
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

June 3-4, 1993
Ottawa, Ontario



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**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

MINUTES

Meeting of June 3 and 4, 1993

Ottawa, Ontario

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Minutes of the Meeting of June 3 and 4, 1993

1. Opening Remarks

The Chairperson opened the 20th annual meeting of the Consultative Council by welcoming the delegates.

The proposed agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting (May 20-21, 1992) were approved without amendment.

2. Provincial and Territorial Program Reports

Provincial and territorial members presented reports on the current status and activities of their respective statistical agencies. These reports are provided in Appendix 1.

3. Report of the Chief Statistician of Canada

Dr. Fellegi provided an overview of the impact of the government's fiscal restraint measures on Statistics Canada. Budget cuts to the agency over the 1978 to 1998 period will have amounted to 60 million dollars. Statistics Canada is reviewing several proposals for determining the impact of these reductions on program and operational areas.

Following Dr. Fellegi's presentation, delegates discussed the challenges to the national statistical system posed by federal and provincial budgetary reductions. Several delegates requested that the Chief Statistician document these challenges in letters to provincial or territorial officials.

Mr. Cornwall requested a written response from Statistics Canada on a paper he had prepared and submitted, titled "Ontario's Reaction to Statistics Canada's Program Reductions".

4. Program Committee Report

Paul Dober, Chairperson of the Program Committee, presented a report on the work of this committee. The minutes and agenda from the 1993 meeting of the Program Committee are attached as Appendix 2.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Denis Desjardins, tabled the following documents:

- a) Annual activity reports from each federal-provincial committee;
- b) Status report on follow-up items from the 1992 meeting of the Consultative Council.

These documents are attached as Appendices 3 and 4.

6. Aboriginal Data Needs

Marlene Brant Castellano, Co-Director of Research for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, made an interesting and informative presentation on the current and future data needs of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples.

7. Information Update from National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field

To date, interprovincial trade and input/output tables for the years 1984 to 1989 have been released. These tables include trade in goods and in services. For 1990, only provincial input/output tables will be available. It is planned to achieve full coverage on provincial gross domestic product by industry and to release this data before the project is completed.

Mr. Wells announced that funding for this program was terminated at the end of the 1992-93 fiscal year but Statistics Canada remains committed to the program and will continue its efforts to obtain additional funding. It was estimated that the program would need 1 to 1.5 million dollars annually to be maintained.

To aid in generating further financial support from the provinces and territories, Mr. Falk suggested that a work plan be prepared and circulated to the appropriate provincial and territorial officials. Mr. Wells agreed with this proposal.

Mr. McMahon commented that he had not been contacted yet to resolve several discrepancies between his provincial numbers and those produced by Statistics Canada. Mr. Wells suggested that he meet with Mr. McMahon immediately to resolve this issue.

Mr. Wells suggested that outstanding reconciliation issues be raised at the annual meeting of the Provincial Economic Accounts meeting in the fall.

8. Adjustment of Population Estimates

Mr. Don Royce updated the delegates on activities in this project which had occurred since the last meeting (May 3, 1993). Notes from this presentation are included as Appendix 5.

In preparation for the next meeting on this topic, scheduled for June 29, 1993, Mr. Royce agreed to provide delegates with several documents. In addition to these documents, all delegates will receive a copy of a memo sent to Dr. Fellegi by Mr. Royce which outlined various methodological issues.

9. Information Update from Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field

Delegates received updates on four areas of activity:

1996 Census Content Consultations

Consultations are almost complete, with all outstanding submissions expected by the end of June, 1993. Over 800 organizations in all sectors have been contacted with many making oral or written submissions. The project is on schedule. (Notes are attached as Appendix 6).

Canadian Centre for Health Information

Mr. Rheal Leblanc, former Deputy Minister of Health in Alberta has been appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Work toward the incorporation of the Institute as a non-profit federally chartered organization is underway. It is expected that the organization will come into existence in the early part of 1994. Federal and provincial Deputy Ministers of Health, together with the Chief Statistician, will be invited to nominate 14 members to sit on the Board with 14 private sector representatives.

Education Statistics

Activities in education statistics are currently focusing on a survey of private trainers, the 1992 Adult Education and Training Survey, and updating the National Graduate Survey and School Leavers Survey. In addition to survey activities, the publication program is being streamlined and a reorganization of the education section of the division is underway.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

In the current year, activities will focus on family law, mentally disordered offenders and prosecutions. One major new survey, the Violence Against Women Survey, is currently in the field. The products and services of the Centre have been reviewed, with the vast majority of clients reporting being pleased with both products and services.

10. Information Update from Business and Trade Statistics Field

Mr. Ryten updated the delegates on activities in three areas.

Use of Administrative Records/Unique Identifier

Discussions with Customs and Excise regarding access to GST data files are progressing. Within the coming year, Statistics Canada will have received some initial data and had an opportunity to evaluate its quality. Results from an eight-site pilot project on assigning a unique identifier to new businesses should also be available.

While the overall process of assigning unique identifiers and effectively utilizing GST files will take several years, the benefits in terms of coverage and the availability of small area data will be substantial.

On a related matter, Mr. Palmer commented on the existence of the GST processing centre in Summerside and requested that Statistics Canada investigate employment figures for Prince Edward Island.

1997 Standard Industrial Classification

The revision of Canada's 1980 Standard Industrial Classification was identified as a priority following the implementation of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement. Both countries are working to make the adjustments necessary for complete congruence between the two methods of industrial classification. Work in this area is continuing on schedule and the new classification structure will come into effect in 1997.

Survey of Manufactures

Statistics Canada's Annual Survey of Manufactures is currently undergoing a minor review process. While no serious problems have been identified, the survey's ability to provide small area data is limited and there is some concern about the quality of data received from some respondents. It is expected that consultations being undertaken with respondents and users will lead to some changes in the survey. In Quebec, these consultations are being undertaken in conjunction with the Quebec Bureau of Statistics. Other provinces and territories are invited to participate in the same manner.

11. Statistics in Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements

Mr. Krishna Sahay made a presentation on this subject. A summary of the presentation is included as Appendix 7.

12. Evaluation of the Functioning and Effectiveness of the Federal-Provincial Committee System

The recommendations prepared by the Task Force on the Functioning and Effectiveness of the Federal-Provincial Committee System were tabled as was an additional recommendation proposed by Statistics Canada (these recommendations are included as Appendix 8).

There was agreement on all but one of the recommendations proposed by the Task Force. Actions to implement these recommendations are to begin immediately. The outstanding recommendation, that the Data Dissemination Committee be disbanded, was referred to the 1993 Program Committee.

The proposal from Statistics Canada generated considerable discussion. Several delegates were of the opinion that larger, omnibus committees would not offer sufficient opportunities for

technical issues to be discussed or resolved. Other delegates were concerned that a move toward omnibus committees would run contrary to recommendations, already accepted, contained in the Task Force's report. Dr. Fellegi suggested that omnibus committees might provide better opportunities to address issues related to priorities and issues.

It was agreed that this proposal should be further discussed and investigated prior to a decision being made. As a result, this proposal was also referred to the Program Committee

13. Nomination of the Program Committee

The provincial and territorial focal point component of the Program Committee will consist of Paul Dober, Tom Beynon and Linton Cornwall. It was recommended that Mr. Beynon serve as chairperson.

Statistics Canada representatives nominated by Dr. Fellegi were Kathy Campbell, Ellis Drover and Darryl Rhoades. Denis Desjardins will serve as an ex-officio committee member.

The nominations and recommendations were accepted by the Council.

14. Other Business

The interested delegates were invited to participate in a discussion concerning proposed 1996 Census questions on Aboriginal ancestry and identity.

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

LIST OF DELEGATES AND PARTICIPANTS

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

LIST OF DELEGATES AND PARTICIPANTS

Delegates

Chairperson:	Ivan Fellegi	Chief Statistician of Canada Statistics Canada
Secretary:	Denis Desjardins	Director General Marketing and Information Services Branch
Newfoundland	George Courage	Director, Newfoundland Statistics Agency
Prince Edward Island	John Palmer	Director, Economics, Statistics and Fiscal Analysis Division, Department of Finance
Nova Scotia	Paul Dober	Director, Statistics Branch, Department of Economic Development
New Brunswick	Clifford Marks	Director, New Brunswick Statistics Agency
Quebec	Luc Bessette	Director General, Quebec Bureau of Statistics
Ontario	Linton Cornwall	Manager, Statistics Section, Ministry of Treasury and Economics
Manitoba	Wilf Falk	Director, Manitoba Bureau of Statistics
Saskatchewan	Ron McMahon	Director, Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics
Alberta	Harvey Ford	Director, Alberta Bureau of Statistics
British Columbia	Tom Beynon	Director of Statistics, Treasury Board Secretariat
Yukon	Glenn Grant	Director, Yukon Bureau of Statistics

Northwest Territories	Ralph Joyce	Territorial Statistician, Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics
 Participants		
Presenter	Marlene Brant Castellano	Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
Statistics Canada	John Coombs	Director General, Institutions and Social Statistics Branch
Statistics Canada	Benoit Laroche	Director, Demography Division
Statistics Canada	Yvon Goulet	Assistant Chief Statistician, Communications and Operations Field
Statistics Canada	Valerie Peters	A/Head, Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat, Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Ronald Raby	Chief, Population Estimates Section, Demography Division
Statistics Canada	Don Royce	Chief, Census Data Quality, Social Survey Methods Division
Statistics Canada	Krishna Sahay	Assistant Director, Public Institutions Division
Statistics Canada	Wayne Smith	Director, Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Stewart Wells	Assistant Chief Statistician, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field
Statistics Canada	Pamela White	1996 Census Content Project Manager

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

AGENDA

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY
JUNE 3 AND 4, 1993

AGENDA

Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room
Ottawa, Ontario

Thursday June 3, 1993

9:00 AM Opening Remarks
• Approval of the agenda
• Approval of the minutes of the 1992 meeting

9:15 AM Provincial and Territorial Reports - Provincial
and Territorial Representatives

11:30 AM Coffee

11:35 AM Statistics Canada Report - Dr. Fellegi

12:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM Aboriginal Data Needs - Marlene Brant Castellano

2:45 PM Coffee

3:00 PM Information Update from National Accounts and
Analytical Studies Field - Mr. Stewart Wells
• Revisions to the System of National Accounts
• Provincial Economic Accounts
• Interprovincial Trade Statistics

3:45 PM Adjustment of Population Estimates - Mr. Don Royce
and Mr. Ronald Raby

4:30 PM Information Update from Social, Institutions and
Labour Statistics Field - Mr. Bruce Petrie (Mr.
John Coombs)
• 1996 Census Content Consultations
• Social Statistics

5:00 PM End of first day

Friday June 4, 1993

9:00 AM Information Update from Business and Trade
Statistics Field - Mr. Jacob Ryten

- Status of the Unique Identifier
- Use of the GST Administrative Data as a
Statistics Source
- Other

9:30 AM The Role of Statistics in Federal-Provincial
Fiscal Arrangements - Mr. Krishna Sahay

10:15 AM Coffee

10:30 AM Report from the Task Force on the Functioning and
Effectiveness of the Federal-Provincial Committee
System - Mr. Yvon Fortin

11:35 AM Program Committee Report - Mr. Paul Dober
Nomination of the Program Committee - Mr. Paul
Dober and Dr. Fellegi

11:45 AM Other Business

12:00 PM Adjournment

Appendix 1

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PROGRAM REPORTS

**TO THE 1993 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

1993 NEWFOUNDLAND ACTIVITY REPORT

The Newfoundland Government will cut salaries and benefits by 5 to 6% this year. It has been proposed that this be done through unpaid leave or by the Government not paying into the pension plan for one year. Computer Budgets were cut by 10% and most other sub-heads were frozen at 1992 levels.

The number of Social Services Cases in Newfoundland has risen dramatically over the past 3 years from approximately 20,000 cases a month to 30,000 as of March 1993. We have information from the annual files for 1991 and 1992 and have matched cases to determine the overlap between the two years, those cases receiving in 1991 and not in 1992, those in 1992 and not in 1991 and those who first received assistance in 1992. We are presently preparing a report for submission to the Department of Social Services and to a Committee developing a Social Policy Plan for the Province.

We produced a report in the fall of 1992 which looked at persons who were on Department of Social Services Job Creation Programs in 1991-92. We are now getting information on projects and persons for all provincial job creation programs and are negotiating with Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) to get information on persons and projects for their job creation and training programs.

We have been receiving information on small business from the sponsoring agency in our province, Enterprise Newfoundland. We released in 1992 a report which documents the data that has received from this program. Enterprise Newfoundland is in the process of transferring the responsibility for this program to us. We will be responsible for the technical aspects of this program while they will continue to pay for the program.

We produced a report on interprovincial trade of goods based on the data from the Interprovincial Trade Project. We are presently examining the interprovincial trade data on services and plan issuing a report based on this data, in the fall.

We have a system in place whereby we are receiving information on people being hired and released at the Hibernia Site. We are getting information on: age, sex, residence, occupation, etc. This information will be an input into population estimates and projections as well as being a source of data on what is happening at the site.

1993 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ACTIVITY REPORT

The Economics, Statistics and Fiscal Analysis Division is now under the Provincial Treasury Department. The Economics, Statistics and Fiscal Analysis Division comprises a staff of five persons: John Palmer (Director), two economists, one statistical assistant and one secretary. The Director of this division is the Statistical Focal Point for Prince Edward Island and is a Member of the National Statistics Council. The division is responsible for federal/fiscal relations, tax policy, economic forecasting, and provincial statistical services. The Division assists the Department in preparing the provincial Budget and supports the Minister and Deputy Minister in federal/provincial Finance discussions.

The division continues to produce a number of statistical publications: *The Annual Statistical Review*, *The Quarterly Statistical Review*, *Prince Edward Island Statistical Summary... at a Glance*, *Financial Reports and Economic Trends*. In 1992 the Division produced three trend papers: *A First Look at the 1991 Census Results*, *Results from the 1991 Census of Agriculture and Midyear Review, 1992*.

The division assists statistical users both within government and outside and answers over six hundred and fifty statistical inquiries per year.

As the division has only one statistical person we rely heavily on Statistics Canada for the majority of data we require. The provincial departments also provide data, especially for the annual and quarterly reviews. The director has found that Statistics Canada reports, information and data are extremely important to all aspects of the division's work.

The Economics, Statistics and Fiscal Analysis Division continues its objective of reinforcing the importance of Statistics Canada as a valuable source of information and of statistics within the provincial government. The division assisted in and attended several statistical seminars put on by Statistics Canada personnel.

The division continues to try to improve statistical activities within the province and is aided by the extremely good working relationship it has with the Statistics Canada regional office in Halifax and in Ottawa generally.

1993 NOVA SCOTIA ACTIVITY REPORT

The Statistics Branch of the Department of Economic Development is designated as the Nova Scotia Statistics Agency under the *Statistics Act* of 1971. The branch acts as the statistical focal point for dissemination of census and other data to users within the provincial government as well as serving the general public. Inquiry services cover the social, economic, marketing and demographic fields and range from simple requests for current indicators to more complex market profiles.

In early 1992, the previous departments of Industry, Trade and Technology and Small Business were integrated to form the Department of Economic Development. The approved staff complement for the Statistics Branch includes a Director, five professional staff and a secretary. As of May 1993, one senior economist position is vacant and is not expected to be filled until at least the fall of 1993. It is possible that the Department of Tourism will be integrated into the department.

The expanded staff level and new resources for the branch will enable the branch to expand its activities, including data bases on companies and economic indicators, additional surveys and new publications. There will be more promotion of available services to all types of statistical users in the province. It is expected that many of these changes will continue throughout 1993-94.

The previous small staff complement limited the extent of survey work undertaken, however, data collection was done annually for a survey of commercial space, three times a year for a construction activity report and bi-annually for a directory of manufacturers. No provincial accounts are prepared by the provincial government but another branch of the department prepares input-output tables every four years. While no formal review of the provincial economy is published, analysis is provided for government on many aspects of the economy. The preparation of population, household and family projections is contracted out after each Census. An update of that work is likely to be done after September 1993.

A series of Census releases informs users of services and data availability in that important area while publications generally promote the range of statistical information covering other sectors. Inquiries from any user of statistical information are welcomed. Analysis of data is generally confined to the government and business sectors. Extensive assistance has been provided in the demographic field to clients such as the Senior Citizens Secretariat and the United Way. Market area analysis and commodity and industry information is provided for the industrial development and promotions sections of the department as well as the general business community.

1993 NEW BRUNSWICK ACTIVITY REPORT

In addition to its statistical responsibilities, the New Brunswick Statistics Agency has a broad economic analysis mandate which includes monitoring economic trends in the province and preparing economic forecast useds for budget planning. The Agency's major report, *The New Brunswick Economy*, is tabled in the Legislative Assembly with the Budget.

In the 1992-93 fiscal year, we continued to disseminate within the Government our three statistical bulletins (one monthly and two quarterly). We originated two new ones: *Quarterly Demographic Statistics*, a review of the quarterly post-censal population estimates of Statistics Canada, and *New Briefs on Statistics and Analysis*, a quarterly newsletter for statistics users within our government. Both have been well received. In addition, we resumed our post-census practice of issuing notices of major Census data releases by Statistics Canada. There were 8 such releases in 1992-93, plus one analytical/descriptive piece. Two more releases have been prepared to-date in 1993-94.

We continue to make use of the New Brunswick Input-Output Table and the Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M) in our analytical work. This work would be severely constrained should the 1990 I/O Tables not contain a complete trade component.

The SPSD/M was used for further analysis of alternative tax strategies and their impacts on families and households in New Brunswick. We have purchased Version 5 with the intention to extend its application to other policy issues in coming months.

The number of information requests handled by agency staff in 1992-93 was up 8% from the previous year. About three-quarters of these originate from within the Government of New Brunswick. Included in these are requests for population profiles and projections for provincial administration regions. To meet one of the unfilled data needs among our user community we contracted with Statistics Canada to produce 1990 estimates of retail trade by county and urban area.

1993 QUEBEC ACTIVITY REPORT

Regular Programming Highlights

In 1992-93 the Bureau completed the third year of its **three-year action plan**. In spite of budget and administrative difficulties, most of the objectives defined at the outset were reached. As forecast, some products were withdrawn (e.g. statistics on fishing, employment and earnings). Regular programming was expanded by the addition of a number of new products (e.g. social indicators, monthly and quarterly statistics on real domestic product by industry, and inventory of data sets). Some activities were re-directed to meet new needs or adjust Bureau production to new situations (e.g. statistics on manufacturers, release of statistics on the agri-food industry).

The **activities operating through the Fonds du BSQ** increased somewhat in 1992-93, raising revenue approximately 31% over the 1991-92 figures. At the close of fiscal 1992-93, billings stood at \$1,488,000. Revenue breakdown by type of service is shown in the following table.

Type of service	Revenue - Fonds du BSQ		Increase %
	1991-92	1992-93	
	\$'000		
Surveys	535.0	610.4	14.1
Data sales/special compilations	337.0	438.7	30.2
Methodological/statistical consultation	73.0	277.7	280.4
Economic impact studies	140.0	118.9	(15.1)
Publications	50.0	42.0	(16.0)
TOTAL	1,135.0	1,487.7	31.1

Revenue breakdown by client category is given below.

Client category	Revenue - Fonds du BSQ				Increase
	1991-92		1992-93		
	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	%
Departments and organizations whose budgets are voted by the National Assembly	713.4	62.9	1,035.2	69.6	45.1
Other	421.6	37.1	452.5	30.4	7.3
Total	1,135.0	100.0	1,487.7	100.0	31.1

Internal Management

As forecasted, in 1992-93 the Bureau completed preparation of an **information systems master plan** which will contribute to the attainment of Bureau objectives and enable the Bureau to optimize the profitability and usefulness of its investments in data processing over the next three years.

The Bureau's **management information system**, initiated in the fall of 1991, developed significantly in 1992-93 with the introduction of an employee database (e.g. position held, employment group, date of assignment, date of termination); a new method of accounting for employee time devoted to projects; a database that records a range of qualitative and quantitative data on projects; and computerized production of a variety of management reports and lists. The projects planned for 1993-94 will enable the Bureau, through consolidation of a number of existing systems, to better monitor project progress and costs, more accurately assess project profitability, and comply more closely with the requirements of Treasury Board and the Auditor General.

In the spirit of the corporate values adopted in 1990-91, the Bureau defined **two major objectives for 1992-93** to act as guidelines. The primary objective addresses the Bureau's commitment to quality: it entails rallying Bureau staff and making them individually responsible for identifying areas that need improvement, and involving them in devising mechanisms for recognizing client needs and improving the Bureau's procedures, products and services. The secondary objective targets improved effectiveness and efficiency: it aims to give the Bureau more room to manoeuvre by reevaluating some projects, questioning ways of doing things, improving resource management, and defining new projects and activities.

To ensure that the Bureau develops in a way that adequately prepares it for the **statistical requirements of the year 2000**, considerable time and effort have been devoted to a study of the outlook for the future, and to identifying obstacles to progress, strengths and weaknesses, and solutions to potential problems. The outcome of the study will be a second three-year plan.

Statistics on the Bio-food Sector

Following consultation with agri-food statistics clients, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review of its agri-food statistics release strategy. Approximately 35 publications were consolidated into one quarterly and one annual publication, focusing mainly on North American free trade. To meet the needs of specific clients, the Bureau opted to develop custom products. Preliminary analysis of an internal database should facilitate data processing and meet specific needs. One innovation in this area: dissemination by facsimile of some parts of the quarterly publication and, bimonthly in season, of the most recent data on crop conditions.

An agreement was reached between the BSQ, the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec for the 1993-94 joint production of a publication on the bio-food industry.

The Bureau and Statistics Canada agreed that, henceforth, the monthly survey of farm product prices will be handled exclusively by the federal statistical agency.

Manufacturing Statistics

The reorganization of the operating system is nearing completion. Following implementation of an agreement with Statistics Canada, the Bureau's efforts to improve the common business survey universe focused on upgrading the Statistics Canada file using Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail data based on firm openings and closures.

The 6-month delay in receiving the 1990 data set back the release dates of all sector publications. The waiting period was used to develop regional statistics.

In 1993-94, the entire program for releasing data will be reviewed. There is a plan to replace low-volume publications with unofficial reports. A summary of the principal statistics observed will replace the publication of establishment size and legal entity type. Diskettes are also planned. The Bureau will also analyze the feasibility of offering a manufacturers' database.

Tertiary Sector Statistics

In addition to pursuing regular activities on hotel occupancy rates the Bureau introduced a new program on campground occupancy rates by tourist area at the request of the ministère du Tourisme.

The Bureau is beginning a service industry program. Specifications are complete, sources of funding have been found, and the study will begin soon.

In co-operation with the ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie a study of the aerospace industry was completed as part of a pilot project on industry clusters.

Cultural Statistics

The monthly survey of cinemas and drive-ins proceeded as usual. However, the annual publication was withdrawn and replaced by a summary of the film industry and independent audiovisual production. A number of organizations are participating in the project: the Régie du cinéma, the Institut québécois du cinéma, the ministère de la Culture, the Société générale des industries culturelles and the Cinémathèque québécoise. A work plan has been drawn up and a publication is in preparation.

The 1992-93 edition of the publication on cultural activity indicators was finalized.

In 1992-93 the Bureau broke new ground by regionalizing Quebec government data on government expenditure on culture.

A meeting of the Groupe de travail interministériel de la statistique de la culture et des communications confirmed the need for a compendium on each facet of culture. The task force decided to give top priority to sound recording (e.g. record industry, audiocassette industry) and theatre arts.

A conceptual framework for cultural statistics is currently being developed; it should be completed sometime in 1993-94. The Bureau is working with Statistics Canada to ensure data compatibility.

Science and Technology Statistics

The second edition of the inventory of firms engaging in research and development is in preparation and should be published in June 1993. The publication *Statistiques sur la recherche et le développement industriels au Québec* (1990 edition) and the multi-year review containing revised 1979 to 1988 data have been consolidated.

The survey on skilled and highly skilled labour force requirements, undertaken in 1991-92 at the request of the ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Science was suspended at the request of the client until the economic situation becomes more favourable to this type of survey.

The Bureau signed a three-year contract with the ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Science which makes the Bureau responsible for the survey of the Quebec government's science and technology activities. A databank on the sector is currently in preparation.

Investment Statistics

Joint Bureau/Statistics Canada surveys on investment in the public sector in Quebec proceeded as usual. The publication *Investissements privés et publics au Québec - Intentions révisées 1992* was released in January 1993.

A study on Statistics Canada's survey methodology is forecast for 1993-94. Its aim is to assess the quality that agency's data on private sector investment, the accuracy of, and possible improvements to, regional data. The data for Quebec may need to be improved; if so, representations to this effect will be made to Statistics Canada.

Private Sector Financial Statistics

The Bureau produces its annual and quarterly publications on this sector. Revisions to the methodology progressed: adjustments were made to reflect the current major restructuring in the sector (e.g. trust companies), and the many changes in primary sources of information. A time series, updated quarterly, is now available on request.

Before proceeding with a feasibility study on adding insurance companies to its statistics on deposit institutions, the Bureau is awaiting clear indications from the insurance industry on their interest in the project. At the same time, exploratory action regarding investment funds is in progress.

Public Sector Financial Statistics

The Bureau's first annual publication of consolidated financial data for the Quebec public sector was released. Pursuant to the results of consultation with the principal users of these statistics, an agreement may be signed with Statistics Canada to upgrade the quality of the data for Canada and produce statistics that can be used for interprovincial comparison. In the meantime, a second consolidated publication is forecast for the summer of 1993.

The publication *Univers du secteur public, édition 1992* was released in May 1992.

International Trade

The Bureau continued to produce monthly Quebec international trade data that incorporate corrections and improvements to Statistics Canada data designed to ensure that these data accurately reflect imports to and exports from Quebec. The data were used to respond to ad hoc requests from various clients and to provide specific users with a monthly updated database. The Bureau continued to release these data annually in *Commerce international du Québec*, a publication giving an overview of Quebec international trade for the two preceding years. The 1992 edition was released in July 1992.

The Bureau finalized the international trade database operating system, which facilitates the production of data in various forms and supports file transmission to Bureau partners. Because of the Bureau's concern for optimizing system operation, regular improvements have been made to incorporate new functions. Over the past few months, the Bureau has documented the methodologies and procedures that support the production of international trade data.

During 1992-93, the Bureau closely monitored changes at Statistics Canada in the production of interprovincial trade estimates. Preliminary data were analyzed and comments were made. The Bureau will pursue its analysis in this area as soon as Statistics Canada data become available.

A method was developed for estimating price and volume indices for international trade data. The Bureau is currently working on the indices for 1981 to 1991.

Revenue and Expenditure Economic Accounts

In August 1992 the Bureau published the 1992 edition of *Comptes économiques des revenus et des dépenses*. Quarterly data for the publication of quarterly economic accounts were produced and updated. The Bureau produced a special report for the ministère des Finances du Québec.

The Bureau continued to provide Statistics Canada quarterly data on provincial government revenue and expenditure based on the economic accounts. As forecasted, 1989-90 and 1990-91 data were reconciled by the Bureau and Statistics Canada.

The Bureau began developing monthly and quarterly data on real domestic product by industry, which entailed becoming familiar with existing data sources and production methods and determining

the methodologies to be used. The initial results of the project will be available in 1993-94.

Parallel to the production of the quarterly *Statistiques*, the Bureau developed a prototype of a new publication, totally re-designed to better meet client needs.

Various methodologies related to the economic accounts program were documented. This project, which aims to facilitate exchanges of information and tasks among members of the task force and to ensure system security, will continue in 1993-94.

INTERSECTORIEL Model

In 1992-93 the Bureau produced 253 simulations using the INTERSECTORIEL model, approximately the same number as in 1991-92. Users with direct access to the model accounted for 162 simulations, down significantly from 1991-92 (491). A drop in the number simulations requested by the ministère des Finances, from 315 to 20 accounts for most of the decline. Many of the 315 simulations from the previous year were related to the establishment of TVQ.

The Bureau continued to update model parameters. The coefficients for labour and for direct, indirect and incidental taxation were updated. In particular, in 1992-93 the Bureau updated expenditure structures for the manufacturing sector.

During 1992-93 the Bureau, in its concern for further promoting client interest in the INTERSECTORIEL model as well as adapting to user needs and providing quality products, studied and analyzed existing economic impact studies. User friendly documentation designed to clarify model operation, describe potential uses, and train users in optimum model use, is currently being drafted.

Socio-demographic Statistics

In 1992 the Bureau produced its first publication on social indicators. A monograph on the socio-demographic differences between men and women is in progress and should be available in the summer of 1993.

The monthly labour force publication was withdrawn in December 1992. The Bureau's decision, made in the context of an overall effort to rationalize publications and publication methods, was reached following consultation with clients and leaders in the field.

Near the close of the 1992-93 financial year, the approaches made by the Bureau to the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec and

the Commission d'accès à l'information with the aim of gaining BSQ access to the Fichier d'inscription des bénéficiaires de la RAMQ made significant progress. The specifications giving the Bureau access to selected demographic data excerpted from the beneficiary registration file - data which will enable the Bureau to produce better population estimates - are currently being developed.

The Bureau continued its program of consultation on the Census with the Quebec government.

Coordination with the Registre de l'état civil is progressing as usual. An agreement was reached with the director of this organization regarding the forms for registering births and marriages; a second agreement relating to the form for registering deaths is planned.

Work on the official population forecasts has been delayed; a preliminary version of the multi-region forecast has been produced. The annual publication on the current demographic situation will be published in June.

In 1992-93, a great deal of effort was devoted to a study of corrections to population estimates. Many meetings were held with Statistics Canada officials on the topic of improving the methods used.

Regional Statistics and Territorial Standardization

With the Secrétariat aux affaires régionales and the Secrétariat à l'aménagement et au développement régional et environnemental, the Bureau served on a task force to study current and future needs of various groups for regional data. Working from a general statement of requirements, the Bureau also consulted selected departments, organizations, institutions and users. In light of the results of these consultations, a number of products may be introduced in 1993-94.

The regionalized data system, expected to be introduced during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 financial years, should meet the basic needs of the principal users and be sufficiently flexible to enable them to meet their specific obligations (e.g. development of policies and programs, production of regional development plans).

The Bureau continued to manage, update, promote and disseminate the geographic code, and to give users the assistance in adopting the new revised code. New methods to allow direct user access (in read only mode) to the geographic code file in return for cost recovery were introduced. Seven departments have subscribed to the service.

Near the end of 1993-94 and at the beginning of the subsequent financial year, the Bureau intends to update and expand the file that matches postal codes to the Quebec geographic code, and to develop a by-product for the specific needs of Quebec government users.

In 1992-93 the Bureau continued a project, begun two years earlier, that uses computer-assisted thematic cartography to illustrate various socio-economic phenomena. Following the acquisition and testing of selected hardware and software (ATLAS.GRAPHICS), the Bureau purchased a system (MAP.INFO) with the capacity to integrate data files. Selected employees attended a number of training sessions on these systems. The Bureau keeps up-to-date on developments in the sector and closely monitors progress of the government geomatics plan.

User Services

The Bureau, through its Centre d'information et de documentation (CID), continued to offer clients general statistical information on Quebec. In 1992-93, CID information officers responded to close to 6,250 requests for statistical information.

A new client file, designed for the Bureau as a whole, was developed, tested and introduced. This new management tool gives the Bureau a more accurate client profile and additional information on the nature of client requests. The CID also continued to provide comprehensive documentation services to the Bureau's administrative units and introduced a new integrated library management program.

The Bureau continued, and completed in 1992-93, the inventory of statistical data sets within the government. Allowing for a few minor adjustments, the operating system for the computerized inventory is now installed and should be ready for use by June 1993. The system will allow for inventory data searches based on a number of parameters (e.g. data set, variable, geographical level, domain, collection type). The index should be available in publication form during the summer of 1993. During the 1993-94 financial year, the Bureau intends to continue the inventory of Quebec government statistical activities and related resources, a project that had been suspended during the preceding year.

In the area of general summary publications, the Bureau examined the timeliness of publishing a new edition of *Québec statistique*. Considering that there is no other publication of this type in Quebec, that demand is constant, and that this general statistical publication has been a key factor since the Bureau was established, it was agreed that the 60th edition would be published. A number of content and production method scenarios

were suggested. To ensure that production of the publication can begin in the fall of 1993, the necessary decisions will be made in June 1993.

Finally, the French-language version of the 1992-93 edition of the brochure *Quebec by Numbers* was published.

Environmental Statistics

In 1992-93, the Bureau was unable to complete the forecasted definition of the spatial frame and organization structure for environmental data; nor was it able to set all the parameters for the related compendium of data. The Bureau's contacts at the ministère de l'environnement have been preparing the second environmental report and unable to work on defining the project's direction. By this fall, they should be able to work with the Bureau on this item. In 1993-94, the Bureau intends to produce a compendium of data on human activity and the environment using the Population-Environment Process (PEP) framework approach, based on the Statistics Canada Environmental Information System and existing environmental data from Quebec departments.

Surveys

In addition to the surveys conducted each year as part of its regular programming, the Bureau conducted a number of other surveys in 1992-93 in response to specific needs of departments and organizations that contributed to, or assumed the full cost of, survey funding. These projects, some of which are recurrent, are:

- ministère du Tourisme: monthly survey of hotel occupancy rates, and survey of campground occupancy rates;
- Régie du cinéma: monthly survey of cinemas and drive-ins;
- ministère des Finances: survey of savings bond sales;
- Conseil permanent de la jeunesse: survey of young people's degree of satisfaction with college education and opinion of the future of the college system;
- ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources: survey of data processing at this department;
- ministère des Finances, ministère de la Main-d'oeuvre, de la Sécurité du revenu et de la Formation professionnelle, ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Science, ministère de l'Éducation: business survey on use of the refundable tax credit for skills development;

- CEFRIO, Office de la langue française, Conseil de la langue française, Secrétariat à la politique linguistique: survey of word processing language use in Quebec firms (hardware, software, user training, purchase practices);
- ministère de la Santé et des Services: survey of senior administrators in the health and social services network with a view to establishing education and experience profiles;
- ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie: survey of the perception of R & D tax incentives by firms working in the manufacturing and service sectors.

The computerization of data collection operations continued, specifically in the areas of operation and development of computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) applications.

Quality control measures were systematically applied in collection and audit operations, and the user manuals for all survey and population register activities were revised.

The Bureau analyzed its data capture operations with the aim of increasing productivity, lowering service costs and complying with the new master plan.

Methodology

In 1992-93, in addition to providing methodology support for the Bureau's various survey projects, our experts continued to respond to numerous requests for methodological tools from various departments and organizations. The Bureau's main clients were:

- ministère de la Santé et des Services: survey of senior administrators in the health and social services network with a view to establishing education and experience profiles;
- Santé Québec: survey and statistical data analysis methodology for the general social survey and the health survey, the survey on the health of the Cree population, the survey on the health of the Inuit population, and the survey on cardiovascular health (nutrition aspect);
- ministère des Forêts: statistical data analysis for Department research projects;
- CEFRIO: methodology for the survey on the computerization of firms in all spheres of activity in Quebec;

- CEFRIO, Office de la langue française, Conseil de la langue française, Secrétariat à la politique linguistique: sampling frame and estimates for the survey on word processing language use in Quebec firms (hardware, software, user training, purchase practices);
 - CEFRIO: survey of Quebec households on the use of microcomputers;
- ministère des Finances: estimate of savings bond sales on each day of issue;
- Conseil permanent de la jeunesse: sampling frame and estimates for the survey of young people's degree of satisfaction with college education and opinion of the future of the college system;
- ministère des Finances, ministère de la Main-d'oeuvre, de la Sécurité du Revenu et de la Formation professionnelle, ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Science, ministère de l'Éducation: sampling frame and estimates for the business survey on use of the refundable tax credit for skills development;
- ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie: sampling frame and estimates for the survey of the perception of R & D tax incentives by firms in the manufacturing and service sectors;
- ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources: sampling frame and estimates for the survey of the employees of the ministère de l'énergie et des Ressources to measure their knowledge of and satisfaction with the services provided by the Information Resources Branch;
- Treasury Board Secretariat: review of the methodology underlying the establishment of travel costs for Quebec government employees and allowances for 1992-93;
- Office des ressources humaines: construction of a model for forecasting numbers of senior management personnel in the Quebec Public Service for the next few years;
- Vérificateur général: construction of a time series model for forecasting the total amount of the pensions paid out of the Régime de retraite des employés du Gouvernement et des organismes publics (RREGOP) compared to preceding years.

A study was conducted on the problems and directions related to the sampling frame used by the BSQ in the business survey. The 1993-94 master plan will include preliminary analysis of frame computerization. The Bureau evaluated the potential of Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST) files for updating the Statistics Canada CFDB file. An agreement was reached with Statistics Canada, under the terms of which information extracted from the CSST file on openings, closures and changes of address of businesses or establishments can be used to update the CFDB file.

In May 1992, and May 1993, the Bureau organized «Méthodes et applications de la statistique», a seminar that was part of the annual meeting of the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement de la science. In the spring of 1993 a round table on the theme «Les besoins statistiques de l'État et la protection des renseignements personnels» rounded out the program.

Data Processing

The major 1992-93 event in this area was the finalization and submission to the Treasury Board Secretariat and the ministère des Communications of a master plan for information management systems, developed during the preceding financial year. The plan defines the Bureau's technological directions and establishes an action plan that lists various developments and revisions of computer applications in order of priority for the next three years. In 1993-94 the Bureau plans to hire a firm to develop a distributed data processing architecture, a standard operating environment and remote management.

The activities related to technical support of the micro-computer network, the minicomputer and the mainframe proceeded as forecast.

With some delay due to a resource shortfall, the Bureau continued to draft data processing standards and procedures, with priority given to standards for new technology.

General Publications

As a result of the rationalization of the Bureau's publications program, the number of published titles fell sharply in 1992-93. During the year, the Bureau produced 73 publications at different but regular intervals (compared to 106 in 1991-92): 13 marketed by Les Publications du Québec, 48 offered for sale by the Fonds du BSQ, and 12 available free of charge. It also produced 36 questionnaires and 90 miscellaneous documents.

For the third consecutive year, the Bureau published a catalogue of its publications.

The Bureau continued the discussions with Les Publications du Québec (begun during the preceding financial year) on marketing its publications. It intends to enter into a business partnership with Les Publications du Québec with the aim of upgrading the quality of customer service and sharing the financial risk of the sale of its publications.

Administration

In 1992-93 the Bureau installed a new word processing system (WordPerfect) for its secretarial staff.

It continued to maximize human resources development. In 1992-93, 322 person/days were devoted to formal skill refinement activities.

During the 1993-94 fiscal year, the Bureau must move from its current location. The decision on new premises will be made in the summer of 1993. Over the next few months, the Bureau will complete the accommodation plan for its new premises. By moving into premises already controlled by the government and terminating the existing lease, the Bureau will save the government approximately \$800,000 annually.

Near the close of the 1992-93 financial year, the Bureau began taking steps leading to the adoption, in 1993-94, of a new records management schedule, in accordance with the Archives Act, for the retention of documents. In 1993-94 the Bureau will develop and implement a uniform classification plan.

Communications

In 1992-93, the Bureau continued to emphasize media relations. The Bureau issued 149 press releases and continued to produce a press review and an editorial review for Bureau personnel.

To publicize its programs, products and services, the Bureau took part in a number of exhibitions, meetings and other events: the Business World Exhibition (Montreal in the fall of 1992 and Quebec City in January 1993), the Salon des médias et des communications (Quebec City in December 1992), the annual meeting of the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement de la science (ACFAS) (Montreal in May 1992 and Rimouski in May 1993). At the September 1992 Conférence nationale des conseils de la culture du Québec, a Bureau representative described the BSQ cultural statistics program; and, in March 1993, the conceptual framework of BSQ cultural statistics was the subject of a seminar at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières.

Secretariat

In 1992-93, the Bureau Secretariat, in addition to continuing to provide services to management committees and the directors, provided the administrative support necessary to establish the Bureau's new information management system; it will continue to do so in 1993-94.

The Bureau followed the progress of two draft intergovernmental agreements signed by the BSQ and Statistics Canada regarding statistics on the manufacturing and service sectors, and continued to respond to requests for legal opinions and requests regarding the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*.

1993 ONTARIO ACTIVITY REPORT

Reorganization

In the fall of 1992, the Statistics Unit was downsized and transferred to a different branch within the Office of Economic Policy. As part of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch, staff now work more closely with the demographics and national income units of the ministry. As the provincial focal point, our role and responsibilities remain unchanged, as does our basic reporting relationship (i.e. to the same ADM and Deputy). We remain responsible for liaison between Ontario government ministries and Statistics Canada for data dissemination and for ensuring the confidentiality of information that is shared with us.

However, some activities are being modified to achieve greater efficiency and customer service. Some changes worth noting are:

- the SHARC database (Statistics to Help Analyze Regions and Communities) has been wound down;
- the Ministry's library is now assisting us in the distribution of information from Statistics Canada's publications to Ontario government ministries;
- we are moving away from main frame computer processing and putting greater emphasis on the use of personal computers and CD-ROM technology.

In February 1993, the Premier of Ontario announced a major reorganization of the Ontario government. Among other changes, the Ministry of Treasury and Economics was merged with the Ministries of Revenue and Financial Institutions to become the Ministry of Finance. This further change does not affect us directly; the focal point continues to locate in the Office of Economic Policy, but within this new Ministry of Finance.

Census Issues

Census Communique - We produced and distributed to Ontario ministries three editions of a newsletter called *Census Communique*. The aim of these publications was to highlight some of the 1991 Census findings for Ontario and to alert ministries regarding data availability. The first edition was disseminated in the spring of 1992 and looked at final populations counts; the second in the summer of 1992 reported on age, marital status, households and dwellings; and the third, in March 1993, examined labour force activity, occupation and industry data.

BST Consortium - We were instrumental in establishing a consortium comprising 16 ministries and nine municipal partners to purchase **basic summary cross tabulations** from the 1991 Census.

We have to date received approximately 25 tables from the 2A module. These were incorporated into a custom designed PC-based CD-ROM system developed by Jerry Stinson, Marketing Division, on contract with us. We are very satisfied with this format, and hope the 2B data will be provided in the same way.

POW Consortium - Our office arranged for a consortium of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and 22 municipalities to purchase 1991 **Place of Residence/Place of Work** data for traffic zones and census tracts at a cost of \$933,000. Approximately 28 special tabulations, which will be linked to census variables, are being developed under the terms of this contract with Statistics Canada. It was necessary for Ontario to initiate this project in view of the fact that Statistics Canada does not generate **Place of Work** data as part of standard processing for any geostatistical level below the CSD.

Content of the 1996 Census - We coordinated a meeting between major ministry users of census data and Pamela White in regard to content planning for the 1996 Census. On the basis of comments subsequently forwarded to our office, an Ontario brief identifying users' concerns and recommendations was developed and submitted to the 1996 Census Content Determination Project.

Post-Censal Surveys

HALS Consortium - As required under contract terms for the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey, consultations with ministries are continuing in regard to the design of output cross tabulations. There is strong support from data users to repeat this survey in 1996.

Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) - The importance of aboriginal statistics to a core group of Ontario ministries require that we closely monitor developments in this area and keep them informed. There is interest in the Working Group on Aboriginal Statistics and we hope that flowing from the work of this group will be better coverage of the aboriginal population in 1996 and a climate more conducive to improved response rates for a 1996 APS.

Consultation

Much staff time has been devoted to consultation with ministries in connection with a wide range of data related issues. These data users vary in their level of sophistication; accordingly, the services we provide range from the relatively simple to relatively more involved. For example, one user may pose the question "where would I find data on average annual wage rates for plant employees in the bakery industry?"; another may wish to ascertain the differences in coverage and structure between the

Labour Force Survey and the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours. During the past six months, we have entertained and responded to approximately 500 such telephone and written enquiries for statistical information.

Other

Interprovincial Trade Database/Provincial Input-Output Table - We are pleased with the decision to continue work in both of these areas. The flow of information from these projects is critical to trade analysis and development of the provincial economic accounts by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and the Ministry of Finance, respectively. Our funding contribution of \$100,000 in 1991-92 for the start-up of the interprovincial trade statistics project is indicative of this project's importance to us. To ensure support for the continuation of these activities in future years, we have also pledged an appropriate contribution for 1993-94.

Immigrant Mobility Database Consortium - A consortium of data users within the Ontario government was organized in order to share the cost of purchasing tabulations on Immigrant Mobility and Earnings. The consortium is buying into a set of 28 tabulations being produced by Statistics Canada for Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC). We understand that a number of provincial governments and EIC regional offices have agreed to financially support this project.

1993 MANITOBA ACTIVITY REPORT

No report submitted.

1993 SASKATCHEWAN ACTIVITY REPORT

The Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics operates under the *Saskatchewan Statistics Act 1972* and is located within the Department of Finance. The Bureau is the designated focal point for communications with and dissemination of Statistics Canada information. The current staff complement consists of a director, two research officers, a statistics clerk and a secretary.

Our corporate memory recently suffered a severe set-back with the departure of three employees within a five-month period. Two employees received promotions and one received the ultimate promotion to retirement.

Nevertheless, the Bureau carries on and continues to release the *Monthly Statistical Review* and the annual *Saskatchewan Economic Review*. Both publications are a compendium of the most asked-for Saskatchewan monthly, quarterly and annual data.

With the release of 1991 Census data and geography sets, the Bureau has taken on a new role in providing assistance to those interested in geography-specific data. To this end all current constituency boundaries have been drawn in machine readable form overlaying the map of Saskatchewan and linked to a number of census parameters. This exercise was undertaken in anticipation of constituency restructuring which may get underway in the near future. The major cities in Saskatchewan have enquired about using this system to restructure their ward boundaries under the terms set out in legislation.

We would like to thank those in Statistics Canada who have lent their assistance to us over the past year. For the most part we find that the telephone answering machines used by Statistics Canada, while annoying, do work. However, there is still those who use the machines as a way of avoiding service.

When major data series are released we are, on occasion, consulted regarding the data or at least informed as to the content and release date. However, over the past year there have been some instances where data have been released without prior warning and in general to the surprise of the focal points. Actions such as these tend to remove our credibility and impact negatively on the credibility of the entire statistical system.

1993 ALBERTA ACTIVITY REPORT

Highlights 1992-1993

New developments and activities in 1992-1993 included:

- Designed and conducted an Alberta Wage and Salary Survey on behalf of a consortium of public and private sector sponsors. Data gathered from this survey will be available in late June 1993.
- Based on U.I. claimant data, developed a methodology to produce sub-provincial small area unemployment estimates for 35 Alberta communities.
- On behalf of Alberta Economic Development and Tourism, designed and conducted a survey to collect computer export service information to assist the public and private sectors in effectively targeting and exploiting export markets.
- Developed preliminary working estimates for oil, gas and coal natural resource accounts. Worked with other departments to incorporate forestry and land-use accounts into the natural resource accounts.
- Worked with the "Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy", to compile a list of environmental indicators that will be developed to help monitor sustainable development in Alberta.
- Prepared statistical profiles for Alberta Provincial Electoral Divisions based on the 2A data from the 1991 Census.
- Used Bureau developed geographic information system and population counts (1991 Census), to help redraft the Provincial Electoral Division boundaries.
- In partnership with another government department, contracted with Statistics Canada to develop community level retail trade statistics to assist both the public and private sectors in policy and planning decisions.
- In preparation for the 1993 Spatial Price Survey, initiated research into incorporating environmental adjustment factor and the qualitative aspects of housing.
- Based on Health Care registration data, developed a methodology to tract intra-provincial migration.
- Developed 30-year Population Projections for Alberta.
- Completed development of a revised Alberta Business Register incorporating a cost effective scheduled maintenance system.
- Developed new methods and supported existing models to translate data into custom geographic areas as specified by clients, i.e. data from the 1991 Census can be summarized for any administrative or planning area in the province (e.g. Provincial Electoral Divisions, Health Units).

Selected Products and Services

- Published the quarterly *Alberta Statistical Review*, *Alberta Facts '92*, *Alberta Economic Accounts* and *Alberta Population estimates*.
- Released a series of Probes which provided timely and concise information and/or analysis on a specific topic. Topics included Census release highlights and quarterly population growth updates.
- Continued to provide client access to statistical data/products electronically (e.g. ASIST), and responded to inquiries from government and private sector clients. Continued to provide ASIST training to new users.
- Provided methodological consultation for a number of projects on research and questionnaire design, sampling and data analysis.
- Advised clients on data availability, sources, limitations, costs and quality, and coordinated cost sharing of data purchases, including 1991 Census data.
- Continued to provide government clients with geographical services (e.g. custom data retrieval by any geo-administrative area; translation of Census data into user defined areas; listing of postal codes by geo-administrative areas).

1993 BRITISH COLUMBIA ACTIVITY REPORT

Central Statistics Branch (BC Stats)

The focal point in British Columbia has changed names once again, but our functions remain the same. This is merely the latest change in a long history. The present day BC STATS, a nickname for the Central Statistics Branch, evolved from the statistics component of the 1937 Bureau of Economics and Statistics. The bureau later became known as the Central Statistics Bureau. Though most of its history was a semi-autonomous agency of the Ministry of Economic Development.

In July 1988 the bureau was placed under the Ministry of Government Management Services. Then in November of the same year it was attached to the Ministry of Finance as one of the two branches in the former Planning and Statistics Division. Early in 1992 this division was dissolved and its branches, Central Statistics (BC STATS) and Quantitative Analysis, separately joined the Economics and Revenue Policy Division of the Treasury Board Secretariat. The Secretariat has responsibility for both short term budgetary control and long term economic planning.

Evaluation and Rebasings of the Small Area Population Estimation Model to the 1991 Census

Each year the Population Section prepares annual estimates of the population of various regions within British Columbia. These estimates are used as a basis for the allocation of approximately \$200 million in transfers from the provincial to local governments. With the release of the 1991 Census, the accuracy of the small area estimation methodology was evaluated against the 1991 Census. The preliminary results indicated that, on average, the accuracy of the 1991 estimates was similar to that observed in past evaluations in 1986 and 1981. Hence, the small area estimation methodology is producing consistent results.

In addition to the 1991 evaluation, the small area estimation model was rebased to the 1991 Census population counts. As part of this exercise, considerable analysis was undertaken regarding the effects of changes to the universality of the family allowance program. (The family allowance data file was an integral component of the small area estimation program.) The results indicated that the loss of family allowance information will result in a significant reduction in average estimation accuracy.

A Study of the Sustainability of Existing Levels of Social Service Spending Given an Aging Population

This was one of two reports prepared for the British Columbia Round Table on the Economy and the Environment. It examined the ability of the British Columbia economy to sustain existing levels of social service and other program spending given the likely demographic and non demographic changes that may occur over the next twenty-five years.

The results indicate that, over the next quarter century, revenue growth at the provincial and local government levels will likely not keep pace with expenditure growth, and it will not be possible to sustain existing levels of social service spending given current levels of taxation.

The cause of this situation, however, is only partially due to an aging population. Perhaps the most significant factor affecting the sustainability of current levels of social service spending is the lack of growth in government revenues. Government revenues will fail to keep pace with growth in the overall economy, unlike the situation experienced over the past twenty-five years. In addition, growth in per capita income is predicted to be below that of the past three decades. In short, at a time when there is pressure for increased per capita expenditures on social programs due in part of an aging population, growth in income, and hence affordability, will decline.

A Study of the Economic Impacts of Population Change

This was the second of two reports prepared for the British Columbia Round Table on the Economy and the Environment. It examined the economic implications of two aspects of population change in British Columbia; population growth and population aging. Five issues relating to population change and the economy were raised. These were:

- Is population growth needed for economic well-being?
- Can we afford an aging population?
- Is retirement feasible as an industry in British Columbia?
- Can we control population change?
- Regional implications of population growth.

Based on research carried out at the national level there is very little evidence to suggest that population growth is a major factor in determining economic well-being in an open economy. It is not so much population size that influences per capita output, but rather how that resource is utilized, or, in effect the productivity of the population.

On the question of the economic benefits of promoting retirement as an industry in British Columbia, previous research has indicated the costs, primarily resulting from additional health care expenditures, exceed the benefits gained through increased consumption, investment and tax revenues. Hence, from a provincial financial perspective, promoting retirement in British Columbia is not advisable as a policy.

On the question of whether we can control population change the simple answer is not effective. We cannot prevent population aging and we have very little control over the factors that contribute to population growth at the provincial level. It was concluded that the best option may be to understand what demographic changes are likely to occur and prepare for the possible consequences of those changes.

Finally, population changes in British Columbia will not occur equally in all regions. Some regions within the province will gain population and grow older and some will not. As a result, the economic costs and benefits of population change will vary from region to region. Hence, the questions examined by the paper and the answers given to those questions are very much regionally determined.

Joint Immigration Mobility and Earnings Project with EIC

The Population Section is coordinating, on behalf of the provincial government, the acquisition of data from Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC) on the employment, earnings and interprovincial mobility of immigrants to Canada. Once obtained the data will be used to evaluate existing immigration policy as well as plan for future policy development.

Updated Provincial and Regional Population Projections

The Population Section has recently completed new provincial and regional population projections. The most important feature of these new projections is that the base year has been updated to our 1992 provincial and regional population estimates based on the 1991 Census population counts. Once work has been completed on incorporating net census undercount into the provincial and regional population estimates, the projection will again be updated. A new publication summarizing the results as well as including a number of informative articles will be published in summer.

Small Area Manufacturing Statistics

The growth of secondary manufacturing remains an important goal in British Columbia's regional development strategy. The sub-provincial manufacturing statistics formerly carried in catalogue 31-209 were very valuable in this light. We were encouraged by

the discussions with George Beelen at the Quebec business statistics meeting, and we look forward to progress in this area in the immediate future.

In the interim, we have augmented the Manufacturers' Directory questionnaire to include the value of shipments. The directory already covers employment, products produced, and exports. We will continue to enhance this survey as a statistical vehicle until a satisfactory alternative is available from Statistics Canada.

Regional Retail Sales Estimates

We are now producing current quarterly retail sales estimates by census division, based on the provincial sales tax. Disaggregation of these estimates by the fifteen trade groups has also been done, but has not been released. Our table formats for this information integrated numbers and bar chart, and also offer per capita calculations. These formats reflect a special effort to make our results as easy to use as possible. Because of the many problems associated with the use of the sales tax file, we are taking a cautious approach to the dissemination of the results.

Tourism Room Revenue Report

This monthly report based on the provincial hotel room tax has been enhanced, particularly through the addition of seasonal adjustment, and tabulations by census division and for the downtown areas of both Victoria and Vancouver. The report is a major adjunct to our Tourism Satellite Accounts project.

Tourism Satellite Account

This year we published estimates of tourism GDP that are meant to be compatible with similar estimates for other industries. The estimates show tourism to be not as significant relative to the goods producing industries as had previously been thought. A plan to increase the number of tourism sectors for which estimates are prepared by using gross business income figures from Industrial Organization and Finance Division has been shelved due to an extremely high cost recovery estimate from that division.

Trade

We have now developed the capacity to produce monthly British Columbia export and British Columbia cleared import time series for particular commodities. These time series run from January 1988 to mid-1992. This capability has enabled us to graph implied "balances" of trade with the U.S. and Mexico for commodities for which cleared imports offer a reasonable estimate

for British Columbia consumed imports. This procedure has proven useful in assessing the past or future impact of the FTA and NAFTA on British Columbia industry and consumers.

In addition, our system for processing international trade data has been enhanced to offer reports on U.S. imports and exports by commodity, country, etc. and to generate reports from the World Trade Database.

Small Business Statistics

The small business statistics database continues to be well received in British Columbia, particularly in our Vancouver office which has the majority of contacts with entrepreneurs. The Vancouver office has arranged the Small Business Profiles for distribution and has sold a significant number of single industry reports as well as compilations for all industries. At the meeting of funding partners in Quebec last month we found that Ontario's participation is questionable. Consequently the entire program is at risk. Despite this, we are currently working to finalize the contract terms, and in particular the difficult issue of a licensing agreement to regulate sales of the database products.

Geography

Updating of our postal code translation file is underway. The file will include newly created CSDs and will account for all boundary changes. We note with regret the dramatic increase in price of the CCF (now \$3000) and we advise that this will significantly reduce our purchases.

EA boundary files have been purchased. At \$6000 this is a significant expense item for us. The files will be used initially in preparing census counts for non-census geographic areas. We have also digitized provincial administrative boundaries for a variety of ministries, and tested these with a sample EA boundary file. These have also been used in a comparison test of our postal code translation file, as well as with 1986 EA centroids.

Quarterly Regional Statistics

A wide range of current business statistics have been compiled in a quarterly release designed for use in regional economic development. This product features data developed in British Columbia from, administrative records, and includes retail sales, hotel room revenues, unemployment estimates and welfare case loads. Most tables are at the Census Division level, but extension to "communities" is expected in the coming year. Another stage in this work is to develop a method for combining

the various indicators into an index of economic activity which will identify communities that require special assistance.

Regional Statistical Profiles

The Labour and Social Statistics section of BC STATS has released statistical profiles for the 30 Census Divisions in the province. These profiles cover various demographic, economic and social variables. New data on Social Assistance Recipient rates by age group, Health indicators and Crime and Education statistics have been compiled using the administrative files from various ministries in the government. Where possible, the profiles will be reproduced for different geographic configurations, such as school and hospital districts. A sample of the profile is available.

Census 91 Fast Facts - Focus on British Columbia

As the census data are released, we put together short releases on British Columbia, and distribute them throughout government. This has proved a good method of letting our interested colleagues know what data is now available as well as to point out interesting trends occurring in British Columbia and the rest of the country.

Windows

We have been using microcomputers for the vast majority of our processing for many years now. While DOS remains the standard operating system, we have moved to the Windows products Excel and Winworld for all new development. These programs are supporting improved table designs with integrated graphics, and they have also allowed some significant gains in timeliness.

1993 YUKON ACTIVITY REPORT

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is the central statistical and research resource for the Government of Yukon. Its role is to support the business of government by providing professional statistical and research services to inform decision making for problem clarity, policy, or program design and implementation.

Our mission is to contribute to quality decision making. This role in turn improves the effectiveness and efficiency of the government service to the public.

Human Resources

Management and administration (approximately 2 full-time staff)

- Provides management to the YBS as well as offering the organization a well informed perspective on management and organizational research.

Customer Support (approximately 2 full-time staff)

- Provides services which include: access to statistical and research information, advice on the meaning and use of statistical information, identification of alternative sources of information (international, provincial, Statistics Canada, and other federal sources), graphics and statistical presentations services, production of internal publications, maintenance of resource library.
- Information clearing house of statistical and research materials.
- Electronic data access and other computer related information services.
- Coordination of Statistics Canada information and surveys.

Professional research support (approximately 4 full-time staff, 2 full-time auxiliary staff, 5 part-time auxiliary and a variable number of part-time staff depending on projects (5-25 staff - all recoverable to YBS)

- Undertakes the baseline data development necessary in all jurisdictions in Canada, including social, economic, demographic, and environmental information.
- Comprised of a small core of research specialists that form the basis of departmental and cost-recovered research projects. To undertake credible research the government requires a nucleus of well-qualified and specialized personnel.
- These resources provide the capacity to use departmental personnel or external grants to perform research consistent with government priorities. Core resources are a

cost-effective means of undertaking research and statistical analysis for the Yukon.

The Challenge

The Yukon, like many of the provinces, has had a change in government during the past year. With this change and a radical change in the priorities and assumptions of government, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics has once again reorganized its method of doing business.

The Yukon Government has an effective and efficient research facility in the YBS. The continual challenge this branch faces is to find means of being responsive to the changing requirements and expectations of the organization. To remain relevant and responsive, the YBS has once again repositioned itself within the renewed organizational priorities and culture.

The immediate challenge has been to find its optimal position and then adjust its program and purposes to reflect the new reality.

The Opportunity

The purpose of organizational research and statistics is to inform decision making. Effective decision making assumes that decision makers take responsibility to be informed and the research and statistics function be accountable for adjusting to policy and planning priorities. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics takes their research accountability seriously and views this obligation as a renewed opportunity to respond to the policy and planning directions of the Executive's four-year plan.

Policy, planning, and programming should be informed by credible and defensible information. Sources of this information must include research and statistics. The needs of policy, planning, and programming is an enormous opportunity to exhibit the credibility and utility of the resources and the products of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

Activities

Core data services

- To ensure that a logical and systematic program of statistical and research information is developed for the Yukon, e.g. participation in Yukon Economic Accounts, National Labour Force Survey, Yukon Community Price Survey, Yukon Population Estimates, participation in Yukon Input-Output Table, Yukon Population Projections, Yukon Life Tables, Yukon Income Distributions and Low Income Measures.

Information and education services

- To service the needs of the Executive and its departments for sound and defensible statistical and research information, e.g. information request services, information sheets, *Quarterly Statistical Review*, *Inside the Yukon Economy*, census information sheets, Fact Sheets, electronic (*STATS NEWS*, *Daily*).

Research consulting

- To ensure government priorities are expressed in any departmental policy and planning research projects.
- To offer a quality control to research projects undertaken by departments or agencies of the Yukon Government, e.g. Yukon Health Promotion Survey, Alcohol and Drug Survey, Yukon Visitor Exit Survey, Yukon Agriculture Survey, Survey of Women's Issues, Labour Market Activity Survey.

Rapid response research

- To offer an experienced and qualified research staff to Executive task forces, special committees, or research projects, e.g. Social Assistance Research Committee, Electoral Boundary Commission, Fuel Price Commission, Executive requests (surveys of school catchment, minimum wages, private sector benefits).

Research coordination and advocacy

- To speak on behalf of the interests of Yukon in matters of research.
- To attract funds and support research consistent with the needs of the Executive and its departments. e.g. National Health Survey Committee, Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy, National Tasks Force involvement on behalf of departments and research interests, academic involvement with universities and other researchers.

Organizational Research

- To participate in organizational research that improves the organizational effectiveness of the government, e.g. EDA Evaluation, Aboriginal Native Language Evaluation, Audit sampling and research support, MIS, GIS.

1993 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACTIVITY REPORT

Since last year's meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy, the Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics has been involved in several major projects as well as carrying on its usual work. Highlights of activities include:

Census

- Incorporated the results of 1991 Census based population estimates by age, sex and ethnicity into the Northwest Territories population projection model and published a report presenting territorial, regional and community results.
- Participated in a working group with Statistics Canada to improve quarterly and annual population estimates for Northwest Territories.

For the past few censuses, the Statistics Canada population estimates program has considerably understated the Northwest Territories population for June due to poor estimates for interprovincial migration. Reasons for this estimation problem and possible solutions were examined by the working group. As well, the impacts of census early enumeration of communities on the population estimates were examined and a methodology was established for incorporating these impacts.

- Participated in planning for the 1996 Census with a particular emphasis upon the enumeration of the aboriginal population including the organization of census consultations with the territorial government and participation in the federal-provincial working group on aboriginal statistics.
- Advised the territorial government and the Northwest Territories Métis Nation regarding the enumeration of Métis and participated in the Métis enumeration workshop held at Edmonton this May.

Labour Force and Household Statistics

- Continued work with Statistics Canada regarding extension of the monthly national labour force survey to Northwest Territories.

Bureau of Statistics staff visited Yukon this March to review the labour force survey experience in that territory. This visit was followed by a meeting later in the month with Statistics Canada at Ottawa where a work plan was outlined to review operational concerns, sampling issues, content

issues and collection frequency and to develop options, cost estimates and an implementation schedule in light of the overall LFS redesign and the current review of the Yukon survey. A report on this matter should be completed by the end of the year.

- Began work on a household listing for all Northwest Territories communities with work to be completed during the summer and fall.
- Initiated research and planning for the winter 1994 Northwest Territories labour force survey including the development and testing of methods and procedures for data entry, editing and statistical analysis on microcomputer.

Price Statistics

- Published a statistical report on the fall 1991 community food price survey.

The inclusion of estimates of costs for the Agriculture Canada nutritious and thrifty nutritious food baskets for communities in this report sparked considerable debate in the Legislative Assembly when compared to the social assistance food allowances currently being paid.

- Undertook a clothing price survey with the Department of Social Services in selected communities to determine the feasibility of such a survey.
- Prepared June 1992 Yellowknife-Edmonton spatial price estimates.

Other Economic Data and Economic Modeling

- Undertook a computer assisted phone survey of Northwest Territories businesses to establish a business listing data base for use as a sample frame, for preparation of a statistical report on Northwest Territories business, and for input to the Statistics Canada business register.
- Continued work with Statistics Canada to improve its business register for Northwest Territories as part of a national statistical project involving all provinces and territories.
- Provided input regarding Northwest Territories estimates for Statistics Canada's work on interprovincial trade and provincial industry measures.
- Worked with Statistics Canada to resolve outstanding issues relating to the territorial economic accounts.

- Respecified the Northwest Territories input-output model to incorporate new equations developed by Statistics Canada and to update information for the mining industry.

Publications and Data Dissemination

- Published the 1992 edition of the statistical booklet *Northwest Territories ... by the numbers* after cancellation of the 1991 edition as a cost saving measure.
- Continued revisions and content additions to the *Statistics Quarterly*.
- Continued work to improve the T-stat on-line statistical data access system.
- Prepared a series of handouts relating to the 1991 Census data releases.

Appendix 2

REPORT BY THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**TO THE 1992 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

**AGENDA OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
OF THE
1993 FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

Date: January 26, 1993

Committee Members:

Paul Dober (Nova Scotia) - Chairperson
Wilf Falk (Manitoba)
Luc Bessette (Quebec)
Tim Davis (Statistics Canada)
Benoit Laroche (Statistics Canada)
Dave Dodds (Statistics Canada)
Denis Desjardins (Statistics Canada) - ex-officio member

Proposed Agenda Items:

1. Review minutes from the 1992 meeting of the Consultative Council
2. Review items for follow-up as identified in the 1992 minutes of the Consultative Council
3. Confirm dates and location of the 1993 meeting of the Consultative Council
4. Determine agenda for 1993 meeting of the Consultative Council
5. Other Business

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

Meeting of January 26, 1993

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. Review of Minutes from the 1992 Meeting of the Consultative Council

There were no modifications suggested.

3. Review Items for Follow-up as Identified at the 1992 Meeting of the Consultative Council

The current status of the follow-up items is attached as Appendix 2. The item numbers below refer to numbers in that report. Mr. Dober noted that two items had been directed to the 1993 Program Committee:

- Item 4.5: Revisions to the SNA was accepted as an agenda item for the Consultative Council meeting. Mr. Stewart Wells, ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field will be asked to lead discussion.
- Item 8.1: Mr. Denis Desjardins, Secretary to the Consultative Council, will distribute a memo reminding directors and directors general of the need to inform provincial and territorial focal points of contacts with provincial and territorial departments and agencies.

Two other follow-up items were discussed:

- Item 2.1: Mr. Wilf Falk indicated that he would like to be informed of the results of the discussions.
- Item 3.1: To date, the certificate has not been provided or distributed. Mr. Tim Davis noted that the formulae for determining federal-provincial fiscal transfers is attached to the *Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act* and are readily available. All present indicated interest in knowing more about how data provided by Statistics Canada are used in the formulae. Public Institutions Division is currently doing some work in this area and it was suggested that a presentation of the results be presented at the Council meeting.

4. Date and Location of the 1993 Meeting of the Consultative Council

The current dates for the Council meeting are June 16-17. The Simon Goldberg Conference Room has been booked. It was

suggested that the Council meeting be held on the Thursday and Friday of that week, rather than the Wednesday and Thursday. There were no objections to this and it was decided to change the dates for the meeting to June 17-18, providing that Dr. Fellegi is available on those dates.

Note: Consultation with the Chief Statistician's office determined that Dr. Fellegi will be out of the country the week of June 14-18. The Council meeting has been rescheduled for June 3-4.

5. **Agenda for the 1993 Meeting of the Consultative Council**

Mr. Dober had canvassed the provincial focal points for suitable topics for the Consultative Council meeting. The list of suggestions was discussed by the Program Committee.

Report on the Evaluation of the Functioning and Effectiveness of the Federal-Provincial Committee System: This was considered to be a major item for the Council meeting. The recommendations resulting from consultations held in September will be tabled and discussed at the Council meeting.

Third Party Agreements: As noted above, Mr. Desjardins will distribute a memo on this subject. If this item continues to be an issue, it should be raised under "Other Business" at the Council meeting.

Revisions to the SNA: The Consultative Council recommended that the Program Committee consider this item for the agenda of the 1993 Council meeting. It was agreed that an information update from Mr. Wells be on the agenda.

Interprovincial Trade Project: An information update could be presented at the Council meeting.

Adjustment of Population Estimates: A presentation, based on consultations conducted, and decisions taken, prior to the Council meeting should be made.

1996 Census: A presentation of the results of the 1996 Census Content Consultations should be given in conjunction with an overall status report.

Aboriginal Data: While there is substantial interest in this area, it was identified as a topic which would be best addressed by an external speaker.

The Role of Statistics in Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements: Several items suggested for the agenda of the 1993 meeting of the Consultative Council deal with aspects of this item, but it was suggested that a presentation dealing specifically with this item would be useful. Current work in Public Institutions Division could be presented at the Council meeting. This item would also serve as a follow-up to Mr. McLarty's presentation at the 1992 Council meeting.

Administrative Data: The use of GST data as a statistical data source and the status of work on the unique identifier for the Business Register could be presented at the Council meeting.

External Speaker - This aspect of the agenda of the Consultative Council meeting was first introduced in 1991. It has been well received and recommended for inclusion again this year. The Committee agreed that Aboriginal data could be the topic. The Secretariat will assist Tim Davis in locating an appropriate speaker.

6. Other Business

None.

Appendix 3

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY

**TO THE 1993 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Last Meeting: September 1992

Next Meeting: September 1993

Members: Representatives of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture or Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

The Chairperson welcomed the delegates from the provinces and territories and Mr. Fred Barrett from the United States Department of Agriculture who had accepted our invitation to brief the Committee on the National Agricultural Statistical System. Provincial delegates then presented the highlights of new developments in their respective organizations. Several representatives noted that their organizations, which were primarily statistical offices, were increasing their analytical work.

As part of a general program update, Agriculture Division summarized the strategic priorities of the division. It also briefed the participants on the major activities completed on the 1991 Census of Agriculture, progress on the regular surveys and planned release of intercensal revisions.

A detailed review and discussion of the major activities and projects affecting the agriculture statistics program was then undertaken.

Major Activities

- Production of Estimates - Provinces asked that they continue to be given opportunities to review and make suggestions on the survey program. They emphasized their interest in the need for Crop and Livestock data on a sub-provincial basis and asked Statistics Canada to ensure it maintained sample sizes large enough to provide reliable sub-provincial indicators for producing these estimates. They also were very pleased with the quality of the 1991 Census of Agriculture data.
- Survey Redesign Project - The information on the redesign and the plans for implementation sent out prior to the meeting were appreciated. Although additional information still needed to be finalized, useful comments were provided on some proposed changes; for example, the questions proposed for the individual surveys, the sample sizes and the proposed sample allocation.

- New Processing Systems - Delegates were updated on the current plans of Agriculture Division to convert its survey to Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) over the next 18 months. In addition, the project to develop maps for the area frame in the Atlantic provinces using computer technology instead of labour - intensive manual mapping techniques was discussed.
- Data Dissemination - A number of provinces indicated that they would like Agriculture Division to continue to pursue the concept of direct electronic transmission of information between Statistics Canada and the provinces. They are still very interested in diskette and CD-ROM products.
- Use of Administrative Data - Mr. George Pikor of Agriculture Canada updated the Committee on the information compiled and available from the Crop Insurance and Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP). It was noted that due to budgetary constraints, the development of a producer-level GRIP database by Agriculture Canada would not be initiated in the immediate future.

Major Projects

- Farm Level Data Project - Agriculture Canada updated the delegates on the project which is now in an operational phase. The highlights of the user consultations, developmental work on a base of information on farm enterprise and the work to develop criteria for improving international comparisons among cost of production data were summarized.
- Whole Farm Data Project - Delegates were briefed on the development of the different components of the project. A CD-ROM product for Whole Farm Data by province and type of farm is under consideration. The current plan is to evaluate the possibility of packaging the data with a software program to tabulate the information.
- 1996 Census Planning - A schedule of the proposed census consultative workshops was presented to the Committee. The focus of the January and February 1993 workshops will be census definitions, content and concepts.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 15 and 16, 1993 in Ottawa.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Last meetings: November 1992 and May 1993

Next meeting: November 1993

Members: Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

The Federal Provincial Committee on Business Statistics met twice during the last year: in Ottawa on November 18 and 19, 1992 and in Quebec City on May 3 and 4, 1993.

Ottawa

The Chairman welcomed delegates to the meeting, noting in particular the return of the Quebec Bureau of Statistics to the table. The Committee was informed of the death of Dr. Edward Pryor since their last meeting and tribute was paid to his contributions over the years.

Provincial delegates reported on their current activities and plans for future projects. Several noted that their statistical offices had been or were being reorganized and a common thread in their remarks was the need to restrain or curtail programmes due to budgetary constraints.

The Services Division outlined the strategy developed to improve data produced about the service sector, including the establishment of priorities for additional annual surveys, the development of current indicators and selected work in designing price indexes for service outputs.

It was reported that the Investment and Capital Stock Division was studying the feasibility (including preliminary cost estimation) of collecting capital expenditure data quarterly with the goal of releasing preliminary data within 45 calendar days of the reference quarter. In part, the viability of this approach will depend on some sponsorship by outside users.

The results of the third and final year under the current federal-provincial agreement concerning the Small Business Statistics program were presented. Negotiations to renew the agreement were experiencing difficulties due to budgetary constraints on the part of several key players. Statistics Canada was requested to develop options which would better fit the future program to the available resources if that was possible.

The Industry Division advised the Committee that it was about to commence a thorough and fundamental review of its data program beginning with consultations with users, including the provinces. As well, they reported on a pilot study to see if principal statistics required to calculate "census value added" could be added as an additional survey module to be asked after the end of the calendar year (in a so-called 13th month) to respondents to the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Survey (MWRTS). Lastly, the division presented the results of the 1990 Interprovincial Wholesale Commodity Survey (IWCS).

Plans for updating the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) to reflect economic and structural changes and meet changing analytic requirements of users, including better harmonization with the American SIC were outlined. The timing of such a revision has been established to coincide with the next revision in the United States which will take place with their quinquennial economic censuses for reference year 1997.

The Agriculture Division updated the Committee on various activities carried out in 1992, including the timely release of the 1991 Census of Agriculture results on June 4th and the work underway to construct a Whole Farm Data Base which provide an integrated microlevel database.

Progress on profiling the legal and operating structures of large and complex businesses and mounting them on the Business Register was reported with the target expected to be completed by March 1993 of 100 such profiles.

Quebec City

At the invitation of the Quebec Bureau of Statistics, the Committee met to discuss several specific initiatives.

Plans to replace the surveying of many small and medium sized businesses in the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) with information reported to Revenue Canada (Taxation) as part of the administration of the payroll deduction system (on a PD7A form) were thoroughly reviewed. Points discussed included the potential for increased geographic and industrial detail and improved analytical potential. Delegates shared experiences (problems) in accessing administrative data files. Concern was expressed about potential breaks in the SEPH data series. It was agreed to consult again after the new data stabilize this summer.

A progress report was made on the re-engineering of the industry statistics program. Provinces welcomed the initiative but cautioned against the creation of "wish lists" that could not be implemented because of resource constraints. Industry Division indicated that quality-detail-timeliness-frequency trade-offs would have to be involved. All provinces will be contacted

individually to establish their desired level of participation. Several provinces expressed concern that the Annual Construction Survey was cancelled and saw this project as a means to possibly re-instate the survey with a less-than-annual frequency.

The Industry Division summarized the capacity of the Annual Survey of Manufactures to produce sub-provincial data. The provinces suggested that Statistics Canada research providing sub-provincial data for one level of geography only (Census Division at the 4-digit level), to reduce confidentiality screening costs. The provinces also suggested that more cost effective means of disseminating sub-provincial data than the publication could be developed.

Issues relating to the classification of the wholesale industry were discussed. Provinces expressed concerns about the impact that structural changes to the classification system would have on the data which would describe the new industry structure. Particular concern was expressed about the impact revised data could have on federal provincial fiscal arrangements. Provincial representatives requested that they be consulted and informed well in advance of the implementation of changes.

A presentation was made on the progress of a pilot study to collect annual wholesale and retail trade data using a 13th month questionnaire. At the time of this meeting, the collection process had just been completed. Early indications illustrate that the use of the monthly sample and contacts has resulted in response rates by province in the 80% range.

Lastly, there was a round table review of the content of the Business Register. The review covered issues related to provincial coverage, industrial classification of economic sectors of provincial importance and year-to-year changes to the population. During the discussion, provincial delegates stressed the importance to gain access to the telephone number which is currently considered as confidential information by the *Income Tax Act*. To facilitate the review of the content of the Business Register, a list of surveys supported by the Business Register will be provided and a cross-reference file for businesses being promoted from the non-integrated to the integrated portion of the Register will also be made available.

CENSUS OF POPULATION

Last meeting: November 1992

Next meeting: November 1993

Members: Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

Mr. Petrie welcomed all participants and noted with great satisfaction the return of the Quebec delegation to the Committee meeting. The provincial and territorial representatives expressed their sadness in the recent death of Dr. Ed Pryor and emphasized the work that Dr. Pryor had accomplished while being responsible for the Canadian Census and being the chair of this Committee. The delegates were updated on the 1991 Census products and services, the Analytic Program as well as the Aboriginal Peoples program. They were also briefed on 1996 Census activities, in particular the 1996 Census consultation process. This was followed by a special presentation on Aboriginal issues made by the Manitoba delegation.

It was reported at the meeting that emphasis would be placed on electronic products and improved services. Regional offices have since been equipped to be the entry point to respond to all requests for Census data and services. Statistics Canada regional staff have received a first series of training on concepts and tools. Some technical problems encountered with the various tools are being dealt with and delivery of products to users is planned in early summer of 1993.

The Monograph series for the 1991 Census is beginning to take shape. Response from the Canadian social science community to the 1991 Census Analytic Program's call for research intentions was extremely positive. Over 70 submissions were received and assessed by the program's advisory committee. Based on the advice of the advisory committee the Census Analytic Program has approved 7 themes for monograph projects - aging, education, employment/labour market, family, immigration-ethnicity-multiculturalism, income distribution and women's issues. Provisional approval has been granted to two monographs dealing with Aboriginal issues, pending the receipt of supplementary funding for the Program.

Policy Committee has approved May 14, 1996 as Census Day. Traditionally, Census Day has been in early June, however, for 1996, Census Day has been advanced to mid-May in order to reduce follow-up costs and improve coverage. The main disadvantage with the earlier date is the potential impact on the reliability of reported crop areas in the Census of Agriculture. Depending on

the weather, seeding may not be complete in all areas of the country by mid-May. However, this problem will be dealt with by allowing farmers to report their seeding intentions and, if needed, telephone follow-up will be done later to obtain actual areas seeded.

Since the Fall of 1992, over 700 organizations and key users have been contacted by the Content Determination Project. Content consultation meetings have been held in all major Canadian cities with provincial and municipal data users as well as users from private businesses, universities, national organizations and aboriginal groups. By the end of April 1993, over 110 written briefs were received. Content modifications have been requested in the areas of aboriginal identity, measurement of racial minority groups, collection of information on blended families and unpaid work activities. Some users have requested that fertility and school attendance be retained for the 1996 Census. A full content test is planned for November 8, 1993 with a sample of approximately 14,700 households. An increase to the sample size is planned for selected urban areas to include a greater number of specific population groups, such as racial minorities and aboriginal peoples.

Research and testing plans for investigating new systems and processes to make the 1996 Census processing more efficient and timely have been implemented. Automated coding prototypes have been developed, reference files for systems to be tested in 1993/94 have been created, editing requirements have been reviewed and researching of new approaches for edit and imputation have been initiated.

Negotiations are presently underway with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples to review statistical issues and their statistical needs.

Following recommendations from the provincial/territorial focal points, a Working Group on Aboriginal Peoples was formed. On April 7-8, the Working Group met in Victoria to review data needs and to set up a working plan. The plan was re-discussed in Quebec City on May 5, 1993, at a meeting called to primarily discuss Adjustments to the Population Estimates program for census undercoverage.

Release Schedule

The release plans for the 1991 Census and the Post-Censal Survey releases are the most elaborate and comprehensive ever undertaken by Statistics Canada and have resulted in extensive media coverage and praise from major clients. A special *Daily* containing only that information related to the census release is produced for each one of the releases. Since November 1992, the following data have been released:

December, 1992	Immigration, citizenship and place of birth
January, 1993	Home language and knowledge of official and non-official languages
February, 1993	Ethnicity and occupied dwellings
March, 1993	Labour force activity, occupation and industry Aboriginal data - age and sex
April, 1993	Income
May, 1993	Education, housing costs, mobility and migration Aboriginal data - education and employment
June, 1993	Fertility, religion, place of work, social and economic characteristics of families.

DATA DISSEMINATION

Last meeting: April 1992

Next meeting: To be determined

Members: Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal
Points (or representatives)

Due to changes to the meeting schedule for federal-provincial statistical committees, no meeting of the committee was held in fiscal year 1992-93.

DEMOGRAPHY

Last Meeting: December 1992

Next Meeting: December 1993 (Possibly a special meeting on June 29, 1993)

Members: Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

The December meeting covered two main topics. In a joint meeting with the Committee on Census, a full day was set aside to mainly talk about the incorporation in Statistics Canada's population estimates of an adjustment for net undercoverage in the Census of Population. The second day of the meeting was devoted to review the assumptions and methods used to project components of the population growth for Canada.

On the adjustment issue, a presentation was made of the 1991 Census net undercoverage results published in November 1992. This was followed by a general discussion on the merits of adjusting the estimates program for Census undercoverage. Presentations were also made on proposed methods to adjust intercensal estimates for undercoverage and other changes in the Universe for the period 1971-1991. A brief report was also presented on the impact of changes in the Family Allowances legislation on the estimates.

As for the review of the projections program, the following presentations were made:

- Fertility projections
- Mortality projections
- Internal Migration projections
- Immigration projections
- Emigration projections.

Each of these presentations were followed by a discussion on difficulties that could be anticipated. Members indicated that they would be interested in contributing in the development of internal migration scenarios.

Since the December meeting, Statistics Canada has announced its decision to incorporate an adjustment in its population estimates starting with the June 1, 1993 estimates. A Working Group was set up to finalize methods to be used and met in Quebec City on May 5, 1993. To help finalizing the population projections, provinces were asked to provide Statistics Canada with population growth scenarios based on their own economic perspective. Statistics Canada will, if at all possible, take these scenarios

into accounts when developping final assumptions for projecting the population. As the next series of projections will be based on the adjusted population estimates, they will not be released until the Fall.

LABOUR STATISTICS

Last Meetings: June 1992 and May 1993

Next Meeting: May 1994

Members: Departments concerned with human resources, education or job training and Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points

The twenty-seventh meeting of this committee was held on June 15 and 16, 1992 in Ottawa. The committee met for one day, then reconvened on the second day for a series of workshops on labour market data. Presentations to the committee covered labour aspects on the following topics:

- Labour Force Survey
- Special Surveys
- National Occupational Classification
- Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
- Pensions data
- Work Injuries data
- General Social Survey
- Unemployment Insurance data
- Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours data
- Enrolment Trends in Colleges and Universities
- Sub-Provincial Migration Data
- Small Area Data from Tax Files.

Workshops were held on the Labour Force Survey, SEPH, Labour Market Activity Survey and Census.

The 1993 meeting was held in Ottawa on May 19 and 20. Once again, one day was devoted to the formal committee meeting, while the second was spent in workshops. Topics covered this year were:

- Labour Force Survey
- Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
- Union Coverage of the Labour Force
- Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours
- Unpaid Work
- Post-Censal Surveys
- Special Surveys
- Public Sector Employment
- Census Income Data
- Census Data on Place of Work.

Workshops were held on the Labour Force Survey, the National Occupational Classification, and on Labour Division activities.

Committee members also enjoyed a demonstration of CD-ROM technology using data from the Labour Market Activity Survey.

The prime objective of the conference is to facilitate communication between the provincial bureaus of statistics and the various representatives of Statistics Canada on labour market issues.

No resolutions were proposed at either the 1992 or 1993 meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING AND STATISTICS

Last meeting: May 1987

Next meeting: To be determined

Members: Representatives from Provincial Departments of Municipal Affairs and/or Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

MINERAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: **October 1992**

Next meeting: **April 1993**

Members: **Delegates from Energy, Mines and Resources
Canada (including the Chairperson), Indian
and Northern Affairs, Statistics Canada, all
Provincial Mining Departments or Agencies and
the Saskatchewan, Yukon and Northwest
Territories Bureaus of Statistics**

Observer: **The Mining Association of Canada**

The annual meeting of the Committee was held on October 14-16, 1992 in Ottawa. The Spring 1992 meeting, originally scheduled for April, 1992 in Ottawa, had earlier been cancelled.

The Committee addressed methods to improve the effectiveness of its meetings, particularly in light of current resource limitations. Discussions included consideration of a reduction from two meetings to one general meeting per year and of the use of teleconferencing, Small Working Groups (SWGs), improved planning and communication, focused topics for specific meetings and other measures to provide information exchange between meetings. Although there is little activity currently being undertaken in SWGs (established by the Committee to report on issues, to undertake actions requiring joint participation and agreement and to recommend future courses of action as required), it is expected that SWGs will be used in the future, for example, to promote systems sharing and to deal with issues on exploration data.

It is also anticipated that the current Memoranda of Understanding between EMR Canada and the provinces/territories on monthly and annual surveys of the mineral industry will be reviewed and updated by the parties involved early in 1993. This activity will provide a natural opportunity for the Committee's Secretariat to discuss the importance of the Committee's function with each participating provincial/territorial ministry or agency.

As usual, presentations, discussions and exchange of information covered a wide range of topics related to the collection, analysis and dissemination of Canadian mineral statistics.

Specific agenda items covered in the course of the meetings included:

- a discussion of the issues surrounding the development of a protocol for survey information exchange between Statistics Canada's Business Register and organizations represented on the Committee;
- a presentation on the past and future of investment in the mineral industry in Canada based on research papers prepared by EMR for the September Mines Ministers' meeting in Whitehorse;
- a review of developments in environmental surveys at Statistics Canada with respect to the minerals industry in Canada, focusing particularly on the ongoing development of natural resource accounts for oil and natural gas and on investigatory work undertaken to develop these accounts for the metal mines industry;
- a description of the development of interprovincial trade statistics and a summary of the data prepared to date, followed by an interchange of ideas on some of the major areas of concern in interprovincial trade for the mineral commodities;
- an update on the development of a longitudinal data base containing capital investment and repair data as collected in the Capital Stock and Investment Division of Statistics Canada; and
- a slide presentation outlining the roles played by the Mineral Policy Sector of EMR.

In the course of round table discussion at the meeting, a widespread interest in informing the public of the importance of the mineral industry to the Canadian economy became evident. This common concern, in turn, may lead to the sharing of communication ideas and tools developed to address this issue.

In cooperation with CTMG (contractors for the systems development), the EMR Canada MICIS (Mineral Industry Commodity Information System) was demonstrated to members on October 16. MICIS is designed to capture, manage, edit, summarize, and report on the statistical information collected by the Mineral and Metals Statistics Division (MMSD) of EMR in carrying out its responsibility for Canadian mineral statistics. The continuing development of TRAGS (Trade Retrieval and Aggregation System) was also discussed. TRAGS has been developed by MMSD to analyze and report on domestic imports and exports of minerals and mineral products based on Statistics Canada trade data. Extracts from the draft TRAGS manual were distributed to members. It is expected that the next committee meeting in Ottawa will feature a demonstration of TRAGS, as well as an update on enhancements to MICIS and on opportunities for shared systems usage.

A private tour of the Viola MacMillan Mineral Collection on display at the Canadian Museum of Nature was arranged during the course of the meetings.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Last Meeting: September 1992

Next Meeting: October 1993

Members: Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

The major items of the meeting on September 16, 1992 in Ottawa included reports on the progress of existing provincial programs within the System of National Accounts (SNA) Branch and in each province and territory, and presentations or discussions on the following topics:

- interprovincial trade in goods,
- interprovincial travel expenditure,
- GDP by industry,
- priorities for provincial accounts integration and general development.

The *Provincial Economic Accounts, 1988 to 1991* (Catalogue 13-213) were released in January 1993 and included for the first time an allocation of GST revenue by province and territory, new estimates of travel expenditure by province and revised estimates of labour income from 1981 forward on both a province-of-residence basis and a province-of-employment basis. *Provincial Gross Domestic Product by Industry, 1984-1991* (Catalogue 15-203) was released in October 1992.

The year 1993 sees the release of 1992 preliminary estimates of GDP, final domestic demand at 1986 prices and personal disposable income by province and territory on May 7, 1993. A new graphically-oriented analytical document will be available for the first time with this release. Provincial GDP estimates by industry for the year 1992 will be available around October 1993.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 21, 1993 in the Simon Goldberg Room of the R.H. Coats building. Items on the agenda will probably include, among others, the final report on the interprovincial trade project and a progress report on the project to expand coverage of provincial GDP by industry to the services-producing industries.

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

Last Meeting: September 1992

Next Meeting: October 1993

Members: Delegates from Provincial and Territorial Departments of Finance and Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

The Committee met on September 15, 1992 in Ottawa. All provinces and territories were represented with the exception of Quebec.

The proceedings were chaired by Krishna Sahay, Assistant Director of the Public Institutions Division, Statistics Canada. The first item of business was the "Provincial-Territorial Round Table". During the Round Table each delegate had praise for various PID activities and accomplishments, particularly the new publications and the Compendium of Public Sector Statistics which now contains more provincial and territorial detail. Topics of discussion included electronic data collection, measurement of debt, expenditures on education, federal transfer payments and employment data.

The following presentations were made by PID staff:

- Public Sector Financial System - Developments;
- Reconciliation of Provincial/Territorial Government Balance Sheets on a Public Accounts Basis to a FMS Basis;
- Marketing Initiatives within the National Accounts and Analytical Services Field (T. Davis);
- Public Employment Statistical Presentation;
- Progress of the PID Dissemination Program;
- Harmonization of the Various Sources of Government Expenditure Data;
- Reconciliation of Government Revenue and Expenditure Statistics.

The conference was a success. Public Institutions Division continues to enjoy good relations with all provinces and territories. The nature of PID data are such that the division is in regular contact with them and the working relationships are positive.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 1993.

SMALL AREA DATA

Last Meeting: November 1992

Next Meeting: September 1993

Members: Provincial and Territorial Statistical
Focal Points (or representatives)

The Committee met in Ottawa on November 17, 1992. Following the round table, presentations were made on the following topics:

- update on the developmental work on rural and remote Canada;
- report of the work on the labour force and employment data from four divisions (Business and Labour Market Analysis Division, Small Business and Special Surveys Division, Labour Division and Small Area and Administrative Data Division);
- update on the rules for disclosure avoidance;
- report on the Address Register;
- report on new developments in the Geography Division;
- report on matters pertaining to the ending of the Family Allowance program and its successor, the Child Benefits program;
- report on the ARC project;
- report on the LAD project.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Last Meeting: April 1992

Next Meeting: September 1993

Members: Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal
Points (or representatives)

Status as at April 1993

Topics at the last meeting included updates on the programs of the Education, Culture and Tourism Division, the Canadian Centre for Health Information, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, and the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 1992

Next meeting: May 1993

Members: Delegates from Provincial and Federal Departments of Transportation and Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points (or representatives)

Provinces and Territories were represented at the last meeting except Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

A two-day format for the meetings has been established. Activities this year include:

United States-Canada Transportation Statistics Interchange

The second and third in the series of meetings were held to discuss the issues in transportation statistics between the United States and Canada. The first meeting was held in Ottawa in November 1991. Representatives from Quebec and Ontario participated in the first and third meetings in Ottawa. Topics discussed include trucking, rail, marine, multi-modal and travel information, issues on balance of payments, commodity and industry classifications, trade data.

Working Group on Roadside Surveys

The first meeting was held April 1992. The working group decided to focus initially on commercial truck traffic, and to follow this work with analysis of passenger and personal transportation studies.

Each province/territory completed an inventory of the (commercial truck) traffic studies undertaken over the six-year period 1986-1991. The information collected has been documented, with the objective of compiling an inventory of such surveys, once the passenger/personal transportation side is covered. A feature of such a reference document would be a synopsis of the various methodologies involved, along with listings of reference persons currently working in this domain. Both features of this reference document could be updated as necessary, or at regular intervals.

Funding

Based on a provincial proposal, federal-provincial ministries of transportation were approached via the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) for funding in support of the transportation program (as opposed to via Provincial Focal Points, as in the past) . This approach was not successful. Furthermore, using the Federal-Provincial Committee approach, only four provinces contributed, reducing the total provincial contribution to the program.

Transportation Data Needs

Statistics Canada is reviewing data needs in transportation. This review complements similar activities at Transport Canada. How provincial needs will be incorporated will be discussed at the 1993 meeting.

VITAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 1992

Next meeting: July 1993

Members: Provincial and Territorial Registrars of
Vital Statistics

Status as at April 1993

The status of the revised Agreements is as follows:

- **signed..** Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Yukon;
- **in province/territory for signature..** Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta;
- **under review in province/territory:** Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and Northwest Territories.

At the 1992 meeting an Executive Committee was formed, comprised of the provincial/ territorial co-chair, chair-elect and past-chair, and a representative from Statistics Canada, to act as an advisory body to Statistics Canada. One issue that they will be dealing with is the Proposed strategy for Quality Assurance. A structured working relationship with respect to quality assurance will be developed.

A draft report on a Cause of Death Handbook will be circulated to all jurisdictions for their input.

Progress made by Statistics Canada on an optical imaging system, and the plans of the provinces/territories will be discussed.

Appendix 4

**FOLLOW-UP FROM THE 1992 MEETING
OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

STATUS REPORT

Item:		Responsible:	Action:
1.0	<u>Statistics Canada Report</u>		
1.1	A letter will be sent from the Minister Responsible for Statistics Canada to each of the ministers responsible for the provincial and territorial statistical offices to bring their attention to the event organized by the Public Policy Forum on June 22, 1992 and to recognize the significant role played by these offices in the national statistical system.	Chief Statistician of Canada.	Letters were sent.
2.0	<u>Secretary's Report</u>		
2.1	Statistics Canada will work jointly with the Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics to develop small area profiles from tax files which allow data to be produced for small communities and at the same time satisfy confidentiality constraints.	ACS, Informatics and Methodology Field.	Discussions are under way and have been extended to cover assessment of tax-based migration data.
3.0	<u>Invited Speaker</u>		
3.1	Mr. Falk requested a copy of the "certificate" which outlines all the formulae for determining federal-provincial fiscal transfers.	Secretariat.	Copies of the relevant Act and formulae have been sent to all focal points.

Item:	Responsible:	Action:
4.0 <u>Revisions to SNA</u>		
4.1 The recommendations made in Ralph Joyce's paper on the frequency of revisions to the provincial and territorial component of the SNA were accepted.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field.	Data have been revised back to 1981 resulting in consistent provincial and national estimates.
4.2 The delegates from British Columbia and Saskatchewan, noting major differences between the provincial GDP numbers produced by Statistics Canada and those produced by their offices, requested that consultation take place to resolve them.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field.	The discrepancies were discussed with the focal points in November 1992.
4.3 At present, the published estimates of labour income for both personal income and for GDP are based on place of employment, although conceptually, these estimates for personal income should be based on place of residence.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field.	Mr. Wells reported that the estimation procedure has been changed. The results will be published on January 29, 1993. The focal points have the results.
4.4 The delegate from Manitoba stated that the estimates of corporate profits have some problems which need to be resolved.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field.	Mr. Wells reported that the topic was discussed at the Provincial Economic Accounts meeting in September 1992. At present it is a high priority item only with Saskatchewan.
4.5 This agenda item should be considered for inclusion on the agenda of the 1993 Council meeting.	1993 Program Committee.	The Program Committee will consider the suggestion.

Item:	Responsible:	Action:
5.0 <u>Evaluation of Federal-Provincial Statistical System</u>		
5.1 A Task Force is to examine if potential exists for concrete and specific improvements to the functioning of the various federal-provincial committees.	Task Force members, and ACS, Management Services Field.	The Task Force has met and determined that potential for improvement does exist. Consultations with all parties will proceed with recommendations to be made at the 1993 Council meeting.
6.0 <u>Census of Population</u>		
6.1 Different collection dates were used for different areas in the country for the post-censal survey of aboriginal people. This could affect responses to certain data items.	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field.	Mr. Petrie reported that the data is being studied in conjunction with the overall analysis of the census/post-censal survey data to determine the effect of date of collection.
7.0 <u>Information Updates</u>		
7.1 The delegate from Manitoba stated that he had access to the monthly CMA unemployment estimates (in addition to the three-month moving average) on LFS release day, but was asked not to use them.	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field.	Mr. Petrie reported that LFS staff have resolved the matter with Mr. Falk.
7.2 The delegate from Saskatchewan asked for results from studies to determine the number of families currently receiving Family	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field.	Mr. Petrie reported that Demography Division has written to focal points on this issue.

Item:

Responsible:

Action:

Allowance Benefits, but who would not receive benefits under the new program.

8.0 Other Business

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------|--|
| 8.1 | A mechanism is needed to inform focal points of three-party agreements between Statistics Canada, other federal government departments, and provincial or territorial departments. | 1993 Program Committee. | This item will be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the 1993 Program Committee. |
|-----|--|-------------------------|--|

Appendix 5

ADJUSTMENT TO POPULATION ESTIMATES

REPORT TO THE 1993 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY

**Incorporation of net undercoverage in the
population estimates program**

FOLLOW-UP

by

Ronald Raby

**Demography Division
Statistics Canada
Ottawa, Ontario**

Federal/Provincial Consultative Council

June 1993

- * Demographic estimates of net undercoverage taking into account returning Canadians and interprovincial migration**

- * Presentation of results at workshop on the adjustment of population (May 4, 1993 - Quebec)**

- * Collaboration with Provincial Statistical Focal Points - meeting with the "BSQ", May 17th and 18th**

- * Receipt of documents produced by the "BSQ"**

- * Distribution of revised results of coverage studies, 1986 and 1991**

Net undercount for Territories prior to 1991

- no adjustment on the net undercount for censuses in 1971 to 1986**

- methods to be tested**
 - * no adjustment for estimates prior to 1991**

 - * distribution of net undercount in 1991 for the last 20 years**

**CHANGE IN THE REFERENCE DATE
FOR ANNUAL POPULATION
ESTIMATES**

**(with revision of estimates published
since 1971)**

***IT IS PROPOSED TO PRODUCE ANNUAL
POPULATION ESTIMATES BY AGE, SEX
AND MARITAL STATUS AND FAMILY
ESTIMATES AS OF JULY 1 INSTEAD OF
JUNE 1***

*** TO FOLLOW THE UNITED NATIONS
RECOMMENDATIONS (BE CONSISTENT WITH MOST
COUNTRIES PRACTICES)**

*** TO FACILITATE AND STANDARDIZE
CALCULATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND
DEMOGRAPHIC RATES**

*** WILL REDUCE, AVAILABLE EVERY YEAR,
NUMBER OF:**
**- ESTIMATES OF TOTAL POPULATION FOR
CANADA, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES;**
**- TABLES FOR COMPONENTS OF POPULATION
GROWTH**

PROJECT 1484 - DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED - MAY 1993 TO MARCH 1994				
Activity	Participants	Starting date	Completion date	
			Original date	Revised date
1. Returning Canadians by census years and quarters based on Family Allowance and Customs and Excise data, 1980-81 to 1990-91 - Production of totals, age, sex, marital status and evaluation	M. Declos	May 5	May 28	June 11
2. Returning Canadians, 1971-1979, for Canada, provinces/territories - Methodology, production (totals, age, sex, marital status) and evaluation	M. Declos	May 31	June 11	June 18
3. Estimates of net undercoverage in 1991 for Canada for ages 0-30 years using pure demographic approach - Production and evaluation	R. Bender	May 5	June 1	June 20
4. Revision of missed cases: 1991 RRC	D. Royce	May 5	May 14	-

PROJECT 1484 - DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED - MAY 1993 TO MARCH 1994				
Activity	Participants	Starting date	Completion date	
			Original date	Revised date
5. Adjusted estimates of NPRs for 1986-1991, totals, age, sex, CD and CMA - Methodology, production and evaluation	M. Michalowski	May 5	July 5	July 15
6. Production of revised net undercoverage in 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 for provinces, and 1991 for Canada, provinces/ territories - Total population - Age, sex, marital status	D. Royce M. Michalowski	May 14 May 14	May 21 June 1	June 11 June 20
7. Evaluation of revised 1991 RRC results and net undercoverage in 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991, Canada, provinces (raking method and demographic approach, sex ratio and residual emigration approaches proposed by BSQ) - Total - Age, sex and marital status	D. Royce R. Raby M. Michalowski M. Declos	May 21 June 1	May 30 June 28	June 15 June 27

PROJECT 1484 - DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED - MAY 1993 TO MARCH 1994				
Activity	Participants	Starting date	Completion date	
			Original date	Revised date
8. Testing methods of intercensal estimates for the two territories		June 5	June 16	-
9. Federal/Provincial Meeting		June 29	-	-
10. Net undercoverage for CD and CMA, totals, age and sex for 1986 and 1991 based on coverage studies	D. Royce M. Declos	July 7	Sept. 7	
11. Intercensal estimates for 1971-91 (totals), Canada, provinces and territories, using retained net undercoverage rates - Production, evaluation and background paper	R. Bender M. Michalowski	July 2	August 15	
12. Intercensal estimates by age, sex and marital status, 1971-1991, Canada, provinces and territories - Production, evaluation and background paper	R. Bender M. Michalowski	August 1	Sept. 25	

PROJECT 1484 - DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED - MAY 1993 TO MARCH 1994				
Activity	Participants	Starting date	Completion date	
			Original date	Revised date
13. Tables and background paper (total population, 1971-1993) sent to Focal Points	L. Champagne	Sept. 2	Sept. 13	
14. Release of total population for Canada, provinces/ territories, 1971-1993 in Daily	R. Raby	Sept. 16, 1993		
15. Tables and background paper (age and sex, 1971-1993) sent to Focal Points	L. Champagne	Oct. 1	Oct. 11	
16. Release of population by age and sex for Canada, provinces/territories, 1971-1993 in Daily	R. Raby	Oct. 14		
17. Tables and background paper (age, sex and marital status, 1971-1993) sent to Focal Points	L. Champagne	Oct. 7	Oct. 18	
18. Release of population by age, sex and marital status for Canada, provinces/ territoires, 1971-1993 in Daily	R. Raby	Oct. 21		

PROJECT 1484 - DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED - MAY 1993 TO MARCH 1994				
Activity	Participants	Starting date	Completion date	
			Original date	Revised date
19. Population estimates for CDs and CMAs, 1986-1993, totals, age and sex - Production, evaluation and background paper	R. Riordan M. Declos	Sept. 7	Nov. 24	
20. Tables of total population and background paper (1986-1993) CD and CMA 1986-1993 sent to Focal Points	L. Champagne	Nov. 16	Nov. 26	
21. Release of Total CD and CMA, total population 1986-1993 in Daily	R. Raby	Nov. 30		
22. Tables population by age, sex, CD and CMA, 1986-1991 and background paper sent to Focal Points	L. Champagne	Nov. 26	Dec. 10	
23. Release of CD and CMA population, age and sex, 1986-1991 in Daily	R. Raby	Dec. 14		
24. Census families net undercoverage based on coverage studies 1991	D. Royce	Oct. 2	Dec. 15	

PROJECT 1484 - DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED - MAY 1993 TO MARCH 1994				
Activity	Participants	Starting date	Completion date	
			Original date	Revised date
25. Decision to adjust or not Census Families	Senior Management	Dec. 20	Dec. 23	
26. Census families estimates, 1986-1993 - Production and evaluation	R. Bender	Jan. 3, 1994	Jan. 31, 1994	
27. Tables and background paper on Census Families sent to Focal Points	L. Champagne	Feb. 1, 1994	Feb. 11, 1994	
28. Release of Census Families Estimates in Daily	R. Raby	Feb. 15, 1994		
29. Preparation of a publication containing all revised intercensal estimates, Canada, provinces, territoires, CD and CMA	R. Raby	Jan. 3, 1994	March 31, 1994	
30. Release of publication	R. Raby		April 1994	

Appendix 6

1996 CENSUS CONTENT DETERMINATION

**REPORT TO THE 1993 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

1996 CENSUS CONTENT DETERMINATION

(notes extracted from overheads accompanying presentation)

Major Dates 1992 - 1995

Consultation with Key Clients	1992/1993
Content Testing	1993/1994
Content Proposal	June 1994
Public Consultation Report	June 1994
Recommendation to Cabinet	November 1994
Cabinet Approval	April 1995

Possible 1996 Census Content Reductions

- Religion
- Fertility
- School Attendance
- Condition of Dwelling
- Number of Bedrooms
- Place of Work
- Non-official Language Knowledge
- Fuel Type

Results of Consulations Completed To-date

Families

- support for collection of data on step-children, foster/guardianship and joint custody;
- strong support for another iteration of the Family History Survey.

Language

- support for maintaining the sequence of four language questions;
- francophones outside of Quebec were less pleased with the 1991 home language question;
- support of language of education and language of work.

Ethnic Origin/Race

- support for a mark-in box for "Canadian";
- support for a question on ethnic ancestry (format not specified);
- strong support for a race question

Aboriginal

- support for an Aboriginal question on the 2A form;
- question should distinguish between Aboriginal identity and ancestry;
- support for a post-censal Aboriginal survey;
- users need better data.

Labour Force

- support for question on unpaid work;
- unpaid work question should be simple;
- support for question about multiple jobs;
- users are concerned about the impact of revised occupation classification on output;
- labour force questions are seen as being difficult to complete.

Place of Work

- broad support for coding below the census subdivision level;
- interest has been expressed by the province of Quebec and several municipalities of that province.

Geography

- little or no support for maintaining PCT geography;
- postal codes of 2A forms should be coded;
- timeliness and quality should be improved;
- effort should be made to maintain boundaries.

Timeliness

- timeliness should be improved but not at the expense of quality;
- major users strongly support earlier release of data but academics are less concerned about this issue;
- few users felt comfortable commenting on edit and imputation procedures.

Major Content Issues for 1996

- Aboriginal self-government data needs
- Target populations (ethnic groups, visible minorities)
- Family data
- Unpaid work

Integrated Census Test

The integrated Census test, scheduled to be conducted in November 1993 will be the only complete test of proposed content for the 1996 Census. All new questions will be tested and a complete guide will be available at the time of the test.

The 14,700 households selected to participate in the test will be selected from the Labour Force Survey. Questionnaires will be dropped off at the sample households two weeks before the survey date of November 8. Respondents will be requested to mail-back the questionnaires by November 17.

In addition to the main sample, twelve special population samples will be selected. The twelve samples will consist of 300 households and cover special target groups such as:

- blacks in Montreal, Toronto and Halifax;
- Asians in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver;
- Aborigines in Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton or Calgary, Regina or Saskatoon;
- Métis in two locations.

Major dates for the Integrated Census Test:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Collection | November 8, 1993 |
| • Data file | April, 1994 |
| • Data analysis | May, 1994 |
| • Test results | June, 1994 |

Appendix 7

STATISTICS IN FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

**REPORT TO THE 1993 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

STATISTICS IN FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Federal states must deal with issues of regional disparity and the unequal fiscal capacities of sub-national governments, such as provinces or states. In Canada, the ability of provincial governments to raise revenue to provide public services differs significantly between provinces, and, therefore, the federal government has played a crucial role in these areas since confederation. Currently, the federal government administers three major programs designed to assist provinces in the provision of public services: Established Program Financing, Canada Assistance Plan and the Equalization Program under the *Fiscal Arrangements Act*. This paper focuses on the Equalization Program and, in particular, on Statistics Canada's role in its administration.

The existence of interprovincial differences in the levels and types of (per capita) economic activity implies that each province has different revenue bases and differing capabilities to raise revenues. Thus, at comparable levels of taxation the "fiscal capacity" of provinces can vary widely and so, correspondingly, can the ability of different provinces to provide public services to their residents. The goal of the Equalization Program is to permit Canadians in all provinces to receive comparable levels of public services at comparable levels of taxation. The program seeks to achieve this by comparing the capacity of a province to raise revenue from 37 different revenue bases with that of a five-province standard, consisting of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. A province's per capita revenue capacity is compared to this five-province standard. A province has a positive or a negative entitlement from a particular revenue base depending on whether or not its capacity to raise revenue from that base exceeds, or falls short of, the five-province standard. A province's total equalization entitlement for a given year is given by the sum of its entitlements from all 37 revenue bases. A province whose total entitlement would be negative under this formula receives no equalization payments for that year, but does not transfer any funds to other provinces. The funding for the program is entirely provided by the federal government.

In fiscal year 1988-89 the equalization program transferred \$7.3 billion from the federal government to seven of Canada's ten provinces. In the receiving provinces, as a group, these transfers amounted to 15 per cent of the revenues from their own sources. The transfers were particularly important to the Atlantic provinces; in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island equalization payments approached 50 per cent of provincial revenues from their own sources.

Transfers of this magnitude require careful administration based on data which are generally accepted as being objectively and

professionally produced. Accordingly, the *Fiscal Arrangements Act* provides for the Chief Statistician of Canada to provide to the Minister of Finance an annual certificate showing data for one hundred and fifty eight series out of a total of two hundred and ten series used in the calculation of provincial tax bases. These estimates of revenue tax bases are then used in a series of detailed (though conceptually straightforward) calculations to arrive at provincial equalization entitlements.

The primary purpose of this study is to identify those variables which have a major impact on the provincial equalization entitlements and to examine whether statistically insignificant variations in estimates prepared by Statistics Canada could have significant revenue consequences. The variables are classified as those having "Very High Impact", "High Impact", "Medium Impact", "Low Impact" and "Negligible Impact" on equalization entitlements. Of four variables ranked as having "Very High Impact" only one (population data) is supplied by Statistics Canada. The three remaining "Very High Impact" variables are income tax assessment variables calculated by the Department of Finance from data provided by Revenue Canada. Twenty-seven variables are ranked as having a "High Impact" on entitlements and of these variables 22 are supplied by Statistics Canada. These 22 "High Impact" variables are analyzed further to examine the statistical variability of the estimates.

The main conclusion from the analysis is that although there are a number of variables which could **potentially** have a significant impact on equalization payments the actual risks are probably quite small. Nine variables have a sufficiently high variability to potentially have material impact on equalization payments. These are: Wages and Salaries from the National Income and Expenditure Accounts; four variables which affect General and Miscellaneous Sales Taxes - Service Establishment Sales, Investment in Machinery and Equipment (including repairs), Capital and Repair in the Primary Sector, and the Cost of Construction; four affecting the calculation of Provincial and Local Tax Revenues -- Personal Disposal Income, Net Provincial Income at Factor Cost, Residential Capital Stock and Capital Stock-Commercial.

The variables are identified as **potentially** having a significant impact **but this does not necessarily imply an actual impact**. In particular, the capital stock variables and the national income variables are identified as being both highly variable and having high potential impact because these variables are revised several times and undergo changes in successive revisions. However, the estimates used in the actual calculation of equalization payments are the final estimates which are not subject to revision.

Population estimates are not included in the list above because they have not been identified as having a high variance. However, population estimates are the most significant of the data prepared by Statistics Canada used in the Equalization Program. Any changes in

the distribution of population amongst provinces, could have significant impacts on payments under the program.

Immigration has always been a major source of Canada's population growth and, in recent years, immigrants have been settling disproportionately in the provinces of Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. In addition, there appears to be internal migration to these provinces. Based on the results shown, these population movements would lead to a shift in entitlements from Atlantic Canada, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and an increase in Ontario and British Columbia in particular. Since these latter provinces do not now receive equalization payments the net effect of recent population patterns is to reduce the total entitlements under the program.

Appendix 8

**EVALUATION OF THE FUNCTIONING AND EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE SYSTEM
RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

**REPORT TO THE 1993 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

**EVALUATION OF THE FUNCTIONING AND EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

Recommendations and Summary of Discussions

Comments and Recommendations on the Functioning of the Committees

There was general agreement on the role of the Federal-Provincial Committee System ("to coordinate the statistical system") and on the role of the committee meetings (to offer an opportunity for an information exchange and for focal points to comment/react to Statistics Canada initiatives and activities).

Many participants voiced concerns that committee meetings might not be achieving the priorities of both partners in the statistical system. While the activity reports offer an opportunity for Statistics Canada personnel to inform focal points about their activities, participants questioned whether this was the most effective method of sharing this information and whether time spent in committee meetings couldn't be used more productively.

There was widespread agreement that committee meetings would be more useful if there were more opportunities for discussion of issues provided that issues of concern to both Statistics Canada and the focal points were addressed. It was also noted that annual meetings might not be necessary for all committees, if neither provincial and territorial delegates nor Statistics Canada had items needing discussion.

Another role of the Federal-Provincial Statistical Committee System is to mount and initiate special projects. There was agreement that the option of creating temporary issue-driven committees has, to date, not been utilized in many cases where such a committee would have been useful. Interprovincial trade was the most recent example of such an issue.

There was consensus that subject matter/program committees (e.g. Agriculture Statistics) are functioning effectively but that "umbrella" committees (e.g. Business Statistics) would benefit from some changes. Subject matter committees provide an opportunity for experts to discuss items of concern having policy implications. Umbrella committees, while considered necessary as forums for discussion, were generally classified as trying to cover too many areas at the expense of discussions of a more substantive nature.

All participants felt that there was no necessity to hold all meetings in Ottawa. Resources were considered to be the determining factor in holding meetings outside of Ottawa.

Several focal points were in favour of each committee preparing a description of plans for the coming year in their report to Council. It was noted that in some cases these plans would be tentative.

Recommendations/Suggestions

1. that agendas be set well in advance of committee meetings;
2. that umbrella committees become more focused on substantive issues rather than attempting to cover a broad range of items in information exchange sessions;
3. that oral activity reports presented by Statistics Canada staff at committee meetings be replaced with written reports circulated in advance of the meetings combined with discussion/question periods at the meetings;
4. that the Council make more use of ad-hoc committees for special one-time only issues and that committees formed to deal with these issues have a "sunset clause";
5. that committees become more issue-oriented and that the annual Council meeting be the forum for raising new issues;
6. that committee meetings be held outside of Ottawa on a periodic basis, with host divisions covering additional costs (these being largely staff travel and the charges for simultaneous interpretation).

Comments and Recommendations on the Role of Focal Points in the Committee System

Most of the participants from Statistics Canada were of the opinion that focal points should be more involved in the activities of the various committees. Three subject matter committees: transportation, labour and agriculture, indicated that focal points (or other provincial/territorial delegates) were already extensively involved in the agenda setting process and in more detailed policy/issue discussions.

This view was echoed by the focal points themselves, with most wanting increased opportunities to contribute in a more constructive and proactive manner. As partners in the statistical system, focal points are generally of the opinion that more discussion on issues, and possibly less on technical items, would make their contributions more valuable.

Taking resource constraints into account, focal points indicated that they were willing to prepare and present papers at committee meetings, and to serve as discussants for papers prepared by Statistics Canada personnel (where provincial/territorial interests or concerns coincide

with those of Statistics Canada). However, for this approach to be effective, much work would have to be done in advance of committee meetings -- by both focal points and Statistics Canada personnel.

Few participants supported the idea of focal points serving as chairpersons or co-chairpersons of committees, primarily because of the time required to fulfil these functions.

There was no support for regular conference calls between the Chief Statistician and focal points. The past practice of having such calls only when an issue is "fast-breaking" and needs immediate discussion and action was considered very effective.

Recommendations/Suggestions

1. that most committees begin the agenda setting process at an earlier date;
2. that the focal points be more involved in the agenda setting process (to help ensure that the concerns of focal points are addressed at committee meetings and that focal points have an opportunity to contribute at the meetings);
3. that it is not necessary for focal points to serve as chairpersons or co-chairpersons of committees;
4. that the past practice of having conference calls between the Chief Statistician and the focal points when issues requiring immediate discussion and action be maintained.

Comments and Recommendations on Specific Committees

Several individual committees were the subject of considerable discussion. It should be noted that changes in the number of committees and/or the frequency of their meetings directly impacts on resources available for the formation of ad hoc committees and for holding meetings outside of Ottawa.

Small Area Data Committee

Owing to prior commitments, the chairperson of the Small Area Data Committee was unable to attend the consultation sessions. Among those who were in attendance, there was a consensus that the issues dealt with under this committee could be addressed by other subject matter committees.

Data Dissemination Committee

Participants had various views on the role of the Data Dissemination Committee. A number of participants, including the chairperson of the Data Dissemination Committee, noted that the specific issue which had

led to its creation no longer exists. Some focal points, however, were concerned about having a forum for discussing data dissemination issues. It was suggested by the chairperson of the Data Dissemination Committee that these issues could be addressed at the Council meetings or at the appropriate subject matter committee meetings.

Business Statistics Committee

Overwhelmingly, participants thought that the Business Statistics Committee has not been functioning effectively in recent years. Concerns were raised about the usefulness of the annual meeting, where provincial and territorial delegates listen to numerous presentations on a wide range of topics, with little opportunity to discuss issues or other items of concern. In contrast, the second meeting of the year which concentrates on a single issue, was considered effective and essential by both provincial/territorial delegates and Statistics Canada staff.

Social Statistics Committee

A number of participants, including the chairperson of the committee, noted that the increasing importance of certain socio-cultural and socio-economic issues has not been reflected in the activities of the Social Statistics Committee. This committee, like the Business Statistics Committee, was generally considered to be trying to do too much in too little time. Participants noted that more concentration on issues and less on Statistics Canada activities in this area would help the Social Statistics Committee function more effectively.

Local Government Statistics Committee

Most participants noted that this committee has not met in several years and most of its activities have been absorbed by the Public Sector Statistics Committee.

Vital Statistics Committee and Mineral Statistics Committee

Several participants questioned the link between these committees and the federal-provincial committee structure. For the most part, these two committees function entirely separately from the general committee structure: they have their own delegates and their own program areas.

Recommendations/Suggestions

1. that the Small Area Data Committee be disbanded and its activities be absorbed into other committees;
2. that a proposal for disbanding the Data Dissemination Committee be discussed at the next meeting of the Consultative Council;

3. that the Business Statistics Committee consider adjusting the agenda for its annual meeting, with more emphasis on issues of provincial concern;
4. that oral reports presented at the annual meeting of the Business Statistics Committee be prepared and distributed in advance, with delegates having an opportunity to ask questions and discuss items of interest at the meeting;
5. that program areas within the Business Statistics field (Transportation, Agriculture) with their own federal-provincial committees not be on the agenda of the annual Business Statistics Committee meeting, but that representatives be present at that meeting to respond to any questions that may arise;
6. that the agenda for meetings of the Social Statistics Committee reflect issues needing discussion (i.e. low-income cut-offs, aboriginal data) and input from the provincial and territorial delegates;
7. that the agenda for meetings of the Social Statistics Committee be set further in advance of the meetings, allowing the proper delegates to attend and for preparation time;
8. that the Local Government Committee be disbanded and its activities be formally absorbed by the Public Sector Statistics Committee;
9. that the links between the Vital Statistics Committee, the Mineral Statistics Committee and Statistics Canada be investigated further.

Comments and Recommendations on Communication between Advisory Committees and Federal-Provincial Committees

Many participants were of the opinion that there is not enough communication between advisory committees and federal-provincial committees. While it was noted that not all federal-provincial committees have a corresponding advisory committee, many participants would like to see increased communication where it is appropriate. It was suggested that having chairpersons of advisory committees brief the corresponding federal-provincial committees on their activities could effectively serve this purpose.

Recommendations/Suggestions

1. that chairpersons of advisory committees could be invited to brief the corresponding federal-provincial committee on the advisory committee's activities on a periodic basis.

Comments and Recommendations on Communication Between Statistics Canada and the Focal Points

Many of the participants from the provinces and territories did not feel that communication between Statistics Canada in Ottawa and the focal points is adequate. They were particularly concerned about receiving more "informal" information about activities in program areas.

Over all, relations and communications between regional offices and focal points were described as "good".

Recommendations/Suggestions

1. that information sessions between personnel from program areas at Statistics Canada in Ottawa, regional offices and focal points be conducted when Ottawa staff are visiting the regional office.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT CONSULTATION MEETINGS
ON THE REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING AND EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

September 17, 9:00

G. Andrusiak
D. Desjardins
P. Dober
D. Dodds
W. Falk
Y. Fortin
G. Grant
J. Morning
D. Newson
J. Palmer
W. Smith

September 17, 1:30

G. Andrusiak
R. Beitting
D. Desjardins
W. Falk
Y. Fortin
R. Joyce
C. Marks
R. McMahon
J. Morning
D. Newson
J. Palmer

September 18, 1:00

D. Chartrand
D. Desjardins
D. Dodds
W. Falk
Y. Fortin
B. Laroche
J. Morning
D. Newson
B. Petrie
K. Sahay
B. Slater
W. Smith
T. Thompson

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