

---

# Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

---

June 20–21, 1996  
Ottawa, Ontario

NOT FOR LOAN  
NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS

STATISTICS STATISTIQUE  
CANADA CANADA  
MAY 5 1996  
LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE



---

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

**MINUTES**

---

Meeting of June 20 and 21, 1996

---

---

Ottawa, Ontario

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Minutes of the Meeting of June 20 and 21, 1996

1.	Opening Remarks . . . . .	1
2.	Provincial and Territorial Presentations . . . . .	1
	a) Provincial and Territorial Reports . . . . .	1
	b) Measures to Improve Profile of Provincial and Territorial Focal Points . . . . .	2
3.	Statistics Canada Program Reductions . . . . .	3
4.	Dissemination Plans . . . . .	4
	a) Statistics Canada's Overall Dissemination Strategy . . . . .	4
	b) Internet and Redistribution by Provincial-Territorial Focal Points . . . . .	4
5.	Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program	5
6.	National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program .	5
7.	Business and Trade Statistics Program . . . . .	6
8.	Program Committee Report and Nomination of the Program Committee . . . . .	7
	a) Program Committee Report . . . . .	7
	b) Nomination of the Program Committee . . . . .	7
9.	Other Business . . . . .	7
	<b>List of Delegates and Participants . . . . .</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Agenda . . . . .</b>	<b>13</b>

## Appendices

1.	Provincial and Territorial Activity Reports . . .	17
	Newfoundland . . . . .	19
	Prince Edward Island . . . . .	23
	Nova Scotia . . . . .	25
	New Brunswick . . . . .	27
	Quebec . . . . .	31
	Ontario . . . . .	45
	Manitoba . . . . .	49
	Saskatchewan . . . . .	51
	Alberta . . . . .	53
	British Columbia . . . . .	59
	Northwest Territories . . . . .	67
	Yukon . . . . .	71
2.	Measures to Improve Profile of Provincial and Territorial Focal Points . . . . .	85
3.	Letter to Focal Points Concerning Redistribution of Integral Copies of Statistics Canada's Electronic Products . . . . .	93
4.	Federal-Provincial Committee Reports . . . . .	99
	Agriculture Statistics . . . . .	101
	Business Statistics . . . . .	105
	Census of Population . . . . .	109
	Data Dissemination . . . . .	113
	Demography . . . . .	117
	Labour Statistics . . . . .	119
	Mineral Statistics . . . . .	123
	Provincial Economic Accounts . . . . .	127
	Public Sector Statistics . . . . .	129
	Social Statistics . . . . .	131
	Transportation Statistics . . . . .	133
	Vital Statistics Council for Canada . . . . .	135
5.	Statistics Canada Program Reductions . . . . .	137
6.	Program Committee Minutes . . . . .	147
7.	Dissemination Plans . . . . .	153
	Statistics Canada's Overall Dissemination Strategy . . . . .	155
	Internet and Redistribution by Provincial-Territorial Focal Points . . . . .	175
8.	Follow-up from the 1995 Meeting . . . . .	181

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 20 AND 21, 1996

## **1. Opening Remarks**

The Chairperson opened the 23rd annual meeting of the Consultative Council on Statistical Policy by welcoming the delegates.

The proposed agenda for the 1996 meeting was approved and the minutes of the previous meeting (May 1-2, 1995) were adopted without amendment.

## **2. Provincial and Territorial Presentations**

### **a) Provincial and Territorial Reports**

Provincial and territorial members presented their respective activity reports. The provincial and territorial written reports are attached as Appendix 1.

The following information was not included as part of the written activity reports:

The delegate from Quebec reported that a memorandum of understanding had been struck which, if approved, will give BSQ a stronger coordinating role within the provincial government. Since as many as 40 provincial organizations are involved in statistical activities in the province, one of the document's principal recommendations is to establish a committee for statistical coordination entitled Comité interministériel de la statistique. The Director of the BSQ would chair this committee, which would allow harmonization and integration of efforts and cost-sharing. A recent amendment to the act of the Ministère du Revenu du Québec gives BSQ access to tax records. In the memorandum of understanding, it is recommended that the BSQ Act be amended to facilitate access to other administrative files such as health insurance records.

Dr. Fellegi and several focal points expressed an interest in obtaining a copy of the recommendations. The Secretariat will distribute the document once it has received Cabinet approval.

Mr. Bessette also reported that starting next fall, the BSQ will become an executive agency. This new status will distinguish them from the Department of Finance and will reinforce their neutral status, emphasizing that they serve all departments.

**b) Measures to Improve Profile of Provincial and Territorial Focal Points**

The delegate from British Columbia presented a paper to initiate discussion on this topic. The paper is attached as Appendix 2.

First, Mr. McRae suggested that Statistics Canada inform focal points of all provincial-territorial data requests. It was pointed out that a Statistics Canada policy on this already exists, but that it is not always enforced. The Secretariat will remind Statistics Canada managers of the existence of this policy.

Next, Mr. McRae suggested that licensing arrangements for the focal points ensure unrestricted access to purchased or free data sets by all provincial and territorial government offices.

Denis Desjardins informed focal points that the intent of the existing policy is to allow them to serve their provincial administrations narrowly defined - not to allow them to make integral copies for unlimited numbers of departments. He stated that the policy allows focal points to make up to three copies of purchased files. (After the Council meeting, Mr. Desjardins distributed a memo to focal points explaining the policy in detail. The memo is attached as Appendix 3.)

Lastly, Mr. McRae stressed the importance of strong communications and suggested using the Internet as a mechanism for regular exchange of ideas.

The delegate from Saskatchewan requested the reinstatement of a report called "Recoverable Projects" which summarizes all data purchases within the government. Wayne Smith explained that this report had temporarily been suspended, but that it should now be possible to generate it with Statistics Canada's new sales system. The Secretariat will ensure that the report is reinstated and provided to focal points on a quarterly basis.

Several focal points underlined the need for them to provide information - not just data - to clients. Many of them stated that conducting regional analysis enhances their role.

Dr. Fellegi, although pleased to hear about their increasingly analytical approach, expressed the need for focal points to strike a balance in terms of their role: he agreed that analysis represents an essential part of the focal point function, but pointed out that it is not their sole function. The focal point role also includes coordination (it is in Statistics Canada's interest to have a knowledgeable focal point who can convey provincial needs to the Agency), dissemination of Statistics Canada information within the provincial-territorial government and data sharing. He underlined what he called the "fullness" of the focal point function.

### **3. Statistics Canada Program Reductions**

Dr. Fellegi led a discussion on Statistics Canada program reductions using a previous exchange of letters about the effects of cuts at Statistics Canada as the background for this discussion. The letters were forwarded to focal points prior to the meeting and are attached as Appendix 5.

On a more general note, Dr. Fellegi remarked that suggestions from the focal points on what programs Statistics Canada should cut rather than what the Agency should not cut would be of much greater assistance in its decision-making process in these matters.

The delegate from British Columbia expressed concern about further cuts to the economic accounts program. The delegate from Ontario stated that if the quality of the provincial data diminishes further, this will have an impact on their ability to conduct fiscal analysis studies. Indeed, the majority of focal points expressed concern about the deterioration of provincial estimates.

In response, Dr. Fellegi stated that there are two possible scenarios for the near future. The first is that program cuts will proceed and the system will begin to deteriorate to some extent. The second would be that Statistics Canada receive funding to improve the quality and robustness of its statistical estimates in the context of the GST Harmonization initiative. If such funding were to be received, the quality of provincial economic data would naturally also be improved.

There is a document being prepared that outlines which elements of the Agency's statistical program must be strengthened before the Chief Statistician would permit its data to be used for GST Harmonization purposes.



However, the paper must undergo major revisions and will not be available for distribution to focal points for some time.

#### **4. Dissemination Plans**

##### **a) Statistics Canada's Overall Dissemination Strategy**

David Roy, Director, Marketing Division, made a presentation on Statistics Canada's strategic directions for dissemination and marketing. His transparencies are included as Appendix 7.

The delegate from Saskatchewan expressed concern that CANSIM users will pay three dollars per time series on the commercial CANSIM site. It was explained to focal points that Statistics Canada had committed itself, as a matter of both principle and fair play, to not undercut secondary distributors. The price established simply reflected the average retail price charged by distributors.

##### **b) Internet and Redistribution by Provincial-Territorial Focal Points**

Wayne Smith gave a demonstration of Statistics Canada's public good data bank. An outline of his presentation is attached as Appendix 7.

Mr. Smith explained that Statistics Canada has made a corporate decision to make available on the Internet a body of information called *Canadian Dimensions*. This will replace the *Canada at a Glance* module and will contain about 160 tables drawn from the 1997 *Canada Year Book*. The first wave will be loaded in early July. Virtually all of the tables will provide the provincial dimension if it is available. Ultimately, links will be created between these tables and CANSIM.

Mr. Smith welcomed feedback from focal points regarding the content or presentation of tables.

In response to the question of Internet redistribution rights for the focal points, it was stated that focal points can disseminate what Statistics Canada is disseminating freely on the Internet. If they repackage Statistics Canada data and put the information on their own sites, they must source Statistics Canada.

In addition, it was pointed out that limited census subdivision profile data will ultimately be available to some level of detail on the public good data base portion of the Internet site.

#### **5. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program**

Bruce Petrie, Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field, began his presentation by thanking focal points for their support and assistance during the course of the 1996 Census operation.

He presented a summary of the topics handled at the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics meeting held earlier to give delegates a chance to raise issues not touched on through the course of that meeting or to explore particular items more fully.

The delegate from Manitoba stated that improving the provincial dimension of the low income cut-offs should be higher on Statistics Canada's corporate agenda. Mr. Petrie said that Statistics Canada is focusing more attention on income measures generally and that there will be global improvements. However, both Mr. Petrie and Dr. Fellegi pointed out that Statistics Canada conducted a thorough review of the low income cut-offs three years ago and no improvements resulted from the exercise. Mr. Petrie recommended that focal points assume a more proactive role in influencing how the low income cut-offs are used and interpreted by their provincial administrations.

Concerns were raised by the delegate from Manitoba about the reduction of the Labour Force Survey sample. Although Mr. Petrie agreed with focal points' concerns about the Labour Force Survey sample, he pointed out that it is indeed vulnerable to reductions because much of it is funded by Human Resources Development Canada.

The delegate from Manitoba stated that he was pleased about the proposed 1996 Census program products and services, calling them "refreshing" from a user perspective.

#### **6. National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program**

Stewart Wells, Assistant Chief Statistician, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field, began his presentation by stating that improvements to the national accounts program will largely be determined this year by what Statistics Canada gets out of the GST Harmonization

proposal (as Dr. Fellegi had stated earlier, Statistics Canada may be funded to strengthen its statistical program so that the data can be used as the basis for allocating tax revenues under GST Harmonization).

Mr. Wells acknowledged that there had been some concern expressed regarding the lead time focal points were being given to review provincial accounts data before release. He proposed, and it was agreed, that we revert to the schedule that used to be followed, that is, revised estimates for earlier years would be sent for review to provinces and territories in late fall and the preliminary for the latest year in the spring.

With regard to the GDP release, certain focal points suggested Statistics Canada should highlight income and expenditure growth rates in *The Daily* rather than industry numbers, in order to minimize confusion. Mr. Wells agreed with the suggestion.

Mr. Wells also offered to work individually with the provinces towards the reconciliation of interprovincial trade data.

#### **7. Business and Trade Statistics Program**

Jacob Ryten, Assistant Chief Statistician, Business and Trade Statistics Field, gave a presentation on the following items: the introduction of a new classification of economic activities (the revised SIC); a pilot initiative to determine whether we can produce provincial level data for key service industries; and implications of budget cuts on the business and trade statistics program, as well as measures envisaged, opportunities and challenges (assuming no tax harmonization project).

The delegate from Ontario asked if it would be possible to obtain export data for the provinces, seasonally adjusted, and revisions to previous data. Mr. Ryten agreed to both.

The delegate from Nova Scotia raised the issue of the reliability of certain data in the federal-provincial equalization payment formula. He mentioned large revisions, stated that restaurant statistics are no longer available, and cited problems with retail trade data and with private and public investment statistics.

Mr. Ryten indicated he would look into these matters. He asked for focal points to bring such problems to his attention as they arise and stated that he would like to continue bilateral discussions on these issues.

**8. Program Committee Report and Nomination of the Program Committee**

**a) Program Committee Report**

Chairperson Paul Dober reported that all provinces/territories were surveyed by their Program Committee representatives for agenda items and an acceptable agenda was set.

**b) Nomination of the Program Committee**

The provincial and territorial focal point component of the Program Committee will consist of Bill Hyshka, Alton Hollett and Luc Bessette. It was recommended that Bill Hyshka serve as chairperson.

Denis Desjardins will be the formally designated Statistics Canada representative. Other Statistics Canada representatives will be called upon as topics warrant.

**9. Other Business**

None.

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, Statistics Canada
Newfoundland	Alton Hollett	Director, Newfoundland Statistics Agency, Executive Council
Prince Edward Island	Roy Spence	Director, Fiscal Management Division, Department of the Provincial Treasury
Nova Scotia	Paul Dober	Director, Statistics Division, Department of Finance
New Brunswick	Clifford Marks	Director, New Brunswick Statistics Agency, Department of Finance
Quebec	Luc Bessette	Director General, Quebec Bureau of Statistics, Department of Finance
Ontario	Emmet Weatherhead	Manager, Current Analysis Unit, Office of Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance
Manitoba	Wilf Falk	Director, Manitoba Bureau of Statistics
Saskatchewan	Ron McMahon	Director, Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics

Alberta	Bill Hyshka	Manager, Statistics Alberta Treasury,
British Columbia	Don McRae	Acting Director, BC STATS, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Management
Yukon	Gerry Ewert	Director, Bureau of Statistics, Executive Council Office
Northwest Territories	Ralph Joyce	Territorial Statistician, Bureau of Statistics, Department of Finance

**Participants**

Statistics Canada	Bruce Petrie	Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Yvon Goulet	Assistant Chief Statistician, Communications and Operations Field
Statistics Canada	Stewart Wells	Assistant Chief Statistician, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field
Statistics Canada	Jacob Ryten	Assistant Chief Statistician, Business and Trade Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	David Roy	Director, Dissemination Division
Statistics Canada	Wayne Smith	Director, Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Tanis Browning-Shelp	Head, Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat, Communications Division

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

**AGENDA**



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

**June 20 and 21, 1996**

**AGENDA**

Simon A. Goldberg Conference Centre  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Thursday, June 20, 1996**

**9:00 a.m.      Opening Remarks**

- Adoption of the Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes of the 1995 Meeting

**9:15 a.m.      Provincial and Territorial Reports**

- Provincial and Territorial Focal Points
- Measures to Improve Profile of Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
- discussion led by Don McRae

**10:15 a.m.      Break**

**10:30 a.m.      Provincial and Territorial Reports  
(continued)**

**11:00 a.m.      Statistics Canada Program Reductions  
- Ivan P. Fellegi**

**12:15 p.m.      LUNCH**

**1:30 p.m.      Program Committee Report**

**1:45 p.m.      Dissemination Plans**

- Statistics Canada's Overall Dissemination Strategy - David Roy
- Internet and Redistribution by Provincial-Territorial Focal Points - Wayne Smith

**3:00 p.m. Break**

**3:15 p.m. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program**

- Bruce Petrie

- Program Update
- Census Publication Program
- Census Adjustment

**4:45 p.m. Reception**

**Friday, June 21, 1996**

**9:00 a.m. National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program**

- Stewart Wells

- Program Update

**9:30 a.m. Business and Trade Statistics Program**

- Jacob Ryten

- Program Update
- Introduction of New Classification of Economic Activities (revised SIC)
- "Services" Pilot Project

**10:15 a.m. Break**

**10:30 a.m. Business and Trade Statistics Program (continued)**

- Jacob Ryten

**11:30 a.m. Nominations to the Program Committee**

**11:45 a.m. Other Business**

**Concluding Remarks**

**APPENDIX 1**

**PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

## NEWFOUNDLAND ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

### **OVERVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS**

The Newfoundland Statistics Agency became a division of the Economics and Statistics Section of the Cabinet Secretariat, Executive Council, in December 1995. Changes in the organization of government announced in the most recent budget will now see the Economics and Statistics Section, and thus Newfoundland Statistics, as a part of the Department of Finance. These changes have been an outcome of streamlining and cost-cutting measures which have affected government as a whole. While the budget of the statistics group has not changed significantly, the budget of the Section as a whole has, and resources are very tightly constrained.

### **RE-PROFILING OF WORK IN 1995**

Considerable changes were made during the last six months of 1995 to the nature and organization of work carried out. Tasks have been subdivided along the lines of data dissemination, data development and micro-economic modelling. Dissemination functions have been streamlined and routine tasks are now performed by two individuals. Professional staff have re-focused their efforts on providing statistical advice to clients and developing data centred upon key issues which face the province. Micro databases have been and continue to be built to provide data which are essential but have not been readily available. Certain of the data are also being used to build models. Enhancements of SPSD/M have been a main focus of modelling initiatives to date.

### **MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 1995-96**

- *Population Projection Model*: Population loss due to out-migration is an important issue in the province. To date we have relied on Statistics Canada population projections. This has constrained our ability to conduct sensitivity analysis, to monitor ongoing developments in demographic characteristics, and to tie population and economic forecasts together. The model being constructed will also allow population projections by economic zone. Sub-regional data are important for planning purposes (e.g., health or

education infrastructure projects, etc.). It will also enable us to produce more accurate and reliable population projections, and to link these projections to our economic forecasts via the Newfoundland and Labrador Econometric Model (NALEM).

- *Micro-economic Analysis of Migration Patterns/Activity:* Tied to the population projection model, this analysis includes a survey of persons who have left the province, being done in conjunction with MCP. It also includes work with the Department of Education to determine the intended destination of children (and their families) who have left schools within the province, to determine whether they move to another location within the province or to a destination outside the province. The results of this work thus far have been interesting and the work is centred on the population loss issue, especially the assumed depopulation of rural communities.
- *Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS):* This geographic information system (GIS), which is about to be released, was developed to address a severe shortage of socio-economic data at the sub-provincial level. A user's manual and information package are being completed, and licensing legalities and copyright issues are being finalized.
- *Internal Task Force on Fisheries Data:* Initiated to upgrade the range, quality and consistency of data available, this work centres on the importance of the fishery to the economy and the ongoing process of adjustment and change in the industry, which has a large impact on the economy as a whole. The Department of Fisheries is participating in this initiative because of their interest in these data.
- *Work Related to "Operation Online":* Newfoundland Statistics Agency staff have been assisting the Operation Online initiative of government in developing an approach to benchmarking and monitoring the provincial information technology industry in Newfoundland.
- *Business Formation and Performance Database:* Development of this database was initiated in response to a large volume of requests for business-related data and a need to monitor and analyze growth of new sectors of the economy (the so-called "new economy"). This project is in the early stages and will take about a year to complete.

- *SIMON Database*: Newfoundland Statistics has assumed responsibility for the Section's automated data retrieval and management system. We will be looking at ways to find efficiencies in updating the database.
- *TAGS Modelling*: TAGS client information has been built into the Statistics Canada Social Policy Simulation Database/Model (SPSD/M) which we use for virtually all analysis related to issues in income security. This will allow the analysis of key issues relating to the TAGS program and its interactions with the provincial economy.
- *Social Assistance Modelling*: Similar and related to the TAGS modelling work. Spillover of TAGS exhaustees into Social Assistance caseloads is a major issue facing the province and is also being analyzed as part of this work.
- *Labour Market Analysis Technology/Database*: Ongoing maintenance and development on this internally developed system which we use to store, manipulate and analyze data related to the UI program. The database dates back to 1991 and contains detailed information on every UI claim and individual UI recipient that has been active in the province since 1991. We are continuing work which allows us to match individual records between our various databases (i.e., UI, TAGS and Social Assistance).
- *Report on The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS)*: This report, about to be released, will show the concentrations of TAGS clients and when their program eligibility expires. It has been prepared in response to a large number of requests for the information from a variety of sources. Tables and maps provide data by economic zone, CCS and HRDC region. The report is a joint undertaking of Newfoundland Statistics and the St. John's HRDC Regional Office.
- *Tax Harmonization*: We have recently become involved in the tax harmonization initiative. The statistics group will play a major role in all data, allocation and incidence issues.
- *UI Reform Analysis and Modelling*: A large amount of analysis and modelling of the most recent changes to the UI program continues. UI dependency is high in the province and the planned changes give rise to important policy and economic issues.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

### **FISCAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

The Fiscal Management Division is located in the Department of the Provincial Treasury. During 1995 the former Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division was merged with Fiscal Management. The Director of this Division acts as the statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island. The Division is composed of three sections, which undertake the following tasks:

- (1) The Budget Section prepares the Provincial Budget, provides support to the Budget Cabinet and Management Board on financial matters, and monitors and conducts public consultations.
- (2) The Federal Fiscal Relations Section is responsible for the forecasting of non-departmental revenues (equalization, CHST, personal income tax, corporate income tax, etc.), the negotiation and administration of federal fiscal arrangements, tax policy, and a broad range of economic and statistical services to government.
- (3) The Investments Section is responsible for managing government's banking arrangements, money market activities, sinking funds, annual borrowing program and Master Pension Fund, and for the administration of the province's direct loan portfolio and loan guarantee program.

The Division, in conjunction with the Government Services Library, assists statistical users both internally within government and externally, including members of corporate, industrial and private sectors. The Division relies heavily on Statistics Canada for the majority of data that is required. Government departments also provide information, especially regarding the preparation of the quarterly and annual Statistics Reviews. The Fiscal Management Division continues its objective of reinforcing the importance of Statistics Canada as a valuable source of information and statistics within the provincial government.

## NOVA SCOTIA ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

The Statistics Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Finance operates as the Nova Scotia Statistics Agency under the Nova Scotia Statistics Act. The Division reports to the Executive Director of the Fiscal and Economic Policy Branch, who in turn reports to the Deputy Minister of Finance.

Staffing of the Division is the same as a year ago - i.e., a director, three research and statistical officers and a secretary. This staffing level and the entire operation of the Division could change in the next year as the secretary takes maternity leave and the Director is eligible for an early retirement package in April 1997.

Activities over the past year have concentrated primarily within the Department of Finance and a narrow group of other provincial departments. In the publications area the largest activity was the production in March 1996 of the biannual Directory of Manufacturers, in both hard copy and on diskette (in a Clipper database). The "products" portion of the Directory has also been made available on the Internet. Other publication updates during the year included the *Statistical Review, Facts at a Glance, Trends in the Economy* (monthly), *Construction Activity Report* (three issues per year), *Import and Export Quarterly Reviews, Nova Scotia's Largest Employers*, and monthly fact sheets on Economic Indicators, CPI and Labour Force. A growing number of these publications have been put on the Internet. In recent months there have been an average of 450 hits on the Internet for publications of the Statistics Division.

The Division was deeply involved in the preparation of the Department's White Paper "Shaping the Future" and the tabulation and analysis of the survey results from the public response to the Paper. The Division was also involved with the preparation of the provincial prospectus and was the lead group in the preparation of recent presentations to various rating agencies. It is expected that the Division will become involved with most aspects of the data requirements for tax harmonization over the next few months.



Extensive inquiries have been received from the Access Nova Scotia offices that have been set up throughout the province to handle consumer and business inquiries. A prime part of the information provided to business clients has been the small business profiles, and the Division has joined in the new agreements for production of small business statistics.

## NEW BRUNSWICK ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

### **GENERAL**

The New Brunswick Statistics Agency continues to monitor and report on trends in the economy of the government and to prepare the five-year economic forecast which is used for budget planning and revenue forecasting. Regular data dissemination activities were pursued, including responses provided to over 2500 inquiries. Our annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy*, was included with other Budget documents on the Internet for the second time. This past year we started the distribution to senior officials of a quarterly bulletin, *Labour Market Update*, to help put the monthly LFS numbers into perspective by reviewing recent trends. It will also highlight statistical issues such as the recently changed treatment of full-time and part-time employment.

### **DEMOGRAPHY**

In 1995, the Premier identified a need for the province to review demographic trends and assess the impact of the changing society on government programs and services. A Select Committee of the Legislature on Demographics was established. An interdepartmental Working Committee of Officials was set up to assemble information on demographics and its relationship to government programs and policies. Last month, a discussion paper, *New Brunswick at the Dawn of a New Century* [Le Nouveau-Brunswick à l'aube d'un nouveau siècle], was released to raise public awareness on demographic issues and generate input and response from citizens and interest groups. This report can be accessed on the N.B. Government's home page on the WWW.

Demographic profiles were prepared for a variety of government regions and studies. A new set of population projections were prepared for the demographic review. A contract was signed with Statistics Canada to generate population estimates by age and sex for census subdivisions.

Recent months have seen this office actively involved with the Halifax Regional Office in promotion of the 1996 Census. We have had the full support of all provincial government offices that were asked to support this effort. Personal expressions of support were issued by the Premier

and Minister of Finance. In view of the results from the April LFS questions on awareness of the Census date, the whole Census publicity campaign was effective in New Brunswick. The rate of return in the first week following Census Day was ahead of expectations. Thus, we have high aspirations that the rate of undercount will be reduced from that reported for 1991.

#### **TAX HARMONIZATION**

We have been involved in the tax harmonization issue, estimating the impact of the changes to the tax system on households in the province, using the SPSD/M of Statistics Canada. In addition, the I/O model was used to identify the industrial incidence of the provincial sales tax. These models were also used during the year for other tax impact studies.

#### **PENSIONS**

As a result of both the demography project and the review of the CPP that is currently under way, we have been looking at some of the data on the provisions being made by New Brunswickers for retirement. Several articles on this topic that recently have come out of Statistics Canada have been very helpful. Revenue Canada was the major source of the data used in this review.

#### **AQUACULTURE**

For some time we have been planning a survey of aquaculture activity (salmon farming) in the province. This survey is now in the field. The assistance of Statistics Canada officials in drafting the questionnaire was much appreciated. We also had the Small Business and Special Surveys Division develop, from administrative records, an estimate of employment and gross revenue for businesses in this sector.

#### **LABOUR FORCE SURVEY**

The LFS results in New Brunswick have a long history of volatility. Thus, we were pleased when we learned that Statistics Canada planned to introduce an improved sample design as part of the post-1991 Census update. We were assured that this redesign would result in an improvement to the quality of the LFS data for the province.

However, while the redesign does appear to have enhanced data quality in most provinces, the hoped-for benefits do not seem to have been achieved in New Brunswick. In fact, in our case, the situation has deteriorated. According to the Statistics Canada paper "Stability of Labour Force Survey Series Under the Redesigned Sample", New Brunswick's data are the least stable and the most volatile. They have moved from being one of the worse to the worst. The paper makes reference to further work to better understand the New Brunswick results. We are most anxious to hear the conclusions of this further work and learn how Statistics Canada plans to put the LFS statistics for New Brunswick on a level playing field with those of the other provinces.

## QUEBEC ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996<sup>1</sup>

### **STATISTICS ON THE BIO-FOOD INDUSTRY**

In addition to its regular activities in 1995-96, the Bureau conducted a survey and produced data on the use of pesticides and fertilizers in Quebec. The survey was carried out under the BSQ Fund at the request of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune to evaluate the use of these substances and measure their effects on the St Lawrence ecosystem.

The Bureau continued to produce its biannual publication *Statistiques agro-alimentaires* and posted the quarterly newsletter *Agro-Flash* on the Internet, along with statistics on agricultural production in Quebec. The Bureau produced a new publication entitled *Statistiques bioalimentaires : l'agriculture québécoise et l'ALÉNA*, which contains the main bio-food statistics relating to Quebec and the NAFTA signatories from 1990 to 1994.

The Bureau continued to develop a database containing all the statistical data it produced or collected in the agriculture sector.

### **STATISTICS ON THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR**

In 1995-96, the following titles were published under this program: *Industries manufacturières du Québec, 1990-1995*; *Statistiques manufacturières régionales, 1995* edition; *Statistiques des PME manufacturières au Québec, 1994* edition; and *Profil du secteur manufacturier au Québec, 1994* edition. To meet the needs of specific client groups, the Bureau also produced a statistical collection entitled *Statistiques sur les produits utilisés par les manufacturiers québécois* (1993 edition).

---

1 The report of the Bureau de la statistique du Québec is only presenting the main events that have occurred since the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. None of the current Bureau activities are recorded. On the other hand, all the Bureau publications that appeared over the last financial exercise are mentioned.

The Bureau began Internet dissemination of the main statistics on Quebec manufacturing industries, statistics on the manufacturing activity of small and medium-sized businesses and large businesses, statistical profiles of the manufacturing sector by industry group and data on shipments of manufactured goods by industry group, for the various regions of Quebec, showing each region's relative share.

For the third consecutive year, the BSQ was the agent of the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie (MICST). In this capacity, BSQ joined

Statistics Canada as a partner in financing the federal statistics agency's small businesses program. The Bureau was able to ensure delivery to MICST of *Small Business Profiles* and *Employment Dynamics*, which present data on expenditures, employment, pay, etc. in small businesses in Quebec.

In addition to carrying on its regular operations with respect to the Classification des activités économiques du Québec, the Bureau consulted Quebec departments and agencies on the revision of the SIC and made appropriate recommendations to Statistics Canada.

At the request of Statistics Canada, the Bureau helped organize the Round Table on business survey frames. The symposium, which the federal statistics agency is planning to hold in Quebec in the fall of 1996, will bring together experts from a number of countries.

#### **TERTIARY SECTOR STATISTICS**

As well as working on surveys on hotel occupancy and campground occupancy rates, the Bureau prepared an inventory of available data on the services sector and an analytical report on the possible use of such data. It also worked on a first internal statistical compendium of the available data.

The Bureau also monitored Statistics Canada's work on the tertiary sector to ensure that the federal agency meets its demand that data be produced at the provincial level.

#### **CULTURAL STATISTICS**

In addition to its ongoing activities, the Bureau fulfilled its role in coordinating and improving statistics on culture and communications by continuing to coordinate the work of the interdepartmental working group on culture and communications statistics. The objective of the group is to guide the BSQ's statistical output according to the

priorities identified by the main players in this sector and to present to Statistics Canada viewpoints and recommendations from the various departments and agencies of the Quebec government.

With respect to data integration, the Bureau continued working with Statistics Canada to develop the conceptual framework for cultural statistics. Discussions were held with Standards Division of Statistics Canada to have cultural industries taken into account in the revision of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). The Bureau also continued its work with the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and INRS-Culture et Société on the methodology to be used to select cultural activity indicators.

Indicative of the effort to integrate data from the cultural sector is the publication in 1995-96 of *Statistiques sur l'industrie du film* (1995 edition), produced in cooperation with the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, the Régie du cinéma, the Cinémathèque québécoise and the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles. So as not to weigh down the publication with excessive statistics, the Bureau also published a supplementary document entitled *L'Annexe statistique*, which contains all the data available in this sector, namely, data on film distribution, theatre operations and even the ratings for some films shown on television. The Bureau also disseminates the main statistics from these two publications on the Internet.

In addition to its ongoing production of *Statistiques sur l'industrie du film* (the 1995 edition was published in 1995-96), the Bureau also began Internet dissemination of the main data on film screenings.

The Bureau provided Statistics Canada with survey data on Quebec government expenditures in the cultural sector and published this information in a short-run statistical compendium entitled *Dépenses, recettes autonomes et emplois de l'Administration publique québécoise au titre de la culture, 1991-92 à 1993-94*.

#### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STATISTICS**

In cooperation with the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie and INRS-Urbanisation, the Bureau began work on a new reference publication on science and technology that will replace and supplement the annual *Statistiques sur la recherche et le développement industriels au Québec*. It also began producing a new edition of its biennial inventory of industrial R&D in Quebec, the previous edition of which was

entitled *La recherche-développement au Québec : les entreprises* (1993 edition). It also began a preliminary assessment of the possibility of developing a science and technology database.

In 1995-96, the Bureau started Internet dissemination of the main data from its publication *Statistiques sur la recherche et le développement industriels au Québec*, 1995 edition.

Under a contract signed with the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie, the BSQ acted as that department's agent in granting a contract to Statistics Canada to conduct a survey on industrial R&D in 1994, a year in which the federal agency did not carry out a complete survey in this field. The data from that survey are expected in August 1996.

Again through the BSQ Fund, and at the request of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles, the Bureau conducted a survey on R&D expenditures in the energy sector in 1994.

The Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie contracted the Bureau, through the Fund, to conduct a survey on R&D activities in the departments and agencies of the Quebec government. The results, in database form, are to be delivered to the department in dBASE along with a report analyzing the data.

#### **STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

In addition to continuing to produce the quarterly *Institutions de dépôt* and the annual publication *L'activité des institutions de dépôt au Québec, 1990-1994*, the Bureau began Internet dissemination of the main data it produces on the activities of deposit institutions in Quebec.

The Bureau began acting on some of the recommendations made by its main clients during consultations in 1995: it inventoried the data already collected in administrative files by other agencies on mutual funds, sales finance companies and life insurance; established a methodology for regionalizing data on mutual funds and sales finance companies; checked the capacity of companies to produce the required information; started conducting the necessary surveys; and set up a timetable for producing data on mutual funds. A strategy for disseminating this information was also developed.

#### **EXTERNAL TRADE**

The Bureau continued to disseminate the information that it produces in this program, by means, inter alia, of an annual publication entitled *Commerce international du*



Québec, the 1995 edition of which was released in October 1995. The Bureau began Internet dissemination of the main data produced in this program (main countries of destination for exports, main goods exported, main countries of origin for imports, main goods imported, value in constant dollars and current dollars).

The Bureau continued to closely monitor progress on the Input-Output Division's project on the provinces' external trade. It analyzed the data produced by the project, focusing on reconciling the different measures of Quebec's trade balance that can be obtained from Statistics Canada surveys.

The Bureau began laying the groundwork for a quarterly external account for Quebec with a view to incorporating it into the quarterly economic accounts.

### **ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS**

The Bureau produced its annual publication entitled *Comptes économiques des revenus et des dépenses*, the 1995 edition of which was released in August the same year. It continued to estimate quarterly data on revenues and expenditures from the Quebec economic accounts in both current dollars and constant dollars, and it published this information in the quarterly *Comptes économiques du Québec*.

With respect to provincial government revenues and expenditures based on economic accounts, the Bureau regularly provided Statistics Canada with comments on the data produced by the federal agency prior to their release. It also sent Statistics Canada three memoranda to ensure that the classification review process currently under way will take account of the particular characteristics and needs of the Quebec provincial government.

The Bureau made monthly and quarterly estimates of the real gross domestic product by industry for the economy as a whole. A new monthly publication, entitled *Produit intérieur brut par industrie au Québec*, was released.

The Bureau also began conceptual and methodological development of estimates of personal income by administrative region. It also began Internet dissemination of the main data produced by this program. The Bureau continued to produce the quarterly publication *Statistics*, which provides an overview of conditions in Quebec by analyzing some 24 major socio-economic indicators.

## **THE INTERSECTORAL MODEL**

The Bureau continued its regular activities in this program. As part of the ongoing project to update the database of the intersectoral model, it updated the indirect, direct and incidental taxation elements as well as the employment coefficients. The Bureau began incorporating Statistics Canada's 1990 input-output tables into the model's database and started various activities that will lead to a complete overhaul of the intersectoral model system.

The Bureau produced interpretive materials and support documents to promote a better understanding of the model and its various possible uses. A document entitled *Guide économique pour le modèle intersectoriel* was produced to familiarize users with the operation of the model. An information bulletin on improvements to the model was produced and released to the clientele.

## **INVESTMENT STATISTICS**

The BSQ continued to disseminate the information it produces in this sector. In February 1996, the BSQ released its new annual publication *Investissements privés et publics au Québec : Intentions révisées 1995*. The report contains actual expenditures on capital assets and repairs for 1991, 1992 and 1993, provisional actual expenditures for 1994, and revised forecasts for 1995.

An evaluation of the methodology used by Statistics Canada and the Bureau in this sector was also carried out, both at Statistics Canada and in the Bureau.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

In addition to its regular activities relating to the Register of Demographic Events, the Bureau overhauled the computer system supporting the Register and formulated an administrative agreement with the office of the chief coroner of Quebec.

As part of its production of annual estimates of the population by age and sex for Quebec, the administrative regions and the regional county municipalities, the Bureau is currently developing a demographic accounting system based on information from the beneficiary registration file of the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec. The Bureau finalized its official agreement with the Régie on this matter and developed computer programs that will allow for retrieval of denominalized data from the Régie's

beneficiary registration master files. This denormalized file for population estimates will start to be used in 1996-97.

The Bureau continued to monitor and evaluate Statistics Canada's population estimation methods and results. Two major issues in 1995 were the method of adjusting the population enumerated in the 1991 Census and the validity of the method of estimating the number of non-permanent residents that was implemented by Statistics Canada in autumn 1994. The identification of the sources of bias resulted in cooperation between the Demography Division of the federal agency and several Quebec departments, particularly the Ministère des Affaires internationales, de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles.

As it does each year, the Bureau published its work of demographic analysis entitled *La situation démographique au Québec*; the ninth edition was released in July 1995. In 1995-96, the Bureau also began Internet dissemination of data on demographic patterns in Quebec. This included population movements; rates of birth, mortality and natural increase; births, deaths and marriages per month; population, births, marriages and deaths by administrative region; life expectancy at birth, infant mortality, deaths and mortality rate by cause of death and by sex; fertility rate; and international and interprovincial migrations.

#### **SOCIAL STATISTICS**

The Bureau's efforts focused primarily on analytical work and preparation of a publication on Quebecers' living conditions, scheduled for release in summer 1996.

In order to provide information for the Quebec Government and the Bureau's own research projects, the BSQ continued to update a socio-demographic database by purchasing and assembling on CD-ROM historical data files from various Statistics Canada surveys, including the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey, the Survey of Family Expenditures and the General Social Survey. The Bureau advises its clients and gives them the benefit of its expertise on the content of these statistical files. It also conducts interdepartmental consultation and coordination with a view to making recommendations to Statistics Canada on the content and products of the census and its surveys.

In addition to helping finance the expansion of the Quebec survey sample for the 1995-96 General Social Survey on the Family, the Bureau acted as coordinator for Statistics Canada, while the BSQ Fund served as a joint financing mechanism.

Again by way of its Fund, the Bureau participated in assembling the financing needed for data-entry of the responses to the question on workplace postal code on the 1996 Census questionnaire.

The Bureau continued to represent the Quebec Government departments and agencies on federal-provincial committees on social statistics, the Census of Population, demography and labour statistics. The Bureau made a particularly strenuous coordination effort with respect to labour statistics: the Bureau had to provide information to major Quebec users of labour force statistics about the changes Statistics Canada proposed to make to its Labour Force Survey; it also evaluated the effects of those changes and proposed alternatives for Statistics Canada to consider.

#### **REGIONAL STATISTICS AND TERRITORIAL STANDARDIZATION**

Under the 3-year agreement with the Quebec regional development secretariat which ends in 1996, the Bureau produced a series of 22 customized tables of regional socio-economic data. Some of the tables were delivered to the client quarterly and others were delivered annually. The Bureau stored the tables in both Lotus and Excel in order to respond as quickly as possible to the most common user needs. After examining and consulting on the possibility of creating a database of regional statistics, the Bureau adopted a policy of promoting electronic access to existing databases in the various administrative units of the Bureau, at Statistics Canada and in the departments and agencies of the Quebec Government instead of setting up a centralized mega-bank of regional data.

A policy document was produced that defined the content of a new publication which will integrate regional data and indicators with a comparative analysis, providing a statistical profile of the administrative regions, the regional county municipalities and other geographic entities. This multi-regional publication will be produced in stages - by theme or area - as data from the 1996 Census become available.

The Bureau implemented an Internet service for rapid dissemination of regional data and is taking steps to update these data periodically.

The Bureau developed and tested the postal code-Quebec geographic code correspondence file using a file produced by Statistics Canada (1995 version); it then derived an enriched file to better meet the needs of internal and external users.

The Bureau continued to publish the monthly newsletter *Modifications aux municipalités du Québec*. An annual publication of the same name that covers all changes that occurred in 1995 was released in February 1996.

The Bureau began offering Internet access to commonly requested information concerning municipalities, including population, geographic code, name and status.

In the field of geomatics and thematic mapping, the Bureau participated in the geomatics users' forum and provided advice on geomatics and socio-economic statistics. It actively contributed to the task force on the spatial integration of socio-economic data for the development of a product prototype on the Estrie administrative region. Jointly with various departments and agencies - the Université du Québec à Montréal, the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi and the Institut national de la recherche scientifique-urbanisation - the Bureau participated in the initial planning stages of a Quebec atlas, which is scheduled for publication in 1998-1999.

The Bureau completed the implementation of a basic computer-assisted thematic mapping mechanism, and users within the Bureau were trained in the use of the MapInfo software.

## **USER SERVICES**

The Bureau's information and documentation centre continued its regular documentation operations and improved some practices by implementing different modules of the computerized library-management system. The loading of the document registry continued with the entry of all periodicals received by the centre; Statistics Canada titles are still being input. The Bureau considered using new research and telereference tools; the AMICUS system, successor to DOBIS, was used as a bibliographic research tool. Work was done to make the Bureau's library accessible on the Internet. This effort is expected to bear fruit by the beginning of the 1996-97 fiscal year.

As regards direct service to clientele, in addition to continuing its regular informational activities (responding to 7,181 general information requests in 1995-96), the centre continued to systematize and computerize its

operations and to set up new work tools to improve management of information requests and deliver higher-quality service to clientele.

The Bureau published the sixtieth edition of *Le Québec statistique* in April 1995.

The Bureau, in consultation with representatives of the education sector, examined the feasibility of producing an educational version of its brochure *Le Québec chiffres en main*; as a result, *Le Québec chiffres en main, édition 1995-96 (Géographie du Québec et du Canada, 3<sup>e</sup> secondaire)* was published in August 1995, followed in October 1995 by *Le Québec chiffres en main, édition 1995-96 (Éducation économique, 5<sup>e</sup> secondaire)*.

### **STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY**

In addition to continuing to provide methodological support to the administrative units of the Bureau in their regular programming and in various projects of the Fund, the Bureau responded to numerous requests from different departments and agencies for surveys and methodological studies. The main activities carried out or undertaken in this area in 1995-96 were as follows:

- Centre francophone de recherche en informatisation des organisations (CEFRIO): survey on organizational performance, drawing on a sample of Quebec businesses with 10 employees or more (4,000 businesses), in order to evaluate the relationship between an organization's level of automation and its performance.
- Ministère des Ressources naturelles: survey on the forestry workforce, a three-part survey drawing on samples of 1,000 forestry employers, 2,500 employees and 1,000 producers to collect data on the workforce in the forest sector in 1994 and on the different land holding systems, and also to develop profiles of the different types of forestry workers (terms of reference under the evaluation of the 1992-1996 Canada-Quebec auxiliary agreement on forestry development).
- Société québécoise de développement de la main-d'oeuvre, Ministère de l'Éducation, Human Resources Development Canada and Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation: survey on the characteristics of labour demand (survey conducted jointly by the BSQ and Statistics Canada, drawing on a sample of 21,105 businesses to measure the characteristics of labour demand and training needs)

- Commission des normes du travail: survey on employee compensation in the minimum wage range, drawing on a sample of 1,700 businesses, to identify employers' attitudes to minimum wage regulations and to measure various elements related to compensation in the minimum wage range.
- Sûreté du Québec: survey on the training profile of officers and NCOs in the Sûreté du Québec; a survey of 898 officers and NCOs, conducted jointly by the Bureau and the Sûreté du Québec in order to assess the training needs and the training profiles of Sûreté du Québec officers and NCOs; methodology and descriptive analysis carried out by the Bureau.
- Ministère de l'Éducation: development of methodology and a questionnaire for a survey on student lifestyles, and descriptive analysis of the results of a survey drawing on a sample of students at the college and secondary/vocational levels (3,100 respondents) to measure various lifestyle parameters.
- Ministère des Ressources naturelles: development of methodology and production of estimates for the survey conducted by the department in 1995 and 1996 on stumpage value.
- Ministère des Affaires internationales, de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles: adjustment to correct non-response bias in the "Relance" (New Start) surveys of recent immigrants, conducted by private firms for the department.
- Kino-Québec: estimation methodology for a survey contracted out to a private firm and drawing on a subsample of the 1992-93 social and health survey, to measure individuals' levels of physical activity.
- Ministère de la Sécurité publique: evaluation of the requirement for a sample design for the estimation of data from the department's information system on fires, and development of such a sample design.
- Ministère des Ressources naturelles: supervision of a survey of homeowners' interest in energy programs that the department contracted out to a private firm; methodology and analysis of findings.
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux: development of a tool for measuring the risk of disclosure in the circulation of microdata files or

cross-tabulation tables derived from the Med-Echo file, and participation in the implementation of this tool.

- Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec: support for this agency in conducting a statistical analysis of the beneficiary registration file.

The Bureau continued to evaluate the methodologies employed by Statistics Canada to measure population undercoverage in the 1991 and 1996 censuses. It also

completed its assessment of the methodology used by Statistics Canada to make its estimates in the annual and monthly retail sales surveys.

The Bureau continued to be responsible for all statistical activities connected with Santé Québec's surveys (social and health surveys of 1992 and 1998, health and activity limitation survey, survey of a cohort of Quebec babies, survey of members of cultural communities, survey of child and adolescent cardiovascular health, etc.), in terms of both survey methodology and statistical data analysis. The Bureau continued to participate in Santé Québec's scientific committee on surveys.

In order to improve its statistical methodology infrastructure and maintain the quality of its work and its expertise in this field, the Bureau pursued a number of activities, including the following:

- continued improvement of Statistics Canada's CRDB as a sampling frame for BSQ and Statistics Canada surveys of businesses and establishments in Quebec;
- development of methods and tools for protecting confidentiality when disseminating macro- or microdata (by reviewing the literature on the subject, programming of a parametric model, highlighting of atypical individuals, and evaluating the risk of disclosure of confidential information when several cross-tabulation tables are released simultaneously);
- continued improvement of processes and implementation of quality standards for the Bureau's work in statistical methodology.

## **SURVEYS**

The Bureau carried out a number of surveys, both under its regular program and under the BSQ Fund; it continued to enter, verify and code the data for the Register of demographic events; it revised the procedures for sending,



receiving, verifying and coding the forms used for the Register; and it completely overhauled the computer system that supports the management and control of these forms.

Improvements were made to the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) system to make it more effective, and surveys previously conducted by mail are now carried out by means of this system.

#### **COMPUTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

In May 1995, the Bureau joined the process to bring the government onto the Information Highway, and all administrative units cooperated in creating a BSQ Web site.

A second event marking the 1995-96 fiscal year was the completion of phase one of the strategic and operational plan for informatics. The Bureau gradually acquired and installed the required hardware and software (upgrading and purchasing microcomputers and a mini-computer with the Oracle database management system and SAS data processing system; updating various existing softwares, physical and logical updating of the LAN, etc.). The Bureau off-loaded its applications from the central platform (administered by the Direction générale des services informatiques gouvernementaux) onto its new departmental platform.

The Bureau also produced the report entitled *Inventaire des activités statistiques des ministères et organismes gouvernementaux, 1993-94 - Rapport synthèse*, which summarizes the statistical activities of 17 departments and 23 agencies of the Quebec Government, including the Bureau, during the 1993-94 fiscal year. Supplementary analyses were made of the data in the *Inventaire*, notably on survey activities and statistical coordination.

## ONTARIO ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

### **OVERVIEW**

The Ontario Current Analysis Group is located in the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch, Office of Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance. The Unit consists of a staff of eight economists and a secretary.

The major functions within the Current Analysis Unit are to analyze and report on the current state of the Ontario economy, through production of the *Ontario Economic Accounts* and other key bulletins. It also reports on emerging economic trends and issues. The Unit provides economic and statistical support to the Minister of Finance and Cabinet, and other divisions within the Ministry of Finance as well as other government ministries. The economic and revenue forecasting functions are carried out by other units within the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch.

In September 1995, the provincial statistical focal point function was moved to the Current Analysis Unit. A provincial Order in Council has been processed to reflect these changes.

### **MAJOR REPORTS**

The Unit produces a number of bulletins which are released throughout the government. The quarterly *Ontario Economic Accounts* is also distributed outside the government to libraries and various economic research institutions. It is also available on the Internet.

#### **Government-Wide Circulation**

*Ontario Key Economic Indicators*  
Weekly bulletin on major economic news released the previous week, plus monthly and quarterly tables

*Ontario Labour Markets*

Monthly reports on Ontario labour market conditions

*Consumer Prices*

Monthly report on consumer price movements in Ontario, Canada and the U.S.

*Canadian Economic Conditions*

Quarterly bulletin on Canadian GDP

**Ministry-Wide Circulation**

*Ontario International Trade Update*

Monthly report on Ontario and Canadian trade trends

*Ontario Auto Production*

Monthly report which tracks production, sales and other activity in the auto sector

*Housing Markets*

Monthly report on Ontario housing conditions

*Various Fact Sheets*

Monthly fact sheets on related Ontario economic data including bankruptcies, wage settlements, financial statistics, retail and wholesale trade, manufacturing shipments, building permits, etc

**External Circulation**

*Ontario Economic Accounts*

Quarterly publication on Ontario nominal and real GDP, by major income and expenditure components

*Ontario Production by Industry*

Quarterly report on Ontario real GDP (factor cost) by major industry

*Profile of Ontario's Provincial Electoral Districts*

Following release of census data, this report provides a social-economic profile on Ontario's 130 provincial electoral districts. The publication includes census data from the 100 per cent and 20 per cent sample sizes

## **ELECTRONIC SERVICES**

### **Economic Monitoring Overview**

A daily electronic update and synopsis of major economic releases to senior government staff.

### **Fax-On-Demand Service**

Participant in fax-on-demand service of key bulletins to senior managers in the Ontario Government.

### **Internet Releases**

The Ministry of Finance has released a number of documents on the Internet, including the Ontario Budget and related economic and fiscal bulletins. The *Ontario Economic Accounts* is also available on the Internet, as well as a bulletin describing recent economic developments in Ontario.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Ministry of Finance library maintains a complete set of all catalogued Statistics Canada publications as well as certain statistics publications of Ontario, federal and municipal governments.

## **COORDINATION SERVICES**

The Unit is involved in the coordination of ministerial data needs from Statistics Canada and other data sources. It also assists and advises ministries with locating and accessing economic and statistical data.

- With authorization from Statistics Canada, the Structural Economics Branch, Office of Economic Policy, is using the Business Register to study the migration of business and employment within and to and from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). In addition, the Management Board Secretariat uses the Business Register in its compensation, working conditions and benefit surveys.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

To maintain Finance's capacity to service its own data requirements, as well as meet the challenges of expanding economic data requirements from other areas of the government, the Office of Economic Policy is reviewing its existing data requirements and databases. The review will also assess various information technology systems, hardware and software, and staff resources.

## **CONCERNS**

Statistics Canada's Provincial Economic Accounts and its associated data releases are at the core of statistical activities for the provinces. Provincial data should be integral to the national statistical program, and Ontario is extremely concerned over the threatened further diminution of these services. Maintenance of the activities is critical for Ontario to effectively monitor its economic and fiscal situation. Ontario strongly urges Statistics Canada to maintain the integrity of these provincial statistical programs.

MANITOBA ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

No report submitted.

## SASKATCHEWAN ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

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 Statistics Canada and dissemination of its information. The current staff complement consists of a director, two research officers, a statistics clerk and a secretary.

The Bureau continues to release the *Monthly Statistical Review* and the *Saskatchewan Economic Review*. Both publications are a compendium of the most asked-for Saskatchewan monthly, quarterly and annual data. In addition, the Bureau produces a set of Economic Accounts twice yearly, which are published as *Saskatchewan Economic Statistics*.

During the past year we have devoted considerable resources to reconciling Saskatchewan trade flows as produced by ourselves and those produced by Statistics Canada. This has been a much lengthier process than first anticipated; however, both agencies have, we believe, profited from this exercise.

We would like to thank those in Statistics Canada who have lent their assistance to us over the past year. We find that constructive cooperation is beneficial to both of our agencies and in the long run benefits the entire statistical system.

## ALBERTA ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

### OVERVIEW

Statistics continued its move towards cost recovery for a variety of custom statistical and analytical services provided to both public sector and private sector clients. In addition to maintaining a suite of core services, Statistics also provided Alberta Government departments with ongoing consultative and technical support in the area of statistical analysis to meet program and planning needs.

General core services provided during 1995-96 included:

- Alberta economic accounts
- Alberta Statistical Information System - ASIST
- Custom data development and analysis
- Inter- and intra-provincial statistical coordination
- Custom survey operations
- Statistical database management
- Custom geographic information services
- Demographic estimates and projections

### ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

Statistics continued to operate with a staff complement of 7 FTEs, supplemented by the addition of contract personnel to undertake special projects. The fixed budget for Statistics remained stable over the past year and was augmented by cost-recovery revenue for funding of contract projects. During the 1995-96 fiscal year, revenue realized from cost-recovery initiatives was approximately \$150,000.



## **PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

During the 1995-96 operating year, Statistics continued to target and market its services as a cost-effective means of maintaining standardized statistical information on behalf of Treasury and provincial government clients. The Statistics group continued to centralize basic expertise within the organization in an attempt to reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication among departments. During the past year, five main program and service areas were active within Statistics, with the intention to expand into new areas on a demonstrated need basis.

### **1. Provincial Government Information Retrieval System**

#### **1.1 ASIST (Alberta Statistical Information System)**

ASIST is a centralized on-line database system used by Alberta Government departments to access and share a wide variety of socio-economic information. ASIST is currently moving from an annual subscription-based system to a pay-per-use structure to meet the demands of both internal and external clients.

#### **1.2 Electronic Publications via ASIST**

The availability of electronic publications from the database has been delayed as the search for a new and more efficient delivery system is investigated. The demand from users for this product continues to grow as the applications for a more user-friendly retrieval system are demonstrated. At present, a list has been compiled of over 50 client departments, agencies and business that are awaiting the implementation of the enhanced ASIST system. Initially 4 basic products will be available:

- Alberta Statistical Review (ASR)
- Provincial Electoral Division (PED) Profiles
- Alberta Economic Accounts
- Alberta Population Estimates and Projections

### **2. Statistical Database Management**

Selected databases were supported to provide input into various core departmental and custom contracted projects. Databases were maintained at a marginal cost, with

enhancements and scheduled updates financed through direct user funding.

### **2.1 Alberta Health Care Registration (AHC) System**

AHC registration data were used as input to Statistics' in-house Population Projection Model and have provided a base for developing custom sub-provincial population estimates/projections.

### **2.2 Alberta Business Register**

The Alberta Business Register was maintained under contract on behalf of the system sponsor, and contains a comprehensive listing of provincial businesses with associated information. The Register is used to provide client departments with detailed information for targeting ad hoc business surveys and developing industry profiles for general economic research.

### **2.3 Unemployment Insurance System**

Information from the UI System was used to derive sub-provincial labour market statistics to support custom projects and analyses. Data contained on the UI System are received under confidentiality agreement from Human Resources Canada's monthly BNOP stripper file.

### **2.4 Vital Statistics System**

The Vital Statistics System, containing birth, death and marriage data, provides general information for social research and is a key component of the Alberta Population Projection Model.

## **3. Data Development and Analyses**

Statistics provides expertise to Treasury and client departments to ensure strategic initiatives receive essential statistical and technical support. External projects are undertaken on a cost-recovery basis, and are accorded priority based on their relevance to Treasury and designated government policy, planning and program initiatives. During 1995-96 the following projects and service areas were undertaken on behalf of Treasury and external clients.

### **3.1 Custom Population Estimates and Projections**

Population estimates and projection services are currently carried out through contract demographers under the direction of Statistics staff. As a core function, centralized demographic statistics provide departments with uniform data to facilitate consistent program and policy planning within government. During the past year population estimates and projections have been developed for Alberta Census Divisions and various geo-administrative regions within the province.

### **3.2 Economic Multipliers**

GST-adjusted, public use (non-confidential) Alberta economic multipliers, intensity ratios and supply ratios for 1990 were developed for 50 industries and 43 commodities. In response to user demand, this information was made available to users in both publication and electronic format to facilitate simple impact analyses.

### **3.3 Economic Impact Model**

An Alberta Economic Impact Model was developed based on the release of the 1990 Input/Output data from Statistics Canada, with adjustments for the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in 1991. The Alberta model covers 161 industries and 485 commodities and can simulate both "open" and "closed" impacts. The model provides both public and private users with a standardized methodology to measure the impact of various changes in the economy.

### **3.4 Geographic Information Services**

Statistics provided custom boundary digitizing and data geo-referencing (via SMARTS System) services to clients on a cost-recovery basis. To assist users with in-house analyses and research, an on-site GIS translation product was developed and marketed to clients on a subscription basis. The major project during 1995-96 was to assist the Electoral Boundaries Commission in delineating the new Provincial Electoral Divisions.

### **3.5 International Trade Database**

Statistics continued to process and distribute custom international trade information to provincial government departments acquired from Statistics Canada. These data

provided client departments with custom import and export reports and analyses, generated monthly on an annual subscription basis.

#### **4. Custom Surveys**

The custom survey services offered by Statistics to clients during 1995-96 included general consultations, design, implementation, project management and survey analyses, as well as full turnkey solutions to data collection initiatives. Survey and analytical services are fully cost recovered on a fee-for-service basis from external clients. Major projects undertaken during the past year included

- Alberta Export Services Survey
- Alberta Reinvestment Survey - "Straight Talk - Clear Choices"
- Heritage Trust Fund Survey
- Government Staff Survey

#### **5. Alberta Statistical Focal Point**

In addition to the consultative role as the Statistical Focal Point for liaisons with Statistics Canada, Statistics continued to coordinate data purchases and acquisitions on behalf of government departments to maximize the value of expenditures and reduce overlap and duplication.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

As the Alberta Statistical Focal Point for liaisons with Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury, Statistics, would like to thank the many divisions of Statistics Canada who have provided assistance during the past year.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

### **1996-97 BUDGET AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

As part of a government-wide plan to cut administration costs, the number of ministries within the B.C. Government was reduced from 18 to 15. The ministry that BC STATS was attached to (i.e., Ministry of Government Services) was one of the three that were eliminated. Most of the functions of the Government Services ministry were absorbed into the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, including that of BC STATS. This change has had no effect on our mandate or operations, nor do we expect any changes in the near future. We now report to the Secretary to Treasury Board Staff, who at this time is also the Deputy Minister of Finance.

Once again, within the provincial government the overall budgetary mood is one of restraint. The 1996-97 Provincial Budget brought down on April 30 reported a reduction of the base in two-thirds of government ministries, including the Ministry of Finance (-4.8%). BC STATS, on the other hand, fared relatively better than most other operations in government, with a 0% change to our base. Hence, our net budget for 1996-97 remains at \$1.80 million, with a staffing level of 27 person-years. Approximately 80% of our budget is allocated to expenditures on personnel, with the remaining 20% consumed by purchases for data, systems, contract services, office equipment, rent, etc. In addition, during 1996-97 we expect to recover approximately 14% of our gross budget (\$285,000) from clients, largely other provincial government departments, for services and products delivered during the year.

### **BUSINESS PLAN FOR 1996-97**

Our objectives for 1996-97 will continue to focus on strengthening the analytical, dissemination and coordination activities within the organization. Emphasis will also be placed on human resource development in order to provide the skills required to achieve the program objectives. Specifically, our plans are

- to continue to enhance the **analytical capabilities** of BC STATS, particularly in the areas of Input/Output analysis and survey support.
- to enhance the **marketing and dissemination** of statistical products and services, and review existing statistical products for effectiveness and efficiency. As part of this initiative we plan to disseminate our statistical releases within the provincial government electronically via our Web page, and later hope to expand the service to our non-government users.
- to continue to improve the **coordination** of statistical activities within government by
  - further centralizing government purchases of data from Statistics Canada through BC STATS; and
  - continuing to expand our survey support services to other provincial government ministries and Crown corporations.

## **1995-96 ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Labour Market and Social Statistics**

#### ***Survey Support for the Public Sector***

##### Employment Equity

Since January 1994, BC STATS has been monitoring the movement of the provincial government towards employment equity. Every six months, all new employees in the government are surveyed to determine if they are members of the designated groups. With the information collected, along with information obtained from the government payroll file, workplace profile reports are produced for each ministry and department indicating the representation, hires, separations, promotions and transfers between ministries for all designated group employees.

Within the province, Crown corporations are now also required to submit a Workforce Profile for the purposes of employment equity. To date, BC STATS is producing profiles for BC Hydro and several smaller Crown

corporations on a cost-recoverable basis. Over the next year, this function may be expanded to cover all the Crown corporations.

### Government Travel Survey

At the request of Treasury Board, BC STATS conducted a survey of employees who travelled for the B.C. Government during the 1994-95 fiscal year. The purpose of this project was to determine how travel dollars were spent, and to identify potential areas for cost reductions.

### ***Expanded Use of IA/UI***

An important part of the labour and social statistical program of BC STATS is the production of sub-provincial data on Income Assistance and Unemployment Insurance recipients at various geographic levels within the province. The expanding provincial role in the area of labour market policy has resulted in a growing demand for this type of data.

### ***Regional Employment Projection Model***

Over the past few years, we have found that the lack of sub-provincial information on future employment levels by industry had produced a "data gap" in relation to our understanding of the regional implications associated with labour market shifts occurring at the provincial level. Hence, last year a joint project was initiated with the Regional Office of HRDC, BC STATS, and our Ministry of Education, Skills and Training to develop a sub-provincial employment by industry projection model.

The methodology adopted has come largely from previous work carried out within the government on community economic dependencies. The fundamental premise is that the economy of a community can be represented by income flows that can be classified as "basic" (or driver) and "non-basic" (or support), depending on the source of the income. Basic income is assumed to flow into a community from outside sources, usually in response to exported goods and services produced by the community. Non-basic income is that income paid to individuals in the community for goods and services produced and consumed internally. Based on data from the 1991 Census, all income from activities as well as employment in a region was

classified into the basic sectors of Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Fishing and Trapping, Tourism, Government, Health or Other Basic Industries, or to the Non-Basic Service sector. The overall impact on income and employment in a region was determined through a multiplier-type relationship between the basic industries and the non-basic sector as observed in 1991.

A PC-based model incorporating the logic described above has been completed and is currently being tested. These tests take the form of simulating the regional employment-by-industry changes from 1991 to 1995 and comparing the result to known provincial-level results from the Labour Force Survey. The next phase will be to produce a simulation to the year 2005 using a series of basic industry growth assumptions, then comparing these results at the provincial level to the latest COPS forecast. Further simulations will be generated using differing assumptions, resulting in the development of a final projection.

## **2. Population Statistics**

### ***Regional Population Estimates and Projections***

Within BC STATS, one of the core functions is our small area population estimates and projections program. During the last year we prepared 1995 population estimates for British Columbia municipalities, school districts, regional districts, health areas and RCMP detachments, which were used in various provincial-local government per capita funding formulae, and as indicators of regional economic expansion.

Over the past year there has been strong interest in our regional population and household projections, partly as a result of a new piece of provincial legislation called the Growth Strategies Act. This Act calls for greater coordination of planning activities for population growth at the regional level, and in particular in the three high-growth areas of the province: Lower Mainland, East Vancouver Island and the Okanagan. In 1995, in addition to our regular regional projections, we prepared high and low growth scenarios for the above three areas. Also for the first time, we published two projection scenarios for the distribution of population within the Lower Mainland - one based on a projection of current population trends, and the other based on plans to redirect growth to certain areas within the Lower Mainland.



## **Provincial Population Projections**

At the provincial level, we have had great difficulty in trying to understand, let alone accurately project, the net non-permanent resident (NPR) component of the provincial population change. In the case of B.C., this component is large and the estimates have been extremely volatile. In some quarters, it has contributed as much to the overall provincial population change as net international migration. While the NPR population is erratic by nature, we are concerned that this volatility is perhaps being accentuated by administrative and methodological procedures. We look forward to discussing this issue in greater detail at the upcoming Demography Committee meeting.

## **3. Business and Economic Statistics**

### ***High Technology Statistics***

Steps were taken this year to develop a workable definition of the high technology sector in B.C., and to produce estimates of GDP, employment, revenue, wages and salaries for this sector. In addition, an Input/Output analysis on both the sector's "backward" and "forward" linkages to the rest of the economy was undertaken. This work resulted in a series of papers on the size of the high-technology sector in B.C. over the 1988-1994 period. The general findings were that the high tech sector in B.C. is growing rapidly (12% per year on average) but is still a relatively small component of the overall economy (approximately 2%). As this sector is in its early stages of development, it has demonstrated both rapid growth and rapid decline from year to year.

### ***Economic Accounts***

During 1995 we published another edition of the *British Columbia Provincial Economic Accounts* from data supplied by Statistics Canada. Work is currently under way to refine some of our techniques used to produce quarterly GDP estimates for B.C., with the intent of producing current quarterly data within three months of the reference date for the income, expenditure and, eventually, the industry accounts. If successful, we plan to prepare and release a regular quarterly report on current changes taking place within the B.C. economy.

In addition to the Economic Accounts, we also published a 90-page report entitled *A Guide to the BC Economy and Labour Market*, which was intended as reference material for career counsellors in high schools, universities and regional employment centres. The guide contains an overview of the structure of the provincial economy, and the changes that are likely to take place in that structure over the next 10 years. The intent was to give an indication as to which industries within the province are expected to grow and which are not, enabling students to make more informed decisions about their future career plans.

#### **4. Data Services**

A number of new initiatives within our Data Services Branch have been undertaken over the past year. These include the following:

- The development of a BC STATS World Wide Web site to provide faster, cost-effective access to many of our statistical reports and data tables. Since the introduction of the Web site, usage has increased to approximately 400 users per week, accessing an average of 8,000 pages.
- Improvements have been made to the methods used to update our BC Manufacturers' Directory, which are initiated to ensure the integrity of the database. These included
  - faxing as opposed to mailing update forms to many of the manufactures included in the Directory, thereby saving on mailing costs.
  - telephone follow-up for all records not verified or updated within the past year, and for all companies that have not responded to the mail/fax update request.
  - development of a new electronic database and query/edit package to limit entry errors and ease access for those who purchase the electronic version of the Directory.
- A set of Community Facts sheets, which give a current overview of each municipality and regional district in the province, has been developed. The two-page reports, featuring text, tables and charts, will be included in our *Community Profiles* report, and will be accessible through our Web site.

- A single-page profile of each Provincial Electoral District in B.C., based on the 1991 Census and incorporating comparisons to the provincial averages using tables and charts, has been placed on our Web site.
- Our highly successful Infoline fax broadcast was expanded to target the media such as local and national newspapers, TV stations, radio stations and magazines, resulting in increased exposure for the organization.
- We prepared and distributed eight monthly releases, four quarterly releases and eight annual reports covering social, demographic and economic conditions in the province. These reports were sent to over 3,400 clients both inside and outside government.
- During the year we answered approximately 13,500 requests for statistical information, with 40% originating from within the provincial government, 30% from the business community, 20% from the public and 10% from other levels of government.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

### HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

- Completed an alcohol and drug survey in winter 1996 on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (with funding from Health Canada). A statistical report will be available this summer.
- Provided Statistics Canada with data files and documentation for phase one of the NWT portion of the national longitudinal surveys of health and children.
- Completed data analysis for a survey of 1994 travel patterns and expenditures by NWT residents. A report was prepared but not published.

### ECONOMIC STATISTICS

- Completed a Yellowknife-Edmonton spatial price survey in October 1995 (over 10,000 price quotes). Expenditure weight information was provided by Prices Division, Statistics Canada. Results will be released shortly.
- Updated the NWT input-output model to include information from 1990 input-output tables produced by Statistics Canada.

### DATA DISSEMINATION

- Prepared regular statistical publications including *Key Weekly Indicators*, *Quarterly Economic Indicators* (with annual supplement) and the *Statistics Quarterly*.
- A World Wide Web site was established providing Internet access to statistical information on the Northwest Territories. All Bureau publications are available from the Web site at no charge.
- Published a statistical report on the 1994 NWT visitor centre survey.

## **ASSISTANCE TO DEPARTMENTS - HIGHLIGHT**

- Helped the Financial Management Board Secretariat develop the framework for a new employee benefit package; developed a computerized statistical model for analyzing Northern Allowance options (including costs); helped estimate full-time equivalent positions by community.
- Advised on statistical information and analysis used for MLA briefings for the newly elected Legislative Assembly.
- Advised Municipal and Community Affairs on community cost indexes for its hamlet funding formula; helped assess demographic and infrastructure impacts due to the formation of Nunavut.
- Advised Health and Social Services on cost indexes for its regional health boards funding formula; worked with the department to plan an alcohol and drug survey.
- Advised Education, Culture and Employment on forecasting the kindergarten-aged population; advised on cost indexes used in a funding formula for regional boards; provided labour force information for Nunavut labour market planning.
- Provided Economic Development and Tourism with data files for the tourism-related surveys previously completed on behalf of the department.
- Worked with Transportation on cost indexes for an airports funding formula.

## **WORK WITH STATISTICS CANADA**

- Worked with Statistics Canada on census planning and promotion. This activity included advising on enumeration plans and communications; providing lists of local officials and other contacts; arranging for payroll staffers advertising the early enumeration occurring in many communities; helping to arrange translation of census questions and other materials; providing information on changes to community names and boundaries; advising on the Census output program (including separate information for Nunavut and the new western territory); designing Web pages advertising the Census; advising on coverage studies; arranging to provide a list of NWT residents from the NWT health care registration system as a sampling frame for the 1996 Census undercoverage study.

- Continued to provide input to a wide variety of Statistics Canada programs, including participation in federal-provincial committee meetings on statistics.

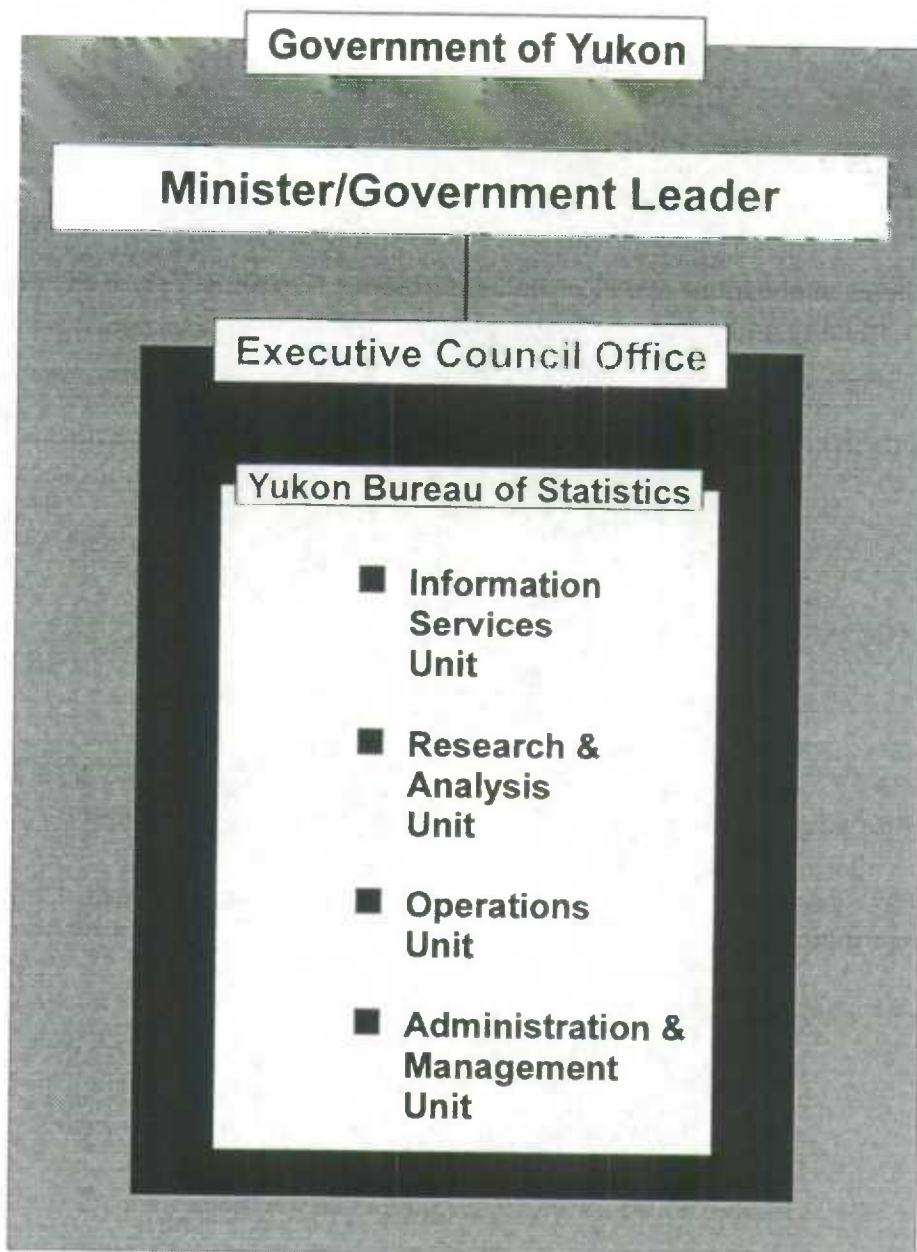
#### **PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR**

- Complete the move of the T-stat on-line data retrieval system to microcomputer as a cost-savings measure and for ease of use.
- Undertake a survey of NWT businesses (funding provided by Human Resources Development Canada and territorial government departments).
- Complete phase two of the longitudinal surveys of health and children in the North in partnership with Statistics Canada, Human Resources Development Canada and the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.
- Enhance Internet access to territorial statistical data and publications.
- Identify and implement approaches to making more statistics and analysis available to key decision makers.

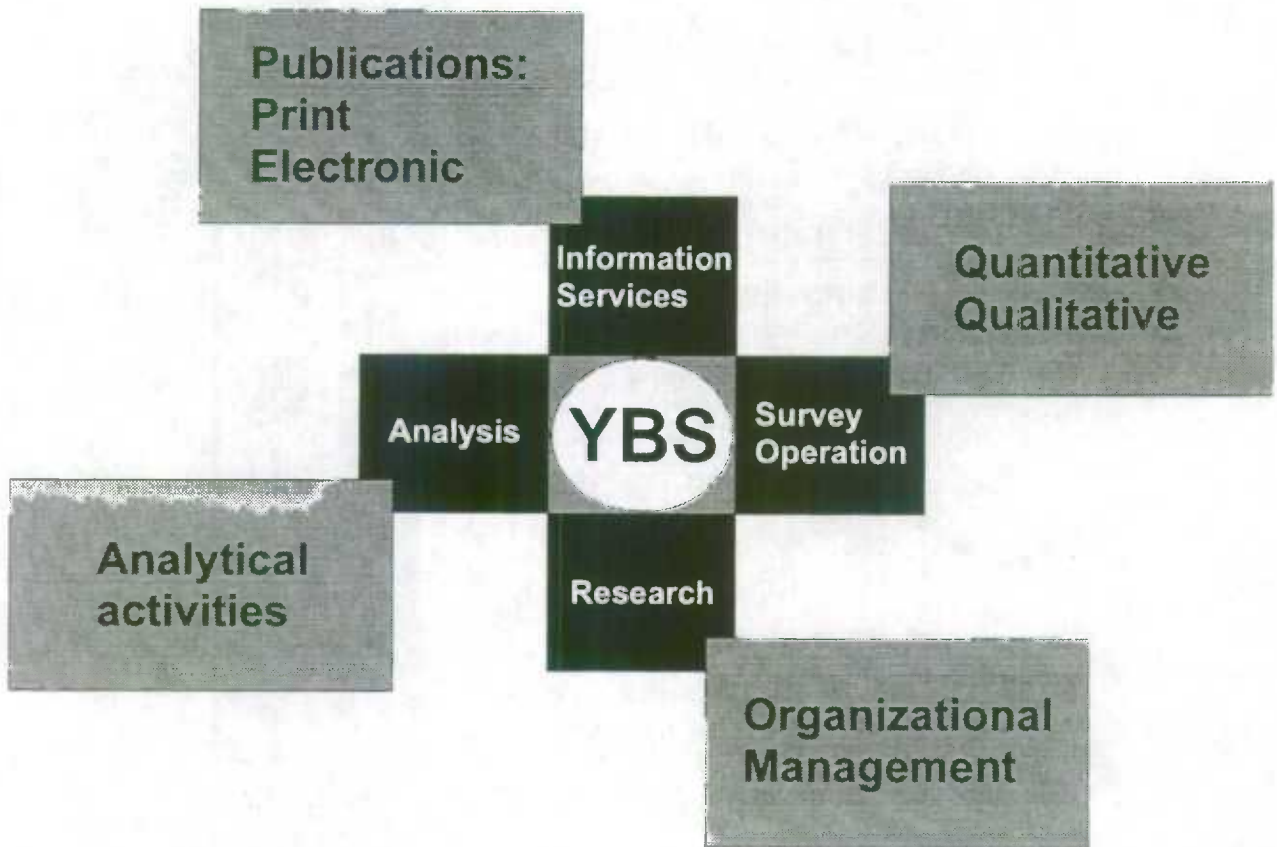
YUKON ACTIVITY REPORT - 1996

**OUR ROLE**

To support the effective operation of government and organizational decision making by facilitating the development and use of statistical and social science research and analytical thought.



**OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**





- to assist government decision making by acquiring, developing and facilitating statistical and social science research
- to serve departments by providing them with research products that are reliable, consistent, appropriate and meaningful
- to provide guidance and advice to departments on the value and use of statistical and research information
- to translate statistical and social science research by providing the appropriate context for such research
- to provide the government with statistical and research information by offering
  - quantitative and qualitative research methods
  - organizational and management research
  - analytical support
  - information services
  - print and electronic publications

## **OUR SERVICES**

### **Information Services Unit**

- provides statistical information services: responds to requests for statistical information, maintains statistical resource centre and provides access to electronic databases such as CANSIM
- distributes publications and electronic information regarding the Yukon and offers in-services on Bureau products
- supports internal desktop publishing services for all Bureau publications and research instruments in addition to providing quality control for publications

### **Research and Analysis Unit**

- provides methodological and analytical support
- develops government administrative records for statistical purposes
- provides statistical and methodological services and advice for departmental research initiatives

- provides internal systems administration and network support

#### **Operations Unit**

- undertakes special projects: provides cost-recovered services for departments on research activities (control and operational aspects)
- provides all internal operational and staff support as well as control to research function

#### **Administration and Management Unit**

- provides internal management, administration and financial services to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics
- offers statistical liaison to the Yukon Territory Government and the federal government
- promotes research as an integral part of management

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1994-95**

#### **Information Services**

During the course of the 1994-95 fiscal year the Information Services Unit produced and released approximately 80 monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual statistical publications covering a broad range of topics relating to the Yukon's economy. In addition, the unit responded to more than 1,000 requests for information in person and over the telephone from government and the public at large. Publications released included

- Monthly Statistical Review
- 1993 Annual Statistical Review
- Community Price Survey Information Sheet
- Consumer Price Index Information Sheet
- Energy Information Sheet
- Yukon Income Distributions
- GDP by Industry
- Income Information Sheet
- Labour Market Quarterly Report
- Population Information Sheet
- Population Projections - 2004
- Real Estate Survey and Rent Survey Information Sheets
- Retail Trade Information Sheet
- Spatial Price Indexes
- Whitehorse Population Information Sheet
- Yukon Alcohol Consumption

- Yukon Economic Accounts
- Yukon Employment Release
- Yukon and Whitehorse Fact Sheets
- 1991 Census Profiles #1 and #2

As a member of several project teams of the Bureau of Statistics, the Unit provided desktop publishing services and liaison with the Queen's Printer and private sector printers for the 1994 Visitor Exit Survey, the national longitudinal surveys on youth and health status, the Yukon Business Survey, the Education Review, the 911 Emergency Response Survey and the Hotsprings Road Survey.

### **Research and Analysis Unit**

This Unit designed and analyzed the Education Review questionnaire, the 911 Emergency Response Survey, the Hotsprings Road Survey, the Yukon Visitor Travel Survey, the Yukon Business Survey and the Yukon Visitor Exit Survey. As well, the unit successfully integrated the national longitudinal surveys on youth and health status. Analytical and organizational research assistance was provided to the Department of Finance for the Financing Agreement Formula, to the Department of Education for Student Information and Program Reporting, and to the Department of Justice (Court Services) for systems review and the Maintenance Enforcement Study.

During the past year the Research and Analysis Unit of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics completed analysis of the Yukon labour force (*Quarterly Labour Market Report*), Yukon income distribution (*Yukon Income Distribution, 1986-1992*), estimates of Yukon capital stock, Yukon Economic Accounts, interprovincial trade flow, and Yukon GDP by Industry. In addition, population projections to 2004 were prepared and spatial price indicators estimated for Whitehorse, Vancouver and Edmonton. This Unit also provided executive summaries for Cabinet to accompany the *Monthly Statistical Review*.

### **Operations**

The Operations Unit successfully ran the Yukon Visitor Exit Survey for 1994. This survey involved almost 40 staff at over 20 locations throughout the Yukon and included visitors exiting on buses, aircraft and personal vehicles (cars, trucks, motor homes, recreational vehicles). Operations provide recruitment, training, operations, editing and data entry for all research projects.

The Unit was also responsible for the operations of two of the most complicated and difficult general population surveys: the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and the National Population Health Survey. These surveys were conducted by telephone and in person throughout the Yukon.

Other survey operations undertaken during the past year included the administration of the Yukon Travel Survey (market research for Tourism), the Yukon Business Survey, the Community Price Survey, and the National Labour Force Survey on behalf of Statistics Canada. The Unit also developed a Yukon cancer register for Health and Social Services. In addition, the Unit took on responsibility for reporting vital statistics (births, deaths, stillbirths and suicide databases) as well as maintaining and reporting abortion data and other health-related information. Other activities included providing support for the Health Status Report, time management databases, alcohol statistics and immediate response surveys such as the 911 Survey, the Education Review, and the Hotsprings Survey.

## **1995-96 WORK PLAN**

### **Economic Projects**

#### 1995 Combined Business Survey

- On behalf of Tourism, Education and Economic Development, extend and refine the joint business survey administered last year. The survey will address interest in a business directory (Chamber of Commerce), the impact of tourism on the GDP (Tourism), employment dynamics (Education) and financial support (Economic Development).

#### Rental Survey Redesign

- Redesign the present rental survey to incorporate changes in the rental market and the needs of the Yukon Housing Corporation.

#### Border Crossings Data

- On behalf of Tourism, coordinate, input and analyze the monthly border crossing statistics collected by Canada Customs.

### 1994 Yukon Visitor Exit Survey

- On behalf of Tourism, analyze and complete the final report for the Yukon Visitor Exit Survey. This survey combines three surveys: a full exit survey of all exit points, a survey of tourism regions, and a diary survey of all tourists entering the Yukon. In addition, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics will work with the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University to undertake secondary analysis.

### 1995 Yukon Travel Survey

- On behalf of Tourism, administer ongoing market research to evaluate existing marketing strategies for Yukon tourism.

### Real Estate Survey

- Administer and analyze the quarterly survey of real estate transactions.

### GDP by Industry

- Provide estimates of GDP by industry for the Yukon. Base data comes from Statistics Canada and the work on the Yukon Economic Accounts.

### Interprovincial Trade Flows

- Work jointly with Statistics Canada to develop interprovincial trade flows between the Yukon and other provinces. This project will offer statistical information on imports and exports. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics and Economic Development are jointly sponsoring this work.

### Yukon Rental Survey

- Administer and analyze the quarterly survey of rental units.

### Community Price Survey

- Administer and analyze the quarterly survey of consumer prices in Whitehorse and other selected communities.

### Economic Development Agreement Evaluation

- On behalf of Economic Development, continue to participate in the EDA Evaluation Committee.

### Yukon Economic Accounts

- Participate and provide support to Statistics Canada in the development of the Yukon Economic Accounts.

### Yukon Input-Output Table

- Participate and contribute technical and financial support to Statistics Canada in the development of the Yukon Input-Output Table.

### 1995 Spatial Price Imputation

- Undertake the imputation of spatial price differences between Whitehorse and Vancouver and Whitehorse and Edmonton. Imputation refers to an estimation procedure carried out between spatial price surveys (next survey scheduled in 1996). This project provides estimates of price differences between Whitehorse and each of these southern cities.

### Labour Force Survey Analysis

- Provide detailed analysis of labour force information available from the Yukon component of the National Labour Force Survey (unemployment and employment data). This data will offer detailed information by gender and age of labour force activity (unemployment rates, employment and unemployment estimates, participation rates).

### 1993 Yukon Income Distribution and Low-Income Measures

- Replicate the methodology used to determine the national low-income measures points. Low-income measures are used as one of the poverty lines. Low-income measures provide detailed data on income and household types for the Yukon. These are consistent with estimates developed for national and provincial jurisdictions.

### Small Business Statistics Program

- Participate in and provide financial support to a consortium of public and private sector interests whose objective is to develop market and operational statistics for and about small-business operators; provide detailed Yukon data used by many business clients.

## **Social Projects**

### Annual Social Assistance Review

- On behalf of Health and Social Services, provide a recalculation of social assistance payments based on the Consumer Price Index. These rates are submitted for annual review.

### Statistical Support for the 1995 Health Status Report

- On behalf of Health and Social Services, provide statistical information as requested for the Yukon Health Status Report.

### Alcohol Reporting in the Yukon

- Report on the consumption and sales of alcoholic beverages in the Yukon.

### Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect Qualitative Research Project

- Design and undertake a focused, qualitative research project on FAS/FAE; examine from quantitative (existing survey data) and qualitative perspectives the extent and impact of antenatal alcohol abuse on Yukon communities, families and individuals.

### Yukon Cancer Register

- Establish a comprehensive reporting system of all incidences of cancer in the Yukon. This will involve contracts with provinces and Statistics Canada, negotiation of arrangements with British Columbia, and the development and maintenance of data-feeding systems to the cancer register. In addition, the project will include developing procedures for reporting cancer in the Yukon and constructing historical data on cancer.

### Vital Statistics

- Collect, edit and analyze data for the Vital Statistics database; provide on-demand standard reporting; complete Health and Social Services, Vital Statistics Annual Report; and respond to ad hoc requests for information.

### Health Care Utilization Review

- On behalf of Health and Social Services, participate in a research project to define and analyze the health care utilization patterns of the Yukon. This project will look at the development of information that will assist in understanding, analyzing and managing health care in the Yukon. The project will include the development of health care user profiles as well as information for cost-benefit analysis and cost projections.

### Health Insurance Registration Mailing Update

- Continue the semi-annual mail-out and registration of health care registrants. This project has contributed to an accurate registration file and identifies registrants no longer in the Yukon. The mailing also provides improved population estimates by ensuring a more accurate and timely health care registration file.

### 1996 National Health Status Youth Survey

- On behalf of Health and Social Services, adapt and make preparations for the 1996 national longitudinal surveys of health status and youth for Statistics Canada and Health Canada. This project is a continuation of a comprehensive longitudinal research project in all jurisdictions, which is administered to the same respondents every second year for 12 years.

### Follow-up and Analysis of the 1994 Longitudinal Survey

- Complete data edit and transfer of database to Statistics Canada for final weighting and national analysis. Once database is completed, provide basic analysis of Yukon data as specified by Health and Social Services.

### **Demographic Projects**

#### Update - 1995 Postal Code Conversion File

- Update the computer Geographic Information System that links postal codes to geographic areas such as Riverdale or other sub-community units. This file is used to link administrative records to geographic areas to produce income or population estimates by community or local subdivisions.



### Mapping and Listing

- Update all community listings. This annual project involves listing each dwelling unit (description, location) and mapping its location.

### Population Projection Model

- Release a 20-year population projection (1995 to 2005) based on the June 1995 population figures.

### Yukon Life Tables

- Develop life tables for the Yukon. These tables would include such information as the life expectancy by age of individual population cohorts.

### New Census 1991 Releases

- Develop and publish a series of Yukon census releases as this information becomes available (e.g., mother tongue, dwelling counts and marital status).

## **Environmental Projects**

### State of the Environment

- Participate in the development of the State of the Environment Report. This project would include developing economic and demographic data as well as providing support for the preparation of the report (format, tables and graphics).

### Wildlife Harvest Collection

- Design an inventory system that will document the annual harvest of Yukon big game animals by species, location, hunter type and date. The system will have the capability of capturing all of the big game harvest. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics' role is to provide advice and recommendations on the data collection system.

### Trapper Profile Survey

- Conduct a survey of the trapping community, analyze the results and produce a report. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics will assist in designing and carrying out the survey.

## **Organizational Projects**

### Student Record System

- Assist the Department of Education in determining data requirements for a student information system. The scope of activity includes defining data needs and coordinating and developing a data collection system.

### Small-Area Demographic Data

- Develop small-area demographic data for school enrollment projections and analysis; set up a regular schedule of release to the department.

### School Accreditation Survey Support

- Work with the Department of Education and schools to develop a consistent survey instrument to be used in the school accreditation process throughout the Yukon. This will save all Yukon schools creating their own surveys for students, parents and teachers.

### Strategic Initiative

- Provide assistance with the design of needs assessment for the Department of Health and Social Services. Aspects to be considered are educational and vocational needs as well as independent living skills for secondary school students and unemployed people with disabilities.

## **Customer Services and Liaison Projects**

### Customer In-Service Program

- Develop a series of short information sessions for users on the CPI, Labour Force Survey results, survey research and other relevant topics. These sessions will be offered as interest is exhibited.

### Community Research Support

- At the request of a departmental sponsor, provide education, methodological and analytical consultation services to community groups undertaking research.

### Program of Information and Special Release Sheets

- Have publications available on the day of release of the information (e.g., CPI or the Labour Force Survey). Examples include
  - Annual Statistical Review
  - Community Price Survey Information Sheet
  - Consumer Price Index
  - Energy Information Sheet
  - Estimates of Labour Income
  - GDP by Industry Information Sheet
  - Income Information Sheet
  - Labour Market Quarterly Report
  - Monthly Statistical Review
  - Population Information Sheet
  - Population Projections - 2005
  - Real Estate Survey Information Sheet
  - Rent Survey Information Sheet
  - Retail Trade Information Sheet
  - Spatial Price Indexes Information Sheet
  - Whitehorse Population Information Sheet
  - Yukon Alcohol Consumption
  - Yukon Economic Accounts
  - Yukon Employment Release
  - Yukon Life Tables

### Fact Sheets (Yukon, Whitehorse, Environmental)

- Continue to publish small, fold-out statistical summaries of the Yukon, Whitehorse and the environment.

### Requests for Information

- Continue to respond to requests for statistical information provided by Yukon Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Canada sources.

### Statistical Release via the Internet

- Develop a prototype of a Yukon Bureau of Statistics home page on the Internet for the electronic release of the *Monthly Statistical Review*.

### Yukon Statistics Monthly

- Continue to publish monthly statistics relating to the state of the Yukon's economy. This report covers population, prices, rent and real estate, labour force activity, retail trade, and other relevant statistical information.

### Yukon Statistics Annual

- Continue to produce a single, yearly summary of statistical information. This document consolidates all monthlies and provides historical series of information.

### Executive Summary

- Provide summary information to the Executive as part of the *Monthly Statistical Review* release.

### Department Research Support

- Provide management, organizational or research support to departments on request.

### Review of Existing Surveys

- Complete a review of all aspects of existing surveys run by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics. This assessment and modification must be undertaken every five years.

**APPENDIX 2**

**MEASURES TO IMPROVE PROFILE OF  
PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL FOCAL POINTS**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

**Measures to Improve the Profile of Provincial and  
Territorial Focal Points**

**Discussion Paper  
BC STATS  
June 20 - 21, 1996**

The February, 1995 review of provincial focal point organizational arrangements conducted by Statistics Canada pointed to a potential deterioration in the profile of the focal points within their respective governments. This was summarized by the following table covering the reporting structure and number of staff members in each provincial agency.

PROVINCE	STAFF NUMBERS	AGENCY HEAD REPORTING LEVEL	AGENCY HEAD TITLE
Newfoundland	9	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Director
Nova Scotia	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> *	Director/Manger
New Brunswick	7	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Director
Quebec	180	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Director
Ontario	2	4 <sup>th</sup>	Manager
Manitoba	9	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Managing Partner
Saskatchewan	5	4 <sup>th</sup>	Director
Alberta	7	5 <sup>th</sup>	Manager
British Columbia	30	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Director

Source: Statistics Canada, "Review of Provincial Focal Point Organizational Arrangements" May, 1995

Although it can be argued that reporting structure and staff allotment are not the only determinants of the profile of an organization they are, nevertheless, important factors. Since February of 1995 there have been a number of changes that indicate a strengthening in the organizational structure and profile of a number of the focal points. However, given the likely continuation of restraint in public sector expenditures by governments at all levels, the value to a provincial/territorial

government of maintaining its own statistical agency must be regularly demonstrated to those that determine our budgets. The intent of this paper, and the discussion to follow, is to outline measures that we have taken, or can take, within our governments to promote a centralized statistical function, and how Statistics Canada can actively help us in this endeavour.

## **1. Suggestions for Statistics Canada**

The following are some ways in which Statistics Canada can help the focal points help themselves to maintain or improve their profile within their respective governments. This list is by no means complete, nor is each item applicable to all focal point operations. However, it is intended to act as a discussion starter on this topic of importance to us all.

- The routing of provincial and territorial government data requests through the focal points.

This activity should not be confused with a regulatory role of seeking permission to fill a provincial/territorial government data request, but rather is one of informing the focal point of such requests. It is the responsibility of the focal point to provide a service to our respective government customers by coordinating data requests, ensuring that a data set is only purchased once by our governments, and determining whether there are more cost-effective ways available to meet the data needs of government departments.

- Licensing arrangements for the focal points that ensure unrestricted access to purchased or free data sets by all provincial and territorial government offices.

This is a reaffirmation of a policy that is practised with many data sets currently. The intent is to ensure that it is practised in all jurisdictions and with all data sets purchased or received by the focal point. The following is an example of a clause that could be included on Statistics Canada licensing agreements with the focal points:

The Owner hereby grants permission to the Licensee to copy and distribute the data file to other provincial (territorial) government departments in the Province/Territory of ..... Those departments, however, shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the License Agreement.

It is proposed that such a clause would only be included in licensing arrangements with the focal points, and not other provincial/territorial agencies. This would provide both a legal and financial justification to provincial/territorial government departments to route data requests through the focal points, and could be endorsed by our respective Treasury Boards as a cost-avoidance measure.

- Continued strong communication links between Statistics Canada and the focal points.

The core of these communication links is the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy and the 14 sub-committees. It is in all of our interests to ensure that these committees continue to play an active role in contributing to the National Statistical System by:

- being aware of Statistics Canada's current programs and future plans, and by recommending changes to programs and plans where such changes would be beneficial to the statistical requirements of our respective governments.
- being familiar with the statistical activities and programs of other provincial/territorial governments and using such knowledge to enhance the statistical capability of our own government.

These goals can be achieved by first ensuring that these meetings continue despite restrictive budgetary measures, and that we continue to seek the active participation in these meetings of all members of the federal-provincial/territorial statistical community.

However, these communication links should not be restricted to the committee structure only, but should continue after we leave this room. In the last year, a number of the focal points have made very effective use of the Internet as a tool to communicate issues of mutual interest. In addition to the current methods used to communicate such as conference calls and letters, I propose that the Executive of Statistics Canada make greater use of the Internet to communicate issues of relevance to the focal points and vice versa. Given that the Internet provides an easy access mechanism to all members at this table regardless of time-zone difference, I think that the increased use of this tool would, with time, produce a greater degree of communication within the federal provincial/territorial statistical community.



## 2. Suggestions for the Focal Points

In addition to the measures noted above relating to Statistics Canada, there are also a number of strategies and actions that the focal points can adopt that may serve to raise our profile within our governments. The following are some ways in which we at BC STATS have attempted to tackle this issue.

- Provide users with information as opposed to data.

Specifically, this means moving away from generating "elevator statistics" and provide analysis to users that describes why the numbers are up or down. This point was brought up at the last Data Dissemination meeting, where it was noted by a number of the focal points that they are attempting to provide more value-added analysis to their data products. Performing the solitary role of a provincial depository of statistical data will not guarantee our survival. This is a function that can be filled by the Regional Offices of Statistics Canada, and it is only a matter of time before the provincial and territorial budget choppers realize it. We have to provide a value-added service that is customized to our users' needs.

- Define the market to be served, and define your core functions.

Given the human and financial resources available to most focal points, the market will be the provincial or territorial government narrowly defined. Trying to be a miniature version of Statistics Canada and provide services to all provincial or territorial residents is not only inefficient but impractical for most of us.

The issue of determining core functions will be unique to each focal point. They are influenced by the budgetary and human resources available to us and the policies, or strategic directions, of the government of the day. However, it is my philosophy that we should strive to do a few core functions well, as opposed to a number of functions of mediocre quality.

- Emphasis on regional data analysis

This is an area where a provincial/territorial agency has a competitive advantage over Statistics Canada. Most analysis produced by Statistics Canada has a national, which by definition is a central Canada, spin. Provincial

and sub-provincial differences are often not addressed by Statistics Canada to the same extent as could be done by the focal point.

- Look to administrative files as a low-cost source of sub-provincial statistical information.

This is an area where Statistics Canada is also active, but due to restrictive licensing and pricing policies, there is ample room for the focal points to develop their own data products.

Some examples of small area administrative data to tap into include, to name just a few:

- Revenue Canada taxation data giving sources of individual income by community
- data from HRDC on proportion of Guaranteed Income Supplement recipients by region as an indication of seniors in need
- data on regional welfare utilization available from our respective Social Assistance agencies coupled with data on Unemployment Insurance recipients available from HRDC
- regional mortality and fertility analysis by small area from vital events records
- regional retail sales extracted from provincial sales tax records
- immigrant landings information from Citizen and Immigration Canada
- health care records
- seek joint data development projects with other departments.

This has a twofold advantage of not only strengthening the corporate image of the provincial/territorial statistics agency, but also providing a potential source of additional funding.

- Don't shy away from media coverage.

This is a somewhat controversial recommendation given that it could potentially backfire. However, our experience is that the statistical and analytical expertise that is resident within our each of our agencies tends to be taken more seriously after you've been quoted or sourced by the media.

These are a few of the strategies that we at BC STATS have adopted in an attempt to raise our profile within the provincial government. I look forward to hearing from my counterparts as to alternative strategies that have been successful in other jurisdictions.

**APPENDIX 3**

**LETTER TO FOCAL POINTS CONCERNING  
REDISTRIBUTION OF INTEGRAL COPIES OF  
STATISTICS CANADA'S ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**



Date: July 11, 1996

To: Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points

From: Denis J. Desjardins, Director General, Marketing and Information Services

Subject: Focal point redistribution of integral copies  
of Statistics Canada's electronic products

At the June 20-21, 1996 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy members asked Statistics Canada to clarify its policy on integral reproduction and redistribution of copies of its electronic products (e.g. summary data files, micro data files, custom tabulations in electronic form). The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm and record the response that was given at the Council's meeting.

Where a provincial or territorial statistical focal point has purchased an electronic product, the focal point may make and distribute to clients within the provincial or territorial government, narrowly defined, no more than three integral copies. The focal point must obtain from their clients the undertaking not to make further copies or to engage in redissemination of the information outside the client's department.

On the other hand, where a provincial or territorial statistical focal point has been given an electronic product free of charge, no integral copies are to be made or distributed.

Focal points may, however, freely disseminate, within the provincial or territorial government narrowly defined, all information received from Statistics Canada through value added products and services delivered from the focal point office. This would include redissemination on a focal point's internal web site via government-wide Intranets provided that these Intranets do not allow public access. Other examples would include inquiry services, publications and reports, analytical products, and retrievals of subsets of information, and tabulations of information provided that 1) the receiving clients are within the provincial or territorial government narrowly defined, 2) Statistics Canada is properly credited as the source.



Focal points should limit dissemination of Statistics Canada's information outside the provincial or territorial government, narrowly defined, to that information that Statistics Canada itself is making available without charge. In contrast to its practices with other organizations, Statistics Canada has agreed that focal points may repackage such information for the Internet on their own web sites, provided, once again, that Statistics Canada is properly credited as the source. As a courtesy, focal points are asked to advise Statistics Canada prior to making Agency information available on the focal point's web site.

c.c.: Directors

**APPENDIX 4**

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

## AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** September 25-26, 1995  
**Next meeting:** September 9-10, 1996  
**Members:** Representatives of the provincial departments of agriculture or provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

### **Introduction**

The chairperson, Mr. Maranda, greeted the delegates from the provinces and territories and extended a special welcome to the new delegates to this annual meeting.

### **Committee Members' Reports**

The members' reports were distributed in advance of the meeting, except for the Newfoundland report, which was presented at the meeting. Each report was discussed. Organizational changes and new developments in publication and electronic dissemination activities of the various provincial or territorial governments were reviewed. In addition, the following key activities and/or projects were highlighted: the Bureau de la statistique du Québec 1995 survey on the use of pesticides in agriculture; the New Brunswick demographics project related to rural/urban population shifts, farm population and farm operators' age structure; Newfoundland's work to incorporate agriculture data into their various Strategic Economic Zones (19 zones); the Yukon's pesticide survey; Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act that will be enacted on October 1, 1995; and PEI's staff and client satisfaction surveys of the services provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Mr. Davey of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provided a status report on the proposed 1995 survey on farm inputs, the planned 1996 Farm Financial Survey, and the Short-Term Income Forecast and Medium-Term Outlook programs. He also updated the participants on the potential creation of an independent group responsible for industry and policy analysis as well as for economic and industry information market analysis and forecasting.

Agriculture Division briefed the participants on the current budgetary situation of Statistics Canada. In particular, the budget for the regular Agriculture



Statistics Program will be reduced by approximately 8% over the next two years. In addition, the 1996 Census of Agriculture is facing a budget shortfall of about 15%. As a result of this shortfall, several processing activities will be curtailed and external funding will be sought, mainly to carry out the record linkage between the Census of Agriculture and the Census of Population. Collectively, these measures will make it possible to cope with the shortfall while preserving the proposed Census content, which was a high priority.

Agriculture Division also provided a status report on the work completed on the 1996 Census of Agriculture; the Multi-Agriculture Operation Businesses; Large Farms, Special Farms and Specified Farms (MULES) project; the Farm Register computer system; the InfoHort markets information database; the Crop Condition Assessment Program; the Taxation Data Program; the Land-Use Monitoring Program; the Fall Fruit and Vegetable Survey proposal; and several other cost-recovery projects conducted for the first time in 1995.

#### **General Program Updates and Discussion**

Background information was prepared and presented by Agriculture Division staff to help in the discussion. The Committee reviewed and agreed upon minor revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Committee. It then proceeded to discuss in detail the following topics:

- the redesign of the crop surveys and the planning assumptions that will be used to develop these surveys after the 1996 Census of Agriculture
- the proposed changes in the Dairy Statistics Program in terms of suggested content improvements as well as frequency and format of the published data
- the progress of the seeding follow-up survey that will be conducted following the 1996 Census of Agriculture to improve the accuracy of the census data on areas of crops planted
- the proposed pre-planned product line that will be developed for the 1996 Census of Agriculture and the seeking of external funding to be able to carry out the Agriculture-Population linkage project
- the use of the Apparent Per Capita Food Consumption data series and options for its dissemination

- statistical models to estimate hog production and the results of preliminary research
- the scope and methodology of the Multi-Agriculture Operation Businesses, Large Farms, Special Farms and Specified Farms (MULES) project
- the theoretical model used to redesign the Farm Register and integrate the information obtained from the MULES project
- the dissemination of agriculture data by provincial and territorial governments

The above-noted discussions provided valuable input to Agriculture Division staff. This will assist the Division in its ongoing efforts to improve its current statistical program. The exchange of information will also benefit these participants whose organizations share responsibility with Agriculture Division for various agriculture surveys.

In conclusion, the chairperson thanked the delegates from the provinces and territories as well as the representative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for their contribution to the 1995 meeting.

## BUSINESS STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** December 4, 1995  
**Next meeting:** September 5-6, 1996  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical  
focal points (or their representatives)

The chairman reviewed two cross-cutting projects at Statistics Canada. (1) Progress is being made on the Single Business Number (BN) and its use in Statistics Canada files. (2) Virtually all agreements for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) have been signed.

The search for efficiencies continues because of the need to reduce the impact of budget cuts on the program over the next three years (some \$36 million). It is hoped that the use of the BN as well as GST administrative files will enable a less expensive mix of survey and administrative data to produce information broken down by geography. On the other hand, resources may become available for two major initiatives. In the area of science and technology, this initiative will gather new S&T information and bring together existing data relating to production, revenue, trade and other activities. Money has also been received from Industry Canada for updating the interprovincial trade benchmarks, including destination of shipments, origin and destination of wholesale goods, and sales in key service areas.

### **Business Number and GST Files**

Use of the BN will allow improvements to the Business Register coverage because self-employed businesses will be included. It will eliminate the need to maintain two independent frames for small businesses (PD and tax). It will provide better revenue data for stratification purposes as well as a better handle on business births and deaths. The greatest increase in coverage will be in agriculture, construction, retail and business services. Implementation is expected by January 1997.

Data derived from GST files were compared with data from Services, Science and Technology Division, and the BR. The study was limited to legal services. Results were promising. Estimates of revenue were extremely close; however, there were problems encountered with semi-annual data.

## **The 1997 SIC Revision and Its Implementation**

It is hoped that by the end of March 1997, concordances will be available to perform a mass recode on the BR. Once the NAICS is implemented, all annual surveys will be backcast five years. Sub-annual surveys will be phased in once annual surveys have all been converted.

## **Feasibility of Establishment-Based Provincial Data for Service Industries**

Interviews will be conducted by the Regional Offices to determine business record-keeping practices: do they keep the required provincial information, and if so, where is it kept? It was decided to go beyond provincial revenues and expenses, and test the availability at the provincial level of all the data items currently collected by the national surveys.

## **Re-Engineering of Capital Investment Statistics**

Re-engineering of the survey has now been completed. There was some discussion of the advisability of publishing data from cells which have CVs higher than 50%. It was suggested that were this to happen, users should be provided with details regarding quality.

## **Future Direction of Industry Statistics**

Timeliness has been improved in the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) and the Annual Wholesale and Retail Survey (P-13). More geographic detail is being provided with the reinstatement of the ASM sub-provincial data program and the development of the retail FSA base. It was agreed that principal statistics will be tabulated at one level of geography disaggregation within each province in consultation with each province. Other improvements to respond to users' concerns will be the use of newer technologies, such as diskettes and the Internet, in disseminating data as well as integrating it with other sources.

To meet respondent concerns, the Division has successfully piloted the use of personalized electronic questionnaires for the Retail Chain Survey as well as customized paper questionnaires in the ASM. As a result of budgetary pressures, the division has to constantly look for potential efficiencies. But efficiencies alone are not sufficient and some programs, such as a number of current

manufacturing surveys, are being eliminated. It was agreed that delegates would consult with their contacts in the provinces to obtain their suggestions regarding further reductions, and provide feedback to Statistics Canada.

### **Future Direction of Small Business Statistics Program**

The question of errors and revisions of the Employment Dynamics database was discussed. The program needs a complete overhaul, including work on concepts, methodology and data sources. A Small Area Businesses and Labour Statistics Database (SABAL) is being developed. SABAL is modelled after the business integrated database but will provide sub-provincial rather than national data. The first series to be included will be those which can most easily be integrated at the sub-provincial level, such as business employment and payroll, retail sales, building permits and family statistics.

### **Confidentiality**

A working paper on confidentiality was presented. There is a requirement to significantly reduce the number of blank cells at the provincial level. It was the view of delegates that further investigation is required in this area.

### **Nomination of Program Committee**

George Richardson (Atlantic Canada)  
Linton Cornwall (Ontario and Quebec)  
Kurt Schreiner (Western Canada)  
Michael Issa (Statistics Canada)

## CENSUS OF POPULATION

**Last meeting: September 27, 1995**  
**Next meeting: November 27, 1996**  
**Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)**

Mr. Petrie welcomed all participants and introduced the new members from St. John's, Toronto and the Yukon, and thanked all for being at the meeting. To set the stage for the morning discussions, Mr. Petrie provided a brief update on some census developments to date. The delegates were then updated on 1996 Census activities, specifically on the collection of Aboriginal data, the 1996 Census content, the coverage studies, the products and services line, public communications and geography.

The point was highlighted that the funding that was received from Treasury Board for the 1996 census was sufficient only to conduct a minimal headcount Census and that funding had to be secured from federal departments and agencies. STC then had to review Census activities in order to reduce the budget it had initially planned by \$18 million. A number of reductions were achieved and these were also highlighted.

An overview of the 1996 Census procedures to be used for the collection of Aboriginal data was provided. It was reported that STC was in the process of visiting all of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Regional Offices in conjunction with our own Regional Offices to discuss with them the procedures for the 1996 Census, and where appropriate, to solicit their help as well as obtaining additional information which may help us enumerate the reserves. National procedures were developed and adapted to meet the local needs as required. Each Regional Office will be responsible for developing its own strategy for communication and collection. Native Liaison Officers, hired by each of the Regional Offices, were in the process of meeting with the Band Management and Councils to discuss the 1996 Census, update reserve profiles that we have, review the enumeration maps, and confirm the number and location of dwellings on the reserves as well as the occupancy status (whether they are collective dwellings, etc.). A monograph on Aboriginal People has been added to the 1991 Census Analytic Program.

The new questions and the major modifications for the 1996 Census were reviewed, and the changes to the 2B questionnaire were highlighted. To facilitate the completion of the form by persons with knowledge of a language other than English or French, the questions have been translated into 49 different languages, 12 of which are Aboriginal. A large print questionnaire will also be available. The 1996 Census meets the needs of the majority of users. However, STC could not satisfy all requests and some information will have to be provided through other sources such as surveys or administrative data sources.

There are no major changes planned for the 1996 Vacancy Check. The purpose of the Vacancy Check has not changed; STC will be studying the classification of vacant dwellings. Two things will be looked at - marginal dwellings and occupied dwellings. A detailed description of the methodology was provided. The results for this study will be reported in the Coverage Report which is issued for all data quality studies. An overview of the 1996 Reverse Record Check (RRC) survey plan was provided. Improvements over the 1991 plan and their impact on the results expected for 1996 were highlighted. A detailed description of the different steps in the processing of the RRC sample that will lead to the classification of the selected people and the estimate of the undercoverage for the month of May 1998 was provided. The methodology for estimating the overcoverage and improvements expected in 1996 were reviewed.

In light of the diminished budget and the need to provide some "no-cost data" to the federal departments and agencies in return for their contributions to the Census funding, the Output Program was closely reviewed. The electronic products for the 1996 Census were increased, but due to budget constraints this increase is subject to review. Along with the increase in electronic products, there are plans to reduce the print products from the 1991 Census. This decrease does not mean that there will be a decrease in the amount of data available; instead, STC is shifting its emphasis in terms of the output media to electronic. Six major stages of release have been identified, and the intent is to begin stage 1 with fairly simple high-level data, in electronic format as opposed to publications. As we move through the stages, the data become more complex and more analytical content is added. Linked to this staged release strategy is the decision to have no publications available at the time of release (with the exception of population and dwelling counts); however, some standard electronic products will be available at that time. Two streams of production have

been identified for 1996, one for custom products and one for standard products. Two completely separate processes with their own systems, their own resources and their own environment will be established. Each will have its own production schedule. A plan to put metadata on the Internet has been identified. Discussions are ongoing with the US Bureau of the Census (USBC) to review their initiatives, as they have recently announced that for their 2000 Census, their prime vehicle for dissemination will be the Internet.

STC is hoping to learn from their experiences. Releases of population and dwelling counts, and hopefully most geography products, are planned for March 1997. The release for age and sex is planned for the summer of 1997, and other variables are planned for the fall of 1997 through the spring of 1998.

As of September 1995, the Corporate response to support the collection activities of the Census Program had been excellent. It was reported that there will be paid advertising for the 1996 Census; however, due to budgetary constraints some programs were cut (e.g., television advertising). Instead STC will concentrate on radio advertising and out of home communications which appear on billboards and transit signs and usually stay up for approximately 4 weeks. Special target groups were also being looked at and these groups will be targeted through paid advertising, specific promotional materials, translation of the questions and large print. Regional communications programs will be conducted for Aboriginal peoples; there are liaison people on staff. The Regional Offices will be looking after their own media, and Ottawa will be looking after the national and local media. As in 1991, an education package was put together and the package will be updated and tested in order to be more suitable for activities in schools today.

An update on certain issues raised last year was presented. Plans for the 2001 Census geographic projects were reviewed. There are presently three items being reviewed in preparation for the 2001 Census and they are all related to the proposed changes to Centralized Edit - mail out/mail back questionnaires, flow processing, and uncoupling of collection areas and dissemination areas. Another item considered for 2001 in the context of Centralized Edit is to build a new collection area based on blocks. STC is working with Natural Resources Canada and Elections Canada to look into implementing such a concept. In the coming months, STC will be working closely with the USBC to go over their experiences with Centralized Edit and other geographic concepts.



## DATA DISSEMINATION

**Last meeting:** December 5, 1995  
**Next meeting:** September 4, 1996  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The Chairperson gave an overview of Agency developments in marketing and dissemination activities. He presented the major themes of a document entitled "A Strategic Vision of Marketing and Dissemination for Statistics Canada". He spoke briefly about electronic publishing, StatsCan Online, licensing, metadata initiatives, the Internal Communications Network and the Internet. In the area of publishing, he talked about *The Daily Senior Editorial Board, Canada: A Portrait* and *Canada at a Glance*.

### **Provincial and Territorial Program Reports**

Reports from various provinces and territories followed. The specifics of these reports are contained in the minutes of the meeting of December 5, 1995.

### **Internet at Statistics Canada**

Mr. Podehl reported that the Internet is changing Statistics Canada's publications program as Internet services are developed along with emerging technology and changes in client demands. He summarized the evolution of the Internet at Statistics Canada and used *The Daily* to demonstrate the power of electronic dissemination. He described the current availability of *The Daily* in HTMS mode on the World Wide Web (WWW) as the key to the future because of its potential to link *The Daily* to other publications or theme sites.

He emphasized the Internet's potential to change the presentation of Statistics Canada information. He presented the structure of the Internet Talon server, outlined standards in implementation, and touched on the issues of security and adhering to corporate policies.

### **Accessing Statistics via the Internet**

Mr. Joyce presented a paper entitled "Government Statistics on the Internet - A Survey." He focused on Internet sites in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and other

selected countries. He pointed out that while the survey was extensive, it was not comprehensive.

### **Internet Developments in the Provinces and Territories**

Mr. Baribeau (Quebec) reported that their objective is to set up a gateway to statistics on Quebec with links to Statistics Canada. Mr. Gosh (British Columbia) reported that they use revenues from sales to subsidize their Internet program. It was noted that there are varying degrees of free redistribution to the public occurring. The Chairperson stated that a temporary principle is needed in this fast-moving technology.

### **Cost Recovery**

Mr. McMahon presented a paper entitled "Cost Recovery at Statistics Canada". He outlined the history of cost recovery at Statistics Canada and the Agency's rationale for implementing the policy. Mr. McMahon made recommendations to Statistics Canada. Mr. Desjardins stated that the underlying principle of cost recovery is that those who benefit should pay. Mr. Goulet stated that users pay for access to the data, not for the data itself. For Statistics Canada, cost recovery was a way to avoid cutting programs.

### **Data Liberation Initiative**

Mr. Boyko explained that the aim of the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) is to provide better access to Statistics Canada data for academic teaching and research purposes. He gave some background information on how the initiative was developed and outlined its benefits to Canadian universities, Canadian citizens and the Canadian Government. Mr. Boyko outlined the types of data to be included.

### **Data Warehouse and Other Data Dissemination Issues**

Mr. Podehl gave a brief update on the data warehouse initiative. He reported that a discussion took place on an internal electronic bulletin board in which author divisions expressed strong support for the data warehouse initiative.

A CANSIM market research initiative for CD-ROMs revealed that one option being considered is the complete redevelopment of CANSIM. However, funding for this initiative is uncertain.

### **Metadata Initiatives**

Ms. Feeney provided an overview of metadata initiatives at Statistics Canada. She talked specifically about Information on Products and Services (IPS), the Thematic Search Tool and the STC Thesaurus.

### **Nominations to the Program Committee**

Mr. Stewart, Ms. Tiller and Mr. Asselin were nominated as the provincial-territorial members to the Program Committee of the Data Dissemination Committee. Mr. Smith, Mr. Baxter and Mr. Roy were nominated to represent Statistics Canada on the Program Committee.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Desjardins thanked the presenters.

## DEMOGRAPHY

**Last Meeting:** September 28-29, 1995  
**Next Meeting:** November 28-29, 1996  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The September 1995 meeting was split into two separate days. The first day focused on the population estimates program, where the topics were varied. The first topic of discussion focused on plans for adjustment for net undercoverage in the 1996 Census. The issues surrounding this activity were the focus of three planned presentations by Statistics Canada staff. Discussion then shifted to the issue of non-permanent residents as a component in the estimation program, and then to the interprovincial migration component. These were topics for two planned presentations by STC staff. Discussion then moved to estimates at the sub-provincial level, led by a presenter from STC. A scheduled presentation was then given by a focal point on the experience of using CTB administrative data in the production of regional population estimates. The final topic on the first day was concerned with preliminary estimates of births and deaths, as presented by an STC staff member.

The second day focused on the population projections program, where the first presentation was given on the topic of CMA projections by STC staff. This was followed by a presentation of the results of an STC-sponsored survey of projection activity carried out by the respective provincial-territorial statistical agencies. The final activity on day two was a roundtable discussion on projections.

Since the September meeting, population estimates for July 1, 1995 (at the national, provincial/territorial and sub-provincial levels) by age and sex have been published, as well as estimates of families, and the components of growth, including vital statistics. In addition, short-term projections of population for the nation, provinces and territories, as well as CMAs, have been published. All are available in Catalogue 91-213. The distribution of NPRs at the provincial level has been adjusted for the period from August 1991 to January 1996. Finally, research on the intergenerational model and the statistical methods of adjustment has progressed as planned.

## LABOUR STATISTICS

**Last meetings:** June 15-16, 1995 and May 14-15, 1996  
**Next meeting:** June 4-5, 1997  
**Members:** Departments concerned with human resources, education or job training, and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

### **Meeting - June 15-16, 1995**

The following provides an overview of the 1995 Federal/Provincial/Territorial Conference on Labour Statistics held on June 13-14, 1995, at the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Centre, Statistics Canada, Ottawa. The last such conference was held on June 20-21, 1994, and the next is due on May 14-15, 1996.

Besides the delegates and their colleagues from the provincial/territorial focal points, representatives from the other federal departments like Finance and Human Resources Development Canada and from the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre attended the session on June 13; the workshop sessions on June 14 were restricted to the delegates and their accompanying colleagues.

The following topics were covered on June 13, 1996:

- cost-recovery work undertaken for Human Resources Development Canada
- Labour Force Survey (LFS): new content and implementation
- distribution of Unemployment Insurance benefits
- Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH): second phase of the redesign
- Adult Education and Training Survey
- developing a small-area business and labour market database for longitudinal research
- Workplace and Workers Project: status report
- two new projects undertaken by the Special Surveys Section of the Labour and Household Surveys Branch:

(1) workplace skill assessment and (2) the earnings supplement

The workshop sessions on June 14 included the following:

- SEPH and LFS: differences in employment data
- Focus Group: sub-provincial estimates from SEPH
- microdata from the first wave of Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID): file content, structure and documentation
- LFS Redesign: "demo" of the new questionnaire

No specific resolutions were proposed or amended at this meeting.

#### **Meeting - May 14-15, 1996**

The 31st meeting of this committee was held in Ottawa on May 14-15, 1996, at the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Centre, Statistics Canada. Members from the provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives) and those from other federal departments, such as Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), attended the meeting.

The following topics were covered on May 14:

- updates on the new Labour Force Survey (LFS), including reports on the planned products and services and the provincial consultation
- recent developments and plans for the Survey of Labour Income Dynamics (SLID)
- Workplace and Employee Survey - Pilot Experience
- International Adult Literacy Survey - some findings and future plans
- update on the Redesign of Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH)
- the second Survey on Work Arrangements

- measuring children's outcomes in the Self-Sufficiency Project

On May 15, under the workshop sessions (open to the provincial delegates and their accompanying colleagues, the following topics were covered:

- SEPH - Sub-provincial estimates and data on Unemployment Insurance
- Perspectives on Labour and Income
- SLID electronic dictionary
- the measurement of generic skills
- an overview of methodology underlying population projections and their demographic implications on LFS estimates
- developments on the Longitudinal National Health Survey
- Longitudinal Survey of Children

No specific resolutions were proposed or amended at this meeting. The delegates, however, showed a considerable interest in the ongoing activities of longitudinal surveys and wished to be updated, especially in respect to survey revelations/developments in their respective provinces or territories.

The last meeting of this committee was held June 13-14, 1995.

The next meeting will be held June 4-5, 1997.

## MINERAL STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** October 1995  
**Next meeting:** October 21-23, 1996  
**Members:** Delegates from Natural Resources Canada,  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada,  
Statistics Canada, Provincial and  
Territorial 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 Federal-Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPCMS) was held on October 17-18, 1995, in Ottawa. This committee provides a working forum in which the provinces and federal government departments can exchange information and formulate joint courses of action to deal effectively with common statistical interests.

The Committee noted with sadness the passing of Carl Hebert, formerly of Industry Division, Statistics Canada, who had made an important contribution to the work of the Committee over recent years.

The format of the annual FPCMS meeting had been modified in 1994 in order to allow for a greater emphasis on making decisions to approve work carried out on behalf of the Committee, on providing information to guide the future work of the Committee and its members, and on formulating a work plan for Committee activities. This new format was retained in 1995; however, indications point to further format changes in the future to continue to improve meeting effectiveness. All participating members reported on their respective mineral and mining statistics programs and the status of the industry within their jurisdiction.

Final approval was given at the meeting for the revised "Terms of Reference for the Committee". This document was subsequently passed to the Secretariat of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation to the Committee of recommendations contained in the report of the Small Working Group on Exploration Definitions, *Revised Definitions for Mineral Statistics: A Proposal*. Most recommendations presented therein have been approved, with the remainder undergoing revision prior to the 1996 FPCMS meeting.



Progress in improving the frame being used for the sand and gravel and stone surveys was reviewed. Frame development will include development of a protocol between NRCan and the Business Register, Statistics Canada, for the exchange of relevant frame information, after the respective frames are reconciled. Progress towards the development of the 1997 NAICS industrial classification system and its implementation for the industries of interest was briefly reviewed.

Information sessions at the meeting included reviews of progress towards the development of diamond mining in Canada, of the Voisey's Bay mineral discovery and of the history of mineral exploration in Canada. The need to develop tools to evaluate the value of future Canadian diamond production has caused the creation of an informal working group to deal with issues surrounding the design and development of a diamond production questionnaire.

The demonstration on computer systems, led by the representative from British Columbia, included an update of the "Soft Access" systems being developed at NRCan and a discussion of the future of data/information sharing within the framework of emerging technologies. Growing emphasis was placed on the use of the Internet to share and disseminate statistical information.

As is customary at this annual meeting, production schedules for surveys in which there is a sharing of responsibilities were discussed.

A commitment had been made in 1994 by Natural Resources Canada to cooperate fully with all provinces and territories by adjusting its programs to those of the participating provinces and territories in the collection, exchange and dissemination of statistical information and in the reduction of response burden. This commitment was clearly reiterated.

Discussions between participants before, during and after the meeting itself proved fruitful and will result in an improved sharing of responsibilities and increased opportunities for the elimination of overlap and duplication.

Massive cutbacks in the spring of 1996 in the province of Ontario and specifically in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines have, in essence, eliminated that province's ability to contribute to the joint collection of statistical information on the provincial mineral industry. Efforts are being undertaken to find the means of dealing with the gap created in the statistical framework.

Nevertheless, Ontario will continue to participate in the FPCMS and will work to maintain ongoing communication links and to prepare an updated MOU.

The next FPCMS meeting had been initially scheduled for May 1996. However, for a number of reasons, the meeting has been postponed until October 21-23, 1996. It remains a goal of the Committee to hold its annual meeting in the spring of the year.

## PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

**Last Meeting:** October 26-27, 1995  
**Next Meeting:** October 25, 1996  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial focal points or representatives

The major items of the meeting held October 26 and 27, 1995 in Ottawa included the approval of new terms of reference of the Federal-Provincial Committee on the PEA, reports on the progress of existing provincial programs within the System of National Accounts (SNA) Branch and in each province and territory, and presentations on the following topics:

- provincial trade in the SNA
- corporate profits
- report on the 1997 historical revision
- input-output simulation model
- tourism satellite accounts

The *Provincial Economic Accounts, 1994* were released on May 15, 1995, together with the provincial GDP by industry. The publication covering the years 1981-1994 (Catalogue 13-213) was published in August. Estimates of provincial GDP in constant dollars, trade balance and the statistical discrepancy are presented for the first time since the introduction of the provincial income and expenditure accounts. The publication *Provincial Gross Domestic Product by Industry, 1984-1994* (Catalogue 15-203) was issued in May. The 1990 provincial trade estimates were released in May. Revisions to the period 1984-1989 were made available in November.

The year 1996 will see the release of 1995 preliminary estimates of GDP in current and constant dollars, personal disposable income, by province and territory, scheduled for mid-May. Provincial GDP estimates by industry for the year 1995 will also be available at the same time.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 25, 1996 in the Simon Goldberg Conference Room of the R.H. Coats building. Items on the agenda will include, among others, the integration process of provincial GDP by industry with the income- and expenditure-based estimates in the coming year leading up to the next historical revision in 1997.

## PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

**Last Meeting:** October 25, 1995  
**Next Meeting:** October 24, 1996  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points or representatives and delegates from provincial and territorial departments of Finance

The Committee met on October 25, 1995, in Ottawa. All provinces and territories were represented.

The proceedings were chaired by Kishori Lal, Acting Director of Public Institutions Division. The first item of business was the "Provincial/Territorial Roundtable". Many of the provinces and territories expressed interest in the discussions to take place on the public sector and the impact of historical revision. Quebec indicated that they appreciated having been consulted on the place of school boards as a provincial or local component of the public sector and would like to be consulted about the revision of any other components. Other topics discussed by the delegates related to public sector employment, the electronic transfer of data, and reconciliation statements of financial data on a public accounts basis to data produced on a Financial Management System (FMS) and System of National Accounts (SNA) basis. The delegates also discussed organizational changes that occurred within their governments.

The following presentations were made by Public Institutions staff:

- Public Accounts, FMS, SNA Reconciliation and Harmonization
- Public Sector Universe
  - 1) Institutional Units
  - 2) Sub-sectoring of government
  - 3) First Nations
  - 4) Extended Coverage (Quebec example)
- Benchmarking to Labour Income
- Full-time Equivalents for Provinces and Territories
- Electronic Transfer From Ontario
- Data Dissemination

The conference was a success and Public Institutions Division continues to enjoy good working relationships with the provinces and territories.

## SOCIAL STATISTICS

**Last Meeting:** May 3, 1995  
**Next Meeting:** June 19, 1996  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

### **Status as of May 1996**

Topics at the last meeting included the following:

- program review and budget reductions (and the implications of same)
- implications of budget cuts on the Survey of Consumer Finance
- update on Education, Culture and Tourism program
- update on the General Social Survey program
- update on Employment Equity Data program
- update on the Post-censal Survey program
- discussion of integration work in social statistics
- update on the National Population Health Survey
- discussion of issues related to the Labour Force Survey sample
- update on the National Longitudinal Survey of Children
- update on the 1996 Census and a discussion of Human Resources Development's statistical proposals

The meeting concluded with a sharing of information on provincial-territorial programs.

### **Topics proposed for the next meeting included the following:**

- status report on the National Population Health Survey
- status report on the National Longitudinal Survey of Children
- status report on the Education, Culture and Tourism program
- discussion of the integration of SLID and SCF
- discussion of the issue of sample sizes in surveys
- status report on the 1996 Census collection program
- workshop on the calculation of low income cut-offs

There will also be a sharing of information on provincial/territorial programs.

## TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

**Last meetings:** May 16-17, 1996 and June 15-16, 1995  
**Next meeting:** June 2-3, 1997  
**Members:** Delegates from provincial and federal departments of transportation and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

May 1996: All provinces and territories were represented except Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

June 1995: All provinces and territories were represented except British Columbia.

### **North American Transportation Statistics Interchange**

Last Meetings: May 1996 and May 1995

Next meeting: October 1997

Members: Transportation staff from Canadian, U.S. and Mexican statistical, regulatory and policy departments (Quebec and the Australian Bureau of Statistics attended the 1996 meeting which was held in Ottawa just before the federal-provincial meetings).

### **Activities/Progress This Year**

Topics covered in these meetings include updates on trucking, aviation, marine, rail and multi-modal data as well as journey-to-work census questions, the National Private Vehicle Use Survey, SNA satellite accounts for transportation, transportation data on the Internet, the new Canadian Transportation Act, vehicle registration data, and travel information.

Progress was also reported regarding the development of a Standard Classification of Transported Goods. This is a joint effort with STC's Standards Division, STC's Transportation Division, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This classification will eventually be the North American standard and will be used for all modes of transport.

Presentations and discussions also took place regarding a proposal for a Canadian courier and local messengers survey, a new Canadian survey of industries incidental to water transport, and a proposed update to the Canadian water financial survey. The U.S. reported on the data they had received on their 1994 trucking survey on revenues based on shipments into and out of Canada and Mexico, and on the plans for the 1997 Commodity Flow Survey.

**VITAL STATISTICS COUNCIL FOR CANADA**

**Last meeting: June 20-22, 1995**  
**Next meeting: June 18-20, 1996**  
**Members: Provincial and territorial registrars/  
Directors of vital statistics**

**Status of the Agreements**

At the 1995 meeting it was agreed to conduct discussions at the annual meeting and follow up as needed to facilitate signing of agreements that reflect a common provincial/territorial/Statistics Canada position and current needs, practices and costs.

One meeting with the members of the Executive was hosted by Health Statistics Division to start talks on mutually acceptable terms and definitions for a federal/provincial/territorial agreement.

As proposed in 1994, the Chairperson (Ron Danderfer - B.C.) prepared and circulated the completed versions of an Orientation Kit, Forms Manual, and Business Plan.

The Director of Health Statistics Division (Janet Hagey) held semi-annual conference calls involving all members of the Council, as well as monthly calls involving the Executive of the Council.



**APPENDIX 5**

**STATISTICS CANADA PROGRAM REDUCTIONS**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**



February 22, 1996

10.001  
30.012

Dr. Ivan Fellegi  
Chief Statistician of Canada  
Statistics Canada  
26-A, R.H. Coats Building  
OTTAWA, ON  
K1A 0T6

Dear Dr. Fellegi:

At the November 30, 1995 meeting of the CCO Sub-committee on Economic and Financial matters Mr. Stew Wells raised the possibility of eliminating provincial estimates of GDP by industry as a response to any future budget cuts. Your reply of January 19, 1996 to Mr. Don McRae, who also voiced interest in this matter, has left us concerned and puzzled regarding the future of these data series.

You have noted that in the face of budget cuts you may be required to replace your current programme of annual economic business surveys with a triennial programme. This in turn, you state, would make it difficult to produce reliable estimates of GDP by industry. However, you suggest that provincial funding might keep the provincial GDP by industry alive using the same triennial surveys which apparently will not produce reliable estimates. It is unclear why provincial funding, which would not restore any annual surveys, would make the task of producing annual provincial GDP by industry data acceptable.

As you noted in your letter, Statistics Canada has moved from 50% coverage of the economy by industry in 1990 to 100% coverage by 1994. This is indeed impressive and certainly welcomed by the provinces and territories. It would be a shame to lose these advances.

Further discussion on this matter might more properly take place at the next meeting of the Consultative Council or at the Committee on Provincial Economic Accounts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. McMahon'.

Ronald C. McMahon  
Director

- 139 -

cc: Focal Points



APR 19 1996

Mr. Ronald C. McMahon  
Director  
Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics  
5th Floor  
2350 Albert Street  
Regina, Canada  
S4P 4A6

Dear Mr. McMahon:

Thank you for writing to me on February 22, 1996 to share your concern about the effect of cuts at Statistics Canada that seem likely to be on the horizon over the next few years. The prospect of what this will do to our program is a major worry to me and all of my colleagues, just as it is for you. This is particularly so when I consider how much we have been able to accomplish in our provincial economic statistics program over the last few years, even as we have absorbed a seemingly steady succession of substantial budget reductions that have tested our resiliency and innovative qualities.

As you know, in 1990 Statistics Canada on its own initiative funded -- and without any significant lobbying from the provinces of which I am aware -- an increased coverage of the industry accounts to 50% coverage of the whole economy. A year later we added mining industries and federal government services and improved timeliness of the constant dollar estimates to 10 months after the reference year. In the Fall of 1992 we increased coverage to 75%, with the addition of transportation, storage and wholesale and retail trade. One year later we added the finance, insurance and real estate industries, which raised coverage to 90% of the economy. In October of 1994 we increased coverage to 100% by adding communication, business services, amusement and recreational services, and personal and household services. Contemplating a retreat from these achievements is therefore very painful to us all.

Then, as you know, in 1992, with funding from the provinces and territories, the Federal-Provincial Relations Office, and "Data Gaps," we published annual estimates of interprovincial trade in goods for the years 1984-1988. In 1993, the year

1989 was added, the data for 1984-1988 were revised and trade in services for the six-year period was included. External funding for the project ended 31 March, 1993. Subsequently I explored the possibility of reestablishing something like the earlier consortium, but then Industry Canada agreed to finance a number of projects during 1995-96, and for our part we have agreed to finance an expanded program of interprovincial trade estimates for the next three years.

The problem is that I see little hope that we can avoid a retrenchment of some considerable size. We face a further 3.5% cut to our budget in 1998-99 and have very few options remaining as to how to achieve them. With such a reduction, there will be a real program impact throughout the Agency. The possibility that provincial industry-based GDP will be affected is not an independent decision, but flows from the very real probability that we will have to replace our annual economic business surveys with a triennial program.

A triennial survey system would collect and provide some business data only every three years rather than every year, reducing in very important ways the data available each year on production, capital expenditures, financial statistics, and corporate taxation of businesses. Detailed information, particularly on products and markets, would certainly only be collected once every three years. This change in frequency would affect virtually all industries in the economy and create information gaps on commodities produced and used by industries, on the nature of new capital investment, on the financial performance of small and medium-sized businesses, and on the incidence and affect of corporate taxation and tax measures. Clearly this would mean a noticeable loss of data quality in the national accounts and probably an even greater weakening at the provincial level, and it was against that background that we felt compelled to raise the spectre of having to eliminate the provincial dimension of GDP by industry.

Apart from some as yet unforeseen eventuality, the program is protected until 1998-99. Therefore it is entirely appropriate to discuss the whole issue at the next meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy, as you suggest. Indeed, we were intending to do just that. We have set up an internal committee to study and recommend a best solution and we will be pleased to listen to suggestions of the provinces. Having said that, it is important for everyone to understand that there is no easy road out of our dilemma. The cancellation of the triennial survey and GDP by province and industry options by themselves would not even meet our whole obligation on the economic statistics side of the Agency. This means, of course, that if we do not adopt

them, we not only have to find substitutes, we will still have to find even more. Unless the cut is cancelled or alternative funding is found, the basic requirement cannot be finessed.

You will appreciate that making choices in these periods of financial restraint is always difficult and I look forward to your suggestions and your co-operation in making the right decisions.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR  
IVAN P. FELLEGI

Ivan P. Fellegi

c.c. Focal Points

**APPENDIX 6**

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

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

Teleconference of March 8, 1996

**Committee Members**

Mr. Paul Dober (Nova Scotia) - Chairperson  
Mr. Emmet Weatherhead (Ontario)  
Mr. Don McRae (British Columbia)  
Mr. Wayne Smith (Statistics Canada)  
Mr. Denis Desjardins (ex-officio)

**Secretariat**

Ms. Tanis Browning-Shelp

**Agenda Items**

- 1) Upcoming Council meeting for 1996 and the proposed agenda for that meeting

Note: Program Committee members were faxed a draft Council agenda prior to the teleconference.

The Program Committee discussed the following agenda items proposed by the focal points:

- i) Statistics Canada budget cuts and the impact on programs (*It was agreed that this item will be handled by Dr. Fellegi as a separate item on the agenda.*)
- ii) Frequency of business surveys (*Mr. Desjardins explained that a more definitive answer regarding this issue was still being awaited before contacting focal points.*)
- iii) What constitutes the core data sets/programs of Statistics Canada? (*Mr. Desjardins stated that what is "core" is generally what we have. Some concern was expressed about the quality of our regional data. Specifically, Mr. Dober expressed concern about the provincial data in the Investment Survey and Restaurant Statistics. It was agreed that the ACSs would be asked to address the issue of the reliability of the data being used in the federal-provincial equalization formula.*)

- iv) A discussion on how to improve the profile of the focal points. (Mr. Desjardins asked the focal point component of the Program Committee to come up with suggestions to present at the Council meeting. It was agreed that this is a valuable topic for discussion which should appear on the agenda as a specific item.

Mr. McRae emphasized the importance of having input from everyone around the table. Mr. McRae and Mr. Dober agreed to contact the other focal points to see if they thought such a discussion would be beneficial and to see if enough focal points would be willing to participate. If the item were to stay on the agenda, Mr. McRae agreed to prepare a paper to act as a discussion starter.

The issue of routing all provincial data requests through the focal points was raised, but it was stated that this is not practical or feasible. However, it was stressed that focal points should be informed about any contacts that are taking place other than those of a routine nature.

It was agreed that the policy of copying focal points on such contacts is neglected more often than it is respected. The Secretariat will send a reminder of the importance of this issue out to all directors, directors general and ACSSs.)

- v) Provincial accounts and possible cuts (this item will either be handled in Dr. Fellegi's opening remarks or as a separate item on the agenda.)
- vi) Pricing for on-line products (Mr. McRae asked if there are changes taking place at Statistics Canada that can be used as a point of discussion. Mr. Desjardins stated that there has been no change in pricing policy; however, dissemination is changing and Statistics Canada could present a view of those changes. It was agreed that Statistics Canada would present its data dissemination plans generally - overheads will be sent to focal points ahead of the meeting - as well as its plans regarding the Internet and redistribution by focal points. At the Council meeting, we will discuss the redistribution of Statistics Canada data by focal points on the Internet.)



vii) Introduction of new classification of economic activities *(It was agreed that this item should be handled by Jacob Ryten in his program report.)*

viii) Data on services *(Mr. Desjardins will talk to Luc Bessette to clarify what he means by this.)*

The attached version of the Council Meeting Agenda was approved.

**APPENDIX 7**

**DISSEMINATION PLANS**

**PRESENTATIONS BY MR. DAVID ROY AND MR. WAYNE SMITH**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

**STATISTICS CANADA'S OVERALL DISSEMINATION STRATEGY**

**A Presentation by DAVID ROY**

**Director, Marketing**

**STATISTICS CANADA'S  
STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR  
DISSEMINATION AND MARKETING**

## VALUE OF A STRATEGIC VISION

'IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING YOU MIGHT END UP SOMEWHERE ELSE' - YOGI BERA

BASIS FOR EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS  
E.G. FED. DEPTS, PROVS, DSP, PRIVATE SECTOR  
DISTRIBUTORS, CLIENTS.

BASIS FOR COORDINATION OF INTERNAL INITIATIVES

IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT,

- TECHNOLOGY
- ROLES OF KEY PLAYERS
- VALUE OF AND NEED FOR INFORMATION MUST HAVE A VISION AND UPDATE REGULARLY

## DEVELOPING THE VISION

### I FEEDBACK MECHANISMS - CLIENT & PRODUCT RESEARCH

- STATSCAN ONLINE
- CANADA INFORMATION MONITOR
- PROFILING MARKET DEMAND FOR PRODUCTS
- FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES
- STC INTERNET SITE

### II IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

- INFORMATION INDUSTRY STRUCTURE, TRENDS AND IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY
- INFORMATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION; SPIRIT; ITAC
- RESEARCH WITH COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTORS

### III CLEAR PERCEPTION OF STATISTICS CANADA

- CORE MISSION
- RELATIONSHIPS
- PUBLIC PERCEPTION
- HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED

### I USER'S NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS

- SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY TO INTEGRATED DATA
- FEWER STANDARD PRODUCTS
- 'VALUE ADDED' SOLUTIONS
- RESPONSIVE/KNOWLEDGEABLE CUSTOMER SERVICE

### II INFORMATION INDUSTRY/DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

- NEW INFORMATION ROLES FOR MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS - NEW CHANNELS
- GROWTH OF 'FINDERS/INTEGRATORS'
- PREVALENCE OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

### III IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

- INFORMATION PUBLISHING BASED ON INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND INTERNET STANDARDS
- CHANGE IN USERS BEHAVIOUR - BUY 'WHEN' 'NOT' IF 'NEEDED'
- INTEGRATION, ANALYSIS, SERVICES, CUSTOMIZATION INCREASE PERCEIVED VALUE.

## STRATEGIC VISION - UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

WIDEST POSSIBLE USE OF DATA WHILE RECOVERING THE  
COST OF DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

MAINTAIN STC IDENTITY, PROFILE AND VISIBILITY

CORPORATELY ORGANIZE AND DESCRIBE STC DATA HOLDINGS

EXPLOIT NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC GOOD DATA

MANAGE TRANSITION FROM TRADITIONAL TO NEW MEDIA

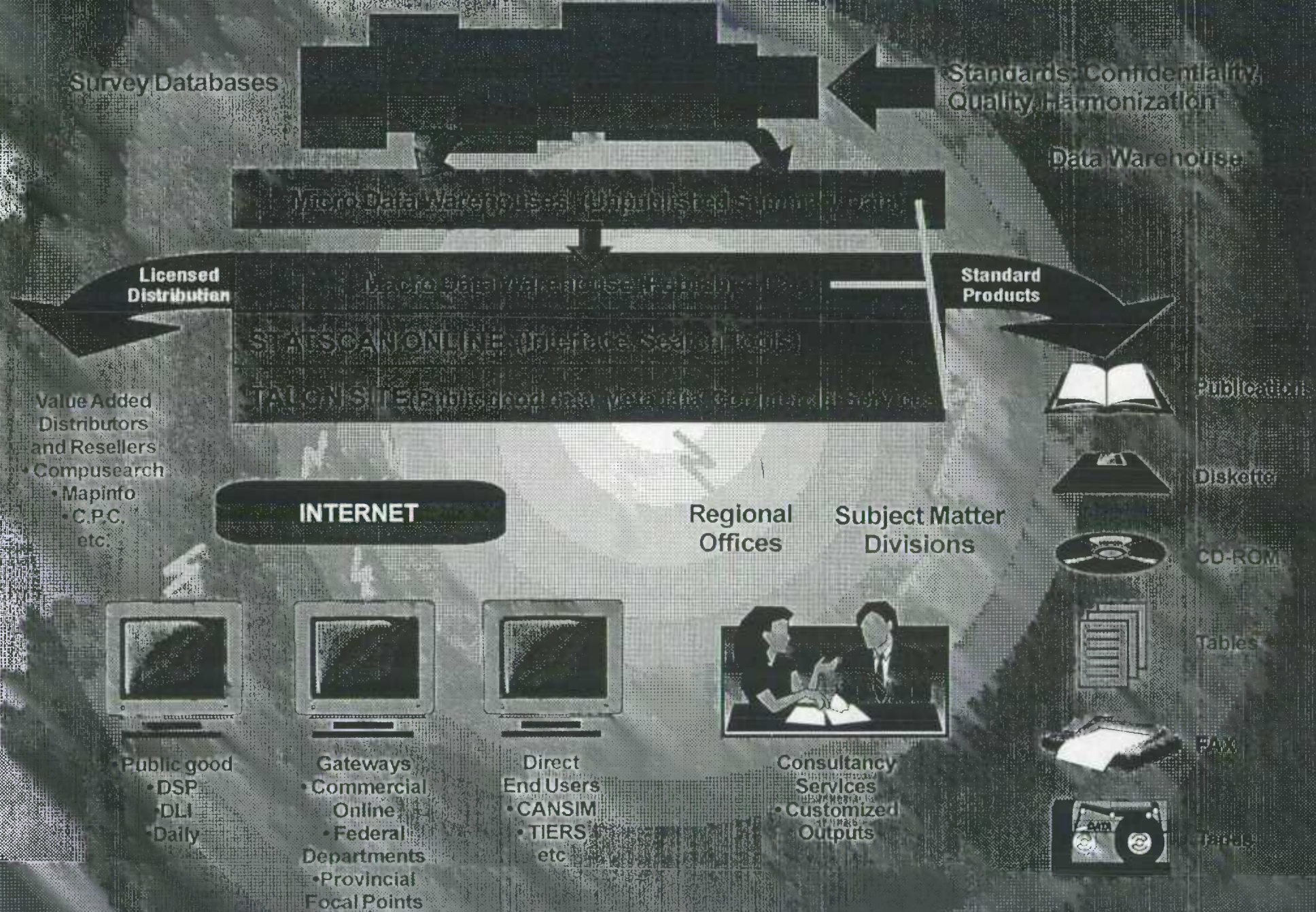
CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

- PROVINCIAL FOCAL POINTS
- FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
- PRIVATE SECTOR DISTRIBUTORS



# STRATEGIC VISION STATISTICS CANADA DISSEMINATION

March 1998



197

## KEY STATISTICS CANADA INITIATIVES

### SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISSEMINATION

#### LICENSING REVIEW

- ROLE OF DISTRIBUTORS IN SERVING END-USERS
- REVISE TERMS, RELATIONSHIPS

#### CANSIM OVERHAUL

- CORE OF DATA WAREHOUSE
- EXPAND DATA AND FUNCTIONALITY

#### STATSCAN ONLINE/INTERNET COMMERCIAL SERVICES

- DIRECT ONLINE SERVICE TO USERS
- EVENTUALLY ALL PUBLISHED DATA

#### CORPORATE META INFORMATION SYSTEM

- MAXIMIZE VALUE OF HOLDINGS
- EXPAND CUSTOM SERVICES
- BASIS FOR HARMONIZATION

**CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS**

- **PROVINCIAL FOCAL POINTS**
- **INFORMATION INDUSTRY**
- **FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS**

**DEPOSITORY SERVICES PROGRAM - ELECTRONIC VERSIONS  
OF PRINT PRODUCTS**

- **RESEARCH ON PRINT TO ELECTRONIC TRANSITION**

**INTERNET PUBLIC GOOD MODULE**

## NEXT STAGES

- PRICING OF KEY DATA FILES AND REVISED TERMS FOR LICENSING (SUMMER '96)
- MARKET INTRODUCTION STATSCAN ONLINE (JULY '96)
- HOT-LINKS TO STATISTICS CANADA INTERNET SITE FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS (FALL '96)
- EVALUATION OF DSP PROTOTYPE (MARCH '97)

**INTERNET AND REDISTRIBUTION BY  
PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL FOCAL POINTS**

**A PRESENTATION BY MR. WAYNE SMITH**

## Dissemination of Information via the Internet

*Canadian Dimensions*: Statistics Canada's "public good" data bank

My presentation on June 20 will provide some background to the discussion about focal points' redistribution of Statistics Canada data on the Internet. Most of my presentation will be a demonstration of *Canadian Dimensions*, a "public good" data bank that is to be posted on Statistics Canada's Talon World Wide Web site by the end of June.

*Canadian Dimensions* gives the public free access to a wide range of basic statistical information - much more than the *Canada at a Glance* module it replaces. The new module will contain about 160 tables drawn from the 1997 *Canada Year Book*.

The outline of the *Canada Year Book* provides the organizational framework for the tables and the cascading menus used to access them. Users who prefer key word searching to cascading menus can use the search facilities already available on the Talon site.

In the first phase of the project, access will be by topic and then by province or territory. In the second phase, users will have the option to access information by province or territory first, and then by topic.

All the tables except one will be based on annual or occasional data. The exception is a table of monthly and quarterly economic indicators which was developed for *Canada at a Glance*. The data in this table are national only and will not be broken down by province in the first phase of the project.

The tables will be presented in HTML pages. The information on data sources will contain hypertext links to CANSIM, Statistics Canada publications or, if the data did not originate in Statistics Canada, other organizations.

After phase one is completed, we will re-examine our selection of tables for *Canadian Dimensions*. As we get feedback from clients and the subject matter divisions, we will drop or modify some tables and add others. We may add new features, such as charts. Once the table selection has stabilized, the data on *Canadian Dimensions* will be updated automatically through CANSIM, coincidentally with time of

release. In the short term, however, tables will be updated within a week of release. The monthly and quarterly indicator table will continue to be updated each day at 8:35 a.m.

We welcome comments and suggestions from the focal points.

**APPENDIX 8**

**FOLLOW-UP FROM THE 1995 MEETING  
OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL  
ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

**STATUS REPORT**

**TO THE 1996 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**



## 1995 FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

### PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PROGRAM REPORTS

#### 1. Best Practices

Dr. Fellegi suggested provincial and territorial focal points should illustrate the usefulness of their programs by producing a best practices package. The package could contain several one-page descriptions of their outputs and could highlight examples of best practices.

**Responsible:** Secretariat

**Action:** A memo was sent to provincial and territorial focal points June 6, 1995 requesting the best practices documents. Reports have been received from Prince Edward Island, Alberta and British Columbia. A follow-up was completed on July 11 and again in September. This item is still pending.

### REVIEW OF FOCAL POINT ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

#### 2. Final Security Reports

The British Columbia delegate requested final security reports and section 11 agreements be sent to all provinces and territories.

**Responsible:** Louise Desramaux, Director, Data Access and Control Services

**Action:** Louise Desramaux sent the final reports to provincial and territorial focal points on July 4, 1995.

### 3. Documentation on Security Precautions and Networks

The delegates from Saskatchewan and Manitoba requested that any available documentation on security precautions and networks be sent to all federal-provincial focal points.

**Responsible:** ACS, Management Services

**Action:** Ongoing

### SOCIAL INSTITUTION AND LABOUR STATISTICS PROGRAM

#### 4. 1996 2D Questionnaire Workshop

The delegate from Saskatchewan requested provincial and territorial focal points receive the report on the 1996 2D questionnaire workshop.

**Responsible:** ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics

**Action:** The report was forwarded to all provincial and territorial focal points on July 13, 1995.

#### 5. Presentation - 1996 Content Options

The delegate from Quebec requested a copy of the paper being presented at the next meeting of the Federal-Provincial committee on Social Statistics entitled *1996 Content Options*.

**Responsible:** ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics

**Action:** A copy of the paper was provided to Luc Bessette and all provincial and territorial focal points on July 13, 1995.

## BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS PROGRAM

### 6. "Oslo Document"

The delegates from Manitoba and Alberta requested copies of an "Oslo Document".

**Responsible:** Fred Gault; Secretariat

**Action:** The document was provided to all Provincial and territorial focal points.

### 7. Traveller Accommodation

The Manitoba delegate asked which proportion of the Traveller Accommodation Survey is tax driven.

**Responsible:** Fred Gault

**Action:** Fred Gault faxed the information to Wilf Falk the week following the meeting.

### 8. Interprovincial Comparability of Measures of Government Activity

The Saskatchewan delegate raised some concerns about the interprovincial comparability of measures of government activity.

**Responsible:** Art Ridgeway

**Action:** Art Ridgeway replied to Ron McMahon on November 7, 1995. A copy of this response was sent to all provincial and territorial focal points.



**NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND ANALYTICAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

**9. Interprovincial Trade Flows**

The delegate from British Columbia requested a detailed breakdown of the costs and funding associated with the Interprovincial Trade Flows Initiative.

**Responsible:** ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies; Secretariat

**Action:** Stewart Wells provided Don McRae with a breakdown of the costs and funding on June 27, 1995.