point could appeal the Secretariat's recommendation to the Chief Statistician.

6. Measures for the Preservation and Development of the National Statistical System

Dr. William McReynolds presented a paper distributed to members in advance of the meeting (attached as Appendix 5).

Discussion focused on specific actions that could be taken to preserve and develop the National Statistical System. Items discussed included: the potential benefits and difficulties of raising the level of representation in discussion of statistical issues to the deputy minister level in the provinces and territories; the Australian model for federal-state statistical relations; improved cooperation between provincial and territorial statistical agencies; the benefits gained by focal

points from privileged access to information on developments in Statistics Canada programs; the feasibility of pre-release of Statistics Canada data to focal points; and the use of Economic and Regional Development Agreements on statistics to increase the profile of federal-provincial statistical cooperation.

It was agreed that:

- o Statistics Canada's training programs would be opened to the staff of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies as available;
- o focal points will be provided with course lecture notes for Statistics Canada's training courses and may mount these courses in their jurisdictions;
- o an article on the role of the provinces in the statistical system and the focal point function will be developed and published in SCAN;
- o the Corporate Assignments Program will continue to work to encourage staff exchanges between Statistics Canada and provincial and territorial statistical agencies;
- o a compilation of Statistics Canada policies affecting federal-provincial relations will be circulated to senior managers of the Agency;
- o specific proposals for the contracting of work from Statistics Canada to provincial and territorial statistical agencies will be identified by members for discussion at technical committees reporting to the Council;
- o coordination of 1991 Census consultations with provincial and territorial administrations will be handled through focal point offices if desired;
- o the Program Committee will consider whether future agendas should include presentations by provincial and territorial members on initiatives of their agencies in order to encourage interaction between provincial and territorial agencies;
- o focal points will receive a second request to identify Statistics Canada training courses they would like to obtain on video-tape;
- o an increased effort will be made to ensure meetings of federal-provincial committees are scheduled in pairs; and

- o focal points may approach Statistics Canada's regional offices directly to make arrangements for data collection of provincial or territorial surveys.

7. Provincial and Territorial Inputs into Priority Setting in an Environment of Budget Reductions

Mr. Luc Bessette presented a paper distributed to members in advance of the meeting (attached as Appendix 6).

Discussion concerned the planning process at Statistics Canada and the difficulties of fully consulting provincial and territorial administrations on specific planning proposals, given the nature and time constraints of this process. Several specific cases of decisions actually or potentially having negative consequences for provincial or territorial statistical programs were also discussed. A suggestion was advanced that the Council periodically review contingency plans maintained by Statistics Canada for the eventuality that program reductions might be required to meet budgetary targets.

It was agreed that:

- o the document outlining Statistics Canada's contingency plans for 1988-89 would be re-circulated to Council members and that this document could be distributed within the provincial and territorial administrations;
- o a summary of contingency plans identified in Statistics Canada's 1989-90 planning cycle would be compiled and distributed to members and that this document should be viewed as an internal planning document and its distribution restricted to Council members;
- o the paper Report on Frequency and Detail of Economic Statistics prepared by Statistics Canada would be distributed to Council members; and
- o the Program Committee would determine whether a discussion of Statistics Canada's contingency plans should be scheduled for the next meeting of the Council.

8. Update on the 1991 Census

Mr. Bruce Petrie brought members up-to-date on the development of the 1991 Census. In addition to content development and results of the 1991 National Census Test, his report addressed plans being developed to improve coverage in the 1991 Census. Measures planned to improve coverage include an increased supervisor to

enumerator ratio, improved enumerator training, development of an address register in large urban centres, improved questionnaire design and enhancements to the public communications and telephone answering service programs during the field collection period.

Mr. Petrie reviewed the content development process for the 1991 Census. This process began with broadly based consultations on possible content for the 1991 Census and has included modular tests of selected questions, focus group testing of both questions and questionnaires and a significant effort to improve questionnaire design.

The content development process culminated in the National Census Test. Some initial results of the Test were presented to the Council and a more detailed presentation has been scheduled for the June 1989 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on the Census of Population. A final round of consultations on 1991 Census content will be carried out over the summer.

Discussion concerned issues of specific 1991 Census content, possible collaboration between Statistics Canada and British Columbia on measures to improve coverage, expectations with regard to the extent and resourcing of the 1991 Census and provincial and territorial collaboration in the development of an address registry. Plans for the 1991 Census of Agriculture and their coordination with plans for the 1991 Census of Population were also discussed, as were provisions for enumeration of the aboriginal population and possible post-censal surveys (possible topics include the disabled, the elderly, child care and the aboriginal population).

Mr. Petrie undertook to provide copies of the National Census Test questionnaire to any member requiring one. It was also agreed that members would be advised at the earliest possible moment of any changes to the boundaries of Census Metropolitan Areas resulting from the 1986 Census and that the issue of post-censal surveys would be discussed at the June meeting of the Committee on the Census of Population.

9. Update on Business Statistics Programs

Mr. Jacob Ryten briefed the Council on recent developments in three areas of Statistics Canada's business statistics programs: implementation of the Harmonized System; implementation of the Business Survey Redesign Project; and use of provincial retail sales tax administrative files for statistical purposes.

He advised members that improvement in the quality of data on imports has been observed since the implementation of the

Harmonized System of commodity classification in the international trade statistics program in January 1988. Effective in January 1990, United States data on imports from Canada, coded to the Harmonized System, will be employed by Statistics Canada to measure exports to the United States. As a result there will be a significant increase in the detail available on Canada's exports to the U.S. The Harmonized System will also be used by Statistics Canada for statistics on the production of commodities.

With regard to the Business Survey Redesign Project, Mr. Ryten reported that, while the Retail and Wholesale Trade Surveys have now been linked to the new Business Register, the old and new surveys are running in parallel. Published data from these surveys will be drawn from the old survey at least until the summer of 1989. The Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours will be the next to be linked to the new Business Register, followed by annual business surveys. Contrary to original plans, surveys of corporate finance will not be fully integrated to the new Business Register until 1991.

Mr. Ryten observed that attention has shifted from provincial retail sales tax administration to the administration of the national Goods and Services Tax, to be implemented in January 1991, as source of administrative data on retail trade and services. Revenue Canada (Customs and Excise) will be responsible for the administration of the Goods and Services Tax. Discussions have been held with Revenue Canada to examine whether records for the new tax could be linked to income tax files through the use of payroll deduction account numbers. Statistics Canada is optimistic that administrative data from the new tax system will prove to be an important source of statistical information on retail trade and services nationally, provincially and sub-provincially.

There was discussion on the impact of linkage to the new Business Register on the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours and on the Survey of Manufactures. It was noted that some limited commodity data may be released from the 1987 Census of Manufactures. Commodity data will be collected in the 1988 Census of Manufactures under the Harmonized System but with raised thresholds. Discussion with key users will soon commence to assess the impact on them of collecting detailed commodity information only every second year. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Ryten advised members that data on retail trade will be revised historically to adjust for the impact of linkage of the survey to the new Business Register.

Mr. Ryten proposed that the Business Statistics Committee discuss, at its next meeting, means by which provinces and territories could contribute to the improvement of the Business

Register as it pertains to large businesses. He also undertook to pass on to the program manager the concerns expressed over large, unexplained movements in some components of retail trade reported by the member from Saskatchewan. It was agreed that a methodology paper on the conversion from the old Survey of Manufactures to the new survey under the Central Frame Data base would be distributed to members.

10. Federal-Provincial Consultative Mechanisms in the Field of Social Statistics

Mr. Petrie reviewed federal-provincial consultative mechanisms in the field of Social Statistics. In the area of justice statistics, the Justice Information Council and its associated working level committee of liaison officers continue to direct the program. An evaluation has been completed of the justice statistics program. The evaluation stressed the need for improved strategic planning and a consultation process with members of the Council is now underway to develop a long-term plan.

The new National Health Information Council held its first meeting on May 24, 1989. The Council reports to the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health and the Chief Statistician. Its objectives are to identify health issues and associated information requirements in order to develop priorities for the health statistics program. A proposal has been tabled with the Council to create a Canadian Centre for Health Information from Statistics Canada's Health Division. The Centre would take direction from the Council operating under the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health and the Chief Statistician.

In the area of education statistics, a protocol is in the process of being signed with the Council of Ministers of Education for the creation of an Education Information Council at the deputy level. The Council would be co-chaired by a provincial deputy minister of education and the Chief Statistician and would be supported by a working level committee of liaison officers chaired by a deputy minister. A copy of the protocol has been sent to members of the Consultative Council.

While not a creation of Statistics Canada, the Tourism Research Council has been very active in regard to tourism statistics. Finally, Mr. Petrie reported that a special federal-provincial meeting on culture statistics had been convened as discussed at the 1988 meeting of the Consultative Council. The special meeting considered whether a standing federal-provincial committee on culture statistics was required and concluded that, until Statistics Canada could reach agreement with Communications

Canada on an enhanced culture statistics program, a standing committee was not necessary. Additional special meetings on this subject may, however, be convened if required.

Discussion concerned the special characteristics of these subject areas that lead to creation of the various councils, the specific arrangements in the various subject areas and other cases of federal-provincial consultative mechanisms independent of the Consultative Council (e.g. work injuries and small business statistics). Several members expressed a desire to see increased involvement of the statistical focal points in these subject areas. Dr. Fellegi stressed that he welcomed any involvement of the focal points that improved coordination of statistical activities at the provincial level.

It was agreed that the statistical focal points would be kept abreast of developments in these areas through briefings at meetings of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics. Focal points will also be provided with membership lists of the senior and working level federal-provincial committees as well as agendas and minutes of the senior federal-provincial councils in the areas of justice, health and education. Mr. Petrie undertook to provide the member from Saskatchewan with a list of the membership of the Tourism Research Council.

11. Other Business

Proposal for a special meeting on the use of health insurance records in the development of demographic statistics

Mr. Wayne Smith informed members of a proposal from the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography that the Council convene a special meeting of focal points and provincial and territorial health insurance officials to discuss the use of health insurance administrative records in the development of demographic statistics.

In discussion, the value of health insurance records for the development of demographic statistics was recognized, but concern was expressed over the feasibility of obtaining participation from senior health insurance officials and over the possible consequences for arrangements already in place in some provinces between focal points and health insurance agencies. It was suggested that the new Health Information Council could be a mechanism for raising this issue with health insurance officials.

It was the consensus that the Council would not proceed with the proposal.

Discussions between the Central Statistics Bureau of British Columbia and the Washington State Data Center

Dr. William McReynolds reported that one outcome of recent talks involving the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington on trade and environmental issues was the expression of a desire to exchange data to facilitate trade and other forms of interaction between the two areas. The Central Statistics Bureau has been invited to participate at the Western Regional State Data Center Conference in June 1989. The Province of British Columbia has offered to provide Washington State Data Center with access to the B.C. Business Network, which contains a number of statistical files from the Central Statistics Bureau. Inquiries are also being made with Statistics Canada into the feasibility of providing the data center with a CANSIM account. Dr. McReynolds suggested other provincial and territorial statistical agencies may wish to explore cooperation with the data centers of bordering states.

Environmental statistics

M. Luc Bessette proposed the creation of a federal-provincial committee on environmental statistics.

In discussion it was suggested that, given the small number of members actively involved in this area, bilateral discussions between Statistics Canada and the statistical agencies concerned would be a more efficient mechanism for cooperation until activity in this domain is more widespread. Members described the current status of their activities in the area of environmental statistics.

It was agreed that Mr. Stewart Wells, who has responsibility for environmental statistics at Statistics Canada, will make bilateral contact with the Bureau de la statistique du Québec on this topic and that the topic of activities in the area of environmental statistics will be added to the agenda of the Committee on Provincial Economic Accounts.

12. Nomination of the Program Committee

Mr. John Palmer nominated Mr. George Courage, Mr. Arch Noseworthy and Dr. William McReynolds as the provincial representatives on the Program Committee, with Dr. William McReynolds to serve as Chairperson. Statistics Canada representatives, nominated by Dr. Fellegi, were Mr. Stewart Wells, Mr. John Riddle and Mr. John Coombs with Mr. Denis Desjardins serving as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The nominations were accepted by Council.

The meeting was adjourned.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

May 24 and 25, 1989

Ottawa, Ontario

LIST OF DELEGATES (*) AND PARTICIPANTS

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Luc Bessette *
Directeur général par intérim
Bureau de la statistique du
Québec
117, rue Saint-André
Québec (Québec)
G1K 3Y3

Gordon Brackstone
Assistant Chief Statistician
Informatics and Methodology
Field
Statistics Canada
R.H. Coats Building
26th Floor (J)
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

George Courage *
Director
Newfoundland Statistics Agency
3rd Floor
Confederation Building
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1C 5T7

Denis Desjardins *
Director General
Marketing and Information
Services Branch
Statistics Canada
R.H. Coats Building
9th Floor (O)
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

Paul Dober *
Director
Statistical Services Branch
Department of Industry, Trade
and Technology
6th Floor, World Trade and
Convention Centre
1800 Argyle Street,
Post Office Box 519
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R7

Wilf Falk *
Director
Manitoba Bureau of Statistics
6th Floor
155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3H8

Ivan Fellegi *
Chief Statistician
Statistics Canada
R.H. Coats Building
26th Floor (A)
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

Harvey Ford *
Director
Alberta Bureau of Statistics
Sir Frederick W. Haultain
Building
7th Floor, 9811-109th Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0C8

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
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LIST OF DELEGATES (*) AND PARTICIPANTS

page 14

Yvon Fortin
Statisticien en chef adjoint
Secteur des communications et
des opérations
Statistique Canada
Immeuble R.H.-Coats
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0T6

Glenn Grant *
Director
Bureau of Statistics
Government of the Yukon
Yukon Government Building
2nd Avenue, 1st Floor, S.W.
Corner
Post Office Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Joanne Hughes
Director
Atlantic Region
Statistics Canada
North American Life Centre
3rd Floor, 1770 Market Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3M3

Ralph Joyce *
Territorial Statistician
Bureau of Statistics
Laing Building, 5th Floor
Franklin Avenue
Yellowknife, Northwest
Territories
X1A 2L9

Clifford R. Marks *
Director
New Brunswick Statistics
Agency
2nd Floor, Phoenix Square
Building
Queen Street
Post Office Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5H1

Ron McMahon *
Director
Saskatchewan Bureau of
Statistics
Room 207, Walter Scott
Building
3085 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B1

William McReynolds *
Provincial Statistician
Central Statistics Bureau
2nd Floor, 1405 Douglas Street
Victoria British Columbia
V8W 3C1

Arch Noseworthy *
Acting Manager, Statistics
Unit
Sectoral and Regional Policy
Branch
Office of Economic Policy
Ministry of Treasury and
Economics
4th Floor, Frost Building
North, Queens Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y7

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

May 24 and 25, 1989

Ottawa, Ontario

LIST OF DELEGATES (*) AND PARTICIPANTS

page 15

John Palmer *
Director, Economics,
Statistics and Fiscal
Analysis Division
Department of Finance
2nd Floor, Walter Shaw
Building
Rochford Street
Post Office Box 2000
Charlottetown, Prince Edward
Island
C1A 7N8

Jacob Ryten
Assistant Chief Statistician
Business and Trade Statistics
Field
Statistics Canada
Jean Talon Building
13th Floor (B6)
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

Stuart Wells
Assistant Chief Statistician
National Accounts and
Analytical Services Field
Statistics Canada
R.H. Coats Building
26th Floor (O)
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

AGENDA

May 24 - 25, 1989

Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room
R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario

Wednesday, May 24, 1989

- 9:00 AM Opening Remarks
- o approval of the agenda
 - o approval of the minutes
- 9:15 AM Statistics Canada Report - Dr. Ivan Fellegi
- 10:15 AM Coffee
- 10:30 AM Provincial and Territorial Program Reports -
Provincial and Territorial Members
- 11:30 AM Program Committee Report - Mr. John Palmer
- o final approval of the Terms of Reference for
the Demography and Small Area Data Committees
- 12:00 AM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Secretary's Report - Mr. Denis Desjardins
- o adoption of the Council's Decision Record
- 2:00 PM Measures for the Preservation and Development of
the National Statistical System -
Dr. William McReynolds
- o presentation and discussion of specific
measures (e.g. orientation program for the
staff of provincial and territorial
statistical agencies, Council sponsored
research program, etc.)

- 3:00 PM Coffee
- 3:15 PM Provincial and Territorial Inputs into Priority Setting in an Environment of Budget Reductions - Mr. Luc Bessette
- o mechanisms to permit provincial and territorial governments to influence the setting of program priorities by Statistics Canada
- 5:00 PM End of first day

Thursday, May 25, 1989

- 9:00 AM Update on the 1991 Census of Canada - Mr. Bruce Petrie
- o provincial and territorial involvement in Census planning and operations
- 10:00 AM Update on Business Statistics Programs - Mr. Jacob Ryten
- o current status of the Business Survey Redesign Project, the implementation of the Harmonized System and the Retail Sales Tax administrative data project.
- 10:45 AM Coffee
- 11:00 AM Federal-Provincial Consultative Mechanisms in the Field of Social Statistics - Mr. Bruce Petrie
- o review of experiences in the area of justice statistics and their implications for future directions (i.e. in health, culture, etc.)
- 12:00 AM Lunch

- 1:30 PM Proposal for an Annual Documentation of the
 Programs, Resources, Products and Services of the
 Provincial and Territorial Statistical Agencies -
 Mr. Denis Desjardins
- o issue referred to the Council by the Program
 Committee for decision. Some concern has been
 raised about potential abuse of this type of
 information.
- 2:30 PM Coffee
- 3:00 PM Nomination of the Program Committee - Mr. John
 Palmer and Dr. Ivan Fellegi
- 3:15 PM Other Business
- 3:45 PM Adjournment

Appendix 1

REPORT BY THE CHIEF STATISTICIAN
TO THE MAY 24-25, 1989 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY
ON DEVELOPMENTS AT STATISTICS CANADA

Major Events and Developments of the Past Year

New Minister and New Reporting Relationship

- o Statistics Canada now reports to the Honourable Harvie Andre, Minister of Industry Science and Technology. Previously, the Agency had reported through the Minister of Supply and Services, though, prior to 1979, Statistics Canada reported through the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Mr. Andre was also the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada from September 1984 to August 1985 during his tenure as Minister of Supply and Services.

Analytical Presentation at Annual Meeting of Deputy Ministers

- o At the annual meeting of federal deputy ministers, the Chief Statistician was invited to give an analytical presentation on the subject of the demographic and linguistic evolution of Canada. The presentation was well received and is expected to give rise to similar in-depth analytic presentations by Statistics Canada and other departments at future meetings.

Proposed Protocol with the Council of Ministers of Education on Education Data

- o Statistics Canada has continued to work with provincial deputy ministers, through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, to improve collaboration on education statistics.
- o Provincial Ministers of Education have now agreed, in principle, to establish a protocol on education statistics with Statistics Canada. The protocol will create an Education Statistics Council comprising all provincial deputy ministers concerned with education and co-chaired by one of these deputy ministers and the Chief Statistician. The Council is charged with the development and the annual review of a program of statistics and indicators on education.
- o This arrangement is advantageous to the provinces as it ensures the relevance of education data to their needs. It is also advantageous to Statistics Canada as it ensures continued provincial cooperation in the collection of data and the development of meaningful, comparable education statistics - a challenging task given the differing systems of education among the provinces.

National Council on Health Information

- o Deputy ministers responsible for health, both federal and provincial, have agreed to establish a National Council on Health Information. Representation on the Council will be at the assistant deputy minister level, but the Council will report annually to a meeting of the deputy ministers at which the Chief Statistician will also participate. The first meeting of the Council will be held May 24, 1989.
- o The major data gap in the area of health is the lack of a population based health survey, though there is significant unrealized potential for the statistical exploitation of provincial health administrative records.

International Trade Statistics

- o Progress continues to be made in the harmonization of trade statistics between the United States and Canada. Bilateral trade statistics released each quarter by both countries are now identical at aggregate levels, if not yet at the level of detailed commodities. The latter objective is scheduled for implementation as of January 1990.
- o In a joint initiative with the United States, a meeting was convened in Ottawa on April 25-26, 1989 with representatives of the European Economic Community (EEC) to discuss a similar attempt at harmonization of trade statistics. This initiative is particularly important in view of a major restructuring of the EEC scheduled for implementation in 1992.
- o Agreement was reached to work together on an initial reconciliation of statistics on trade between the EEC and both Canada and the United States. It is hoped this initial reconciliation of trade statistics will lead to an on-going program of harmonization between Canada and the EEC.

New Publication: "Perspectives on Labour and Income"

- o The first regular issue of the new quarterly, analytical publication Perspectives on Labour and Income was released on May 24, 1989. The publication will bring together in one publication a variety of analytical material previously published in a number of different vehicles, but most notably in the monthly Labour Force publication (71-001).

Reduction in Response Burden

- o The response burden on business was reduced a further 7% between 1987 and 1988 (11% for small business). The cumulative reduction since 1978, when recording of this information was first implemented, has been in the order of 55% to 60%. There are, however, practical limitations on the potential for reduction of response burden which are likely to soon be reached.

Employee Productivity Incentive Plan

- o This experimental program is unique in government. For clerical functions, where conditions allow it, Statistics Canada has negotiated normal productivity levels with two groups of employees. If these normal productivity levels are exceeded the benefits are shared between Statistics Canada and the employees involved with employees receiving their benefit in the form of additional time off. At present, the two groups are involved comprise 40 employees. The staff are generally very enthusiastic about the program.
- o The Public Service Alliance appealed the program to the Public Service Staff Relations Board which ruled in favour of the program. The union is appealing this decision. Media coverage of the initiative has been unanimously favourable to Statistics Canada.

Improvements to Statistics Canada's Professional Training Program

- o Statistics Canada will be placing heavy emphasis on the improvement of its professional training program over the next two years.
- o There will be four broad initiatives in this area:
 - o development of a general purpose introductory course for new recruits to professional categories. The course will involve the complete design, development, implementation and analysis of a survey program;

- o development of additional internal subject matter courses. The following courses are under development:
 - overview of the System of National Accounts, to be followed by a series of in-depth courses on selected SNA topics;
 - overview of the Census;
 - overview of the measurement of employment and unemployment;
 - overview of family income and expenditure; and
 - a detailed course on price and quantity indices.
- o development of additional techniques-oriented courses. Courses either under development or presently available are:
 - data analysis;
 - seasonal adjustment; and
 - quality assurance.
- o institution of closer ties with local universities to encourage them to develop, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, courses as relevant as possible to the Agency's needs.

Internal Research Sabbatical Program

- o The objective of this program is to allow professional staff to develop their analytical capabilities. The program is open to middle level employees who have been invited to submit proposals for original research and analysis, normally leading to publication. Approximately six proposals will be selected each year, with the successful candidates being released from their normal duties for a period of six months to one year to carry out their project. A small budget will also be provided for such things as computing resources.

Job Exchange Program

- o A job exchange program has also been introduced at the section chief level to broaden the work experience of middle managers, increase their understanding of interrelationships

between programs and cultivate a broader perspective on corporate issues.

- o Approximately 10 to 20 employees will participate every year for a two year period. Positions will be rotated among the 20 employees through discussions with the directors and employees involved.

Zussman Study on Managerial Attitudes (1988)

- o A study of managerial attitudes was carried out throughout the federal public service in 1988 to determine how senior managers assess their department and their relationship to it.
- o Comparison of results for Statistics Canada to those for all departments and agencies combined show that senior managers at Statistics Canada have a sharply more positive view of their department than do their colleagues elsewhere in the public service. While detailed results for all departments were not made available to Statistics Canada, managers of this program have indicated Statistics Canada's performance is one of the most positive, if not the most positive, among the federal departments and agencies.

1989-90 Long Term Planning Process

- o Statistics Canada will be eliminating an additional 107 person-years from its budget in 1989-90 as its contribution to the federal government's five year down-sizing commitment.
- o Half of this reduction will be achieved through efficiencies, one quarter through contracting-out initiatives and one quarter through program cancellations or re-adjustments. These program reductions include:
 - in the energy statistics program, raising the reporting thresholds for the surveys of gas and electric utilities and reducing the level of detail collected on coal mines;
 - in the international trade statistics program, eliminating verification with respect to some items of import data and raising the threshold for imputation;
 - in the science and technology statistics program some activities will be consolidated.
- o Person year reductions in 1990-91 will be the last instalment in the five year person year reduction

commitments. It is, however, increasingly difficult to identify efficiencies or contracting-out initiatives in order to forestall significant program reductions. The Agency will be examining, in consultation with users, the implications of a biennial census of construction and the biennial collection of commodity information in the Census of Manufactures.

New initiatives from the 1989-90 Long-Term Planning Process

- o New initiatives are being undertaken in 1989-90 in four priority areas identified in the Strategic Overview. In each case, the initiatives are designed to carry out exploratory research and development work in anticipation that funding can be found to develop new programs. The initiatives are:
 - o Health Statistics: to continue development of patient-oriented linked health care records and of a comprehensive Cancer Register for Canada. Consultation with the federal-provincial deputy ministers of health will continue as will training assistance to the provinces to improve data quality.
 - o Education Statistics: to implement a program of education indicators developed in previous years and proceed with development of data on part-time post-secondary faculty, of an education program typology and of a cooperative publications program. The protocol signed with the Council of Ministers of Education will also be implemented.
 - o Impact of International Trade on Production: to implement the Harmonized System for data on the manufacturing of commodities in Canada in order to permit direct comparison between production and trade in specific commodities.
 - o Service Sector Statistics: to begin development of a classification of the outputs of services industries; to complete the coverage of financial surveys of the service industries and to produce improved estimates of international trade in services.
- o Other initiatives include:
 - o Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours: to maintain the current frequency and quality of data and minimize discontinuities while the survey makes its transition to the new Business Register.

- o Family Income and Expenditure: to develop a program proposal and seek funding for an Asset and Debt Survey.
- o Public Sector Statistics: to improve compatibility between public sector statistics on the Financial Management System basis and the System of National Accounts (SNA) basis, to expand data on government employment, expenditure and enterprise, to improve quarterly data in the SNA and to establish an expert committee to advise on the redevelopment of the program.
- o A number of research and development proposals were also approved by the Long-Term Planning Process in order to maintain and enhance program relevance in the future. These include:
 - o development of a conceptual framework for household and family data applicable to both the Census of Population and sample surveys that reflects the recent evolution of these social institutions.
 - o development of an externally conducted research program for the Census. Proposals accepted from the academic community will have subsidized access to retrieval services from the Census data base.
 - o investigation of the feasibility of establishing a longitudinal component to the General Social Survey - recognized in the Strategic Overview as a major gap in the national statistical program.
 - o allocation of resources to offer five fellowships in 1989-90 to continue to foster the application of external expertise to the development and analysis of the Agency's information.
- o New initiatives for 1989-90 are part of a general strategy to use demonstration projects to lever additional funding for new programs.

Appendix 2

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL
PROGRAM REPORTS

1989 ALBERTA ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the Alberta Bureau of Statistics
to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on
Statistical Policy

Summary of Verbal Report to the Federal-Provincial
Consultative Council Meeting, May 24-25, 1989.

Emphasis was given to two items:

1. This is the 50th anniversary of the Alberta Bureau of Statistics (ABS). A brief commemorative history is being prepared (copies to be sent to Council members). As part of the celebrations, there will be a staff reunion and a government open house in the middle of June. The open house will demonstrate/display the various products and services available from the Bureau. Included will be Statistics Canada's Social Policy Simulation Model.

For display at the reunion, the focal points and Statistics Canada were asked to send a note of congratulations to the Alberta Bureau. Using this as an opportunity to mention the national statistical system was suggested as a positive for the system.

The Director of ABS thanked the Council for its thoughtfulness in presenting a plaque congratulating the Bureau on its 50th anniversary.

2. ABS continued its move toward a stronger client and team orientation with an increased emphasis on custom output. An internal examination of the organization and its philosophy was completed. Almost all staff support the new directions. These changes have been accompanied by some restructuring of the organization. To accomplish the new thrusts, it has been necessary to break down rigidities resulting from the former hierarchical structure. The unit structure was dropped; first line managers now have increased project management, and consequently decreased administrative, responsibilities.

Resources have been reallocated somewhat to allow for increased emphasis on geographic information systems, marketing, methodological assistance and special projects. The latter is the group spearheading the Bureau's work on the Social Policy Simulation Model. There has been a reduction in the number of dissemination officers and users will increasingly be asked to obtain the data from ASIST, i.e., electronically rather than the Bureau providing hard copy.

Other developments included:

The Secondary Data group is developing small area unemployment rates.

The 1989-90 budget has not yet been approved but it is hoped there will be no decrease, at least in a current dollar sense.

Direct cost recovery is not being considered at this time although all methods for indirect cost recovery are being examined. ABS would welcome cost-recovery as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

1989 BRITISH COLUMBIA ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the Central Statistics Bureau
to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council
on Statistical Policy

Organization

When I reported to you a year ago in Quebec City, the Central Statistics Bureau was located in the Ministry of Economic Development, awaiting restructuring of the provincial government and the implementation of regional initiatives. The restructuring took place in July, and the former Ministry of Economic Development was split among at least three ministries: Regional Development, International Business and Immigration, and Government Management Services. CSB was assigned to the latter ministry, which contains most other central service functions of our government. In subsequent fine-tuning of the reorganization, the Bureau was moved again to the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, effective November 1, 1988. The Bureau has the status of a division of that ministry, with the Provincial Statistician reporting to the Deputy Minister. From Spring 1987 to date, the Bureau has come under the direction of four different deputy ministers as well as one acting deputy minister. These frequent changes of organization and leadership have placed a substantial burden on Bureau management.

Despite the organizational changes, CSB's basic mandate remains unchanged, namely to serve the needs of government for timely and reliable statistical information and provide quantitative tools of analysis for decision support. However, there have been changes of emphasis within that mandate as CSB has accommodated the special needs of new host ministries as well as reflect changing government-wide priorities. In response to a major government initiative towards regionalization, for example, CSB is striving to increase its output of regional statistics of all kinds. In particular, the Bureau is planning to develop regional labour market statistics and is working in conjunction with the ministry's Consumer Taxation Branch to produce regional retail sales data.

Program Highlights

- (i) Trade Statistics
The Central Statistics Bureau has developed its own microcomputer-based dissemination system to accommodate the large volumes of trade data that have become available with the introduction of the Harmonized System. Known by the acronym, TRIP, for Trade Research and Inquiry Package, the system produces printed output as needed for B.C. exports or B.C. cleared imports, at any level of commodity detail and for any country or state.

- (ii) Demographic Statistics
In response to the growing need to understand more about demographic change, the Bureau has increased its production and dissemination of migration and immigration statistics. From its immigration data base, for example, the Bureau now produces quarterly and annual reports on immigration flows.
- (iii) Electronic Data Dissemination
CSB has increased its distribution of products in machine-readable form. BCSTATS, an information system developed by the Bureau for economic development commissioners, is now available on diskette as well as on the B.C. Business Network, a dial-in service operated by the Ministry of International Business and Immigration. The British Columbia Manufacturers' Directory is also available on the B.C. Business Network as will be the British Columbia Regional Index, a massive compendium of regional information and statistics.
- (iv) Other Developments
Under the general direction of the Premier's Office, CSB is exploring ways in which British Columbia and neighbouring U.S. states can share data to their mutual advantage. Environmental and trade matters are two areas under investigation.

CSB has received the full package under the Social Policy Simulation Database/Model Memorandum of Understanding in March 1989. The Bureau is still in the process of evaluating the Model and possible applications along with others in the provincial government. Our findings will be conveyed to Statistics Canada.

Publications

After a two-year period, CSB published in March 1989 the B.C. Economic Accounts, 1961 - 1987, which has embodied the latest revisions to the data and methodology and greatly expanded the number of data series. A new edition of B.C. Population Forecast was also released recently, incorporating the current trends in migration to B.C. The B.C. Manufacturers' Directory was

also published in March 1989. The Directory sells for \$10.00 in printed form and \$250.00 on diskette. The electronic version of the Directory is continually being updated. This is the first time the Bureau has sold the printed edition and sales have been quite strong to date. Finally, the occasional publication, British Columbia Regional Index, will be released by the end of the month. It is a joint production of the Ministry of Regional Development and CSB and will sell for about \$30.00.

Resources

There has been a modest increase in CSB's approved budget level and position allotment in the current fiscal year. However, the Bureau's cost-recovery requirement has been set at \$230,000 in fiscal 1989-90, up from \$170,000 in the previous fiscal year.

CSB/Statistics Canada Relations

- (i) Vancouver
Relationships between CSB and the Pacific Region Office of Statistics Canada continue to be excellent. Karen Calderbank is into the second year of her secondment from Advisory Services to the Enterprise Centre and is providing quality service to the business community. The Enterprise Centre is slated to be part of the newly formed British Columbia Trade Development Corporation and the exact status of the two statistical advisors (Karen and Paul Gosh) is yet to be determined.

On September 9, 1988, British Columbia marked the occasion of its three-millionth resident. The estimated time of arrival was handed to the Minister of Government Management Services jointly by the Provincial Statistician and the Director of the Pacific Region in front of the microphones, cameras and lights. It was a fun event, but underlying the good time was a high degree of cooperation between Statistics Canada and the Central Statistics Bureau.

- (ii) Ottawa
CSB has signed the "Memorandum of Understanding of the Relationship Between Provincial and Territorial Focal Points and Statistics Canada". The Bureau views this as

a commendable document which facilitates federal-provincial statistical relations.

The high rate of census undercoverage in 1986 and the approaching 1991 Census are causing grave concern in British Columbia. CSB and the province's Treasury Board are considering several aggressive measures to reduce undercoverage (e.g. a name and address registry) which may help remedy the situation. The need for strong cooperation between CSB and Statistics Canada could not be greater, if B.C. is to receive its fair share of transfer payments in the coming decade.

1989 NEW BRUNSWICK ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the New Brunswick Statistics Agency
to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on
Statistical Policy

The New Brunswick Statistical Agency also went through a government reorganization and a change in its reporting relationship last year. This was a result of the government's reorganization of some of its central agencies. As a result of this reorganization, the Agency was returned to the Department of Finance, and is reporting to the Deputy Minister. This is a return to the situation that the Focal Point was in until 1984, when the Agency was created.

The Agency's activity continues to centre on the application of data rather than the collection of statistics, and includes the dissemination and reporting of data; the research, analysis and interpretation of statistics; the review of demographic trends; the preparation of projections; a little bit of data estimation in various areas; the preparation of economic forecasts; and conducting economic impact analyses.

There have been two important developments during the past year, or more specifically, earlier this year, in the information area in the province. One was the adoption, after detailed study, of an information technology strategy. The second was the integration of several branches of different departments, all involved with land activities, into the Geographic Information Corporation.

In 1987, the government undertook to develop a strategy for buying information technology to improve the management and use of information. This culminated this year with the Board of Management approving the strategy and establishing a permanent Steering Committee of Deputy Ministers to oversee its implementation. There are multi-objectives of this strategy, which include the establishment of an information management framework to effectively support decision making at the operational, tactical, and strategic levels throughout government; an increase in the decentralized delivery of government services and an improvement in the centralized quality assurance for better information support; an improvement in the selection and evaluation of government programs; and an improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs. From an assessment of the existing situation during this study, it was found that the application of information technology was uncoordinated and incompatibilities existed among the technologies that were being employed. Data that might serve the information needs of several were being employed to meet only a single need. To overcome these organizational boundaries, the major thrust of the strategy was to adopt "data architectures" and data management, and to consolidate data sharing up and down the organizational hierarchy and across departmental boundaries.

The second finding of the study was that most information requirements could be categorized into three information domains: those referring to residents, geography and enterprises. Standards and common references that can facilitate correlation, transference and sharing of data will be developed and adopted for each of these three information domains.

The last part of the strategy has to do with the administrative framework that is needed to facilitate the pursuit of the strategy. The government has, in the past, carried out much of its application of information technology through a central supplier of data processing services. Recently, however, the departments have exercised more independence, and have implemented information technology without the involvement of the central service. It was recognized that, in this environment of dispersed authority for information systems, it would be difficult to achieve the strategy. To overcome the barrier, but still provide some degree of autonomy to departments, it was decided that a coordinating mechanism would be necessary. Thus, the Information Technology Strategy Steering Committee of Deputy Ministers has been established by the Board of Management to oversee the implementation and updating of the information technology strategy. A corporate information resource officer has been created in the Board of Management to provide the Steering Committee with staff support and to coordinate the work undertaken under the strategy.

Also, in the session of the House which closed last week, the government adopted a geographic information policy which addresses issues relating to the establishment of an integrated base of land information systems. In order to accomplish the objectives of this policy, the government created a new agency, The New Brunswick Geographic Information Corporation. This Crown corporation will perform internal central services, such as providing basic geographic information to departments and other agencies in government and provide an external service to the public, as well as fostering the geographic information service industry.

This important corporation will consolidate the responsibility, in executive authority, for all basic geographic information activities, such as the land titles and registry office, basic mapping and surveying, and assessment for property tax purposes. The objectives of the Corporation are: to coordinate geographic information service in the province; to annually provide the real property tax base for the province and municipalities and to administer related tax and tax benefit programs; to establish standards for the collection, storage and dissemination of geographically referenced information; to provide a system of registration for real and personal property; to ensure the

maintenance of records relating to real and personal property; and to ensure the provision of geographic information services to the public.

The new corporation will combine three significant sources of geographic information: the county registry offices in the Department of Justice; the assessment branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs; and the New Brunswick portion of the Land Registration and Information Services, which is an Agency of the Council of Maritime Premiers.

1989 NEWFOUNDLAND ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the Newfoundland Statistics
Agency to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on
Statistical Policy

A lot of the work carried out by the Newfoundland Statistics Agency continues to be for other departments. The economics group in government, which also happens to be in the Executive Council, recently received funding for an econometric model for the Province. The contract was given, at the end of the fiscal year, to Worton Econometrics of Toronto. A technical working committee is overseeing this exercise, and the director of the NSA is a co-chairman. There is an expert in the field of econometrics from the Economic Council of Canada, Mr. Ross Preston, on this committee. The econometric model for the Newfoundland economy is to be developed over the coming year.

The Newfoundland Statistics Agency has been involved in a wide variety of projects with other departments. These range from projects such as: quality control in the processing of seal carcasses and estimating the value of culture to the Newfoundland economy, to National Tax Reform. The Agency has a wide base of clients and the work that is done for these clients is determined by the level of the statistical expertise in their department.

The publication program is continuing. This year the Historical statistics of Newfoundland and Labrador is being updated. This is our main publication. A methodology paper on population projections has been released. We are now in the process of preparing a general paper on the population projections. This publication will examine the growth of particular age groups such as: pre-school, school aged children, labour force aged population and the elderly. The Agency is preparing a publication on labour force projections as well as publications on Unemployment Insurance and Income for small areas.

1989 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the Northwest Territories
Bureau of Statistics to the May 24-25, 1989
meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative
Council on Statistical Policy

The Bureau of Statistics' budget for statistical work during FY 1989-90 has been reduced significantly due to the sunseting of funds for labour market information development and the need to meet salary adjustments from within current budget.

During FY 1988-89, a total of \$240,000 was received through the Applied Economic Planning component of the federal-territorial Economic Development Agreement (EDA). For FY 1989-90, the last year for the current EDA program, funds available for statistical work through EDA have been reduced to about \$70,000.

Recent statistical initiatives of particular note include:

- o In cooperation with the Yukon, the NWT Bureau of Statistics has negotiated with Statistics Canada's Input-Output Division a project for the further development of territorial economic accounts, following the release of separate gross domestic product measures for the two territories beginning with 1986 data.
- o A NWT labour force survey was completed in early 1989 to provide current employment and unemployment information for NWT communities. To prepare reliable estimates for over sixty communities, more than 16,000 questionnaires were completed through personal interviews. Statistics Canada special survey methods and labour force survey staff participated in this project on a cost-recovery basis.
- o In the area of electronic data dissemination, further work was completed to T-stat, the territorial government's on-line statistical data base. This system contains both statistical series and 1986 Census data. This system has been well received by GNWT users who now total over 100 headquarters and regional staff. The continued cooperation of Statistics Canada's Electronic Data Dissemination Division in this project is appreciated.

1989 NOVA SCOTIA ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by Statistical Services Branch
of the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology
to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on
Statistical Policy

The Statistical Services Branch is still part of the Department of Industry Trade and Technology, as it was a year ago; there has been no change in our reporting structure in that Department. The Branch was with the Department of Development prior to that for sixteen years, so this is a recent change. The Branch still reports to an executive director who in turn reports to the Deputy Minister within that department.

There really have been no basic changes in terms of activity, although there has been a tendency to move away from the field of pure statistics into some wider areas such as trade surveys. One of a couple of major projects that the Branch had within the past year was a series of population, family and household projections. These were at the provincial level as well as at the Census divisional level within the province.

A fair bit of work was provided by the SSB to our economic analysis group in the department who are producing the input/output tables for the province. One area where a fair bit of time was spent over the past year was with the Senior Citizen's Secretariat. They have been doing a major review of seniors, both in terms of demography, services and expenditures and looking at future trends there.

For the present 1989-90 year there is a slight reduction in the overall budget. This is the first reduction in the last four years, though limiting a few things will be looked at, perhaps more in the line of publications. About the only new publication is a small statistical pamphlet similar to the type that Alberta used to produce. That will probably be the only addition for the coming year.

1989 ONTARIO ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the Statistics Unit, Sectoral and
Regional Policy Branch of the Ministry of Treasury and
Economics to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on
Statistical Policy

Small Area Data Base (SHARC)

- o SHARC continues to be one of our most popular products. Although it was designed primarily for the use of staff in the Office of Economic Policy, its use has broadened to include selected social assistance, provincial government employment and municipal assessment variables.
- o Area data from the municipal assessment file for property sites are currently being considered as a measure of the amount of vacant commercial and industrial land in communities.
- o Retail sales tax data was researched for SHARC but it was found not to be adequate due to collection and coding problems.

Business/Sectoral Data

- o The sectoral data base has recently been evaluated to determine the extent of user satisfaction and it has been found that major clients in Treasury and Economics are now focusing more on specific issues requiring customized output. A current request is to assist with a project for evaluating competitiveness. This indicates we require more collaboration in identifying users' unmet current policy needs and a flexibility to adjust or modify our existing products or services to produce data more relevant to the current specific issues.
- o U.S. Canada and Ontario sector profiles have been developed at the 2-digit SIC level starting at 1982 forward. These profiles are limited to the availability of data for each jurisdiction.
- o Staff are currently exploring the possibility of exploiting the Ontario Development Corporation administrative data base on loans to corporations.

Labour Data Base

- o Work has resumed on the design and development of this data base. Labour Force Survey special tabulations housed on the system will have standard outputs and graphics. Output will also be tailored to meet the specific needs of users in terms of geography, level of detail and type of cross-classification. It will be updated monthly, quarterly or annually and requests will be filled by hard copy or diskette, or through networking.

- o The Office of Economic Policy makes extensive use of this data base in preparing briefing notes and monitoring labour markets issues.

Census of Population

- o We have recently published, in both English and French, a Profile of Ontario's Electoral Districts. The report provides a statistical profile of each provincial electoral district using 2A and 2B data from the 1986 Census.

Ontario Statistics

- o Publication of our biennial statistical compendium known as Ontario Statistics has been cancelled. However, most of the data that were available through this publication will be housed on a microcomputerized data base called Ontario Statistics. The data base will be continuously updated and it will be available as a information source to Ontario government users.

CANSIM

- o The secondary distributorship continues to provide users with a cost saving and a high priority service.

Networking

- o Networking is being implemented. It will improve, through electronic mail, the co-ordination of internal memos and the preparation of briefing material. In addition, it will expand access to both internal and external data bases, and should encourage further usage.

1989 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the Economic, Statistics and
Fiscal Analysis Divison of the P.E.I. Department
of Finance to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on
Statistical Policy

The Economics, Statistics and Fiscal Analysis Division of the Department of Finance in Prince Edward Island maintains the statistical operation, along with several other functions. Notwithstanding the non-statistical nature of some of these functions, the Director has found that Statistics Canada reports, information and data are extremely important to all aspects of the Division's work.

The area that has dominated the Division's activities in the last year has been pension standards legislation. All provinces except British Columbia and Prince Edward Island have regulations on private pension plans. The Division was asked to put together a set of legislation for the province. When the Director came to actually start this activity, he quickly realized that the only people who had statistical information on pensions on Prince Edward Island were in Statistics Canada. The Labour staff (Karen Maser) working on pensions were very very helpful to the Division at that point.

The second major area of the Division's activities has been the second phase of federal tax reform. Until recently, the federal government had invited the provinces to share in the second phase of tax reform, to join in a National Sales Tax. In the federal budget, Mr. Wilson decided that he did not think it was appropriate, at this time, for provinces to join. The studies on the economic impacts of the proposed tax reform were only possible using input/output data from Statistics Canada.

The third priority which has engaged the Director intensively has been the economic impact of the closure of the Summerside Air Base. This work was carried out to assist a task force on this topic, reporting to the Premier. An economic statement on the closure had to be prepared at very short notice. The data that was utilized for this was the small area administrative data that the Small Area and Administrative Data Division, under John Leyes, has been providing for some years. This data, along with 1986 Census data, was vital for this project.

In virtually all the activities in which the Division is engaged, it depends on data from Statistics Canada. The Director is presently assisting a social policy review committee, which is to report to Cabinet shortly. The Division will provide them with basic background social and demographic information on the Province and again Statistics Canada data will be utilized extensively.

In terms of specific statistical activities, the Division invited members of Statistics Canada's Geography Division to come to Prince Edward Island to discuss problems that have been encountered in the

definition of census subdivisions with respect to the 1991 Census. This is something which has to be clarified in due course. In addition, Geography Division staff sat in with the Director of Assessment to discuss geographic information systems. With the development of the Geographic Information Systems. This is similar to work being done in New Brunswick. Geographic Information Systems are an extraordinary tool and the Division should encourage developers of GIS to consider demographic data as a component of the system. It is mostly land-use based at present.

In conjunction with Statistics Canada's Regional Office, a demonstration of the Atlas graphics package was made on Prince Edward Island showing how it can be used to generate demographic presentations. That was only a few weeks ago and it has generated a lot of interest in the Province.

In terms of statistical activities, the Division continues to produce the same annual statistical reviews as in the past. We are able to make more sophisticated use of graphics in presentations. The staff is the same size as previously. As for the SPSDM, that is something that the Division wishes to pursue in terms of both the social policy aspect as well as in tax reform in general. The agreement that Statistics Canada would like the Division to sign has been discussed with Denis Desjardins and he has indicated a revised version will be forwarded. Thank you.

1989 QUEBEC ACTIVITY REPORT

Report submitted by the Bureau de la statistique
du Québec to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council
on Statistical Policy

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APPENDIX: Organization chart of the Bureau de la statistique
 du Québec as of April 1, 1989

o Highlights

Several major events affecting the Bureau de la statistique du Québec occurred during the 1988-89 fiscal year.

On December 1, 1988, Mrs. Nicole P.-Gendreau, Director General of the BSQ since 1982, left the organization to take up the duties of Vice-President of the Institut de recherche et d'information sur la rémunération.

Another major development which had an impact on the Bureau was the extensive reorganization of the Quebec Department of Finance, as a result of which the BSQ, which had previously reported directly to the Deputy Minister, was placed under the authority of the Assistant Deputy Minister for Economic Policy. Furthermore, the objective of the reorganization was to restructure the economic sector in order to maximize the analytical and research capabilities of the department and the BSQ. In the spring of 1989, certain of the BSQ's economic research resources were consolidated with those of the Department of Finance. The activities transferred concerned the CHOIX model, the production of current economic analyses (La situation économique du Québec, Profil économique du Québec, La Quinzaine statistique, the study of Quebec-Canada-U.S. cycles, and composite indicators) and socio-economic analyses, except in the demographic sector.

In recent weeks, the Bureau has undertaken a multi-year planning process which will enable it to develop, by the fall of 1989, a work plan for the next three years, as well as a new organization chart. In the meantime, an interim organization chart (see appendix) has been adopted.

Personnel cutbacks continue to have a serious effect on the BSQ, leading to slowdowns in production in certain areas and preventing the Bureau from initiating desired developments or improvements in other areas. Nine positions were eliminated during 1988-89, not counting the personnel transferred to the Finance Department, bringing the regular staff of the Bureau, as of April 1, 1989, to 175 employees.

In one year of operation, the Bureau de la statistique du Québec Fund (created in 1987 to enable the BSQ to bill clients for the cost of certain services) produced revenues of approximately \$1,000,000, against salary expenditures of more than \$633,000. During the peak period (July 1988), the Fund hired more than 35 persons. The most important surveys carried out under the Fund dealt with: factors of isolation and the cost of living in remote areas (for the Treasury Board), employees working for the minimum wage (for the Commission des normes de travail), hotel occupation

rates (for the Department of Tourism), cinema screenings (for the Régie du cinéma), day care centres (for the Office des services de garde à l'enfance), and apple production (for the Fédération des producteurs de pommes). A number of other activities were also carried out under the aegis of the Fund (including the supply of data on magnetic or other media, and impact studies using socio-economic and demographic models. Finally, in recent months we have undertaken the marketing of all our publications.

The BSQ recently sponsored, for the fourth consecutive year, the symposium "Méthodes et domaines d'application de la statistique, 1989" held in Montréal from May 16 to 19, 1989, under the aegis of the 57th convention of the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences (ACFAS). This symposium is now a regularly planned Bureau event and has become the forum "par excellence" for exchanges among statisticians from government, universities and the private sector, for whom it provides an opportunity to present the findings of their work and share their experiences.

With regard to general publications about Quebec, the Bureau continued work on the 1989 edition of Québec statistique, an impressive collection of statistics which presents a very wide range of up-to-date social and economic data about Quebec. Publication is planned for early fall 1989. This 59th edition has a special historical interest in that it marks the publication's 75th anniversary. The first edition appeared in 1914 under the title Annuaire statistique de Québec.

- o Organization of economic statistics on agricultural and fishing enterprises

Over the past year, the Bureau de la statistique du Québec continued its work in organizing economic statistics on agricultural and fishing enterprises. The most important event in this area was a consultation workshop on the content of the 1991 Census of Agriculture, held in conjunction with Statistics Canada. The results of this consultation, along with suggestions on the wording of questions and an order of priority for the modules to be collected during the census, were subsequently forwarded to Statistics Canada.

Major data processing work has been undertaken to adapt the entry of statistical data on the dairy industry to the system implemented by the Régie des marchés agricoles du Québec. An agreement has been negotiated between the BSQ and Statistics Canada concerning the exchange of information on the agricultural sector. An agreement has also been reached between the BSQ and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with regard to a survey on garden centres, producers of greenhouse crops and

nursery operators. Contacts continued with VOLBEC with the goal of negotiating an agreement concerning statistics on the slaughter of poultry. We prepared and distributed revised data on field and vegetable crop acreage, and size of livestock herds from 1981 to 1987.

A number of surveys are now processed using micro-computers, which saves time and reduces the number of steps in the process. We are endeavouring, wherever possible, to transfer data directly from micros to word processors. We have cooperated with Statistics Canada, Agriculture Canada and DAFF in preliminary work on forecasts of farmers' monetary income in 1988 and 1989.

o Organization of information on manufacturing enterprises

The review of computer programs continued. The emphasis has been placed on simplifying procedures and decentralizing certain file correction and updating procedures. The growing use of interactive computing has brought about substantial gains in productivity. The standardization of publications permits more effective links between macro- and micro-computers and word processors and reduces human intervention. All work which could not be finalized in 1987-88 has now been completed. On the other hand, the lengthy delays by Statistics Canada in releasing data from the 1986 Survey of Manufactures have hampered completion of the 1988-89 program, forcing us to postpone a number of projects until the next fiscal year.

The Business Survey Redesign Program at Statistics Canada continues to be a major concern. All the studies conclude that there has been a decline in the quality of information on the manufacturing sector. To be more specific, a loss of quality is observed in the detail of activity classification, the precision of the geographic code and product statistics. Information sessions have been held with Quebec users to inform them of the situation, evaluate their needs and determine what steps should be taken to meet needs which will otherwise no longer be met. The BSQ is studying all the options open to it to compensate for the reduction in information produced by Statistics Canada. If the BSQ is unable to secure the necessary financial resources, its program in this area will be seriously compromised.

The Statistics Canada Statistical Program on Small Businesses has been the subject of numerous analyses and evaluations, in order to provide the Quebec Department of Industry and Trade with a sound basis for negotiating the agreement on the new program which may be implemented during the next four years.

o Tertiary sector

The tertiary sector continued to be a focus of attention for the Bureau in 1988. The survey on provincial government cultural expenditures continued, and a publication on the subject was published for the third consecutive year. An initial survey was conducted on municipal cultural expenditures and the project is currently being evaluated. The monthly survey of cinemas and drive-ins was carried out in conjunction with the Régie du cinéma, and the 1988 publication on cinema screenings was published. A new quarterly summary publication on cinema screenings was launched in order to provide the most important data to users more quickly.

The Bureau has initiated the development of cultural indicators and an initial publication will be available within the next few weeks. We continued to co-ordinate the work of the interdepartmental task force on cultural and communications statistics and one of our primary activities was the drafting of a report presenting our common views on Statistics Canada programming. This report has also been submitted to the Federal-provincial conference on culture statistics.

o International trade

The Bureau releases data on a monthly basis on the summary export and import groups (SGE and SGI) through the Banque de statistiques du Québec. A preliminary study has been conducted of a system for the management and release of micro-data on international trade. The primary users were consulted in order to identify their most urgent common needs. We are currently studying, in conjunction with Statistics Canada, the possibility of making these data available on micro-computers using the latest technological developments.

A time series of macro-data on the summary export and import groups, covering the 1978 to 1989 period, is being prepared on the basis of data modified by Quebec, and will permit reconciliation of the old and new classifications. The data will be available in the Banque de statistiques du Québec and we plan to produce an annual publication based on the new system of classification in 1989.

o Organization of statistics on investment

Under this program, the BSQ has produced a publication on private and public investment in Quebec for the 1986-1988 period. Data on investment by controlling country are no longer available in

this publication, since the information we obtain from Statistics Canada no longer makes it possible to produce these data for Quebec; we regret this situation and are endeavouring to find alternatives.

o Industrial research and development

The 1986 data on industrial research and development have been published. The Bureau has set up an interdepartmental task force on science and technology statistics, and one of its primary functions is to make recommendations to the BSQ regarding its programming in this area. One of the activities undertaken during the year was the involvement of the Quebec government in the Statistics Canada survey on science and technology activities of provincial governments.

o Employment, earnings and hours of work

The employment, earnings and hours of work program was continued and the quarterly publication appeared as planned. Major activities included adaptation to the new administrative regions and drafting of a report on the Quebec government's views concerning the Statistics Canada program on labour statistics. The report's findings include the poor quality of SEPH data in certain sectors, particularly data on welfare agencies and related health care services, due to the insufficient size of the sample.

Finally, release of the monthly information bulletin on certain price indexes was maintained, while the bulletin on employment, earnings and work was discontinued with the April 1989 issue.

o Financial statistics

In the field of financial statistics, the publications on Quebec deposit institutions elicited growing interest and the number of subscriptions now exceeds 100.

A pilot publication on private and public insurance in Quebec is almost completed and consultations with potential users are planned. On the other hand, we plan to discontinue the annual and quarterly publications on credit unions. This decision is prompted by cutbacks in resources and by the fact that a number of these data are already presented in the publication on deposit institutions.

In the field of public financial statistics, a major event was undoubtedly the adoption by Statistics Canada of the internal evaluation report on public financial statistics. This report,

to which the BSQ largely contributed, holds out very encouraging prospects for the future. Work on health and educational institutions continued, bringing us closer to the goal of complete coverage of the Quebec public sector. However, resource cutbacks have forced us to discontinue our work on long-term funding of the Quebec public sector. Our publication on the definition and description of the Quebec public sector is now being marketed and over 135 copies had been sold as of early April 1989.

o Economic accounts

The revenue and expenditure economic accounts program has a number of accomplishments to its credit. The most recent annual edition of the Comptes économiques des revenus et des dépenses, available in August 1988, presents, in addition to the historical data covering the 1972 to 1986 period, interim data for 1987. The quarterly economic accounts data for the third quarter of 1988 have been on sale since January 1989. This publication is in its third year and has been very well received. The Bureau also produces quarterly data on provincial government revenue and expenditure based on the economic accounts.

These data are available only 35 days after the end of a quarter and are transmitted directly to Statistics Canada. An agreement on the supply of these data will be reached shortly.

With regard to developments in the area of provincial economic accounts, the Bureau is currently continuing work on the deflation of quarterly data on the components of final demand and on the seasonal adjustment of quarterly accounts tables. The results of this work will be available at the beginning of next year.

o Economic indicators and current analyses

Under this program, the Bureau produces La Quinzaine statistique, the quarterly journal Statistiques, La situation économique du Québec, published every year in September, and Profil de la situation économique au Québec. In addition, the leading composite indicator of the Quebec economy has been produced on a monthly basis and released regularly through La Quinzaine statistique. Finally, preliminary estimates of the main statistics on Quebec manufacturers (which enable users to obtain data two years earlier) were once again prepared using an appropriate econometric model.

Following the transfer of this program and its personnel to the Department of Finance, the BSQ has ceased most of these

activities since the spring of 1989, except production of the journal Statistiques and estimates on the manufacturing sector.

o Analysis and modelling of the industrial structure

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1989, 97 economic impact studies and 450 simulations were produced using the BSQ's INTERSECTORIEL modelling software.

In the course of the last five fiscal years, more than 800 economic impact studies and more than 2,500 simulations have been produced using this model. During the past year, the ongoing work of updating the INTERSECTORIEL model database has continued, notably through the integration of data derived from the 1985 Census of Manufactures, the survey on household expenditures, and the most recent federal and Quebec budgets. In addition, the data on manpower, and on direct, indirect and incidental taxation have been revised for 1989. The BSQ has also begun work on incorporating the disaggregated version of the 1984 input-output tables for Quebec compiled by Statistics Canada in the database of the INTERSECTORIEL model.

o Medium- and long-term economic analysis, modelling and forecasting

Prior to their transfer to the Department of Finance, some interesting developments occurred in the activities of medium- and long-term economic analysis, modelling and forecasting program: version 2 of the CHOIX model was used to produce a reference scenario, and version 3 of the model was developed for the study on the spread of new technologies in sixty sectors of the Quebec economy.

o Demographic statistics

In the field of demographic statistics, the Bureau has concentrated its efforts on four sectors: data on marital status, population estimates, the current demographic situation and demographic forecasts. With regard to marital status, the Bureau implemented a number of steps to improve the validation of data and speed up the closing of annual files. Furthermore, the Bureau has implemented new declarations of births, deaths and marriages (it should be noted that the declaration of birth will henceforth record the de facto marital status, as well as the legal marital status).

With regard to demographic estimates, our demographers have concentrated their efforts on using the registry of beneficiaries

of the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec. This approach produced an estimate of the Quebec population which was used as a basis for our demographic forecasts. The Bureau has published its preliminary forecasts of population and households for all of Quebec, and is currently compiling forecasts based on the new administrative regions.

The Bureau is continuing its work on current demographic analysis and has published its annual edition of La situation démographique au Québec. Finally, a number of analytical projects dealing with aging, labour force activity and the impact of demographic trends have been carried out.

o Statistics on individuals and households

Under its statistical program on individuals and households, the Bureau has continued to publish the monthly bulletin on the labour force and has made improvements to it by adding new tables. Further improvements are planned for the coming months.

In the area of analytical work, two major reports are being prepared and should be completed during the upcoming year. The first is a study on income distribution during the 1975-1986 period, an update of earlier studies, while the second, carried out with the financial contribution of the Secrétariat à la famille, deals with the changing socio-economic characteristics of Quebec families from 1971 to 1986. In addition, the BSQ has completed the formation of the social accounting matrix.

With regard to the development of longitudinal data based on administrative records, the Bureau took part in a meeting of learned societies in Windsor, in June 1988, on the establishment of a database of social, demographic and economic longitudinal data. The Bureau presented a paper on the use of Quebec Pension Plan files to derive a data base on the mobility of workers between 1967 and 1981.

The Bureau releases micro-data from major Statistics Canada surveys of the Quebec provincial government. The files can now be provided on diskettes, making it possible to reach organizations not equipped to process tapes. This has resulted in fewer requests for information and special compilations.

The BSQ has been very active in the field of consultations. In addition to the consultation on the Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS), completed at the beginning of the year, four other consultations have been initiated regarding the survey on labour force activity, postcensal surveys of the elderly and disability, the postcensal survey of native people and the national test of the 1991 census. The reports generated by these

consultations will be forwarded to Statistics Canada at the beginning of the 1989-90 fiscal year.

The efforts to form a group for the purchase of customized tables from the 1986 census were successful: seven departments or agencies participated in this consortium. It was also at our initiative that a consortium of six departments was formed to complete the financial contribution required by Statistics Canada for production of the sample tape of the 1986 census on families.

o **Environmental statistics**

In the field of environmental statistics, the Bureau recently resumed its exploratory discussions with the Department of the Environment in order to lay the foundation for a co-operative effort viewed by both parties as indispensable for success in organizing an integration framework and for collecting data and producing relevant statistics on the environment.

o **Regional statistics**

Major efforts were devoted to organizing regional statistics in 1988-89. Adapting data to the new administrative regions was on the list of activities of every administrative unit of the BSQ. A number of statistical fields are affected by this regionalization effort, particularly demographic data, investment data and data on employment and earnings. A similar effort has been made in the area of statistics on financial institutions, with the exception that the provincial geographic level of many data prevent their regionalization at the infraprovincial level. The prospects for grouping data on manufactures appears uncertain in light of a new method of data collection by the federal government.

The publication of the twelve-part series of regional statistical portraits a year earlier resulted, this year, in the organization of an important consultation of users. Respondents expressed both their appreciation of the statistical product and their future needs for regional data. The preparation of a second series of 16 publications was undertaken, based geographically on the administrative regions and regional county municipalities; this new series will include only data derived from the 1986 census.

The BSQ's concern for regional data was also manifested by participation in the work of the interdepartmental committee of co-operation on the regions and the Federal-Provincial Committee on Small Area Data. Recently, the BSQ was given the mandate to

ensure that the Quebec departments adopt the new administrative regions in the production of their statistical data.

o Consultation and statistical methodology

Outside demand for consultation and statistical methodology activities has maintained the same rapid pace as last year and is in addition to the work required by the Bureau's internal programs. Major projects completed or initiated at the request of departments or agencies include: the Quebec health survey, the survey on earnings at or near the minimum wage, the survey on regional disparities and the survey on ornamental horticulture.

o Territorial standardization

In the field of territorial standardization, while continuing its regular geographic code management operations, the Bureau participated actively in the joint BSQ/Statistics Canada task force on the geographic coding of Quebec. The objective was to treat the regional county municipalities (RCMs) as census divisions (permanent geographic units) in view of the upcoming 1991 census, in the various existing statistical files and computer systems. The task force submitted its final report in January 1989. The deadline for the final choice among the solutions adopted by the respective administrative authorities is June 1989.

Ongoing development work on integration of the geographic code system in the Banque de statistiques du Québec had to be scaled back during the 1988-89 fiscal year for budgetary reasons. The resumption of development is closely linked to management of the Information Master Plan.

The BSQ has continued its work on evaluation and validation of the updated content of the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF) produced by Statistics Canada. This will enable the BSQ to use the PCCF in conducting its own statistical programs and to meet a need felt by the entire Quebec provincial government. A partially computerized method of validation of the PCCF should be developed shortly and the resulting sub-product will be made available to Quebec departments and public agencies through the existing release mechanisms.

Moreover, in order to facilitate the exploitation of the 1986 census data at the various Quebec infraprovincial geographic levels, a table of geographical equivalences has been drawn up, computerized and made available to Quebec users. In addition, the BSQ has explored various avenues for geographic coding of the new administrative regions (1987) and has submitted a number of

proposals to the interdepartmental committee on co-operation in the regions. Finally, decisive steps have been taken to register the BSQ in the forum of current and potential users of geomatics, with a view to the development and implementation during the 1990's of the Quebec government's Master Plan in Geomatics.

o Surveys

Once again this year, the Bureau was involved in the conduct of some sixty surveys. Most of these surveys are carried out on a regular basis under statistical programs initiated by the Bureau; a number are carried out in conjunction with Statistics Canada, while others are put forward to meet the needs of government agencies which contribute financially to their realization.

o Centre d'information et de documentation

The Centre d'information et de documentation has continued its efforts to implement a classification system which will enable the Bureau, over the medium term, to establish links with the various networks of the Quebec government. It has also devoted efforts to the computerization of its entire documentary system. In this context, it has subscribed to a computerized system for documentary research and reference which provides access to all government libraries across Quebec and Canada.

In addition, the implementation in 1987 of the BSQ Fund has prompted the Centre to establish a procedure (rules, terms and conditions) for managing information requests (access to information, preparation of response files and application of invoicing terms) suited to its needs and mode of operation. These measures were necessary in order to ensure a high quality of service to clients (processing of over 8,000 files during the fiscal year).

o Banque de statistiques du Québec

The Banque de statistiques du Québec has increased the number of its users to 27 departments and agencies. Several options are being developed for facilitating the use and processing of the available time series, which should make it possible to meet a wider range of user needs during the months to come. Also, the time series have been supplemented by new products: summary tables of the population census and tables on Quebec's international trade.

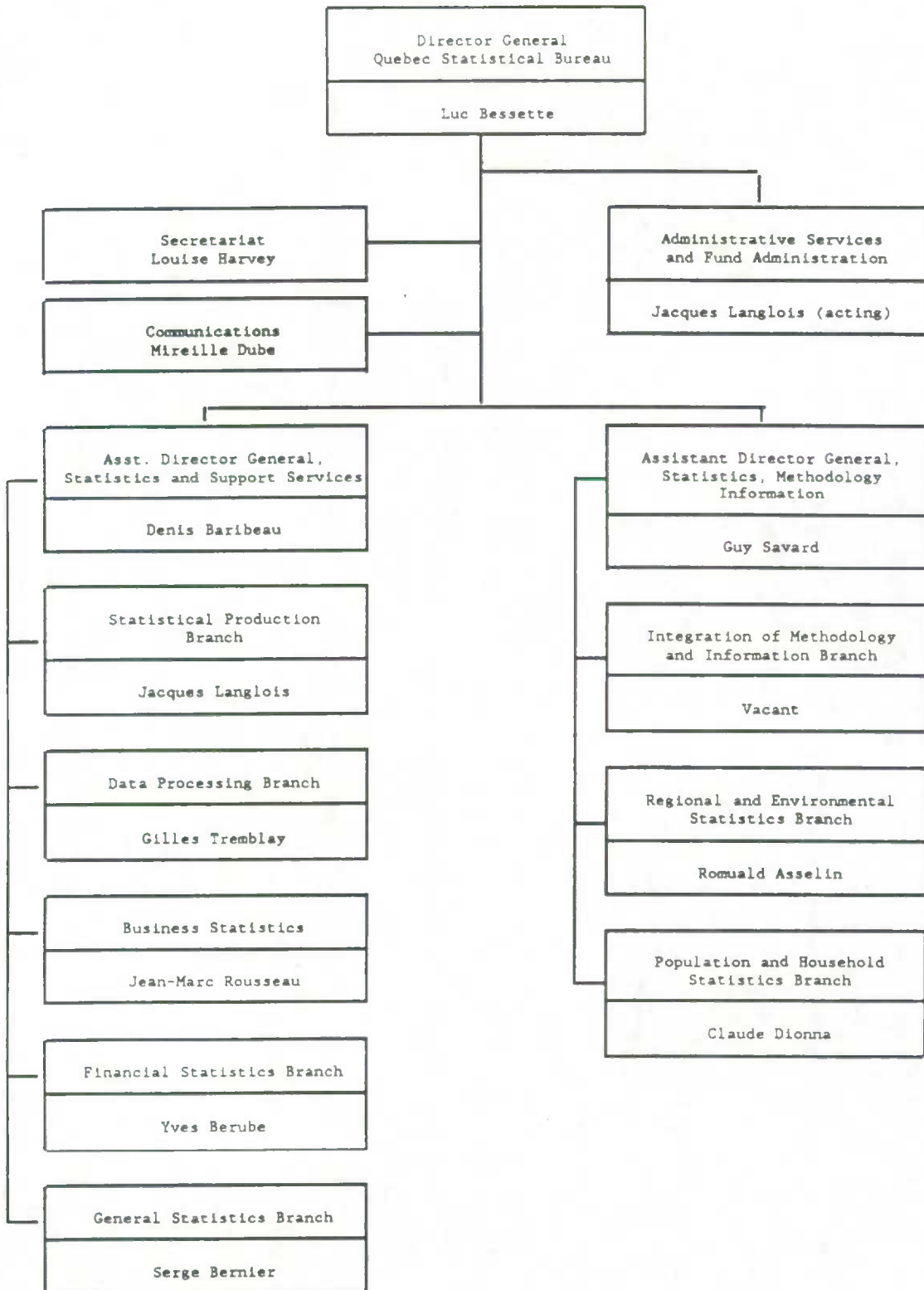
The lack of human and financial resources has seriously hampered the bank's development over the past two years. If the BSQ is unable to find solutions soon, the project could be jeopardized.

o Data processing

During the past year, the Bureau continued the technical implementation of its master plan for management information systems. As in the case of the Banque de statistiques, the lack of resources has seriously hampered the project's development, to the point that the BSQ is currently wondering whether the plan is feasible, given its resources.

With regard to technology, the Bureau installed its own data processing environment, an IBM 9370 mini-computer, in May 1988. This computer will be used primarily for operational support by the Bureau central de l'informatique and to improve personnel productivity.

BUREAU DE LA STATISTIQUE DU QUÉBEC
INTERIM ORGANISATION CHART



Appendix 3

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Mr. John Palmer, Chairman of the Program
Committee, to the May 24-25 1989 meeting
of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council
on Statistical Policy

The Program Committee has consisted of Bill McReynolds, Nicole Gendreau (latterly Luc Bessette), and myself from the provinces/territories, and Guy Labossiere, Ray Ryan, Jean-Paul Trudel, and Denis Desjardins from Statistics Canada. Wayne Smith and Robert Allard also assisted at the meetings. Stu Wells and Ed Pryor also attended to discuss specific issues.

The Committee met twice, August 5th, 1988 and January 12th, 1989, and on average the weather in Ottawa was very pleasant for these meetings.

The Committee was pleased that Luc Bessette was prepared to attend the second meeting at short notice, in light of the resignation of Nicole from the Quebec Bureau of Statistics.

The Committee considered several subjects which had been referred to it by the Council. The terms of reference of the Demography Committee and the Small Area Data Committee were reviewed. Some suggestions were made to modify them and they were referred back to the Committee. These have subsequently been made and the Program Committee recommends the new Terms of Reference for both Committees, to Council for adoption.

The Committee spent considerable time on the Memorandum of Understanding. It is hoped that this subject has been satisfactorily completed. The Committee regards the general acceptance of this important accord as a significant accomplishment by Council.

The Committee deliberated on the merits of an Annual Review of Programs, Resources, Products and Services of the Provincial and Territorial Statistical Agencies. It was felt that while this may be a good idea it could be misused in budget allocation exercises. An alternative may be a simple catalogue of products and programs. This subject is referred back to Council for further deliberation.

The Committee received the Decision Record of Council at its second meeting. The Committee congratulated Statistics Canada for this significant achievement and recommended that it go to Council.

The Committee discussed the subject of Quid Pro Quo. Mr. Desjardins said he was to report on progress concerning irritants at the Data Dissemination meeting. Committee members acknowledged that, given the general federal financial climate, Statistics Canada has been making a serious effort to ameliorate provincial concerns.

Finally, the Program Committee discussed at length the Council agenda for the 1989 meeting. The Committee also noted that many

Provincial/Territorial focal points had expressed a preference to have federal-provincial statistical meetings outside Tunney's Pasture. The Committee was pleased that many of the committee meetings 1988/89 were at the Conference Centre.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON SMALL AREA DATA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. Specific

There shall be a continuing Federal-Provincial Committee on Small Area Data.

1. Its object shall be to promote, facilitate and coordinate the development, production, evaluation and dissemination of small area data by and for the federal, provincial and territorial governments.
2. Activities that the Committee may concern itself with shall include:
 - (a) the effective utilization of administrative records as sources of small area statistical information, including both federal, provincial and territorial government records, as well as non-governmental records;
 - (b) the demand for small area data by the federal, provincial and territorial governments and the recommendation of priorities for small area data development activities;
 - (c) improving the integration and accessibility of small area data within the federal, provincial and territorial governments and elsewhere;
 - (d) the development and application of geographical reference systems that can be used to provide flexibility in the definition of small areas;
 - (e) the development and application of standards, concepts, definitions and classifications that will facilitate the integration and comparability of small area data from different jurisdictions; and,
 - (f) the development and adaptation of methodologies to provide essential social, economic or environmental statistics for small geographic areas.

3. The Committee may set up sub-committees or work groups to study and report on issues related to the mandate of the Committee.

The Committee may organize federal-provincial technical work-shops on matters related to the development or dissemination of small area data.

4. The Committee shall be comprised of a representative from Statistics Canada as Chairperson, and one Principal Delegate from each Province and Territory in Canada.
5. The Committee shall normally meet once every year. The location and date of future meetings shall be determined at each meeting of the Committee or by the Chairperson and the Central Secretariat of the Council.
6. The Committee shall report annually on its activities to the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy through the Central Secretariat of the Council; the Council shall also report annually on its activities to the Committee.

B. General

1. The host of each meeting shall provide suitable meeting accommodation. Normally, Statistics Canada will be responsible for the provision of a Secretariat staff, and simultaneous interpretation. In addition, when meetings are held in Ottawa, Statistics Canada will be responsible for the transportation expenses of the Principal Delegate from each Province or Territory.
2. Members of the Committee may, at their own discretion, be accompanied to meetings with such support personnel as they deem necessary.
3. Minutes of each meeting should record major points of discussion, decisions and recommendations and are to be prepared within three months of each meeting.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON DEMOGRAPHY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. Specific

1. The objective of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography is to provide a mechanism for consultation and cooperation, as well as for the exchange of information in the area of demographic statistics, between Statistics Canada and the Provincial/Territorial statistical agencies.

Post-censal population estimates in particular, in view of their technical complexity and impact, call for close consultation and, where feasible, co-operation in developing suitable estimation methods.

Population projections constitute another endeavour where consultation and co-operation are mutually beneficial, as are the development of administrative data for the purpose of demographic statistics, and in particular, migration statistics.

Finally, the Committee seeks to foster co-operation in undertaking demographic analysis in an effort to more fully understand the current demographic situation in Canada.

2. The Committee shall be composed of the Director, Demography Division, Statistics Canada, as Chairperson, and one Principal Delegate from each Province and Territory in Canada.
3. The Committee shall meet at least once every year, or as frequently as necessary. The location and date of the meetings shall be determined at each meeting of the Committee or by the Chairperson in consultation with the Central Secretariat.
4. The Committee shall report on its activities annually, or as required, to the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on statistical Policy through the Central Secretariat of the Council. The Council shall also report annually on its activities to the Committee.

B. General

1. The host of each meeting shall provide suitable meeting accommodation. Normally, Statistics Canada will be responsible for the provision of a Secretariat staff, and simultaneous interpretation. In addition, when meetings are held in Ottawa, Statistics Canada will be responsible for the transportation expenses of the Principal Delegate from each Province or Territory.
2. Members of the Committee may, at their own discretion, be accompanied to meetings with such support personnel as they deem necessary.
3. Minutes of each meeting should record major points of discussion, decisions and recommendations and are to be prepared within three months of each meeting.

MINUTES

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
OF THE
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

Meeting of August 5, 1988

R. H. Coats Building
Ottawa, Ontario

Participants:

Members: Mr. John Palmer, Chairman
 Ms. Nicole P.-Gendreau
 Mr. William McReynolds
 Mr. Guy Labossière
 Mr. Jean-Paul Trudel
 Mr. Ray Ryan
 Mr. Denis Desjardins

Invited: Mr. Edward Pryor
 Mr. Gordon Brackstone

Recording secretary: Mr. Wayne Smith

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Follow-up items from the May 1988 meeting of the Consultative Council

Mr. Wayne Smith reported on the status of follow-up items arising from the May 1988 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. A written report was distributed at the meeting (Appendix 1).

In the ensuing discussion it was requested that, in future, the written report provide a more detailed description of the status of follow-up items.

Members noted that the presentation on the Social Policy Simulation Data Base and Model that had been planned for the June 1988 meeting of the Social Statistics Committee had not taken place. Discussion concerned mechanisms to provide such a presentation to all interested focal points in the near future. Provincial members did not favour a proposal that the presentation be added to the agenda of one of the up-coming federal-provincial committee meetings. Provincial members proposed that a tour be organized to provide demonstrations in focal point offices. Mr. Denis Desjardins undertook to investigate the feasibility of such a tour but noted such a tour would involve significant costs to Statistics Canada.

The Chairman undertook to circulate a draft resolution on federal-provincial data exchange (quid pro quo), prepared by the Saskatchewan focal point, to members of the committee for discussion at its next meeting.

Several points were raised concerning the draft minutes of the May 1988 meeting of the Consultative Council that were distributed to members of the Program Committee as background information. Mr. Wayne Smith advised that the draft minutes, as approved by the Council chairman, would be distributed to all members of the Council in the near future with a request for comments and corrections. Requests for specific corrections will be verified using recordings of the meeting and incorporated into the minutes if appropriate.

3. Memorandum of Understanding

Members discussed a modified draft of the Memorandum of Understanding distributed by the Secretariat prior to the meeting (Appendix 2). A number of changes to the wording of the new draft were approved by the Committee. The Secretariat will make the approved changes to the drafts in English and French and forward the final draft to Committee members.

If the final draft is acceptable to Committee members, it was agreed the Chairman would write to all members of the Consultative Council, including the Chief Statistician, to determine if any member feels they could not sign the proposed text for whatever reason. If one or more members of the Council indicates an unwillingness or inability to sign the memorandum, the issue of implementation will be referred to the 1989 meeting of the Council. Otherwise the secretariat will proceed with the signature of the memorandum between Statistics Canada and each province and territory bilaterally.

4. 1986 and 1991 Censuses

Committee members took advantage of the presence of Mr. Edward Pryor at the meeting for a different agenda item to enquire regarding Statistics Canada's intentions for the presentation to provincial and territorial statistical focal points of the results of the 1986 Census over-coverage study and of plans for reduction of under-coverage in the 1991 Census.

Options discussed included presentations on these items at upcoming meetings of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography, the Federal-Provincial Committee on the Census of Population or of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. Also discussed was the possibility of a special meeting of one of the two former committees to deal with these topics. Mr. Pryor noted that the results of the over-coverage study and of the 1991 Census test were not yet available. He noted the most appropriate forum would depend on the timing of the availability of these results. Several provincial members of the committee stressed their preference for dealing with these topics at the earliest possible occasion. Mr. Pryor undertook to advise provincial and territorial statistical representatives of his intentions when a decision is made.

5. Terms of Reference of the Federal-Provincial Committee on

Demography

The Committee considered revised draft terms of reference for the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography. The revised draft and a briefing note on the subject had been circulated to members prior to the meeting (Appendix 3)

It was the view of the provincial members of the Committee that the Consultative Council had agreed the Committee on Demography should be a full committee. It was noted, however, that the proposed terms of reference were unduly narrow. Mr. Edward Pryor undertook to have the proposed terms of reference revised by the Chairman of the Committee on Demography, Mr. Anatole Romaniuc, in consultation with the provincial and territorial statistical focal points. A new draft will be submitted to the next meeting of the program committee.

6. Terms of Reference of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Small Area Data

The Committee agreed to a proposal to incorporate the subject of geography into the mandate of the Committee on Small Area Data.

In the discussion it was noted that the decision in no way prevents other committees from dealing with geographical issues specific to their subject matter. Mr. Gordon Brackstone agreed to revise the terms of reference of the Committee on Small Area Data to reflect the addition of geography. The revised terms of reference will be submitted to the Committee on Small Area Data for review and approval at its November 1988 meeting. The draft terms of reference, as approved by the Small Area Data Committee, will be returned to the Program Committee at its next meeting for final approval and submission to the Consultative Council.

7. 1989 Meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

Members discussed the timing and agenda of the 1989 meeting of the Consultative Council to be held in Ottawa.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would select a date in the period May 8, 1989 to June 24, 1989. A full two day meeting will be considered if warranted by the proposed agenda.

Discussion covered a number of possible agenda items for the Consultative Council. These included:

a proposal to discuss marketing in statistical agencies. This topic was deemed more appropriate to the Data Dissemination Committee. The Chairman will accordingly advise Mr. Harvey Ford of the Alberta Bureau of Statistics who had made this proposal at the Consultative Council meeting;

resolution of the issue of provincial (e.g. Manitoba/Saskatchewan/Alberta) as opposed to regional (e.g. Prairies) identification of geographic areas in data releases;

development of a research program for the Consultative Council and provision of resources to such a program;

discussion of means and mechanisms for mutual support between statistical agencies (e.g. a national training program, development of an employee pool, sharing of language used in negotiating resources or defending programs, promotion of the work of provincial and territorial statistical agencies, an awards program for individuals in provinces and territories, a scholarship/fellowship program);

- o review of Ms. Gail Graser's report on the status of the provincial and territorial component of the National Statistical System;
- o development of an orientation program to Statistics Canada for staff of provincial and territorial statistical agencies;
- o detailed examination of output formats used in the dissemination of statistical data;
- o development of a manual of policies and practices in regard to federal-provincial relations;

- o review of 1991 Census plans and the results of the 1991 Census test;
- o an update on the Business Survey Redesign Project.

It was agreed that the Committee would finalize the agenda for the Consultative Council at the Committee's next meeting.

8. Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Dissemination

Committee members agreed with a recommendation from Mr. Denis Desjardins, Chairman of the Data Dissemination Committee, that the committee not meet immediately before or after the Consultative Council meeting, as had been proposed, but rather in the spring of 1989.

Proposals for possible agenda items for the Data Dissemination Committee included:

- o a presentation on the Task Force on the Management of Information Holdings;
- o discussion of provincial versus regional designations of geographic areas in data releases;
- o Statistics Canada's policy on data exchange (quid pro quo);
- o marketing in statistical agencies.

The Chairman of the Committee on Data Dissemination will determine the Committee's final agenda.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Program Committee will be held on January 12, 1989 in Ottawa.

MINUTES

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
OF THE
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

Meeting of January 12, 1989

R.H. Coats Building
Ottawa, Ontario

Participants:

Members: Mr. John Palmer, Chairman
Mr. Luc Bessette
Mr. William McReynolds
Mr. Guy Labossière
Mr. Ray Ryan
Mr. Denis Desjardins

Absent: Mr. Jean-Paul Trudel

Secretary: Mr. Wayne Smith
Recording secretary: Mr. Robert Allard

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda (Appendix 1) was adopted without amendment. The Chairman advised members that Mr. Stewart Wells would like to meet provincial members to discuss the participation of representatives of the provinces and territories at a national meeting on the provincial economic accounts. Mr. Wells explained his suggestion during lunch.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members approved the minutes with minor modifications to the French text. A corrected version is attached as Appendix 2.

3. Terms of Reference of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Small Area Data

The Chairman reported that, as agreed at the last meeting of the Committee, the draft terms of reference for the Committee on Small Area Data had been submitted to and approved by that Committee. After discussion of the possible inclusion of the notion of sharing technology and software, the terms of reference were approved with only minor corrections to the French text (corrected version attached as Appendix 3). The modified terms of reference of this committee will be submitted to the Consultative Council for adoption.

4. Terms of Reference of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography

The Chairman indicated that the Consultative Council had approved the existence of this Committee as a separate entity rather than as a sub-committee, and that the Program Committee was to review and approve the draft terms of reference.

At the Program Committee meeting of August 1988, the Chairman of the Committee on Demography had been asked to revise the terms of reference and re-submit them for the current meeting of the Program Committee. After examining the revised terms of reference, the Program Committee agreed that the revised terms of reference should be recommended to the Consultative Council for adoption (Appendix 4).

5. Memorandum of Understanding

As agreed at the August 1988 meeting of the Program Committee, the Chairman had consulted all members of the Consultative Council to obtain their comments on the latest draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 5). The Chairman indicated that provincial/territorial members appear to be in agreement with the draft Memorandum. The Chairman also reported that Statistics Canada had requested a change to the draft Memorandum of Understanding.

Dr. Fellegi wrote to Mr. Palmer asking that a sentence be added to Section 8, part II of the Memorandum clarifying the quid pro quo arrangements (Appendix 6). The members of the Program Committee agreed that the Chairman write to Dr. Fellegi to convey the Committee's recommendation that the change not be incorporated in the Memorandum of Understanding itself but be addressed in a covering letter if so desired. If Dr. Fellegi felt that the amendment to paragraph 8 must be incorporated, a revised Memorandum of Understanding would be re-circulated to members of the Consultative Council for their approval. If Dr. Fellegi agrees it is not necessary to incorporate the change in the Memorandum itself, the Memorandum of Understanding will be circulated by the Secretariat with a covering letter from Dr. Fellegi inviting all members of the Consultative Council to sign on behalf of their governments.

Mr. Desjardins identified a possible source of confusion in part V, dealing with modifications to the Memorandum of Understanding. A wording change introduced subsequent to the last meeting of the Program Committee seemed to imply that the memorandum could be modified bilaterally. It was intended to be modified only when all members of the Consultative Council, who are signatories, agree to modify it. To avoid changing the Memorandum of Understanding to reflect this, it was suggested that the letter from the Chief Statistician presenting the final Memorandum of Understanding to members of the Consultative Council for their signature cover this potential source of confusion.

6. Proposal for an Annual Review of the Programs, Resources, Products and Services of the Provincial and Territorial Statistical Agencies

Mr. Wayne Smith presented a detailed proposal for an annual review of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies (Appendix 7). The Chairman

indicated that the original concept behind this proposal had been presented at the last meeting of the Consultative Council by the Secretary of the Council. The Council had requested a detailed proposal be presented to the Program Committee for study.

After a lengthy discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of such a compilation of information on statistical agencies, it was felt that, while it would be useful for the statistical agencies, it could also be misused in budget allocation exercises by provincial or territorial officials. The creation of a catalogue of provincial/territorial statistical agency products and programs was discussed as a possible alternative to the proposal. It was decided to refer the proposal to the Consultative Council for discussion.

7. Decision Record of the Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

Mr. Denis Desjardins tabled the document summarizing the decisions taken by the Consultative Council since its creation in 1974 (Appendix 8). Mr. Wayne Smith presented a brief background to this document. He indicated that this document was the result of a research effort undertaken within the last year by the

Secretariat in response to a recommendation from the Consultative Council. The Committee congratulated Mr. Smith on this major undertaking.

The only suggested modification was that dates appear on the terms of reference of the various Federal-Provincial Committees. The Committee recommended that the document be referred to the Consultative Council for its adoption.

8. Resolution on Federal-Provincial Data Exchange

A draft resolution on data exchange had been referred to the Program Committee by the Data Dissemination Committee for possible presentation to the Consultative Council (Appendix 9).

Mr. Desjardins indicated real progress had been made in resolving irritants identified at his request subsequent to the 1988 meeting of the Data Dissemination Committee. He will report on his progress towards resolving these irritants at the 1989 meeting of the Data Dissemination

Committee. The Program Committee noted that the subject of quid pro quo was a difficult one and recognized Statistics Canada's efforts in this regard.

9. Final Agenda and Date of the 1989 Meeting of the Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

The next Consultative Council meeting will be May 24-25, 1989 in Ottawa, the specific location to be determined by the Secretariat. It was noted that some provincial members had indicated that a location other than the R.H. Coats building within the National Capital Region, would be more desirable for these meetings. In addition to the standard items, the following agenda items were agreed to by the Program Committee:

- Update of the 1991 Census of Canada, to be presented by Mr. Bruce Petrie
- Update on Business Statistics Programs, to be presented by Mr. Jacob Ryten
- Federal/Provincial Consultative Mechanisms in the Field of Social Statistics, to be presented by Mr. Bruce Petrie or John Coombs
- Measures for the Preservation and Development of the National Statistical System, to be presented by Dr. William McReynolds
- Provincial and Territorial Inputs into Priority Setting in an Environment of Budget Reductions, to be presented by Mr. Luc Bessette
- Regional Designations in Statistics Canada Products and the Availability of Provincial/Territorial Data from Survey Programs, to be presented by Mr. Ron McMahon (subject to confirmation)
- Proposal for an Annual Documentation of the Programs, Resources, Products and Services of the Provincial and Territorial Statistical Agencies, to be presented by Mr. Denis Desjardins

It was also agreed that the Secretariat would organize the agenda in collaboration with the Chairman of the Program Committee and that each presenter would be asked to provide a short background document on their topic for distribution to Council members prior to the meeting.

Appendix 4

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY 1989-90

Submitted by Mr. Denis Desjardins, Director General
of the Marketing and Information Services Branch, Statistics
Canada to the May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the Federal-Provincial
Consultative Council on Statistical Policy.

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HIGHLIGHTS 1988-1989

The past year has been a very active and productive year for federal-provincial relations, not only at the level of the Council, but also in the individual working committees. The activities of each committee are described in the committee summaries in the second section of this report. The following is an overview of some significant developments that affected federal-provincial relations in 1988-89:

- o Mr. Denis Desjardins, Secretary to the Council, visited the offices of all the statistical focal points during the past year. The visits provided numerous insights into the operations of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies, as well as affording an opportunity for frank discussions of federal-provincial relations with the managers of these agencies. The hospitality extended by the focal points was much appreciated.
- o As undertaken at the 1988 meeting of the Consultative Council, the Chief Statistician wrote to members of the Council to convey the concern of the National Statistics Council over the diminishing stature and resources of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies. Members of the Consultative Council were consulted on the content of the letter and adjustments were made to reflect local concerns and conditions. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving feedback from members of the Council on how these letters were used and their impact.
- o Another development arising from the 1988 meeting of the Council was the offer to the statistical focal points of copies, without charge, of the Social Policy Simulation Data Base and Model. Focal points have been encouraged to use the model to publish analyses and to explore the potential to become service centres within their respective governments. A number of statistical agencies have indicated their intention to take up this offer.
- o A significant effort was made during the year to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding. Once approval of the final text of the Memorandum was obtained from the Program Committee and the Chief Statistician, the Secretariat moved quickly to prepare the Memorandum for signature between Statistics Canada and each statistical focal point.

All members of the Council will now have received copies of the document signed by the Chief Statistician. Several members of Council have already signed the Memorandum on behalf of their administration and returned a copy to the

Chief Statistician's office as requested in the covering letter. At the April meeting of the Data Dissemination Committee, the remaining focal points or their representatives indicated they did not anticipate any problem in signing the Memorandum. Should any problem arise, however, members of Council are asked to advise Mr. Desjardins.

- o Substantial progress has been made by the Dissemination Committee in settling issues arising from the implementation of Statistics Canada's Policy on the Distribution of Products to Provincial and Territorial Focal Points. A series of specific irritants with respect to the application of the policy have been identified and resolved. Statistics Canada and the focal points have agreed to a mechanism for dealing with proposals for redistribution of products purchased by focal points. Finally, a procedure has been put in place to pre-clear invoices destined to focal point offices.
- o Each year, as part of the preparation of the Secretary's report, the Secretary meets with the chairpersons of the federal-provincial committees subordinate to the Council. The oral reports of the chairpersons given at that meeting indicated the committees are active and their activities beneficial to both Statistics Canada and the provincial and territorial delegates. This is confirmed in the written summaries contained in this report.

During this year's meeting, chairpersons were reminded of the roles of the Program and Data Dissemination Committees and were encouraged to refer cross-cutting issues to these two bodies when appropriate. A target for production of each committee's minutes of within 90 days of the meeting was suggested to the group. There was some resistance, however, to a suggestion that the style of minutes be standardized using the Council minutes as a model.

- o The implementation of Statistics Canada's policy on informing focal points of communications between Statistics Canada and their provincial or territorial administrations continues. Many focal points have commented on the significant improvement in the respect of this policy by Statistics Canada officials.

The Secretariat will be distributing very shortly the second annual report on routine communications between Statistics Canada and the provincial and territorial governments. To ensure the resources used in the production of these reports are well spent, delegates to the Data Dissemination Committee were asked to confirm the usefulness of the

report. There was a consensus that the report is useful and that its production should therefore continue.

- o Due to delays in the implementation of Statistics Canada's new accounts receivable system, the Secretariat is temporarily unable to provide focal points with the usual monthly summaries of purchases of products and services by their provincial and territorial departments and agencies. The interruption is temporary. Once the flow of information resumes, the Secretariat will begin to work on the additional reports promised to Members of Council at the Edmonton meeting.
- o Members of the Council will recall the decision of the 1987 meeting to remove detailed appendices, covering policies and procedures, from the draft Memorandum of Understanding. It was also suggested that a separate document be developed to contain policies, procedures and decisions affecting federal-provincial relations.

The Secretariat has acted on that suggestion by developing the Decision Record of the Consultative Council distributed to you today. The decision record contains:

- o the original mandates of the Council and its Secretariat;
- o all decisions of the Council from all meetings since its inception that are not out-moded;
- o the mandates of all subordinate committees and the committee structure as approved by the Council;
- o as appendices, policies of Statistics Canada affecting federal-provincial relations.

It is also proposed to include a new section for the Memorandum of Understanding.

This document was tabled with the Program Committee at its second meeting. The Committee recommended the document be referred to the Council for adoption. As was discussed with the Program Committee, the Decision Record contains minor variances, in some cases, relative to current practice. The Council will therefore be asked to decide:

1. the disposition of the document;
2. is there agreement that minor variances between current practice and past decisions of the Council may be dismissed; and

3. what provision, if any, should be made for its updating.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Last meeting: September 1988

Next meeting: September 1989

Members: Representatives of the Provincial Departments of
Agriculture and Québec Bureau of Statistics

1. Farm Level Data Project

The current pilot project, undertaken on a cost-recovery basis for Agriculture Canada, is establishing a set of "whole farm" financial accounts at the province level, by type of farm. The project does not require any further farmer surveying or increase in respondent burden. A decision to extend or discontinue the project will be taken once the results have been analyzed and published.

2. Remote Sensing

Statistics Canada's remote sensing program has shifted in emphasis from estimation of crop area, using medium to high resolution satellite data, to monitoring of crop growing conditions on a weekly basis, using low resolution satellite information. In the summer of 1988 the satellite crop monitoring program was used by Statistics Canada to allocate and post-stratify data from the farm yield surveys in Western Canada. Without this information it would have been necessary to increase sample sizes in order to maintain the quality of the estimates (because of the drought). In 1989 the Division will be offering the weekly report on crop growing conditions in Western Canada on a subscription basis.

3. Emerging Issues

A number of the delegates raised issues which will require statistical information in the future, including:

- o food systems (processing, distributing, wholesaling, retailing);
- o rural development;
- o environment concerns;
- o inter-provincial trade;

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS (continued)

- o international trade in agricultural products;
- o General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT);
- o drought; and
- o farm incomes and prices.

The types of questions governments were having to respond to and the type of information now required to prepare responses were discussed. For example, the low grain prices of the past few years required information to address (1) why farmers were in trouble, (2) which farmers were in trouble, and (3) whether government support would improve the problem.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Last meeting: November 1988
Next meeting: November 1989
Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or representatives)

The following issues were discussed at the November 1988 meeting:

1. Statistics Canada Contingency Plans

The participants were informed that Statistics Canada has developed contingency plans should a further reduction in resources be forthcoming. The National Statistics Council has reviewed these plans and drafted a resolution to point out to the government the danger it runs if there is a weakening of Canada's information infrastructure.

2. Business Registers and Directories

The future role of Business Registers and whether Canadian registers will fulfil statistical and commercial functions as they do in other countries was discussed. Some provinces expressed concern about the current quality of Business Register information. Statistics Canada responded that the Bureau is investing considerable resources to improve the maintenance and update procedures. Provinces, as major

BUSINESS STATISTICS (continued)

users, were encouraged to provide feedback to aid in the work.

3. Balance Between Service and Goods Producing Industry Statistics

A few provinces indicated that the Bureau's strategic thrust to provide a better balance between service and goods producing industries might be at the expense of the statistical programs for goods producing industries. Statistics Canada's response was that it did not intend to dismantle existing statistical programs for the goods producing industries which continue to be of high priority. Although the Strategic Overview highlights services statistics, it also refers to a better integration of information on trade and production on the goods side.

4. International Trade - Sharing of Trade Data

January 1, 1990 will be the date Canada and the United States expect to begin publishing exports based on statistics from the other country's import documents.

5. Tax Data

It was agreed that Statistics Canada and the provinces would undertake a joint project to enumerate the problems of using sales tax data and identify possible solutions.

6. Small Business Statistics Program

Provinces reported that the data from the project were used and useful, but the need for continued provincial funding of the project was a concern. A number of provinces asked that the Small Business Statistics program be funded by Statistics Canada in a manner similar to the funding of other statistical activity. Statistics Canada responded that as a newly initiated program with no established funding, the project will have to be funded by federal and provincial government departments and private sector clients who use the statistics. Statistics Canada is not being provided with new and additional resources to fund the Small Business Statistics program.

CENSUS OF POPULATION

Last meeting: October 1988
Next meeting: June 1989 (proposed)
Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or representatives)

Dr. Pryor, the Chairman, opened the meeting with a summary of census activities since the last meeting of this Committee. The delegates were brought up to date on the activities and priorities for the 1986 and 1991 Censuses. A discussion was held on the proposal for cooperative research arrangements between the Census, the Focal Points and third parties such as universities and research institutes. The delegates were asked to respond with suggestions for such a program.

The following points were raised during the opening statements delivered by each of the delegates. They were generally satisfied with the output from the 1986 Census. However, concern was expressed over the delays between the announcement of the availability of the data and the release of the data to the Focal Points. Concern was also expressed over the apparent inconsistencies in Statistics Canada's pricing policy. It was noted that both points would be examined by Statistics Canada.

It was suggested that Statistics Canada undertake further consultations on the content of the 1991 Census; focusing primarily on the ethnic communities in Canada. The Focal Points offered their assistance in this endeavour. The consultations with the ethnic communities were conducted but on a smaller scale than originally anticipated. The Provincial and Territorial consultations are planned for late summer.

The delegates emphasized the importance of data on housing structural type, place of work, the disabled population, aboriginal people, ethnicity and visible minorities. These factors are being taken into account in the content determination process.

Finally, the delegates from Ontario outlined the plans for a Municipal Assessment Census to be conducted in 1991 immediately preceding the Census. The Ontario Focal Points and Statistics Canada staff indicated that this issue would be carefully examined to assess the possible impact on the Census. It was also suggested that Ontario be encouraged to seek alternative dates for their enumeration if possible.

Presentations were made on the schedule for output releases from the 1986 Census, the undercoverage and over coverage studies conducted, the plans for the next round of consultations, the

CENSUS OF POPULATION (continued)

plans for questionnaire testing (focusing on the National Census Test and the Remote Reserve Test) and on funding approaches for the 1991 Census.

DATA DISSEMINATION

Last meeting: April 1989
Next meeting: Spring 1990
Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or representatives)

Highlights of the 1989 meeting include:

1. The meeting opened with an exchange of information on developments in the data dissemination programs of Statistics Canada and the provincial and territorial statistical agencies. General trends include reductions in published output, increasing emphasis on cost-recovery, reliance on on-line systems for electronic data dissemination, growing demand for delivery of data by facsimile transmission, poor performance of standard diskette products for micro-computers and increased use of micro-computers in dissemination programs.
2. Representatives of the provincial and territorial statistical focal points confirmed that the report on routine communications with their respective governments, distributed at the 1988 meeting of the Consultative Council, had been useful and that they wished to continue receiving it. The Secretariat will be delivering the second annual report during the spring of 1989.
3. The Chairman reported on efforts made to resolve irritants arising from Statistics Canada's Policy on the Distribution of Products to Focal Points. These irritants had been identified by focal point offices as agreed at the 1988 meeting of the Committee. Committee members agreed that the results achieved made it unnecessary to raise this issue with the Consultative Council as had originally been proposed. Delegates were also advised that a mechanism had been established to pre-screen invoices destined to focal point offices.
4. An issue was raised concerning the extent to which focal points can redistribute products and services, purchased

DATA DISSEMINATION (continued)

from Statistics Canada, outside the provincial/territorial government. After some discussion, it was agreed that review by Statistics Canada of specific redistribution proposals from focal points would be the most constructive approach. Focal point offices were asked to refer specific redistribution proposals to the Secretariat for response. In the event of a disagreement between the Secretariat and the focal point, appeals will be referred to the Chief Statistician.

5. Delegates also heard presentations on the Secretary of State Canada's Jean Talon Project, Developments in Electronic Data Dissemination at Statistics Canada and Marketing in statistical agencies.

DEMOGRAPHY

Last meeting: March 1989
Next meeting: March 1990
Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or representatives)

Some delegates felt the estimates and projections might be downwardly biased as they are based on the 1986 Census which has experienced a relatively high undercoverage. This is particularly true of young adults who have more than their proportionate share in the undercoverage. The use of the age-cohort method in future estimates does introduce a distortion in age distribution. The meeting considered the inflation/deflation method as a means of minimizing age-biases due to the differential age undercoverage.

An issue of policy regarding population projections has been raised. Some delegates felt that Statistics Canada should designate one "preferred" scenario from among those published. The argument is that users must turn to Statistics Canada for professional advice in order to choose among the alternatives offered (high, medium and low). It was pointed out to the delegates that such preferential treatment of a particular scenario would contravene the current Statistics Canada's policy on projections (March 19, 1986). The latter clearly stipulates that no single set of estimates should be labelled as "most probable".

DEMOGRAPHY (continued)

The participants were briefed on the plans and progress regarding the development of the post-1991 estimation methodology. In this connection some delegates felt that the linkage between the Census and postcensal estimates calls for a serious examination.

The Quebec delegation presented a report on the statistical use of health care data. The results are very encouraging and they feel confident that medicare can generate reliable population estimates.

It was suggested that a special meeting should be organized to address the use of medicare files for estimation purposes.

The practices of consulting provincial and territorial agencies prior to the implementation of new estimation methods and the release of projections and estimates, have been reconfirmed.

The delegates strongly endorsed the terms of reference of the Federal/Provincial Committee on Demography as they stand now. They favour a committee which is primarily technical in character. Technical issues related to population estimates and projections remain of prime concern to the provincial and territorial statistical agencies.

The next Federal/Provincial Committee on Demography should be devoted primarily to review progress in the development of the post-1991 estimation methodology. By that time Demography Division will be able to report on the work currently underway in the internal and international migration. New data sources are being explored (the Current Population Profile Survey as a supplement to Labour Force Survey on Internal Migration, Customs and Excise data for returning Canadians from abroad, Medicare on internal migration, etc.).

LABOUR STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 1988

Next meeting: June 1989

Members: Mostly composed of representatives from provincial departments concerned with Human Resources and a few Provincial and Territorial Focal Points.

The twenty-third meeting of this committee was held on June 7-8, 1988 in Ottawa. Presentations dealt with the labour aspects of

LABOUR STATISTICS (continued)

such Statistics Canada programs as the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH) ; the Labour Force Survey (LFS); the Labour Market Activity Survey; the Help-wanted Index; as well as the 1986 Census. Presentations were also made by speakers from Employment and Immigration Canada, Labour Canada, the Conference Board, the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre, and provincial delegates from British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

Interesting research was presented on subjects such as structural change, compensation and benefits, regional unemployment data and on the use of labour market data for career counselling.

A status report involving the six resolutions of the previous year's meeting was presented.

Seven resolutions were adopted at the 1988 meeting which are:

1. Because of the reduction plan in the level of industrial detail published by SEPH, the provinces and the territories required to receive free of charge, in some appropriate medium, the information that would be deleted.
2. Ensure that Statistics Canada investigates a further breakdown of SEPH data for firms with 200 or more employees and report back to the committee.
3. Following the integration of SEPH with the CFDB, be it resolved that the Provinces and Territories be kept informed of the impact of changes to existing data series prior to public release, as well as updates on the differences between this survey and the LFS.
4. Be it resolved that Statistics Canada inform the Provinces and Territories of all proposed supplementary surveys attached to the LFS in their planning stage.
5. Ensure that the Provinces and Territories be notified in advance of the output to be released as well as the impact of post-census revision on the LFS data.
6. Because of the discontinuance of former government surveys, be it resolved that Statistics Canada reconsider alternative ways to fulfil the remaining gap in occupational labour wage rate statistics.
7. Be it resolved that the Planning Sub-committee on Labour Statistics for the 1989 Conference pay attention to provide

LABOUR STATISTICS (continued)

sufficient time for presentation and discussion for the next conference.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING AND STATISTICS

Last meeting: May 1987

Next meeting: October 1989 (tentative)

Members: Mostly representatives from provincial departments of Municipal Affairs and a few Focal Points.

The 1987 meeting of the above conference encompassed the following topics and included papers presented by Statistics Canada and provincial/territorial delegates and discussions on the various topics:

1. Progress Reports on Developments in Local Government Statistical Projects in Public Institutions Division;
2. Small Area Data Project Report;
3. Revision of Financial Information System for Municipalities;
4. Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Research Study on Local Government Financial Reporting;
5. Data Processing Developments - Data Suppliers and Statistics Canada;
6. Dissemination of Data on Local Governments;
7. Users Perspective on Local Data
8. Treatment of Local Government Pension Plans.

The conference agreed to change the name of the group to The Intergovernmental Committee on Local Government Accounting and Statistics and to continue the tri-level cooperative efforts to develop standardized accounting and financial reporting systems and concepts which would contribute to improved financial statistics on the local government sector.

Delegates provided papers on most topics and agreed with proposals put forward by Statistics Canada to expand the use of

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING AND STATISTICS (continued)

machine readable financial data developed by provincial and territorial departments.

The Conference concurred with the Public Institutions Division's plans to expand its programs of employment and payroll and public debt statistics and also agreed to assist in the collection of capital data and detailed municipal expenditure information for use by the Input/Output Division.

A conference consensus report is to be prepared for presentation to the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants on the accounting recommendations contained in its research study and their possible implication on municipal financial statistics.

In order to carry out inter-conference research and review projects and also to develop future agenda content, the conference had in the past created a Working Group on Financial Reporting which presented a discussion paper at the 1987 meeting. The mandate of this group was extended to cover the 1988 meeting as well.

MINERAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 1988

Next meeting: October 1989

Members: Delegates from Energy, Mines and Resources (Chairman), Indian and Northern Affairs, Statistics Canada, all Provincial and Territorial Mining Departments or Agencies.

Observers: The Mining Association of Canada, The Prospectors and Developers Association.

The Federal-Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics held its fourteenth Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, October 4-6, 1988.

Committee in General

The Terms of Reference of the Committee were amended to reflect the membership and activities of the Committee. The changes were unanimously accepted by all members of the Committee.

MINERAL STATISTICS (continued)

The Committee instructed a Working Group to look at the decision-making process of the Committee and to make recommendations so that the process could accommodate all of the interests of members.

The Committee received reports from Working Groups on Exploration Statistics, Questionnaire Design, Computerization, Mineral Valuation, Confidentiality and Service Industries Incidental to Mining.

The Committee agreed to adopt "Respondent Burden Reduction" as the overall objective for the next year.

Exploration

The Working Group on Exploration statistics reported on the progress made in their attempts to define "mine-site" (on-property) and "general or outside exploration" expenditures. The varied interests in this item have prevented the group from reaching a consensus. Work will continue on this item.

Questionnaire Design

The Working Group on Questionnaire Design has made proposals (accepted) for employment statistics in exploration and for universe reductions in the aggregate surveys.

The Harmonized System has been implemented for the 1988 survey cycle in the mining industry.

Computerization

The Working Group reported on the efforts and progress of members in the automation area. EMR is developing an automated system to capture and process information from the Annual Census of Mines and other surveys. It is planned that the system will eventually link all members of the Committee.

Mineral Valuation

The Working Group on Mineral Valuation made proposals for new series on mineral valuation in Canada. Experimental data will be developed in order to assess the new information.

MINERAL STATISTICS (continued)

Confidentiality

The Committee agreed to review information sharing agreements that are in place between EMR and the individual members. The purpose of the review is to bring them up to date and to take into account any legislative changes concerning information.

The Committee received an update on Section 11 agreements from Statistics Canada.

Service Industries Incidental to Mining

This item has been on the Committee's agenda for some time and will likely remain as a concern. This Sector related to minerals is not well defined and is often misrepresented in analysis of the mineral industry.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Last meeting: October 1988
Next meeting: October 1989
Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or representatives)

The last meeting of the committee was held in Ottawa on October 20, 1988. The major items on the agenda included reports on the progress of existing provincial programs within the System of National Accounts (SNA) Branch, along with presentations on the following topics:

1. provincial distribution of labour income;
2. deflation of final domestic demand by province;
3. structure of the provincial Input-Output model; and,
4. provincial sales tax by commodity for 1984.

The committee also discussed a proposal by the SNA Branch to expand the coverage and timeliness of provincial GDP by industry.

One major data release took place during the year, that of the Provincial Economic Accounts for the years 1984 to 1987. Two

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS (continued)

corresponding publications were also issued, Provincial Economic Accounts, Historical Issues, 1961-1986, and Provincial Economic Accounts, 1976-1987. The estimates are now available on micro-computer diskettes as well.

The coming year will see the first release of preliminary Provincial Economic Accounts for 1988 at the end of April 1989, and of final domestic demand by province in constant dollars in January 1990. The 1984 provincial Input-Output tables should become available in the summer of 1989 and the provincial GDP by industry for the years 1985 and 1986, in the Fall of 1989.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 1989. Items on the agenda will include, among others, labour income, deflation, and possibly interprovincial trade flows.

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 1988
Next meeting: October 1989
Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or representatives) and delegates from Provincial Departments of Finance.

The fifth meeting of the Public Sector Committee encompassed the following major topics and consisted of papers presented by Public Institutions Division Staff and discussions on various topics raised in these papers:

1. The Program Evaluation of the Public Sector Statistics Program;
2. Pension Plan Revisions;
3. Local Government Issues;
4. Federal Government Debt;
5. Public Administration Data;
6. Data Input and the Provincial Government Employment (PGE) System;

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS (continued)

7. Public Sector: Data Dissemination and Data Projects;
8. Quarterly Provincial Income and Expenditure System (QPIES);
and
9. A Public Finance Micro-database System.

Delegates were provided with information on the initiatives and developments put forward by the Public Institutions Division. Delegates were requested to provide feedback on a number of subjects.

SMALL-AREA DATA

Last meeting: November 1988
Next meeting: November 1989
**Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or
representatives)**

At the 1988 meeting provincial and territorial delegates presented an overview of new developments and activities within their jurisdictions. Among the many topics mentioned were:

1. the exploitation of records on retail sales, welfare and social assistance, and government employment;
2. the production of population projections and community profiles;
3. the development of systems for accessing and disseminating small area data; and,
4. problems of dealing with the variety of geographic breakdowns being used.

Statistics Canada provided an update on its activities in the following areas:

1. small area employment data;
2. products from the Small Area and Administrative Data program;
3. motor vehicle data;

SMALL AREA DATA (continued)

4. mapping of small area data;
5. postal code conversion files; and,
6. family income data.

The Committee also discussed and agreed to revised Terms of Reference that formally add consideration of issues of Geography to the Committee's mandate.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 1988
Next meeting: Fall of 1989
Members: Provincial and Territorial Focal Points (or representatives)

Major topics at this meeting included a review of the Committee's mandate and an examination of the changing federal/provincial/territorial relationships in the areas of health, culture and education statistics programs. The meeting also included updates from members concerning significant developments in their programs in the past year and their future plans. A discussion of the Social Policy Simulation Model, originally proposed for inclusion on the agenda was held over for future consideration.

Major outcomes of the meeting included the following points:

1. that a special meeting of officials from federal/provincial/territorial ministries of culture and interested members of the Social Statistics Committee be held to review the issue expanded funding and content for the culture statistics program. This meeting was subsequently held in September 1988;
2. that members of the Committee be kept apprised of developments with respect to federal/provincial/territorial agreements in the health and education areas.

It is tentatively planned to hold the next meeting of the Committee in the fall of 1989.

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 1988

Next meeting: June 1989

Members: Delegates from Provincial and Federal Departments
of Transportation and Provincial and Territorial
Focal Points

All provinces and territories were represented at the last meeting except British Columbia.

The Working Group completed its tasks and a final report on the responses to the Working Group questionnaire "Survey of Data Requirements" was tabled. It was agreed that special meetings of experts should be held to focus on priority data gaps.

A special two-day meeting on the collection of trucking statistics was held in Ottawa, November 3-4, 1988. In addition to the participants from the provincial transportation agencies in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, there were participants from the Canadian Trucking Association, Transport Canada, the National Transportation Agency of Canada and six interested private consultants.

Developments since the special meeting on trucking will be reviewed in June 1989. This will include:

1. a discussion on the new Motor Carrier Freight Quarterly Survey;
2. expansion of the For-Hire Trucking Survey to include Canada/U.S. movements and quarterly data;
3. collection of private trucking data.

Other topics will include:

4. the new "Rail in Canada" publication (catalogue 52-216);
5. the implementation of the Marine/Trade project;
6. the impact of the new Aviation Statistics program; and
7. the impact of deregulation on transportation statistics and the need for cost-recovery financing.

VITAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 1988
Next meeting: June 1989
Members: Provincial/Territorial registrars of vital statistics

The following are the achievements to June 1988.

1. Interim Council meeting, October 1987: to analyze Forms Revision survey results - preliminary step in the Forms Revision exercise. Forms Sub-Committees to produce reports based on survey results and deliberations of sub-committee members before, or at, the Council's June 1988 meeting.
2. Legislative Committee Report: it was directed at the June 1987 meeting to:
 - a. examine the scope and operational extent of mandates of Vital Statistics Offices to collect statistical data; and
 - b. examine alternative sources that may be used to collect statistical data now collected or proposed to be collected by the vital statistics system.

A questionnaire was circulated to all Provincial/Territorial registrars before the 1988 meeting and the ensuing report emphasized standard and secondary data sets as a method of data collection rather than by means of Model Forms - a proposal which sparked a great deal of discussion and debate among Council members.

3. Federal/Provincial Model Agreement: it was moved at the annual meeting that the draft agreement be accepted as circulated May 3, 1988, with modifications, as discussed at the meeting.
4. Uniform Vital Statistics and Change of Name Acts: it was reported that these documents were still in preparation.

The following are activities scheduled for the next twelve month period:

1. Forms Revision: many questions were raised by Council members at the 1988 annual meeting concerning the entire forms revision process and its objectives. As a result of intensive discussions on this subject and of the report presented by the legislative Committee, it was agreed by the Council membership that:

VITAL STATISTICS (continued)

- a. The Chair of the Council, together with the Chairs of the four sub-committees (Birth, Stillbirth, Death and Marriage) work with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Sub-Committee on Health Information (scheduled to meet in September 1988) to ensure that the Council's Forms Revision Process is appropriate to the overall collection of health related information and report back to Council at the next annual conference.
 - b. All jurisdictions convey detailed comments on the Forms Sub-Committee reports, presented at the annual meeting, to each sub-committee chairperson by October 30, 1988, with revised reports to be prepared by January 30, 1989. These reports to include the core data elements and secondary data elements referred to in the Legislative Committee's report.
2. Birth-death matching: this was considered to be technically feasible by Statistics Canada representatives at the meeting and cost estimates for such a project are to be investigated before the next meeting.
 3. 1950-1985 Mortality Index: Statistics Canada to provide same before 1989 meeting.
 4. Project proposal to CIDA: following interest shown in this subject by the Council membership at the 1988 meeting, a detailed report on possible projects concerning vital statistics to be proposed to CIDA for their consideration will be presented at the 1989 meeting.
 5. Uniform Vital Statistics and Change of Name Acts: progress on these to be updated at 1989 meeting.
 6. Federal/Provincial Model Agreement: modifications as discussed at the 1988 meeting, were made as requested and the revised Agreements were circulated to their respective jurisdictions in October 1988, where the majority of them are still under consideration.

**APPENDIX: FOLLOW-UPS FROM THE 1988 MEETING
OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

STATUS REPORT

Item:		Responsible:	Action:
1.0	<u>Approval of Minutes</u>		
1.1	French text of the minutes of the Council's 1987 meeting to be corrected and distributed with the minutes of the 1988 meeting.	Secretariat	Text corrected and distributed with the minutes.
2.0	<u>Statistics Canada Report</u>		
2.1	Presentation on the Social Policy Simulation Data Base and Model to be given at the June 21, 1988 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics, subject to the availability of key personnel.	Secretariat	Discussed at the Committee. The presentation was given on October 19, 1988.
2.2	Statistics Canada to provide the statistical focal points with written documentation on the Social Policy Simulation Data Base and Model.	Secretariat	Distributed at the meeting of the Social Statistics Committee.
2.3	Statistics Canada to provide statistical focal points with copies of the Chief Statistician's speaking notes and transparencies for this report.	Secretariat	Copies distributed.

Item:	Responsible:	Action:
2.4	Statistical focal points to advise the secretariat of specific program areas of interest. Secretariat to remind directors in these areas of the requirement to keep focal points informed of communications with their governments.	Secretariat has not received any information from the focal points in this regard.
2.5	Statistical focal points to advise the Chief Statistician of suggestions they may have to improve flows of information from Statistics Canada to their offices.	On-going.
2.6	Statistics Canada to clarify its policy on informing focal points of communications with their governments by advising senior managers to explicitly copy the focal points on non-routine correspondence with their respective governments.	Policy clarified during the collection of information on routine contacts.
2.7	Director of Public Institutions Division to advise the Bureau de la statistique du Québec on the availability of federal government employment data for sub-provincial areas.	Director of the division concerned has communicated with the BSQ in this regard.

Item:	Responsible:	Action:
3.0	<u>Provincial and Territorial Reports</u>	
3.1	Preliminary data on inter-provincial trade flows from 1984 Provincial Input-Output Table program to be provided to focal points when available.	Secretariat and Director of Input-Output Division
3.2	Statistics Canada's internal training courses are open to staff of provincial and territorial statistical agencies. Statistics Canada to investigate the feasibility of video-taping the lecture portion of these courses and making the tapes available to focal point offices.	Secretariat and Focal points
3.3	Statistics Canada to circulate information to the focal points on the project to accelerate reporting of key data on provincial government revenues and expenditures required for the System of National Accounts.	Secretariat and Director of Public Institutions Division
4.0	<u>Secretary's Report</u>	
4.1	Program Committee to review recommendations to make the Committee on Demography a full committee and to review the draft terms of reference.	Program Committee
		Director of the division concerned undertook to send the data.
		Calendar of courses distributed by the Secretariat. Focal points were asked to indicate priorities for video-taping. No responses have yet been received.
		Information was circulated and subsequently discussed at the Public Sector Statistics meeting of October 18-19, 1988.
		Committee studied the issue and is returning it to the Council with recommendation.

Item:	Responsible:	Action:
4.2	Secretariat to submit a proposal to the Program Committee for an annual survey of provincial and territorial statistical agencies (resources, programs, products) to be summarized in an annual report to the Council.	Secretariat submitted its proposal. The Committee is referring to the Council without recommendation.
4.3	Program Committee to review the attribution of the subject matter of geography within the structure of federal-provincial committees and determine whether this subject should be attributed to the Committee on Small Area Data.	Committee studied the issue and is bringing it back to Council with recommendation.
4.4	Special meeting to be held to discuss treatment of under-coverage for the 1991 Census once results of the 1986 Census over-coverage study are available. Meeting may be of the Census of Population or the Demography Committee.	Issue discussed at the October 24, 1988 meeting of the Committee on the Census of Population.
4.5	Presentation and discussion of culture statistics program and particularly of mechanisms for federal-provincial collaboration in this area to be added to the agenda of the June 21, 1988 meeting of the Committee on Social Statistics.	Issue discussed at the Social Statistics Committee meeting. Subsequently, a special federal-provincial meeting on culture statistics was held in September 1988.

Item:		Responsible:	Action:
4.6	Confirm meeting of the Committee on Social Statistics to be held on June 21, 1988.	Secretariat	Confirmed during 1988 Council meeting.
5.0	<u>Memorandum of Understanding</u>		
5.1	Wayne Smith to develop a revised draft of the Memorandum of Understanding based on decisions taken by Council. The draft is to be circulated to members of the Council for comment.	Secretariat	New draft submitted to the Program Committee.
5.2	After incorporation of comments, final draft to be submitted to the Program Committee for approval of wording.	Program Committee	Draft approved by Program Committee. Distributed for signature.
6.0	<u>Study of the Provincial and Territorial Component of the National Statistical System</u>		
6.1	Focal points to be provided with a current list of members of the National Statistics Council indicating which members attended the May 4-5, 1988 meeting of that Council, in Quebec. Focal points to decide whether to contact members from their province/territory to discuss their role in the statistical system.	Secretariat and Focal points	Lists were distributed as stipulated.

Item:	Responsible:	Action:
6.2	Statistics Canada to provide focal points with a calendar of its existing training courses.	Secretariat
6.3	Statistics Canada to make available, on request, audio-tapes of lectures from its lecture series program and to investigate whether interpretation of these lectures in the other official language can also be recorded.	Secretariat
6.4	Statistical focal points to write to the Chief Statistician if they wish to obtain the Social Policy Simulation Data Base and Model for a trial period. Feasibility of such trial periods to be determined.	Focal points and Secretariat
6.5	Chief Statistician to write to the focal points to convey to them the concern of the National Statistics Council over the erosion of the stature and resources of the provincial and territorial component of the National Statistical System. A draft of this letter to be circulated to focal points for comment.	Office of the Chief Statistician and Secretariat
		Calendar distributed. Communications Division was already offering this service. However, provisions of contracts with interpreters preclude taping of interpretation. All focal points have been offered a copy of the model, without charge, for internal use and for analysis leading to publication. Letter sent to focal points requesting to receive it.

Item:	Responsible:	Action:
7.0	<u>Data Dissemination Committee Report</u>	
7.1	Statistical focal points to send to Denis Desjardins, before May 31, 1989, lists of irritants arising from the distribution of Statistics Canada's products and services. Secretariat to begin follow-up with subject matter divisions.	Lists received from six focal points. Results of follow-up reported to the Data Dissemination Committee.
7.2	Statistics Canada to determine feasibility of pre-clearing invoices destined to the focal points through the Secretariat. Focal points to be advised of conclusions by end of June 1988.	Invoices are now being pre-cleared.
7.3	Program Committee to develop a resolution on distribution of products and services to focal points for submission to the 1989 meeting of the Council.	Data Dissemination Committee has decided not to proceed with the resolution.
8.0	<u>Nomination of the Program Committee</u>	
8.1	Program Committee to consider topic of marketing activities in the statistical agencies for the agenda of the 1989 meeting of the Council.	By decision of the Program Committee, item placed on the agenda of the Data Dissemination Committee.

Appendix 5

DISCUSSION OF MEASURES FOR THE PRESERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL
STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Presentation given by Dr. William McReynolds, Provincial
Statistician for British Columbia, to the May 24-25, 1989
meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative
Council on Statistical Policy

At its 1987 meeting in Edmonton, the Consultative Council focused considerable attention on the state of the provincial/territorial component of the national statistical system. The discussion revealed that the provincial component (not necessarily the territories) had declined in recent years. Provincial capacity has been eroded to a dangerously low level and the system is fragile. Council decided to study the issue in detail and Statistics Canada provided the services of Gail Graser to carry out the analysis. In her report, she concluded that:

The strength of the provincial/territorial component of the National Statistical System has been seriously eroded by resource reductions both at the provincial/territorial level and at the federal level. In particular, the ability of provincial/territorial statistical agencies to adequately fulfil their coordinating role is in jeopardy.

The issue has been studied, the problems have been identified, and I believe that there is consensus that steps must be taken to improve the situation. Although it has been brought to the attention of the National Statistics Council, it would be inappropriate to look to that body alone for relief. Nor can we leave the solution to Statistics Canada or to any other single body. If we want to arrest the downward trend, we must work individually and collectively, despite current restraints, to strengthen the provincial/territorial component of the national statistical system, and raise the level of understanding of our important role. It is our problem to solve.

The suggestions which follow are exactly that - suggestions. They are not ideas that I am asking the Consultative Council to accept, only discuss. I hope that they will serve to get the creative process going, so that together we can find ways of rebuilding the system.

- (i) Purpose: to establish a mechanism to explain fully the national statistical system and thereby foster appreciation and understanding of what it accomplishes.

Suggestion: to publicize the role the provinces and territories play in making the national statistical system more efficient; highlighting how intensive collaboration and cooperation reduces costs and response burden by avoiding duplication, etc.

- (ii) Purpose: elevate the professional competency and mutual awareness of staff in Statistics Canada and the provincial and territorial agencies, and thereby develop stronger advocacy.

Suggestion: develop a "national training program" on what is the national statistical system for both federal and provincial people. This would be a course of studies on a curriculum with a certificate of completion at the end. There may or may not be some moving around. Those working in statistics in provincial departments and ministries would be encouraged to take the program.

- (iii) Purpose: to help overcome the lack of focal point resource needed to present the case for statistics.

Suggestion: share materials - documents, presentations, arguments - used in negotiating resources and defending programs. Taking the time to tell our story is much more important than may first appear. And it has to be re-told and re-told in different ways in changing circumstances to new audiences. As much as we may dislike this chore and begrudge the resources it requires, it is absolutely necessary.

- (iv) Purpose: to elevate the visibility of focal points and thus strengthen their function.

Suggestion: perhaps Statistics Canada could become proactive in this regard, using its national scope to publicize the work of provinces and territories. A national achievement or other award could be instituted, for example, and the winning province or territory written up in SCAN. The provinces/territories could prepare a brochure on their work and their role in the national statistical system for circulation throughout Statistics Canada.

- (v) Purpose: to study the provincial/territorial component of the national statistical system, systematically identifying ways of strengthening it.

Suggestion: institute an ongoing research program to examine issues related to the effectiveness of the Consultative Council. Resources would come from members' organizations.

- (vi) Purpose: to provide ways of developing and expanding the experience of statistical staff and fostering mutual understanding.

Suggestion: develop an "employee pool". Using the good offices of Marvin Blauer, identify people and skills (provincial as well as federal) who could

undertake specific assignments at Statistics Canada or in the provinces. Exchange of personnel would let us see how each of us carries out our jobs "in the trenches". Greater appreciation of our common concerns and our differences would enrich the system.

(vii) Purpose: to provide guidance on how to work within the federal-provincial statistical framework.

Suggestion: create a policies and procedures manual for federal-provincial statistical relations. Perhaps the Council Secretariat could coordinate the project and keep the manual current.

(viii) Purpose: to raise the profile of the Consultative Council.

Suggestion: establish a scholarship program. Council could award a research scholarship in recognition of work in the field of statistics in Canada.

(ix) Purpose: to address the problem of critical mass.

Suggestion: Statistics Canada could arrange to conduct contract work through those focal points that are willing and able to accept such responsibility.

(x) Purpose: to increase the effectiveness of focal point staff.

Suggestion: develop an orientation program to Statistics Canada for provincial/territorial statistical staff. Such a program, I believe, was established for Statistics Canada's regional staff, and could be extended to focal point staff visiting Ottawa for committee meetings etc.

It is emphasized that these are merely suggested examples of what we might individually and collectively undertake to contribute to the stabilization and advancement of the "provincial component". They are put forward not as a comprehensive proposed solution to our concerns but to stimulate the inventive minds of the members of this Council to generate a wide range of self help ideas.

Appendix 6

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PARTICIPATION
IN PRIORITY SETTING IN AN ENVIRONMENT
OF BUDGETARY RESTRAINT

Presentation given by Mr. Luc Bessette, Director General
of the Bureau de la statistique du Québec, to the May 24-25, 1989
meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council
on Statistical Policy

In a context of budgetary restraint, it is very important to optimize the use of the resources at our disposal and, above all, to ensure those resources are used to the best purposes. In a context where organizations must cut established programs to meet down-sizing objectives, it is even more important to ensure that these reductions are made in the right places.

In recent years, Statistics Canada has experienced severe reductions in its budget. It is clear these cuts have affected established programs and have led to setbacks in some sectors. Similarly, many provincial statistical agencies and provincial statistical and research organizations have also experienced their share of budget reductions. For example, the BSQ has lost one third of its staff over the last seven years and its 1989/90 budget will be, in absolute terms, lower than that of 1982/83. The paper prepared by Gail Graser showed clearly the staff reductions that have been experienced by most statistical agencies since 1982/83.

In as much as the statistical agencies are expected to complement the programs of Statistics Canada, to integrate those programs with what is being done at the provincial level and to play an active part in coordination, the elimination or even the down-scaling of certain activities can affect not only the equilibrium of the statistical systems in the provinces, but also under-cut a thrust in certain sectors or even compromise the existence of a program.

In this context, it is obvious that when Statistics Canada decides to withdraw from certain activities, or to pass their costs on to clients, the consequences can be more or less disastrous for the provinces and the provincial statistical agencies. This is why it is essential to be informed sufficiently early of decisions that have implications for established programs whether in terms of statistical content or future directions, in order to be able to react and adjust to the changes. But by itself, this is not enough. The provinces ought to have the opportunity to influence these choices. It has been my observation that too often the provincial agencies, for all kinds of reasons that are likely quite valid, are not advised of these choices until the last minute, when the decisions have already been taken.

The provincial statistical agencies are privileged sources of information on the utility and priority of the statistical needs of their province. Statistics Canada could benefit greatly by consulting them before finalizing its choices. One should not, however, consult the provincial statistical agencies only when Statistics Canada or its staff are looking for support to defend their projects, or only when they are concerned about overly negative reactions. Statistics Canada can, of course, employ a

variety of consultative mechanisms, but these should not compete with or replace consultation with the provincial statistical agencies. The federal-provincial committees are doubtless excellent forums for the exchange of information permitting participants to express their view-points, but they can and must also become opportunities for dialogue, otherwise it will be necessary to find another forum.

The provinces are important clients and are often the first victims of this type of decision. The situation is that much more difficult in that the provinces, and particularly the provincial statistical agencies, do not have the means to step into the breach, nor, what is worse, the time to react and attempt to find alternate solutions. The result is a loss of information and a set back to the statistical program.

The provinces and their statistical agencies realize the axe of budgetary reductions falls quickly and that, ultimately, the decisions belong to Statistics Canada. At the same time, there are important consequences. That is why it seems to us that the statistical agencies ought to be consulted in a spirit of dialogue rather than simply informed, and with this being done early enough to allow us to find solutions. This type of collaboration is essential for the healthy management of the Canadian statistical system.

Appendix 7

PROPOSAL FOR AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE
PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
OF THE PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL
STATISTICAL AGENCIES

Proposal submitted by the Council Secretariat to the
May 24-25, 1989 meeting of the Federal-Provincial
Consultative Council on Statistical Policy.

Introduction

At the May 1988 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy, the Secretary to the Council proposed to the members that an annual review be conducted of the status, programs, resources, products and services of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies (or focal point office in the absence of a statistical agency). The results of the review would be reported to the Council each year as part of the Secretary's report.

The Council agreed that a proposal for such an annual review should be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Program Committee for approval. This document develops a proposal for consideration by the Program Committee.

Coverage and Process

The Secretariat proposes that the annual review cover six themes:

- o Statistical legislation
- o Reporting relationship within the provincial/territorial government and organizational structure
- o Resources, budgets and revenue targets
- o Programs (e.g. provincial economic accounts)
- o Products and services (e.g. L'Annuaire du Québec, Ontario Statistics, Manitoba Statistical Review)
- o Data-sharing and collection agreements with Statistics Canada

Initial collection of the base data would be undertaken in the period February to May 1989, if approved by the Program Committee. In subsequent years, the previous year's report for each province and territory would be returned to the focal point for review and updating during the first quarter of the calendar year. Information on data-sharing and collection agreements would be compiled at Statistics Canada.

The specific information to be collected from each province and territory is discussed below.

Statistical legislation

In the initial year, each focal point would be asked to provide a

current copy of provincial or territorial legislation creating and governing the operations of the statistical agency, where such legislation exists. In subsequent years, the focal point would be asked to identify any amendments to this legislation and to briefly explain the purpose of the amendments.

Reporting relationship

In the initial year each focal point would provide a description of the path by which the statistical agency (or focal point office in the absence of a statistical agency) reports to the premier of the province or the head of the territorial government. In subsequent years, the focal point would be asked to identify any changes to this path and to briefly describe any anticipated impact of the changes.

Resources, budgets and revenue targets

Each year the focal point would be asked to report the following for the fiscal year in progress:

- o authorized person years: total, professional and support staff
- o authorized salary budget
- o authorized non-salary budget
- o anticipated revenues from products and services
- o revenue targets established for the agency

The focal point would be requested to describe the implementation of the revenue targets and identify any constraints or requirements that would effectively reduce person years or non-salary budgets below the authorized level.

Programs

In the initial year, each focal point would be asked to describe all programs of the statistical agency or focal point office under the following broad headings:

Programs involving analysis of existing data sources (e.g. provincial economics accounts, population estimates, etc.)

Survey programs

Administrative data programs

Data dissemination programs

In subsequent years each focal point would be asked to identify changes in the programs from the previous year describing the reasons for the program adjustments.

Products and Services

In the initial year, each focal point would be asked to list the current products and services of the provincial/territorial statistical agency under the following headings:

Publications (by title giving frequency and price)

Electronic products (by title giving frequency and price)

Other products (by title giving frequency and price)

On-line data retrieval services

Off-line special tabulation services

Survey taking

Statistical consulting

In subsequent years, focal points would be asked to identify changes to their products and services and indicate the purpose of these changes.

Data-sharing and collection agreements with Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada will compile, each year, a listing of data-sharing and data collection agreements in effect with each province and territory. New agreements will be highlighted.

Conclusion

The annual compilation and publication of the above information will provide an overview for the Consultative Council of the current status of the provincial and territorial component of the National Statistical System. In presenting the findings of the annual review emphasis will be placed on trends in resource levels and programs.

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It is anticipated that provincial and territorial statistical agencies will also find this documentation useful for internal purposes.

December 2, 1988