

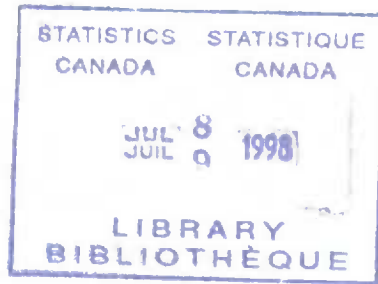
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# Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

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May 8–9, 1997  
Ottawa, Ontario





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

**MINUTES**

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Meeting of May 8-9, 1997

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Ottawa, Ontario

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 8-9, 1997**

## **1. Opening remarks**

The Chairperson welcomed the delegates to the 24th annual meeting of the Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. He noted the retirement of three focal points—Clifford Marks (New Brunswick), Paul Dober (Nova Scotia) and Ralph Joyce (Northwest Territories)—and greeted their replacements: George Richardson (New Brunswick), Dennis Pilkey (Nova Scotia) and David Stewart (Northwest Territories). The Chairperson noted the absence of Roy Spence (Prince Edward Island). (The list of delegates and participants is attached as Appendix 1.)

The agenda proposed for the 1997 meeting was approved (the agenda is attached as Appendix 2) and the minutes from the previous year's meeting were adopted without amendment.

## **2. Statistical Information in Support of Policy Challenges**

Dr. Fellegi described the course of events that led to the preparation of the document entitled "Statistical Information in Support of Policy Challenges," the first item of discussion on the agenda. He reported that when he presented the document to the Clerk of the Privy Council and senior deputy ministers, they agreed that the initiatives described in it should be supported. The Chief Statistician reported that the plan would be discussed by various sub-groups of the assistant deputy ministers' policy committee this summer and beyond.

Dr. Fellegi's presentation and the first chapter of the draft report were well received by the members of the Council. However, the focal points pointed out that the current trend towards decentralization at the federal and provincial levels underlines the need for sub-provincial data. They noted that PIPES has gone some way to resolving the problem with respect to economic statistics, but that the onus is on Statistics Canada to also produce social statistics at the provincial and sub-provincial levels if new government structures are to meet Canadians' needs.

Responding to a discussion about the need for provincial and sub-provincial detail in the proposed initiative, the Chief Statistician pointed out that the primary issue underlying his presentation was the need to understand dynamics rather than simply to track outcomes—that it was a priority to grasp collectively, as a country, the crucial factors involved in various social and economic developments. Such analytic objectives do not necessarily require as much geographic detail as traditional, core-program tracking statistics.

The Chief Statistician agreed with the delegate from Nova Scotia that a hybrid strategy drawing on provincial and territorial administrative data sources is needed, but that provincial and territorial systems need to be broadly comparable.

Dr. Fellegi said that the potential role of the Census, a subject raised by the focal point for Manitoba, should indeed be explored as one of the components of a hybrid data-collection system. This system would also include analytic surveys, more detailed tracking surveys and administrative data in various combinations.

Dr. Fellegi agreed that if the interprovincial comparability of public sector statistics is an issue, as Mr. Falk suggested, this also should be investigated. Greater attention will necessarily be given to the comparability of provincial government accounts, Mr. Ryten added, because of PIPES. Efforts are currently being made to shift provincial data onto a National Accounts basis, although this will not happen immediately.

In response to the focal point for Quebec, who had noted his province's particular interest in volunteerism, Dr. Fellegi noted that Quebec's interest is shared by a number of others and that information on this sector would be captured in the proposed Time Use Survey.

### **3. Provincial and territorial reports**

The delegates from the provinces and territories presented their agencies' respective activity reports, which are attached as Appendix 3.

### **4. Program Committee report**

The chairperson, Mr. Bill Hyshka, reported to Council that the Committee had discussed a number of agenda items proposed by the provinces and territories at a teleconference on February 12. They had agreed that most of the items could be covered by the Assistant Chief Statisticians' reports, and set an acceptable agenda. (The reports from the federal-provincial committees are attached as Appendix 4 and the minutes of the Program Committee teleconference as Appendix 5.)

### **5. Report on the Business and Trade Statistics Program**

#### **a) Transition from SIC to NAICS**

Mr. Ryten summarized the planned transition from SIC to NAICS and its expected results, mentioning the efforts that have been made in the United States and Mexico. In response to a query from the focal point for Manitoba, Mr. Ryten noted that the matrix of intra-NAFTA trade flows has to be retooled to eliminate major discrepancies before useful trade flow statistics can be generated.

#### **b) Improvement of science and technology statistics**

Statistics Canada, Mr. Ryten reported, has been given additional funds to improve its science and technology statistics. He described the main components and objectives of the project, highlighting one aim in particular, namely to measure how investment in science and technology affects outputs.

#### **c) Bias in the United States' Consumer Price Index**

Mr. Ryten raised the issue of the 1% bias reported in the United States' Consumer Price Index (CPI) which was apparently caused by, among other factors, infrequent revisions to the basket of goods and services. An independent assessment of the Canadian CPI showed that its maximum bias was 0.5%. Mr. Ryten described the differences between the two countries' methodologies to explain the disparate biases. He reported that Canada and a number of European countries have discussed their respective CPIs and have concluded that they are not as affected by the same problems as the U.S. CPI. They agreed that each would publish a short paper in an appropriate vehicle giving an estimate of the bias in their CPI and a description of the measures taken to tackle that bias. Statistics Canada—or a consultant—will do the same. This will achieve the objective of not alarming but informing the public.

#### **d) PIPES-related training**

Mr. Ryten announced that Statistics Canada is instigating a rigorous training program for the many new personnel hired to work on the PIPES initiative. A pilot scheme will begin in September 1997 and last about 14 weeks. Mr. Ryten invited the focal points or members of their staff to participate.

### **6. Report on the National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program**

Mr. Wells opened by stating that he believed that procedures currently in place are sufficiently robust to cope with the improved data generated under PIPES. He then made a presentation on the historical revision and the adoption of SNA '93, specifically addressing the concerns raised at the 1996 meeting of the Council regarding the timing and process of data dissemination. Mr. Wells described in detail the proposed schedule for release of provincial and national accounts and specified which base years would be used for each release (the schedule is attached as Appendix 6).

The focal points from Saskatchewan and Manitoba agreed that the preliminary release should not be cancelled, even though it would be based differently from the revised figures. In response to a question from the focal point from Ontario, Mr. Wells said that the re-basing was not expected to make a significant difference to originally published growth rates.



The focal point from Manitoba said that it was his understanding that nominal GDP goes into the transfer payment formula and wondered how the federal and provincial finance departments viewed the time delay. Mr. Wells said it had been satisfactorily explained to Finance Canada.

## **7. Statistics Canada's Meta-information Initiative**

A presentation on Statistics Canada's meta-information initiative was given by Ms. Barbara Slater. She stated that where output used to be driven by how information was collected, it is now being driven by how information is used. Today, Ms. Slater observed, users demand simplicity, speed, flexibility and cost-effectiveness in data systems. She described the consolidated, browsable meta-information structure that Statistics Canada is building to meet those demands, referring throughout her presentation to a template which is provided as Appendix 7.

Many of the focal points expressed their enthusiasm for the initiative and asked whether they would be able to use Statistics Canada's system for their own data. Dr. Fellegi agreed that co-operation should be explored, but he and Ms. Slater suggested that the best approach may not be to export the system integrally to the provinces, but to use other transparent connections.

The focal point for Manitoba asked if there was a timetable for the project. Ms. Slater said that development will probably take all of the current fiscal year and possibly extend into the next. It was agreed that the focal points would be brought up-to-date on the project at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Dissemination in November.

## **8. Round-table discussion: The roles of the regional offices and focal points in data dissemination and marketing**

The focal points for Manitoba, Yukon and Alberta reported that they had had difficulties with the regional offices with respect to marketing and surveying in their territories.

Dr. Fellegi stressed that the policy on the roles of the focal points and the regional offices is very clear and has not changed: the focal points have priority access to provincial government departments. He said that although the policy is clear—and the intent is there—its application will occasionally be imperfect. He urged an improvement in communications.

## **9. Presentation to Dr. Fellegi on the occasion of his 40th anniversary at Statistics Canada**

Speaking on behalf of all the focal points, the focal point for Saskatchewan made a presentation to Dr. Fellegi to mark his 40th anniversary at Statistics Canada. Dr. Fellegi acknowledged the gracious gesture.

## **10. Report on the Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program**

Mr. Bruce Petrie, Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field, noted that most subjects had been covered at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics on May 7 and asked delegates to raise issues of particular concern to them.

### **a) Labour Force Survey**

The focal points for Manitoba and Quebec expressed the view that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been cut significantly over the years and suggested that the survey be given an injection of funds to increase the sample size and reduce the results' volatility. The focal point for Quebec contrasted the approach to the LFS to the augmentation of funds enjoyed by projects covered by PIPES. The focal point for Manitoba also asked for an update on the use of composite estimation to address the issue of volatility.

Dr. Fellegi explained that PIPES imposed a certain disposition of funds that could not be altered. On the matter of the LFS, he said that it would take a large injection of funds—\$8 million to \$10 million—to significantly reduce variation at the provincial level. Mr. Petrie added that more useful information would be gained by spending those funds in other priority areas.

Mr. Petrie recalled that composite estimation was discussed at the recent Advisory Committee on Statistical Methods. Dr. Fellegi said that progress was being made in this area and that its use is being contemplated, although proposed changes to the LFS are subject to extraordinary care and caution because of the survey's high profile. A test has been successfully conducted in Ontario and will be run in the other provinces before the new methodology is introduced.

Recalling recent concern over the apparently disparate results of the LFS and SEPH, the focal point for Quebec asked what the plans were for SEPH. Mr. Petrie said that major revisions were being made to the survey, particularly with respect to the use of payroll deductions data from Revenue Canada. Until this problem has been resolved, Statistics Canada will lower the profile of the SEPH employment estimates. Dr. Fellegi stressed that lowering the profile of these employment data is simply a prudent course of action indicating that the problems are being addressed and that caution is advised.

## **b) 1996 Census**

Moving to the 1996 Census, the focal point for Manitoba asked when Statistics Canada would have information on the reverse record check. Mr. Lachapelle said that the internal revision of the coverage study would be completed at the end of March 1998. Because of the focal points' interest in participating in the process, there would be a preliminary release in March, simply indicating the availability of the data, followed by a meeting with the focal points to discuss the results. These data would then be revised and released in May 1998.

Pointing out that the 1991 Census included those temporarily absent but that the 1996 Census did not, the focal point for Saskatchewan said that Statistics Canada's publications contained insufficient indication that the figures were not comparable. Mr. Petrie explained that the difference was flagged in a Note to Users, though not in a high-profile way because the change was small. Mr. Petrie agreed to make the 1991 distribution by CSD available to the focal point for Manitoba so that his agency could create its own comparable 1991/1996 base.

Mr. Lachapelle, in response to a question from the Manitoba delegate, reported that a special study is being conducted in Ontario to compare the centralized edit with the reverse record check for estimating census coverage. Mr. Petrie noted that a number of factors are being weighed in this test—coverage and operations being two of them—in order to determine whether the centralized edit approach will be extended to other areas. Dr. Fellegi said that Statistics Canada would proceed with great caution on this matter.

The focal point for Manitoba asked whether the undercoverage count would be broken down into components such as temporary absences, un-enumerated Indian reserves, and missed residents. Dr. Fellegi said that a separate estimate would be given for un-enumerated Indian Reserves, but that because of the methodologies used in the 1996 Census for dealing with temporarily absent residents and missed residents, these will not be able to be separated out.

## **c) Low income cut-offs**

The focal point for Alberta recalled that at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics, Mr. Petrie had agreed to raise the priority of low income cut-offs (LICOs) and wondered whether it would be possible to strike a working group on the subject. Both Dr. Fellegi and Mr. Petrie said they were hesitant to do so given the work and expense involved and the uncertainty of a useful outcome. Dr. Fellegi stressed that society's definition of "poor" is the expression of a social consensus reached through a political process. He recalled that decades of discussions in Canada and in international forums on the poverty-measurement issue have been unfruitful. Nonetheless, if there was broad interest, Statistics Canada would convene such a group.

The Manitoba delegate pointed out that the cut-offs are national, and do not account for the often significant differences in housing and other costs from one province to another. He suggested that a provincial-level LICO might take account of these differences. Dr. Fellegi said that the sample size used for LICOs is insufficient to publish details at the provincial level. However, Mr. Petrie pointed out, PIPES will give Statistics Canada more room to manoeuvre in this respect.

#### **11. Nominations to the Program Committee**

Mr. Weatherhead was nominated to chair the 1998 Program Committee. Mr. Pilkey and Mr. Hyshka were nominated to be the other focal point members, with Mr. Desjardins remaining an ex officio member. The nominations were accepted.

#### **12. Other business**

Mr. Falk expressed his concern about the presentation of statistics in the *Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada 1996* saying he felt it was inappropriate either to single out one province or to aggregate the data for two or three provinces. Mr. Lachapelle said that this is rarely done and when it is, the objective is to present useful data, meet user needs or ensure data reliability.

The meeting was adjourned.



**APPENDIX 1**

**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 (Absent)	Director Fiscal Management Division Department of the Provincial Treasury
Nova Scotia	Dennis Pilkey	Acting Director Statistics Division Department of Finance
New Brunswick	George Richardson	Assistant 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 Relations
Northwest Territories	David Stewart	Acting Territorial Statistician Bureau of Statistics
Yukon	Gerry Ewert	Director Bureau of Statistics Executive Council Office

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

Statistics Canada	Bruce Petrie	Assistant Chief Statistician Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Jacob Ryten	Assistant Chief Statistician Business and Trade Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Stewart Wells	Assistant Chief Statistician National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field
Statistics Canada	Barbara Slater	Director General Informatics Branch
Statistics Canada	Wayne Smith	Director Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Paula Fedeski-Koundakjian	Head Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat Communications Division

**APPENDIX 2**

**AGENDA**

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

May 8 and 9, 1997

Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1997

- 9:00 a.m.     **Opening remarks**  
— Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Adoption of the agenda
  - Approval of the minutes of the 1996 meeting
- 9:15 a.m.     **Statistical Information in Support of Policy Challenges**  
— Dr. Ivan Fellegi
- 10:00 a.m.    **Provincial and territorial reports**  
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 10:15 a.m.    Break
- 10:30 a.m.    **Provincial and territorial reports (continued)**  
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 11:45 a.m.    **Program Committee report**  
— Bill Hyshka
- 12:00 p.m.    Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m.     **Business and Trade Statistics Program**  
— Jacob Ryten
- Program update
- 2:30 p.m.     **National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program**  
— Stewart Wells
- Program update
- 3:30 p.m.     Break
- 3:45 p.m.     **Statistics Canada's Meta-information Initiative**  
— Barbara Slater

4:30 p.m.     **Round-table discussion: The roles of regional offices and focal points in data dissemination and marketing**  
— Provincial and territorial focal points

5:00 p.m.     Reception

**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1997**

9:00 a.m.     **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program**  
— Bruce Petrie  
• Program update

10:15 a.m.    Break

11:00 a.m.    **Nominations to the Program Committee**

11:15 a.m.    **Other business**

**Concluding remarks**

**APPENDIX 3**  
**PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS**

## NEWFOUNDLAND ACTIVITY REPORT

### **The Context: A Year of Turmoil**

The last year was without doubt one of the worst years in the history of the Newfoundland Statistics Agency (NSA). This resulted from the combination of a number of factors and events. The 1996/97 budget transferred the Agency from the Cabinet Secretariat to the Department of Finance. This transfer also involved a move to a new location which saw the Economics and Statistics Branch (NSA is one of two Divisions which comprise the Branch) dispersed throughout four office areas. The actual move to our new location was made on August 1, 1996, shortly after one key staff member went on maternity leave and another was seconded back to the Cabinet Secretariat. Although we did have guarantees that the positions could be backfilled, the staff losses came at a time when hiring freezes were in effect. Because of the prevailing related processes and procedures, months passed before the positions could be staffed. These events coincided with budget cuts as well as additional reassignments of experienced staff to the HST initiative. Surrounding these difficulties was a government-wide Program Review exercise. Not only did we have to review and report on the programs and services that we provide, we were also asked to play a major role in tracking the potential impacts of Program Review proposals submitted by all government departments and Agencies.

While the challenges were exceptional all throughout the year, it cannot be said that the year was an unsuccessful one. The Agency did survive the Program Review. Furthermore, Program Review provided the opportunity to highlight the vital role played by the focal point and to describe the considerable variety of services we provide. We believe we have been successful in establishing a much improved knowledge and appreciation of the value to the government of the central service role we played. In fact, the Program Review has resulted in positioning the Department of Finance more as a central service agency than was ever the case in the past. This is very positive for NSA; we now no longer worry that the focal point will be consumed by internal, department work. NSA, consistent with the reorientation of the Department of Finance, is expected to provide a broader range of services to departments than was the case in the past. It also appears that efforts will be made to ensure that government is better informed of the Agency and the services available and that activities carried out at NSA and the Department as a whole will not be duplicated elsewhere in government.

### **Major Activities in 1996-97**

#### *Government Program Review*

The largest single initiative carried out in 1996-97 was our contribution to the Program Review. Intensive work was ongoing from October until the budget was released. NSA received copies of all reports submitted to the Program Review Secretariat from which



information was extracted and used to build a database that would support analysis of what the major impacts of proposals might be and where they would be felt throughout the province. Three major outputs were produced. These were a report on GDP and employment impacts for the Senior Officials Committee responsible for the exercise, the preparation of presentation for the Premier and Cabinet of the impacts, and a document showing employment and certain other impacts for each MHA by his or her electoral district. The work was well received and had an impact on a number of major decisions that were made and on the overall magnitude of government downsizing that resulted from the Program Review. All that remains to be done is to monitor and track layoffs relating to the changes implemented during the remainder of the fiscal year.

### ***Database of Provincial Government Employment***

A database of provincial government employment is being built. The work has progressed in two phases. The first phase was the building of baseline data for the 1996 calendar year. This was built during the Program Review exercise to make it possible to assess the relative impacts of layoffs at the community and regional level. Work on this aspect of the project has been completed and the information is now also available for general purposes. The second phase is under way: each pay period, information from all government payroll files will be received by NSA and be assembled in the general database. It will be received and stored at the level of the individual/department (or other employer entity) by place of residence and work. It is expected that within a year the database will be completed and the information it provides will be kept current to within about six weeks of the end of each payroll period.

### ***Increasing Holdings***

A major priority this year is to broaden the range of province-specific data assets held by the Agency. There is a greatly increased need and demand for data which are highly disaggregated for economic monitoring, policy development, and research and analysis. At this point, a major focus is acquiring certain new series at the individual and community level. Currently, high-quality sets in use that were developed in-house are UI/EI statistics, Social Assistance (SA) data, TAGS data, and data relating to the migration and changing spatial dispersion of the population. Other less aggregated baseline series have also been purchased and it is planned to improve and expand holdings of all provincial series considerably this year.

### ***Completion and Release of a New Geographic Information System***

The completion of the Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS) makes available a key tool which provides NSA with a strong ability to store, retrieve, analyse and disseminate geographically based data. The REDIS was built in-house in a partnership arrangement with ACOA, the Geography Department of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) and the private sector. The GIS-based system is used

extensively by NSA and is also distributed under a license fee (about \$1,000) arrangement to government and quasi-government groups. The system stores data at the level of the community/CCS and uses Statistics Canada geography as the standard unit of data organization. Tremendous success has been achieved in establishing a high profile for the system. This has come about partially as a result of its use during Program Review and partially by its use and acceptance by the Premier and other senior government officials and groups. All license fees collected are used to maintain and update the system and provide new data "REDIS-ready" for users.

### ***Regional Economic Performance Indicators***

As a part of the process of making a more broadly based, high-quality regional information system available, a project to build regional economic indicators is under way. Databases are being developed that will provide data centred upon the concept of the Economic Account (modified to reflect specific needs as well as the realities of data deficiencies). Special tabulations of taxfile data have been purchased from the Small Area and Administrative Data Division of Statistics Canada and are the current focus of project work. The data are being analysed for their potential to be used for building community economic accounts. The work is a joint effort of the Department of Development and Rural Renewal, ACOA and NSA. Dr. Doug May of MUN is the principal researcher in the exercise. A main short-term purpose of the work is to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of performance contracts and development policy, as well as initiatives in the newly established provincial Economic Zones. The work represents a new approach in Newfoundland to monitoring changes in the province's economy and to establishing data which can underpin accountability for funds used for the purposes of economic development.

### ***Quarterly Questionnaire on Regional Economic Activity and Dynamics***

A questionnaire is now being developed which will provide information on changes and economic events throughout the Economic Zones. It will be sent to government field offices such as those of the Departments of Development, Fisheries, Forestry, etc., and to Zone authorities and other relevant points of contact where the information of interest can be obtained. The questionnaire will be centred on acquiring economic information in regions, taking into account the differences in regional economic structures and situations. The data will be collected each quarter and will provide current knowledge on regional economic dynamics. The data will have a vast range of uses and will provide valuable information as the province confronts the ending of TAGS and the continuing high level of population loss from the province.

### *Surveys of Out-Migrants, Economic Performance and Tourism Activity*

A survey of out-migrants via the MCP system was implemented in January 1996. With a full year's data now available, analysis of the information has begun. Valuable insights are coming to the surface and the data will be made available to NSA clients as appropriate by the end of this calendar year. Databases relating to motor vehicle registrations have also been brought into use this year. The data will have many uses, in addition to helping track migration patterns. One key use will be to provide information on consumer purchases of vehicles in areas of the province, which tend to be useful as an indicator of economic activity in regions. It is planned to develop the data further to establish new indicators of regional dynamics and business activity.

Two auto and air travel surveys are being carried out by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation this year. These will collect information on resident and non-resident travellers with an emphasis on non-residents in an effort to collect information on visitors participating in the Cabot 500 celebrations. The surveys will collect information on the main purposes of the trip and events attended, as well as on expenditures made, the number of days spent in the province and other general information relating to the traveller and his or her trip. NSA supported the Department of Tourism in developing and preparing the survey and also added a block of questions to pick up information on those who might be out-migrants.

### *Modelling and Reports Relating to The Atlantic Ground Fish Strategy (TAGS) and UI/EI*

TAGS and UI databases and models have been extended, improved and used extensively to monitor and support analysis of the impacts of the changes in the programs on the economy, on SA and on the fiscal situation of the province. Considerable effort has been applied to improving our modelling capability in these subject areas due to the large impact both programs have, and will continue to have, over the years ahead. The TAGS models are based upon information on each individual and his or her income earned and/or received from TAGS and other sources each week. The data are accessed under a special agreement with HRDC. A statistical report was also produced and released last summer showing the concentrations and expiry dates of TAGS clients at the CCS level. The report was a joint effort of the local HRDC office and NSA. The document was the first to be released in the new design developed for NSA statistical reports. Copies will be available for anyone who might be interested at the meeting on May 8, 1997. The document is now being updated and expanded to provide additional information which is frequently sought. DFIO has jointed NSA and HRDC in producing the updated report.

UI/EI modelling relies heavily upon Statistics Canada's Social Policy Simulation Database/Model (SPSD/M), which is modified in Glass Box and based on microdata drawn from in-house UI databases, to consider Newfoundland-specific concerns. Because



of the delays in the new release of SPSD/M, NSA has been forced to carry out more in-house UI/EI modelling this year than usual.

### ***Information Sharing Agreement Between Provincial and Federal Departments***

This year, after a number of years of development and negotiation, an information sharing agreement was signed between HRDC, the Newfoundland Statistics Agency, and the Departments of Social Services, Development and Rural Renewal and Education. The agreement will permit the exchange of a vast amount of information by Social Insurance Number relating to individuals participating in provincial and federal government programs. The data will be used for administrative and research purposes. Key series that will be exchanged are the UI Claimant file, the Record of Employment and Benefit Overpayment master file, the Canadian Jobs Strategy file, the Employment Programs and Services file, the Social Services Field file, and information on clients of provincial employment and education programs.

### ***Internal Review of Statistics Canada's Non-permanent Resident Population Methodology***

A working group has also been put together to review the Statistics Canada Non-permanent Resident Population (NPR) activities. To date we have reviewed the past and current methodologies used, as well as the one currently under consideration. NSA will be joining the provincial and Statistics Canada groups working on the initiative.

### ***Housekeeping Activities on Backburner in 1996-97***

In 1996-97 it was necessary to put most plans for internal changes and reorganization on the "back burner." This year, however, we hope to act on initiatives that will improve the level and quality of service and also increase and improve the Agency's profile. We hope to open a data-dissemination centre which would stress "self-help" but would offer clients professional assistance as necessary. We believe that considerable efficiencies would result from this approach. A new central database (discussed below) would improve our ability to emphasize client self-help. The separate location would also reduce client access to areas where confidential work may be under way.

### ***A New Central Database***

A new central database is being built and is scheduled to be brought into use by late summer this year. The system will be used to store and retrieve all major and frequently used data held by the Branch. It will serve the Economics and Statistics Branch and be used to enhance efficiencies in data dissemination. Data will be imported directly from Statistics Canada and brokers, and will also be designed to store highly disaggregated series. It will also incorporate features that will enable us to update series more efficiently and quickly than is currently possible.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ACTIVITY REPORT

### **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 comprises 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, 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 administrating 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 are 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

The Statistics Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Finance continues to operate as the Nova Scotia Statistics Agency under the Nova Scotia Statistics Act. The Director of Statistics 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 remained at the same level throughout the past year—i.e., a director, three research and statistical officers and a secretary. It is anticipated that this level will be maintained through the next year. At the end of April 1997, the Director of the Division, Paul Dober, took early retirement after a lengthy career. Paul's positive outlook coupled with his untiring dedication to his work earned the respect of his colleagues. His contribution will be greatly missed.

His replacement, on a secondment basis, is Mr. Dennis Pilkey. Dennis was previously the Co-ordinator of the Statistics and Data Entry Section of the Department of Education and Culture.

Over the past year the Division was involved with the tax harmonization agreement amongst the three Atlantic provinces and the Government of Canada, particularly as it related to data requirements for allocation of revenues from the new tax. The Division continues to play a lead role in the preparation of the rating agency reports and the provincial prospectus. While it was a relatively slow year for the update of major publications of the Division, the full set of previously published documents was maintained. One new addition was the February 1997 publication "Nova Scotia Demographic Trends Into the Twenty-first Century." Concerns with demographic data are anticipated to continue through 1997 and 1998, with pending adjustments to the population estimates series due to non-permanent residents and the linkage of the estimates to the 1996 Census results.

An increasing number of the Division's publications have been made available on the Internet and have been generating increasing interest and usage. The Directory of Manufacturers has generated monthly usage by an average of 400 users. A series of Nova Scotia monthly economic indicators has also been made available on the Internet and has received praise for its format and content.

The Division participated in the new agreement for production of small business statistics with the other provinces/territories, Industry Canada and Statistics Canada.

## NEW BRUNSWICK ACTIVITY REPORT

### **General**

The New Brunswick Statistics Agency continues to monitor and report on trends in the economy to 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 to over 2,500 inquiries. Our annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy*, was released in February and is available on the Internet for the third consecutive year. We produced several monthly and quarterly reports for government distribution on economic, demographic and social indicators. We also instituted a weekly briefing document for senior officials, providing a capsule report of the latest statistical, economic and social indicators and a look at what may be released in the following week.

A major change to the Agency has been the retirement of our Director, Clifford Marks. With our Department undergoing reorganization, no successor has been appointed.

### **Demography**

Major efforts in 1996 were concentrated in promotion of the 1996 Census, in conjunction with the Halifax Regional Office.

Demographic profiles were prepared for a variety of government regions and studies. A new set of population projections were prepared for use in the provincial economic forecast.

Following the release of a discussion paper on provincial demographic trends and an assessment of the impact of the changing society for government programs and services last year, over 65 written briefs were presented to the Select Committee of the Legislature on Demographics. They released their final report in late February, providing a short analysis of the key issues raised in the public consultation.

### **Tax Harmonization**

The Agency was heavily involved in analysis of the impacts of major changes to the tax system in New Brunswick. The SPSD\M from Statistics Canada was an invaluable tool in this analysis and the assistance and guidance of the staff at Statistics Canada is greatly appreciated.

## **Agriculture**

Our survey of the provincial aquaculture sector was disappointing, with only about a 25% response rate. Promised support from the Salmon Growers Association did not materialize.

## **Monthly Data Series**

We still have concerns over fluctuations in monthly data series, especially the Labour Force Survey. While the improvements implemented over the last year have enhanced quality in most provinces, our series are still indicating large fluctuations. Any work done by Statistics Canada relative to this would be of great interest to us.



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

At our last meeting last spring, I mentioned to you that 1996–97 was shaping up as a promising and optimistic year for the Bureau. I also mentioned the preparation of a *Memorandum on the co-ordination of statistical activities in Quebec and the role of the BSQ*, and the establishment of the BSQ as an autonomous service unit, planned for the fall of 1996. In addition, after several years of budget tightening and indecision, we were dazzled by the possibility that the BSQ would escape the cutbacks, and there was an expressed intention both to enhance and to give priority to statistical activity in Quebec.

As will be seen on the following pages, the record for the past year is unfortunately somewhat disappointing in these matters. Happily, as regards access to taxation data and various projects in the regular program, the accomplishments are more encouraging.

### **Progress on several administrative matters**

The Memorandum to Cabinet on the co-ordination of statistical activities and the role of the BSQ has not yet passed the final stage of its acceptance by Cabinet. As a result, the reform of the BSQ Act, the establishment of the interdepartmental committee on statistics and more general access to administrative files are all matters in limbo.

The project to establish the Bureau as an “autonomous service unit” did not advance during the past year. All necessary documents have been ready since the summer, but thus far they have not been discussed.

Even though it was claimed that the BSQ would be exempted from budget cuts in 1997–98 (this would have been for the first time in 15 years), the Bureau nevertheless suffered a cut of 2% of its staff (3 positions) in conjunction with the assisted departures program of July 1, 1996. In the framework of the assisted departures program of July 1, 1997, the objective set at the BSQ is \$390,000, which could translate into an additional cut of 8 to 10 positions (a loss of 6% to 7% of staff).

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<sup>1</sup> This report describes only the main events that have occurred since the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. None of the ongoing activities of the Bureau are reported. On the other hand, all publications released since the last meeting of the Council are listed in the appendix.

In addition, as a result of cuts felt throughout the Quebec public service, we witnessed a reduction in the level of activities in the Fund in the past year. The Fund revenues fell from \$1.6 million to \$1.3 million, and the Fund is facing an accumulated deficit of \$200,000 as of March 31, 1997.

On the other hand, a major breakthrough is to be noted with respect to access to taxation data. Under an amendment to the Act respecting the ministère du Revenu, the BSQ will now have access to data from taxation sources. Discussions have therefore been initiated with Statistics Canada so that the federal statistical agency can now send to the Bureau files containing data that it receives from Revenue Canada. A framework agreement is being developed for this purpose.

### **Activities relating to the dissemination and provision of information**

A major effort was made with respect to data dissemination in the past year. Data produced by the Bureau are to be made available as quickly as possible, in accordance with strict deadlines; the emphasis will be on flexible and efficient procedures.

The BSQ Web site has been considerably improved, in particular through the addition and daily updating of the most recent statistics on the Quebec economy. Thus, each day at 10:00 am, the BSQ releases the main statistics on Quebec from its own surveys as well as from major surveys of Statistics Canada. These data tables are accompanied by graphics and descriptive text. In recent months, the Bureau has undertaken to improve the regional data content of its Web site with a view to developing its role as a disseminator in this area. It has also substantially increased the site's agri-food statistics content. In addition, procedures for ordering and invoicing by credit card have been set up so that Internet users can order Bureau publications from a distance. Publications have also been made available in PDF format so that Bureau customers can download the pages they desire, subject to certain charges.

The main economic indicators for Quebec are also disseminated by e-mail, by fax and in PDF format to a target clientele within the Quebec public service.

In accordance with the objectives that it has set for itself, the Bureau has begun to release several of its publications according to schedules announced a year in advance. Thus, the monthly *Produit intérieur brut par industrie*, the quarterly *Comptes économiques du Québec* and *Statistiques*, as well as the annual *Commerce international du Québec* were released on the scheduled dates, and in the case of the publication on international trade, this meant considerably tightening the production timetable.

At the end of the 1996–97 fiscal year, the Bureau completed the redesign of the quarterly publication *Statistique*, which became *L'Écostat*, the first issue of which was published in March 1997. This new quarterly has a completely new visual presentation and contains more than 1,000 statistical series on Quebec, or four times more than its predecessor.

In February 1997, the Bureau launched its first CD-ROM, containing, in PDF format, all its publications released in 1996, as well as various other titles released previously, such as *Le Québec statistique*, 60th edition. This CD-ROM also comes with a search tool enabling users to conduct searches in all these publications by formulating queries based on key words or whole phrases.

In addition to the twenty-odd publications that it has continued to produce on a regular basis, the Bureau in 1996–97 brought out a number of new publications or more occasional publications. A new bulletin entitled *Données socio-démographiques en bref*, which is to be published three times a year, was produced. It will serve as a distribution channel for Bureau-produced data that are not already published in regular publications; it will also make it possible to use and disseminate, as quickly as possible, data from the various social surveys of Statistics Canada. A socio-demographic study entitled *Les conditions de vie au Québec: un portrait statistique* was also published in November 1996. It outlines how Quebecers' living conditions have evolved in recent decades, in terms of health, education, work, income, housing, personal safety, use of time, government transfers and services, and spousal abuse. Also in the area of socio-demographic studies, numerous efforts were made in the past year toward the preparation of a publication on intergenerational comparisons, to be published in two volumes in the fall of 1997. Among the chapters drafted were those dealing with the following subjects: lifestyles, education, occupations, incomes and social mobility. The Bureau also conducted an analysis of the data obtained from the survey on labour demand characteristics and training needs, which was conducted in the previous year. It completed the 1997 edition of its inventory *La recherche et développement au Québec—Les entreprises*, which last appeared in the 1993 edition; and, jointly with the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie, it produced *Compendium 1996—Indicateurs de l'activité scientifique et technologique au Québec*.

With regard to statistics on the bio-food industry, the Bureau adapted its practices so as to produce and disseminate data on the basis of the 16 administrative regions, rather than the agricultural regions. In the manufacturing sector, it undertook the dissemination of more detailed updated data (that is, by the Standard Industrial Classification code to three digits), and in the area of statistics on financial institutions, it undertook the production of data on mutual funds and sales finance companies.



A first statistical collection on the services sector was produced and submitted to clients for comments. In the cultural field, the publication on cultural indicators underwent a complete overhaul, and the draft of the new version is now in preparation. A study was conducted on the feasibility of gathering and producing data on the distribution and retail trade of books. An economic impact study on culture in the Québec Chaudière-Appalaches region was completed for the Conseil de la culture de la région de Québec. The Bureau helped to organize and chaired the symposium entitled "Recherche: culture et communications" as part of the annual meeting of ACFAS (Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences).

In September 1996, the Bureau set up a completely new version of the intersectoral model (the previous version dated from 1990), based on a much more detailed input-output table (with 602 goods instead of 275 as in the previous version), one which incorporated new data on taxation and incidental taxation. The direct consequences of introducing this new tool are an increase of almost 30% in the number of simulations last year and an expansion in the use of the model. The Bureau increased its collaboration with some of its partners (the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, the Société de développement industriel, the Ministère du Tourisme), which used its model to assess the impact of various programs: in the area of external trade; on the relative importance of culture in the Quebec economy; on the importance of the various involvements of the SDI (Société de développement industriel); and on the importance of the tourism clientele in the Quebec economy.

The Bureau began a thematic mapping project based on regional data; the information obtained from this activity will be disseminated using various telematic means to be defined in the coming year.

Again with respect to the provision of data, the Bureau de la statistique du Québec increased its collaboration with the Priorities Committee Secretariat, in a partnership under which the Bureau carried out a number of statistical tasks for the Economic Summit.

Efforts to overhaul the computer system supporting the register of demographic events began to bear fruit. Data on births are now being processed with the new system, and data on marriages, deaths and stillbirths will be generated in the same manner in 1997-98.

Work progressed on using the beneficiary registration file of the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec, and the results achieved thus far look promising. Very soon the Bureau will be able to make regional population estimates using this database.

An agreement was reached with Elections Canada under which the Bureau will supply Elections Canada with vital statistics (deaths) for the creation of a permanent voters' list.

## Co-ordination activities

In the fall of 1996, representatives of the Bureau discussed with their counterparts at Statistics Canada the Program to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES). In particular, the Bureau sent Statistics Canada its queries as to the priority of certain projects in the PIPES program in relation to other needs which had already been expressed by Quebec (notably, improvements to employment statistics and the labour force survey) and which it will not be possible to satisfy because of recently announced cuts to the programs of the federal agency. The Bureau also pointed out the importance for Quebec of having regional statistics (that is, sub-provincial data) and the need for the PIPES project to take this into account.

The Bureau actively participated in the historical revision of the system of national accounts, with respect to both classifications and the provision of data.

It also contributed to the analysis of certain major surveys of Statistics Canada (labour force survey, literacy survey, retail trade survey), raising a number of questions and actively participating in discussions, both with those responsible for the conceptual frameworks and with the methodologists concerned. The Bureau also actively participated in discussions on the evaluation of undercoverage in the 1991 Census and its correction, as well as the groundwork for the 1996 Census. It continued its discussions with Statistics Canada on revising the method of estimating non-permanent residents.

The Bureau co-ordinated the purchase, by the Ministère des Transports and some ten regional county municipalities and urban communities, of data from the census on workplaces and places of residence for purposes of studies on commuting (purchase contract of a value of nearly \$370,000 over four years).

In the framework of the government geomatics plan, the Bureau designed and spearheaded a project on spatial integration of socio-economic data. That project, which will lead to the establishment of an ongoing activity program, will among other things focus on improving the numeric georeferencing of the boundaries of various territorial divisions, so as to develop a standardized tool for all users, and producing sub-provincial statistics on the basis of geographic information systems (GIS).

Major improvements were made in the past year to the postal code/geographic code correspondence file that the Bureau produces annually. These improvements are the result of a weighting based on the demographic weight of the different entities.

The Bureau conducted a review of its responsibility-sharing agreement with Statistics Canada on the production of bio-food statistics. It also continued to act as the agent of the

Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie in its dealings with Statistics Canada concerning the production of statistics on small manufacturing firms.

### **Survey and methodology activities**

In addition to conducting various surveys and carrying out various methodology activities as part of its regular program, the Bureau in 1996–97 answered numerous requests from different departments and agencies. The main activities completed or begun in this regard *since the last meeting of the Council* are as follows:

- survey on the use of pesticides and fertilizers by agricultural producers (Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune);
- survey of men aged 50 and over to evaluate the prevalence of benign prostatic hypertrophy (Centre de la prostate du Québec);
- survey on the process of purchasing Quebec savings bonds and analysis of the data (Ministère des Finances);
- survey of a sample of Quebec households to measure the level of household personal computer ownership, and descriptive analysis of the results (Centre francophone de recherche en informatisation des organisations (CEFRIO), Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, and private partners);
- survey of the business start-up investment program and descriptive analysis of results (Société de développement industriel);
- survey of the Quebec electronic services and multimedia industry (Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, Secrétariat de l'autoroute à l'information, Société de développement des entreprises culturelles);
- survey on energy research and development, focusing on companies and universities with R&D expenditures in the energy sector (Ministère des Ressources naturelles).

The Bureau also continued to be responsible for all methodological work relating to the surveys of Santé Québec, including those for the 1998 social and health survey.

Together with Statistics Canada and Université Laval, the Bureau organized at Québec, in May 1996, the conference of the Association pour la statistique et ses utilisations (ASU), attended by some 500 Francophone statisticians from Quebec, Canada and Europe.



Using the SAS software, the BSQ developed a program for analysing the risk of disclosure of confidential micro-data, a program based on the three-dimensional array approach used by the Social Survey Methods Division of Statistics Canada. This method has been applied to several survey projects, and it will now be put into more general use.

### **Documentary, informatics and administrative support activities**

In the area of statistical documentation, the Bureau has completed the computerization of its management system (Coba) for the library. All transactions, including interlibrary loans and bibliographic searches, are now carried out by means of this system. Accessing microcomputers made available to them, library users can now conduct their own bibliographic searches in the document bank.

In the field of information technologies, some of the highlights of the past year were: implementation of the relational database management system Oracle; installation of new magnetic disks to increase data storage capacity; development and installation of a mechanism for controlling disk space by project; review of security measures for microcomputers; repatriation of almost all applications from the central platform (MISD) to our departmental platform; continuation of the replacement or upgrading of microcomputers and software; and development and implementation of a plan for the francization of information technologies. The Bureau also invested more than four person-years in the development of new computer systems (register of demographic events, population estimation, etc.), as well as a dozen person-years in maintaining and upgrading existing applications.

With respect to administrative support, the Bureau in 1996–97 developed an accounting framework for following up on the projects included in its regular program. It also adopted a new visual image for its publications.

## **Appendix**

### **List of publications released since the last meeting of the Council**

#### Agricultural statistics

- *Statistiques agro-alimentaires* (quarterly)

#### Cultural statistics

- *Dépenses, recettes autonomes et emplois de l'Administration publique québécoise au titre de la culture, 1991–92 à 1994–95*
- *Recherche : culture et communications : actes du colloque : 64e congrès de l'ACFAS, université McGill à Montréal, 15 et 16 mai 1996*
- *Statistiques sur l'industrie du film, édition 1996*
- *Statistiques sur l'industrie du film, édition 1996 - L'annexe statistique*

#### Demographic statistics and social statistics

- *Les Conditions de vie au Québec : un portrait statistique*
- *Données socio-démographiques en bref*
- *Perspectives démographiques : Québec et régions 1991–2041 et MRC 1991–2016*
- *La Situation démographique au Québec, édition 1996*

#### Economic statistics

- *Commerce international du Québec, édition 1996*
- *Comptes économiques des revenus et des dépenses, édition 1996*
- *Comptes économiques du Québec, 3<sup>e</sup> trimestre 1996*
- *Industries manufacturières du Québec, 1991–1996*
- *Investissements privés et publics au Québec, Intentions révisées 1996*
- *Produit intérieur brut par industrie au Québec, décembre 1996*
- *Profil du secteur manufacturier au Québec, édition 1996*
- *Statistiques des PME manufacturières au Québec, édition 1996*
- *Statistiques manufacturières régionales, édition 1996*

#### Financial statistics

- *L'activité des institutions de dépôt au Québec, 1991–1995*
- *Institutions de dépôt (quarterly)*

#### Reference documents

- *Modifications aux municipalités du Québec (annual and monthly)*

#### Occasional publications

- *Compendium 1996—Indicateurs de l'activité scientifique et technologique au Québec*
- *L'Écostat (quarterly)*
- *Le Québec chiffres en main, édition 1996*
- *Rapport d'activité du bureau de la statistique du Québec, 1995–96*
- *La recherche et développement au Québec—Les entreprises, édition 1997*
- *Statistiques (quarterly; last issue: December 1996)*



## ONTARIO ACTIVITY REPORT

### Overview

The Ontario Current Analysis Unit 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 of the Current Analysis Unit are to analyse 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, other divisions in the Ministry of Finance and various government ministries. The economic and revenue forecasting functions are carried out by units in the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch.

The provincial statistical focal point function is also part of the Current Analysis Unit.

### 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, and estimates of Ontario's real GDP (factor cost) by major industry.

### **Electronic Services**

#### *Economic Monitoring Overview*

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

#### *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 is 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 statistical publications of Ontario, federal and municipal governments.

### **Co-ordination Services**

The Unit is involved in co-ordinating ministries' requirements for data from Statistics Canada and other sources. It also helps ministries locate and access economic and statistical data.

- With the authorization of 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.

## MANITOBA ACTIVITY REPORT

### **Introduction**

The Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) continues to operate as the central statistical agency for the Province of Manitoba. It reports to the minister responsible for The Statistics Act through the deputy minister. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism is the minister responsible for the Act. MBS has been administratively housed within the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism for ten years.

### **Budget**

For 1997-98, the MBS budget allocation has increased by 15%. An additional two staff years were approved bringing the permanent staff compliment to 11 persons. The 1997-98 budget process also approved an additional staff year commencing in April 1998. MBS is required to generate 11% of its budget from client services. This percentage is the lowest recovery requirement ever and is down considerably from the 15% level for 1995-96.

### **Business Plan**

Treasury Board approved the MBS business plan. The prime foundation of the business plan is the repositioning of MBS to provide corporate information services to the Manitoba government, its departments and crown agencies. MBS' mission and value statements are as follows.

### ***Mission***

MBS is a full-service information hub for the government system. Its chief corporate service is to make information more useful and more accessible for strategic decision-making. MBS accomplishes this by building partnerships, being responsive to customer needs, and bringing together technology, data, expertise, and resources to supply accurate, timely and relevant information.

Our primary clients are the senior decision makers within government departments including central policy agencies. Secondary customers are the staff in all departments and crown agencies, and our tertiary customers are the business community and the general public.

This mission is totally in accord with the provisions of The Statistics Act.

## ***Value Statement***

The role and mission of the Bureau are supported by the following operating philosophy:

- *Trust.* Being continuously prepared to earn our credibility and promote better decision-making for the public good.
- *Integrity.* Promoting and safeguarding the appropriate use of information. Information is a strategic resource, and we strive to make it more accessible and useable in support of decision-making at all levels.
- *Responsiveness.* On-time delivery of products and services. Constant prioritizing of our activities, with the changing needs of our clients in mind.
- *Reliability.* Using the right data, in the right way, and coming up with the right answers. Continued focus on relevant cross-departmental products and services, emphasizing original data development and analysis.
- *Results.* Giving the client what they want, when they want it, and how they want it.
- *Service.* Working as a team, in partnership with our clients.

## **Strategic Direction**

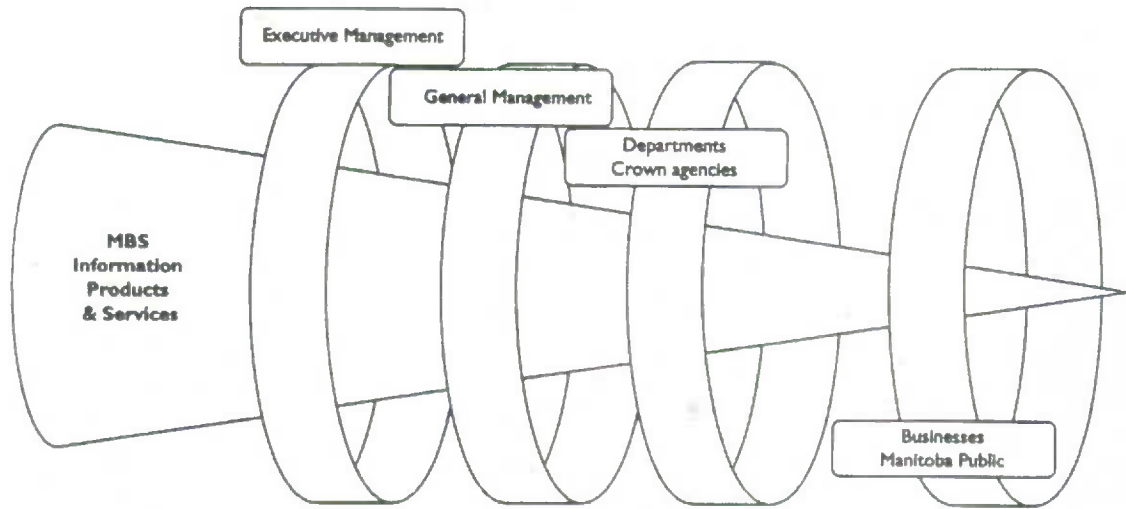
Given a corporate focus to its operation, MBS will continue to base priorities on the changing needs of its key clients. The continued focus will be on relevant cross-departmental information products and services that emphasize original data development and analysis. The acquisition, development and analysis of data, is considered the core of corporate service within MBS. This service builds the information infrastructure and provides the potential for further development and use. Print products in this category (six complete sets) are available free of charge through the Legislative Library. Additional custom services to clients and individual or department purchases are charged on a fee-for-service basis.

The long term customer focus for the agency is illustrated in Chart 1 (Building Partnerships with Clients) and the development and delivery of products and services from that focus in Chart 2 (Targeted Service Delivery).

The funnel in Chart 1 illustrates the delivery of MBS products and services to our four client groups, in order of priority. The base of the funnel represents corporate services, of benefit to the entire system (e.g., basic statistical infrastructure, statistical knowledge and expertise, information systems, information warehousing, and federal/provincial representation). Service to clients at the senior executive level receives the highest priority. In the middle are clients at the general management level, and at the staff level in departments and crown agencies. Their information needs are met by targeted MBS products and services, as outlined in Chart 2. The business community and the general public are residual markets, purchasing products and services originally developed for other client groups.

# Chart 1

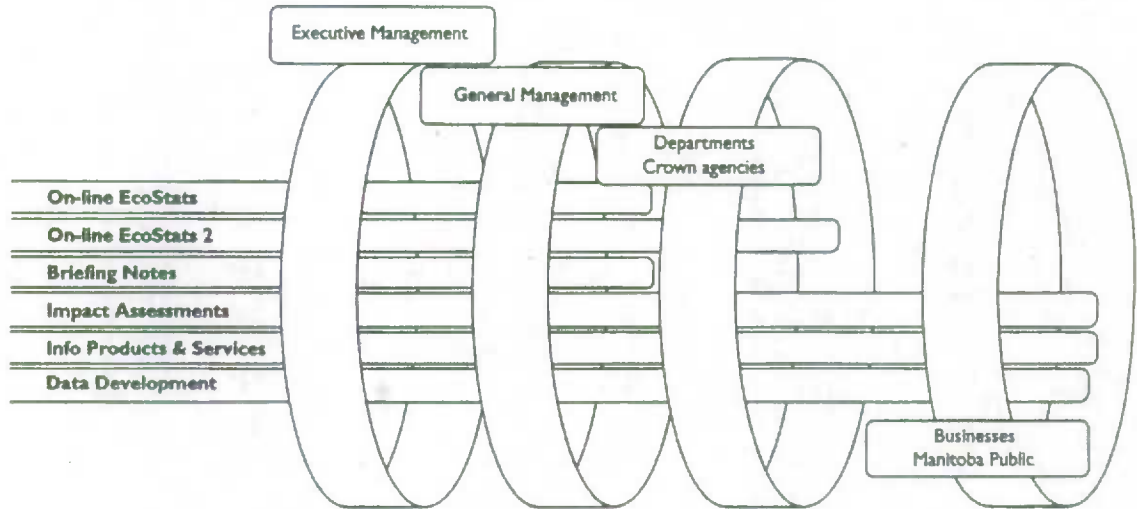
## Manitoba Bureau of Statistics – Building Partnerships with Clients





## Chart 2

### Manitoba Bureau of Statistics Targetted Service Delivery



In order to strengthen the process of assessing system-wide statistical program priorities, an MBS Advisory Board will be instituted. This board, meeting semi-annually, would advise and comment on the MBS multi-year business plan and the agency's strategic direction. The advisory board would also play a key role in identifying new strategic issues that impact the Manitoba government and its department.

The chairperson of the advisory board, a senior government official, would be appointed by the minister responsible for MBS. The board would be composed of six representatives from central agencies and economic and social departments, and one representative from the crown sector. These seven individuals would be appointed to the advisory board by their respective ministers after a request from MBS' minister.

### **Primary Goals and Objectives**

#### ***To improve availability of information for public policy decision-making***

- Information is increasingly a strategic resource of corporations and government, and appropriate information is more important than ever before. Today's operating environment no longer tolerates a "fly by the seat of your pants" approach.
- Government decision makers urgently need new and better information. The focus is on what is happening now and on what will happen in the future. New strategic information systems will become even more critical in the future.
- As the pace of change accelerates, there is a growing need for non-traditional performance indicators.
- Information is different from other products and services that governments normally buy to meet immediate needs. Good information often takes both time to develop and a commitment to making the necessary infrastructure investment.
- Areas of interest include: population, Labour Force Survey, Aboriginal matters, public finances, low income cut-offs, economic activity, and performance measures for the new economy.

#### ***To continue development of electronic information systems, emphasizing executive and senior users***

- There is a need to ensure that executive and senior decision makers in the Manitoba government have fast and easy access to good information. Electronic distribution is the best way to deliver services to more people in this client group.
- Continue to improve and expand the desktop-accessible MBS EcoStats ministerial briefing system. Repackage parts of the system as necessary to provide the appropriate level of information for an expanded market of deputy ministers, assistant deputy minister and directors.



*To improve analytical services, concentrating on the Manitoba policy impact simulation model*

- The economic and fiscal environment is putting more pressure on policy makers to know the impact of decisions before those decisions are even made. A model for econometric problem-solving can supply some of the answers.
- A detailed proposal for a policy impact simulation model will be developed. The objective is to link revenue forecasts with an econometric model to help decision-makers identify the economic and revenue implications of possible government policy decisions.

*Improve operational efficiency by enhancing MBS internal system infrastructure*

- Create an integrated and comprehensive data base for statistical data and document retrieval.
- Convert all existing electronic files to the MBS software suite for simplified interface and electronic transmission.
- Be proactive in identifying current and future client needs.
- Foster partnerships to maximize limited resources and client service.

## SASKATCHEWAN ACTIVITY REPORT

The Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics operates under the Saskatchewan Statistics Act 1972 and is located within the Department of Finance. The Bureau is the designated focal point for communications with 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 frequently requested 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*. The *Saskatchewan Fact Sheet* provides a snapshot of important economic and social statistics on Saskatchewan for the past two years.

During the past year we have continued to devote considerable resources to reconciling the Saskatchewan trade flows we produced with 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.

Mr. Brent Langen of the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics has recently been seconded to Statistics Canada to participate in current input/output exercises being undertaken by Statistics Canada. We view this as a positive and mutually beneficial 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

### Overview

Statistics continued to provide many of its custom and core statistical services to public and private clients on a cost-recovery basis. General data dissemination activities were maintained for core programs with cost-recovery initiatives targeted at custom analytical data development and survey projects. Statistics also continued to provide Alberta Government departments with consultative and technical support to meet ongoing provincial policy and planning needs.

### Administration and Budget

During the 1996–97 operating period, Statistics maintained a staff complement of 7.5 full-time employees, supplemented by contract personnel to undertake special projects. Budgetary expenditures for Statistics remained stable, with a small increase to offset the addition of enhanced statistical activities. During the 1996–97 fiscal year, revenues realized from cost-recovery initiatives were approximately \$120,000.

### Core Services

- Alberta Economic Accounts
- Demographic population projections and estimates
- Alberta Statistical Information System (ASIST)
- Inter- and intra-provincial statistical co-ordination
- Custom survey operations
- Statistical database management
- Geographic information services

### Projects and Programs

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. To reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication among departments,

Statistics continued to provide a centralized statistical role in the Alberta government. During the past year, Statistics Canada was active in six main program and service areas and intended to expand into new areas on a demonstrated-need basis.

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

ASIST (Alberta Statistical Information SysTem) is a centralized online database system used by Alberta government departments to access and share a wide variety of socio-economic information. ASIST is made available to users on a pay-per-use basis to meet the demands of both internal and external clients for cost-effective data.

### **2. *Publications***

Publications from Statistics are available to meet the specific needs of individual client user groups. While the production and distribution of paper copy products has increased over the past year, Statistics has continued to move toward a more electronic environment in response to budgetary constraints. During the 1996–97 operating period, approximately 3,000 publications were distributed to users.

- *Alberta Statistical Review* (in progress)
- *Provincial Electoral Division Profiles*
- *Alberta Economic Accounts*
- *Alberta Population Estimates and Projections* (in progress)

### **3. *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.

#### *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.

#### *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.

### *Employment Insurance (EI) System*

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

### *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.

## **4. *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 given priority according to their relevance to Treasury and designated government policy, planning and program initiatives. We ran the following projects and services for our in the 1996–97 operating period.

### *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 government departments with uniform data to facilitate consistent program and policy planning. During the past year population estimates and projections have been developed for Alberta Census Divisions and various geo-administrative regions within the province.

### *Economic Multipliers*

Based on the development of GST-adjusted, public-use Alberta economic multipliers, intensity ratios and supply ratios in 1996, Statistics provided custom aggregation services for provincial input-output data to meet specific client requirements.

### *Economic Impact Model*

The Alberta Economic Impact Model, operated by Statistics, provides a basis for public and private users to measure the impact of various changes in the Alberta economy using standardized inputs and methodology.



### *Geographic Information Services (GIS)*

Statistics provided custom boundary digitizing and data geo-referencing (using the 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 marketed to clients on a subscription basis.

### *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 on a monthly basis.

## **5. *Custom Surveys***

The custom survey services offered by Statistics to clients during 1996–97 included general consultations, design, implementation, project management and survey analyses, as well as full turnkey solutions to data collection initiatives. Survey projects include:

- Alberta Export Services Survey, 1996
- Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation Survey
- Corporate Tax Survey
- Government Staff Survey

## **6. *Alberta Statistical Focal Point***

In addition to playing its consultative role as the statistical focal point for liaison with Statistics Canada, Statistics continued to co-ordinate data purchases and acquisitions on behalf of government departments to maximize the value of expenditures and reduce overlap and duplication.

## **Acknowledgement**

Statistics would like to thank the many divisions of Statistics Canada who have provided assistance during the past year.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ACTIVITY REPORT

### 1996-97 Activities

#### *Income Assistance/Employment Insurance Data Development Project*

An important part of the labour and social statistical program of BC STATS is the production of sub-provincial data on Income Assistance and Employment 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.

Currently, 10.5% of the B.C. population aged 19 to 64 are receiving income assistance or employment insurance. This is down considerably from the 1994-95 period, when levels reached 14%. This decline, while partially due to a reduction in the number of employment insurance recipients, was largely due to a decrease in the number of young people on welfare. In the summer of 1995, 15% of young adults aged 19 to 24 were on welfare. Program changes affecting eligibility requirements under the Youth Works program, plus the three-month in-province residency requirement, have combined to reduce the dependency of this group by 5 points, to 10% of the population. Continued monitoring of this age group will be required in order to determine what effect, if any, the recent rescinding of the in-province residency requirement will have on the provincial welfare rate.

#### *Small Area Employment Projection Model*

Over the past few years, we have found that the lack of sub-provincial information on future employment levels by industry has produced a "data gap" in relation to our understanding of the regional implications associated with labour market shifts occurring at the provincial level. In addition, there is a need to measure the regional employment dynamics of major construction projects and plant shutdowns along with the associated impact that these events will have on other industries in the region. Hence, a joint project with the B.C. regional office of HRDC, BC STATS and the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training was undertaken to develop a sub-provincial projection model for employment by industry and occupation.

The outputs from the model will be of particular value to our regional population projection program, and will also support the job training programs of government by helping to identify region- and occupation-specific employment shifts.

#### *Employment Equity Program Monitoring Project*

Since January 1994, BC STATS has been monitoring the movement of the provincial government toward employment equity. Every six months, all new employees in the

Government are surveyed to determine whether 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.

The data collected over the two and one-half years since the program began indicate that limited progress has been made toward an equitable representation of the designated groups within the British Columbia public service. This is particularly true with regard to Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal peoples, while representing 5.1% of the British Columbia population, still comprise only 1.6% of provincial government regular employees, unchanged from January 1994. The representation of visible minorities has increased, but only marginally, from 5.4% to 5.6% over this period. This lack of significant progress has been attributed to recent downsizing on the part of the provincial government, as well as freezes on external hiring. The one relatively successful outcome of the program is the representation of women in upper level management jobs, which has increased from 20% to 23%. This result has been achieved largely through promotion as opposed to new hiring.

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-recovery basis.

### *Employers' Satisfaction Survey*

BC STATS, in partnership with the British Columbia Labour Force Development Board, is currently involved in a large survey to measure the satisfaction of employers with recently hired graduates from secondary schools, colleges, technology institutes, universities and private institutions. Ekos Research was contracted to carry out the fieldwork for the survey.

Only employers who hired new graduates from any of the above provincial institutions were considered part of the sample frame. Each employer was subject to a three-staged approach to evaluate their satisfaction. This involved

- questioning the managers on general satisfaction with recent graduates and their perception of the education system. They were also asked about their firms' training policies, hiring practices and participation in the province's various work experience programs;
- randomly choosing a specific new graduate and administering a comprehensive questionnaire to their direct supervisor. This questionnaire addressed issues

surrounding functions that are important to the job and the preparedness of the new graduate to perform these functions; and

- mailing a questionnaire to the employee in question to verify many of the supervisor's responses, plus asking general questions on the graduates' own satisfaction with the content and quality of their certificate or degree.

The sampling frame used was the Statistics Canada Business Register. An attempt to contact 20,000 establishments was made; it was found that 8,800 of these were no longer in operation or a telephone number could not be obtained. Of the remaining 11,200 establishments, 8,342 (74%) had not hired a new graduate in the last two years, leaving 2,866 establishments in the sample frame. Of this figure, 1,068 refused to participate in the survey, resulting in a final sample size of 1,798 establishments.

The following are some preliminary findings from the survey:

- Eight of ten employers felt high schools should be responsible for teaching job-related programs.
- Employers were very positive in regard to the value of co-op programs, at both high-school and post-secondary levels. Students likewise valued their co-op experience: the most common employee complaint about college/university programs was that there were not adequate opportunities to participate in co-op programs were inadequate.
- General skills, particularly work habits, were cited as the most highly valued quality of an employee, no matter how highly skilled the job was. An important skill for which graduates were ill-prepared was "problem solving." The exception was graduates of university degree programs, who had good "problem solving" skills, but employers criticized these highly educated employees for their lack of "team work" skills.
- Of the employees with undergraduate university degrees who were evaluated by their supervisors, 40% were in jobs that required a lower level of education. In other words, almost one in two employees who had recently obtained undergraduate degrees were underemployed.

The final report summarizing the findings from the complete survey is scheduled to be released this summer.

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

This project was initiated last year to measure GDP, revenue, employment and other aspects of the high technology sector in British Columbia. The program was expanded this year to include estimates of high technology imports destined for British Columbia as



opposed to B.C.-cleared imports. This permitted the calculation of a provincial high-technology balance of trade.

The balance of trade figures show a deficit of over \$2 billion for 1995, which is almost twice as high as it was in 1988. However, on a country and commodity basis, the high-technology trade deficit picture varies. For example, B.C. has run an overall surplus with Hong Kong since 1992, and has accumulated a surplus of \$40 million in computer integrated manufacturing with the Pacific Rim (excluding Japan) since 1988.

The overall high-technology-sector GDP in British Columbia grew faster than the provincial economy in 1995, with employment exceeding 41,000, an increase of 22% over 1994.

### ***Forest Renewal Data Development Program***

Forest Renewal British Columbia (FRBC) is a provincial Crown corporation established to fund training and placement of displaced forestry workers, enhanced silviculture, and forest community economic development. The annual budget is about \$400 million. About 8,000 projects have been funded by this agency since its inception in 1994. BC STATS has entered into a partnership with FRBC to survey the proponents of current projects to measure expenditures, physical outputs and employment creation.

This is the largest cost-recovery activity undertaken by BC STATS to date. The project currently involves about six staff members and contractors (about 20% of Agency person years), and is expected to continue at approximately this level indefinitely. The survey operation is complicated in that, although planned as a census, it must cope with significant non-response resulting in weighting and imputation. In addition, in future there will be a close relationship between the Forest Renewal administrative operation and our statistical activities. For example, proponents' invoices may be rejected if statistical surveys have not been properly completed, and expenditure information from the administrative database will be compared and reconciled with survey results.

### ***Small Business Statistics***

The Small Business Statistics program at BC STATS is in jeopardy following the virtual abolishment, due to budget cuts, of any small business activities within our Ministry of Small Business, Tourism, and Culture. This ministry had financed most small business data purchases, including the provincial contribution to the Small Business Consortium. At present, the status of the Consortium and its relation to small business data development at Industry Canada is unclear to us, particularly as we have not been contacted by the Small Business and Special Surveys Division or Industry Canada for several months.



Despite the shaky fiscal situation, BC STATS is continuing, for the present, with our Small Business Quarterly publication, and occasional papers such as the recent "Small Business Growth and Employment in British Columbia." This paper, for the first time, included the unincorporated self-employed (with no paid workers) directly in the small business definition. Under this definition self-employment has increased 60% in British Columbia since 1983, the largest growth of any province. The self-employed now account for 21% of employment in British Columbia, although this remains below Saskatchewan (34%) and Alberta (22%).

On a less positive note, our analysis found that the growth in self-employment has been accompanied by an equally large increase in business bankruptcies in British Columbia. People venture into self-employment for reasons other than optimism about the state of the economy

Some may be driven to it by long-term unemployment or scarcity of good jobs. Many who are forced reluctantly into self-employment are ill-equipped to succeed, increasing the likelihood of eventual bankruptcy.

### ***Current Quarterly Economic Accounts***

For the past year, BC STATS has been working on developing current estimates of quarterly economic growth for the province. Previously, quarterly GDP estimates were produced only once a year, following the release of annual provincial GDP figures by Statistics Canada. The current quarterly estimates are based on the methodology developed to produce the quarterly data in the *British Columbia Economic Accounts*. At present, the results of this program are viewed as experimental, and will be released after Statistics Canada publishes annual provincial estimates in May.

Preliminary estimates for 1996 show that real GDP in British Columbia increased 0.6% during the first three quarters of 1996, relative to the same period in 1995. This growth was well below the levels experienced in previous years. Final domestic demand was fairly strong, increasing 2.3% in the first nine months of 1996. B.C.'s relatively weak economic growth was largely due to a 3.6% decline in international exports. B.C.'s economy picked up steam in the third quarter, with real GDP at market prices growing 3.0% (seasonally adjusted), after a 1.9% increase in the second quarter and a 0.5% decline in the first quarter.

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

One of BC STATS' core functions is its small area population estimates and projections program. During the last year we prepared 1996 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. The 1996 estimates

indicated that population growth within the province has become more evenly distributed. Areas that have been the centres of high growth in the recent past, such as the Okanagan and the eastern portion of Vancouver Island, are beginning to experience a slowing in growth, while other regions of the province are experiencing stronger growth. The Greater Vancouver area is an exception, as it continues to experience population growth in excess of the provincial rate. Strong immigration levels play an important role in this growth, as the majority of immigrants (85%) settle in the Greater Vancouver area. Of the larger municipalities in the province, four of the top five growth areas in 1996 were located in the Greater Vancouver area.

There has been a growing 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 co-ordination of planning activities for population growth at the regional level. We have been working with the regional districts in the Lower Mainland to ensure that their planning for housing, transportation and other infrastructure development is consistent with the projected population from their areas. We plan to extend this consultation as planning in other high-growth areas of the province develops further.

### ***Provincial Population Estimates***

At last year's meeting we expressed concern over the methodology used to produce estimates for the net non-permanent resident component of the provincial population change. In the case of British Columbia, this component is large and the estimates have been extremely volatile. We are pleased with the work that has been done in the past year to address this concern. The recent meeting of a federal-provincial working group, consisting of representatives from Demography Division, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and five provincial focal points, was quite productive in terms of reviewing the work done to date. We look forward to the adoption of a solid methodology, following further work and consultation.

### ***Immigration and Migration Analysis***

Our quarterly migration and immigration release programs continue to be popular, partly as a result of the incorporation of topical feature articles accompanying the data. Two recent articles that received considerable interest were

- an analysis of the increasing demand for English as a Second Language education as a result of high levels of immigration to B.C. from non-English speaking countries; and
- characteristics of B.C. retirees.

## *Data Services*

Many initiatives previously undertaken within our Data Services Branch came to fruition over the past year. A summary of these initiatives is provided below.

- When I reported last year on the development of the BC STATS World Wide Web site it was noted that usage stood at approximately 400 users per week, accessing an average of 8,000 pages; growth has been steady and strong—we now average 1,400 users per week, accessing 25,000 pages. A number of clients have gone out of their way to express their support for this endeavour. Much of the site provides 24-hour access to a broad range of articles and data provided free to deflect requests from Data Services Staff. A subscriber section provides access to our priced periodical releases. This section is free to the provincial government users but priced to all others.
- A year ago I reported on a range of improvements being made to the *BC Manufacturers' Directory*. Today, those are in place and reflected in an improved product. Sales of both the book and the electronic version are meeting our targets. We are now exploring partnerships to finance further development in light of our budget realities.
- On October 9, 1996, BC STATS started accepting payment by VISA and MasterCard. Since that time, “plastic” has accounted for 40% of our receipts from non-provincial government clients. This avenue will simplify the process of charging clients for our faxing service and “one-offs.”
- One of our responses to the demand for current sub-provincial and community-level information has been to provide tax-based data through our Web site. Since Revenue Canada does not require the prohibitive licensing language that Statistics Canada (SAADD) imposes, we now purchase community-level individual income data directly from Revenue Canada.
- Last year I reported that we had started to target the media with our highly successful *Infoline* fax broadcast. This has been a resounding success and has resulted in a stream of stories and citations featuring analysis prepared by BC STATS. We feel that this will help to give us additional exposure within government and the business community.
- Most of our regular releases—at least their interpretative articles—and *Infoline* are now distributed one day in advance to key government officials (deputy ministers, heads of Crown corporations and their communications directors), giving them time to develop a communications strategy, if necessary, before they are disseminated generally.



The continuing core workload of Data Services resulted in the following:

- We prepared and distributed seven monthly releases, four quarterly releases and eight annual reports covering social, demographic and economic conditions in the province. These reports were purchased by over 3,400 clients both inside and outside government.
- Apart from our Web site, during the year we directly answered approximately 14,500 requests for statistical information, with 37% originating from within the provincial government, 9% from other levels of government and Crown corporations, 25% from the business community, 18% from the public, 2% from the media and 9% unknown.

### **Plans for 1997-98**

The coming year will be a difficult one for the Agency. As part of an attempt to restrain government spending and redirect that spending toward health and education programs, policy and research functions throughout the provincial government were severely cut back. Unfortunately, BC STATS did not escape the budget axe this time. For 1997-98 we have had our net budget reduced by 33%; 32% of the reduction will be achieved through staff reductions, 30% through non-salary expenditure reductions, and 38% as a result of increased recoveries. This last measure is quite significant as our recovery rate is now expected to reach an all-time high of 30% of our gross budget, up from 17% achieved in 1996-97.

The dependence on outside funding for statistical activities raises concern over the potential impact on base services, and may threaten the Agency's mandate to satisfy the government's corporate requirements for statistical information. Under a cost-recovery model, the future direction of BC STATS will largely be determined by the amount of incremental cost-recovery required. This will, in turn, shift the priorities of the Agency away from the corporate needs of government toward the specific needs of government clients that are willing and able to pay for those services.

Despite the budgetary straitjacket that we find ourselves in, we still plan to maintain a number of core statistical activities as well as introduce some new ones this year. The following are key priorities for the coming year:

#### ***Business and Economic Statistics***

- Maintain current quarterly estimates and analysis of provincial GDP.
- Analyse and report monthly B.C. exports and imports by commodity and world area; these are used to develop trade policy and determine provincial GDP.

- Update to 1996 estimates on the contributions made by the tourism and high technology industries to the overall growth in the economy. These non-standard industries are emerging as drivers of the economy and require monitoring in order to ensure effective policy formation.
- Identify, collect and analyse information pertaining to projects funded by Forest Renewal British Columbia.

### *Labour and Social Statistics*

- Further develop support capabilities for carrying out surveys, including the design of questionnaires, sample selection, editing instructions, and tabulation and evaluation of results, and offer this central survey support service to other ministries on a cost-recoverable basis.
- Track hiring, separation and transfers by the provincial government and BC Hydro and prepare ministry- and division-specific workplace profile reports in support of the provincial government's Employment Equity Program.
- Report on BC Benefits recipient rates and Employment Insurance recipient rates by region and occupation to provide a measure of relative regional disparity and the need for training programs to fill labour market gaps.
- Analyse and report on the findings of the 1996 Employer Satisfaction Survey on behalf of the Labour Force Development Board to evaluate the effectiveness of government-sponsored training programs.
- Continue to develop a sub-provincial projection model for employment by industry and occupation to better understand and predict the regional implications associated with population and labour market shifts occurring at the provincial level.

### *Population Statistics*

- Analyse and report quarterly inter-provincial and international migration to British Columbia; are required to forecast population growth and BC Benefits caseloads, and to formulate provincial immigration policy.
- Prepare provincial and sub-provincial population estimates and projections; these are used for planning purposes, as required by the Growth Strategies Act, and for provincial-local government transfers.
- Evaluate, recalibrate and analyse the results of the BC STATS small area estimation and projection models against the 1996 Census results.



- Develop population estimates and projections in concordance with the new regionalization of health services.

### *Data Services*

- Continue efforts to include “value added” analysis with all statistical releases.
- Enhance the marketing and dissemination of statistical products and services, and review existing statistical products for effectiveness and efficiency.
- Continue to centralize government purchases of data from Statistics Canada through BC STATS, thereby reducing the cost of data purchases by government.
- Prepare and distribute seven monthly releases, four quarterly releases and eight annual reports covering social, demographic and economic conditions in B.C.
- Provide a cost-effective data enquiry service for use by provincial government employees, the business community and the public.
- Expand and redesign the BC STATS Web site to allow geographic as well as subject-matter access to data available through the site.
- Expand data dissemination activities of standard products via the Web site and reduce, or charge back, customized data services.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACTIVITY REPORT

### Overview

The NWT Bureau of Statistics is the central statistics agency for the Government of the Northwest Territories and is composed of six permanent person-years. The Bureau is located in the Department of Finance.

The Bureau of Statistics has five major functions:

- to develop, analyse and interpret economic, social and demographic statistics required for territorial government purposes;
- to circulate official government statistics and other statistical information in both print and electronic formats and co-ordinate statistical activities within the government to minimize duplication of statistical effort and to help ensure that the statistics used by the government are current, consistent and accurate;
- to provide advice and assistance to departments, regional offices and central agencies regarding the analysis of statistical information and the completion of statistical surveys;
- to provide for the continuing and effective representation of territorial statistical interests within the national statistical system including participating in federal-provincial committees on statistics, serving as the government's focal point for contacts with Statistics Canada, and consulting with federal departments including Statistics Canada regarding territorial statistics; and
- to provide a limited statistical service to the general public, to the private sector and to other governments.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics is currently facing the challenge of three vacant positions among the six permanent positions. Since the last meeting, Valerie Watt, the statistician responsible for data management and dissemination, has taken extended disability leave and is not expected to return.

As many of you already know, Ralph Joyce, Territorial Statistician for approximately 20 years, also recently left the NWT Bureau of Statistics. Ralph has moved to the Victoria area and is starting his own business.

Two of the vacant positions within the Bureau of Statistics are currently in competition and it is hoped that we will be back to the full complement of staff by the end of the summer.

## **Data Development**

The NWT Bureau of Statistics completed the NWT Alcohol and Drug Survey in early 1996. During the past year data were finalized, including the required edits and development of sample weighting; a statistical report was released that included comparisons with the Canada Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey completed late in 1994 by Statistics Canada; and several presentations have been made to staff of the NWT Department of Health and Social Services.

A project was initiated to develop a current list of NWT businesses and undertake a statistical survey of businesses. The listing has been developed by merging several administrative sources and a questionnaire was developed and mailed out to all businesses. Currently, data capture has been completed, as well as initial edits and industry and occupation coding.

We expect to contact the Business Register Division in the coming months with regard to some of our findings as they relate to Statistics Canada Business Register.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics has recently completed data collection for the NWT portion for Cycle 2 of the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) and the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY). This project is being conducted jointly with Statistics Canada and the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

For Cycle 2, there was a significant reduction in funding for the Northern portion of these two surveys. The reduced funding level and delays in finalizing funding and survey content had a negative impact on these important surveys. However, field operations for Cycle 2 were very successful in the Northwest Territories, with an overall response rate of over 93%.

## **Data Dissemination**

Significant improvements have been made to the electronic dissemination systems of the NWT Bureau of Statistics in the past year. The Bureau's Web site content was considerably expanded to provide Internet access to NWT statistical information and publications.

Extensive use of the Internet site is also planned to disseminate the NWT population and dwelling counts from the 1996 Census released April 15, 1997.

T-stat, the territorial government's online statistical data retrieval system, has been moved from mainframe computer to micro-computer. This has allowed significant improvements in user access, including direct links from the directory of time series data to the retrieval system. Data is accessible either for viewing or for downloading as delimited text files.

Currently, T-stat is available to Bureau staff only, although distribution to GNWT staff in all NWT communities is expected by mid-summer (password-protected access via the Bureau Web site).

To help make statistics available to key decision makers within the GNWT, the Bureau of Statistics produces a publication called *Key Weekly Indicators* which is currently sent to the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Finance and is available on our Web site (without the GNWT financial position). In addition, a Web page has been developed that provides weekly highlights of data releases, particularly for NWT information.

The Bureau of Statistics has continued to prepare and publish regular Bureau statistical publications such as the *Statistics Quarterly* and the 1996 version of *Northwest Territories ... by the numbers*.

### **Assistance to Departments**

Significant Bureau of Statistics resources are committed to helping territorial government departments with the statistical aspects of their work. For example, in the past year, the Bureau was instrumental in

- developing a model to estimate population influx related to the creation of Nunavut that was required for infrastructure planning;
- developing a series of NWT indicators for use as performance measures;
- providing assistance with computation of education cost indexes for use in Board funding formulae;
- making presentations on results of the 1996 NWT Alcohol and Drug Survey to Department of Health and Social Services senior management and staff of Community Wellness Division;
- assisting Health and Social Services department in the development of cost indexes for use in health board funding formula;
- working with senior staff in the Department of Health and Social Services on NWT requirements for data collected as part of Cycle 2 of the Integrated Survey of Health and Children;
- advising the NWT Housing Corporation on approaches for survey operations related to the 1996 Housing Needs Survey, and providing assistance with sample selection and completion of the re-listing of Yellowknife and regional centres;



- developing a database to provide the coroner's office with statistical summaries on caseloads during 1995 and 1996; and
- providing assistance with population projections and a review of the availability of young offender data for facility planning.

### **Work with Statistics Canada**

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

A major element of the work the NWT Bureau of Statistics completed with Statistics Canada during the past year was the NWT portion of Cycle 2 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth and the National Population Health Survey.

Operations for these two surveys were again integrated into one collection for the north and were completed in the December to February period. Major reductions were made by Statistics Canada to the funding for the northern portion of these surveys.

Departments of the GNWT have expressed concern over the fact that neither the NPHS or the NLSCY have released any results from the 1994 surveys for Northwest Territories. The delay in releasing the results hurts the credibility of both Statistics Canada and the NWT Bureau of Statistics, and improvements in the timing of the release of the data need to be implemented for Cycle 2.

The second major element of work with Statistics Canada in the past year was the establishment of a working group to oversee the preparation of separate economic statistics for Nunavut and the Western NWT, the two new territories that are to be created on April 1, 1999. The NWT Bureau of Statistics would like to thank Jacob Ryten for his role in the establishment of this group and also Ray Ryan, who is coordinating Statistics Canada's involvement in the project.

Early discussions have also taken place with Bruce Petrie on the establishment of a similar group to oversee the development of social and demographic data for the two new territories.

### **Current Statistical Challenges**

Two major statistical challenges related to the Northwest Territories face the Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Canada in the coming year:

1. There is a major demand for data related to Nunavut and the Western NWT, the two new territories. As creation of these territories is now less than two years away, major planning and preparation activities are currently being undertaken, including



infrastructure development, human resource planning, organizational structure planning and negotiations on funding arrangements.

Requests for statistical information and advice has been received by the NWT Bureau of Statistics from all parties to the creation of the territories: the federal government; the territorial government; the Nunavut Implementation Commission (responsible for advising a committee overseeing the implementation of the Government of Nunavut); and the Western Coalition (a group of communities and Aboriginal groups in the western NWT examining development of the new western territory).

The continued work with Statistics Canada on the development of separate data for these two territories is the highest priority for the NWT Bureau of Statistics.

2. Construction activity has began on the first diamond mine in Canada. This activity is having a major impact on the economy of the Northwest Territories. It has been reported that capital costs prior to production for this project are estimated at US\$700 million.

Given the economic benefits that are expected by northerners from the diamond mine development, much attention is and will continue to be focused on data such as the economic accounts, investment statistics and employment data. It is extremely important that the statistics accurately reflect changes in the territorial economy in order to maintain the credibility of the statistical system.

## **YUKON ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **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.

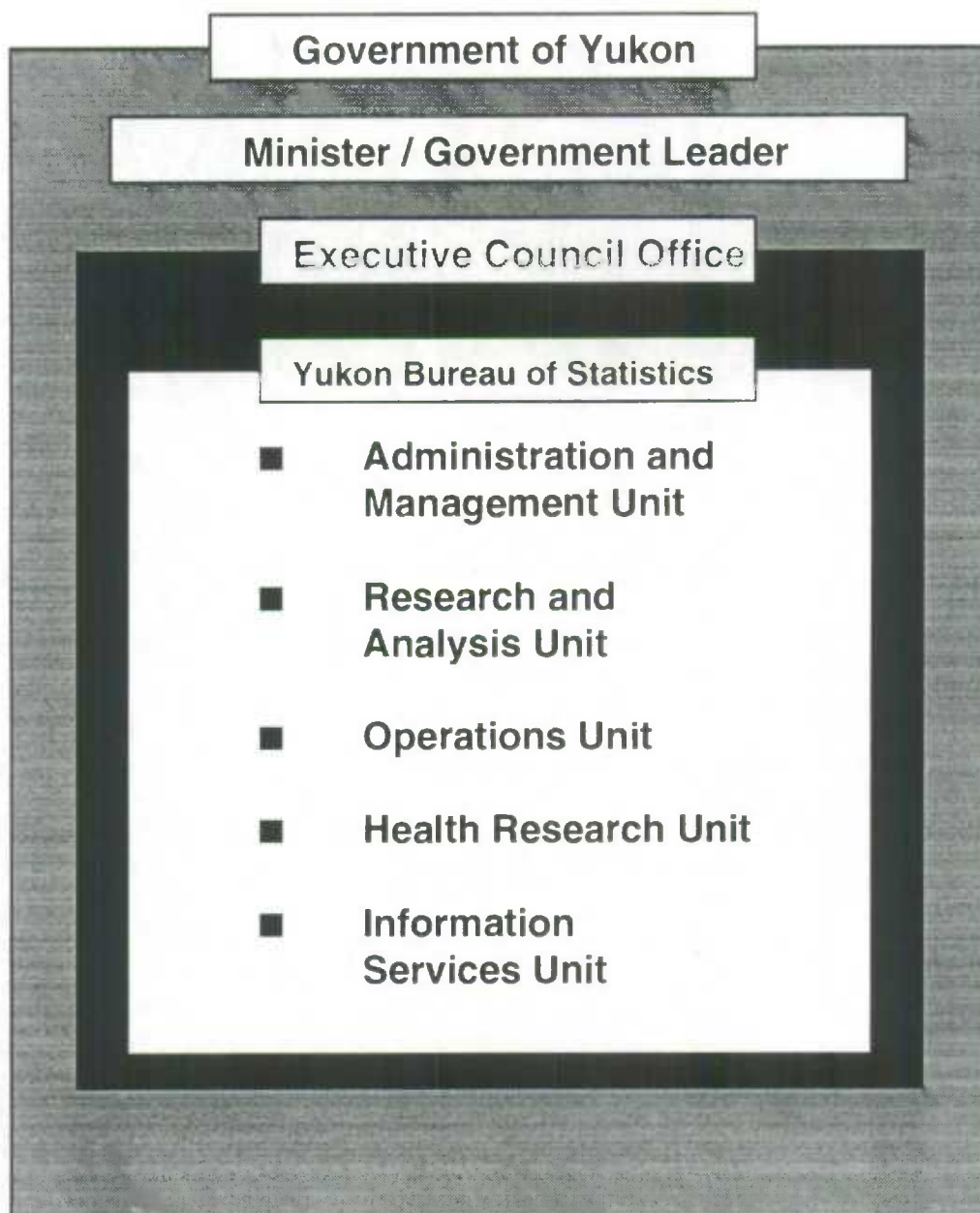
### **OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- To assist government decision making by acquiring, developing and facilitating statistical and social science research.
- To serve departments of the Yukon Government 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 access to statistical and research information by offering
  - quantitative and qualitative research methods;
  - organizational and management research;
  - analytical support and information services; and
  - publications in both print and electronic formats.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YUKON BUREAU OF STATISTICS (YBS)



## OUR ORGANIZATION



## **OUR SERVICE**

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

- provides internal management, administration and financial services to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics (YBS);
- offers statistical liaison to the Yukon Government and the Federal Government;
- provides advocacy of management research—promotes research as an integral part of management; and
- provides internal systems administration and network support.

### **The Research and Analysis Unit**

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

### **The Operations Unit**

- undertakes special projects, providing cost-recovered activities for departments on research activities (control and operational aspects); and
- provides all internal operational, control and staff support to the research function.

### **The Health Research Unit**

- provides research and analysis specifically related to the following projects: Yukon Cancer Registry, Vital Statistics, Health Utilization and Health Status Report; and
- provides research, analysis and operational assistance on non-health-related projects as needed.

### **The Information Services Unit**

- provides statistical information services: it responds to requests for statistical information, maintains a statistical resource centre and provides access to electronic databases such as CANSIM;



- distributes publications and electronic information regarding Yukon and offers in-services on Bureau products; and
- supports internal desktop publishing services for all Bureau publications and research instruments in addition to providing quality control for publications.

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1996–97**

### **Administration and Management Unit**

During the past year the Administration and Management Unit of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics completed the following initiatives:

- Motor Vehicle Act: structured consultation and open-ended survey review of proposed legislation
- top of the World Highway: evaluation of extended hours of operation
- review, with the Women's Directorate, of assaults in Whitehorse in 1995
- creation of detailed occupation/industry matrix by gender for 1991 and initial integration with business survey occupational needs profiles

### **Research and Analysis Unit**

During the past year the Research and Analysis Unit of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics completed the following:

- analysis of the economic cost-benefit of alcohol use in the Yukon
- an analysis of alcohol use, assaults and "driving while impaired" based on information obtained through the High Risk Alcohol Use Behaviour Study and police files
- estimation of life expectancy of Yukoners, by sex and ethnicity
- follow-up of health care subscribers to keep the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan file up to date and facilitate Yukon Bureau of Statistics population estimates
- gathering and analysis of prices from Yukon communities to estimate price indexes
- mail-out of the Yukon Travel Survey to potential Yukon tourists to assess the effectiveness of Yukon's tourism advertising
- maintenance of the Yukon Government Employees Information System

- work with the Yukon Council on Aging on a survey of Yukon seniors
- assisting the Second Opinion Society of the Yukon with baseline statistics and performance indicators
- developing a reporting mechanism for utilization of services in the Food for Learning Program (school lunches)
- continuing work on the Student Information Management System with the Yukon Department of Education
- completion of the Bureau of French Language Services evaluation
- design and development of the Yukon Immunization Project

This unit also provided executive summaries for Cabinet to accompany the Monthly Yukon Statistical Review.

### **Operations Unit**

Operations provides recruitment, training, operations, editing and data entry for all research projects.

#### ***April 1996***

##### *Health Insurance Registry Mailing Update*

- mailed 2,500 envelopes to update the health care registry

##### *Bureau of French Language Services Evaluation Support*

- mailed survey to Yukon Franconaise population

#### ***May 1996***

##### *Community Price Survey*

- data-sharing agreement with Statistics Canada

#### ***June 1996***

##### *National Population Health Survey (NPHS)*

- questionnaire content planning

##### *M'Clintock Place Survey*

- mail survey of area residents—telephone follow-up

### ***July to September 1996***

#### *Motor Vehicle Database*

- questionnaire edit and data entry

#### *National Population Health Survey (NPHS)*

- questionnaire design
- meeting with the NWT/Statistics Canada/Yukon in Edmonton, September 23 and 24

#### *Personnel Recruitment Support*

- recruitment materials for NPHS—job descriptions, statements of qualifications and other forms

#### *Golden Horn Rezoning Survey*

- survey mailed and followed up by phone

#### *Ibex Valley Planning Survey*

- met with Hamlet Council August 8

### ***November 1996***

#### *Yukon Travel Survey*

- telephone survey

#### *NPHS*

- recruited rural interviewers

#### *Community Price Survey*

- data collection in seven rural communities

### ***December 1996***

#### *NPHS*

- recruited eight telephone interviewers and one senior interviewer

### ***January to March 1997***

#### *NPHS*

- interviewer training and field operations (telephone and rural)
- completed interviews (1,572 respondents in 1,185 households)
- data entry
- final edit and file transfer to NWT

### *Ongoing surveys*

#### *Rental Survey*

- quarterly data gathering (Information Services)—March/June/ September/December
- data entry (Operations)

#### *Border Crossings*

- monthly data entry

### *Highlights*

#### *1996 NPHS*

- liaised with Statistics Canada and NWT on questionnaire content and design
- conducted survey operations—recruitment, hiring, training and supervising of one senior interviewer, nine telephone interviewers, two rural interviewers, one editor and two auxiliary survey support staff (these tasks were shared by the Project Supervisor and the Operations Manager)
- worked with data entry staff to ensure accurate entry
- liaised with Statistics Canada and NWT during data gathering, data entry and database transfer to NWT

#### *1996 Census*

- provided liaison and support for Statistics Canada staff

#### *Department of Community and Transportation Service: Community Price Survey*

- conducted mail surveys and telephone follow-up
- liaised with Statistics Canada on data-sharing agreement
- hired and supervised rural staff for data collection in seven rural communities

### **Health Research Unit**

During the 1996–97 fiscal year, the Health Research Unit

- worked on the Yukon Cancer Registry;
- coordinated the analysis of the data collected by the Yukon's Registrar of Vital Statistics;
- assisted with the analysis of the utilization of Health Care Services in the Yukon; and
- collaborated with the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services in the preparation of the next Yukon Health Status Report.

In addition to these projects, the Unit completed several land planning surveys for the Land Planning Branch of the Yukon Department of Community and Transportation Services. These surveys are designed to measure public support for land planning exercises in jurisdictions which are without land planning regulations.

## **Information Services Unit**

During the course of the 1996–97 fiscal year, the Information Services Unit produced and released approximately 80 print products representing monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual statistical publications covering a broad range of topics relating to the Yukon's economy and society. In addition, the Unit responded to more than 1,000 requests for information in person, over the telephone, by fax and via the Internet both from within government and from the public at large. Publications released included the following titles:

- Monthly Statistical Review
- 1995 Annual Statistical Review
- Consumer Price Index
- Energy Statistics
- Income from Labour
- GDP by Industry
- Income
- RRSP Contributions, 1995
- Population
- Population Projections, 2006
- Real Estate
- Rent Survey
- Retail Trade
- Balance of Trade
- Spatial Price Indexes
- Yukon Alcohol Sales
- Yukon Economic Accounts
- Yukon Employment
- Yukon Fact Sheet
- Whitehorse Fact Sheet

As part of the project team for several of the Bureau of Statistics' major initiatives, the Unit also provided desktop publishing services and liaison with the Queen's Printer and private-sector printers on such projects as the National Longitudinal Health and Youth Survey, the Yukon Travel Survey, the M'Clintock Place Survey, the Yukon Trappers Survey and the Ibex Valley Survey.

### ***Highlights***

- The Information Services Unit successfully launched a Yukon Bureau of Statistics Home Page on the Internet. Users of the Home Page are able to download most of the Bureau's print publications through software which is also available as a "download."



Procedures were established to produce a "PDF" file of each publication as it is desktop published and then to e-mail it to the home-page administrator contracted to maintain the Bureau's site.

- Work has also begun to develop monthly summaries released specifically to the media on selected topics (inflation, retail trade and employment).
- Work was completed on updating the Unit's Yukon Environmental Fact Sheet, last revised in 1992. Printing and dissemination will occur in the 1997-98 budget year.
- The final report from the 1994 Visitor Exit Survey—the results of the Daily Diary Survey—was drafted, reviewed and made ready for printing.
- A report was drafted based on the results of the survey of Yukon trappers. The report presents the data in both tabular and graphic formats accompanied by brief written overviews.

### ***Special Projects***

Two special projects were undertaken during the year: a feasibility study on a Yukon Literacy Survey and work on a committee for the Diversity in the Work Place Survey undertaken by the Yukon Government's Public Service Commission. The feasibility study was completed and submitted to the sponsoring department (Education) and the external funding partner, the National Literacy Secretariat. Work on the Diversity in the Work Place committee is ongoing.

## **1997-98 WORK PLAN**

### **Management and Administration Projects**

#### ***Computer Maintenance (48)***

Maintain the computers used by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics; maintain and install all software.

#### ***Management Information System (58)***

Develop, provide input and maintain the Yukon Bureau of Statistics' internal management information system. This includes doing data collection, data entry and system maintenance monthly.

#### ***Personnel Recruitment Support (256)***

Recruit survey support staff.

***Mainframe Computer Management (303)***

Assist staff of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics on PC/mainframe computer applications and operations. Work with the Information Services Unit to provide in-services where and when needed.

***Computer Disaster Recovery (637)***

Prevent loss of data (UPS, power bars, conditioned circuits) and back up data (investigate media, plan set-up, test and implement).

***Network Administration (639)***

Add/modify/delete user accounts (connect/move/disconnect equipment to/from) and develop and maintain network plan.

**Economic Projects**

***Real Estate Survey (25)***

Administer and analyse the quarterly survey of real estate transactions.

***Yukon Rent Survey (26)***

Administer and analyse the quarterly survey of rental units.

***Yukon Economic Accounts (38)***

Review, analyse, and publish accounts data with commentary and related matters.

***CEIC Data Processing (57)***

Maintain and develop the CEIC database found on account STATSUIC from CEIC Vancouver Regional Office Stripper tape.

***Small Business Statistics Program (92)***

Review data and other materials received from the Small Business Data Project.

***Yukon Input-Output Tables (215)***

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

***Border Crossings Data (438)***

On behalf of Tourism, co-ordinate, input and analyse the monthly border crossing statistics collected by Canada Customs.

***Statistics Canada Financial Management System (443)***

Review data on government finance received from Statistics Canada's FMS; liaise with our Department of Finance and prepare information on highlights for internal use and/or possible publication.

***1994 Visitor Exit Survey (451)***

Produce the final report from this survey (the report on the Daily Diary Survey).

***1997 Spatial Price Imputation (500)***

Undertake to determine price differences between Edmonton, Vancouver and Whitehorse by a statistical process known as imputation. Imputation refers to an estimation procedure done between spatial price surveys (the next survey is scheduled for 1998).

***Labour Force Survey Analysis (507)***

Conduct detailed analysis of the 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, as well as participation rates).

***Interprovincial Trade Flows (575)***

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

***1994 Yukon Income Distribution and Low-income Measures (600)***

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

***1997 Business Survey (601)***

Extend and refine the joint business survey last administered in 1995.

***1997 Yukon Travel Survey (602)***

On behalf of Tourism, administer ongoing market research that provides the evaluation of existing marketing strategies for Yukon Tourism.

***Community Price Survey (604)***

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

***GDP by Industry (607)***

Provide estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by industry for the Yukon. The base data is from Statistics Canada and the work on the Yukon Economic Accounts.

***Rental Survey Redesign (609)***

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

***Tourism Business Reply Cards (626)***

Enter data for business reply cards, maintain the database, transfer information to the mailing house and produce reports for the Department of Tourism.

***Yukon Economic/Input Output Model (630)***

This is a joint project with the Department of Economic Development to develop, estimate and maintain an economic model of the Yukon for the purposes of analysis and forecasting.

**Social Projects**

***Employment Equity Implementation Committee (379)***

Participate in a senior management committee on the implementation of employment equity.

***Annual Social Assistance Review (423)***

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.

***Alcohol Sales in the Yukon (219)***

Report on the sales of alcoholic beverages in the Yukon.

***Health Care Utilization Review (560)***

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is involved in an analysis of the utilization of Health Care Services in the Yukon. This entails the development of historical databases, data definitions, standards and ad hoc requests. The Bureau is also involved in having the Yukon included in the National Physicians Database (NPDB) housed at the Canadian Institute of Health Information. The data generated from the NPDB will allow comparisons of physician resources and usage across the country.

***High-risk Alcohol Use in the Yukon (593)***

The goal of this project is to identify the circumstances, common practices and attitudes surrounding alcohol-related harm. A special focus of this project is the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE).

***1998 National Population Health Survey and Youth Survey (603)***

On behalf of Health and Social Services, adapt and make preparations for the 1998 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.

***Health Insurance Registration Mailing Update (608)***

Do the semi-annual mail-out and registration of health-care registrants. This project contributes to an accurate registration file while identifying registrants who no longer reside in the Yukon. The mailing also provides improved population estimates by ensuring a more accurate and timely health-care registration file.

***Statistical Support for the 1996 Health Status Report (613)***

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is working with the Department of Health and Social Services to prepare a full Yukon Health Status Report every three years. This report is a compilation of data from various sources and is designed to present Yukon mortality and morbidity data over a period of time. The next Health Status report is due to be released in early 1998.

***Vital Statistics (616)***

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics co-ordinates the analysis of data collected by the Registrar of Vital Statistics at the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services. These data include all births, deaths and marriages occurring in the Yukon. The Bureau of Statistics releases this information publicly in its monthly statistical review as well as in an annual summary of vital occurrences in the Yukon.

***Yukon Cancer Registry (619)***

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is responsible for the development and implementation of the Yukon Cancer Registry. The Cancer Registry is an active registry of cancer incidence and mortality in the Territory. The Yukon Registry is maintained in B.C. through the B.C. Cancer Agency, with much of the diagnosis and treatment of cancer occurring in B.C. The Yukon Registry is part of the Canadian Cancer Registry currently housed at Statistics Canada.

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

Provide basic analysis of Yukon data as specified by the Department of Health and Social Services.

***Secondary Analysis: RCMP Occurrence Report (642)***

Construct a demographic profile of both aggressors and victims across all categories of assault.

***Yukon Immunization Project (650)***

Reactivate the Yukon Immunization Project (YIP) to track and report recorded immunization information to support program planning and evaluation, and identify immunized and non-immunized Yukoners.



***Community Health Information System (651)***

Develop and implement a Community Health Information System to support program planning, evaluation and justification, and resource justification and planning, and to determine health trends.

***Violence Against Women (652)***

Review papers estimating the economic costs of violence against women.

***Abortion Database 1987–1996 (654)***

The abortion database is an SAS-based abortion information system which the Health Researcher maintains for the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services and the Whitehorse General Hospital (WGH). The database contains all abortions performed at the WGH from 1987 until present.

***Poverty Measurement (655)***

This activity is a co-operative effort involving the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, Yukon College and the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services. This project will identify the costs of the basic necessities of life and estimate the number of Yukoners who lack the resources to acquire them. One of the many potential uses of this information is to help Social Services Branch set social assistance rates.

***Social Indicators (700)***

This project is an attempt to formulate a list of indicators of the state of social well-being in the Yukon, and to quantify that state in terms of a small group of easily understood index numbers. The social indicators are to be organized around a short list of relevant areas of life, e.g., family, community, etc. This is a co-operative venture with Yukon College.

**Demographic Projects**

***Resource Centre (120)***

Design, modify and provide ongoing maintenance for the Yukon Bureau of Statistics resource centre.

***Mapping and Listing (437)***

All community listings are updated each year. This project involves listing each dwelling unit (description and location) and mapping its location.

***Population Projection Model***

Release a 10-year population projection (1997 to 2007) based on the June 1997 population figures.

***Yukon Life Tables (620)***

Develop the life tables for Yukon, which include such information as the life expectancy by age of individual population cohorts.

***Population Estimates Review (633)***

Scrutinize Statistic Canada's estimates of Yukon's population.

**Environmental Projects**

***Hunter Survey***

Provide support to the Yukon Government's Department of Renewable Resources on this survey.

***Yukon Environmental Fact Sheet (567)***

Arrange for the printing and dissemination of this pamphlet.

***Trapper Profile Survey (615)***

Publish and disseminate the results of the 1996 survey of Yukon trappers.

***Agriculture Survey (629)***

Conduct intercensal survey of farms and farm production. Planning in 1996-97 and implementation in 1998.

***Jackfish Bay Survey***

The Bureau, on behalf of the Department of Community and Transportation Services, Land Planning Branch, is to administer a survey of property owners at Jackfish Bay. The survey will be used to determine whether or not property owners think the proposed development regulations for Jackfish Bay should be approved.

**Organizational Projects**

***Government Employment Information System (199)***

Prepare PRODAC extracts of the MSA payroll and EIS files and the PCS file to provide estimates of the number of people on payroll and payroll costs.

***Student Information System (589)***

Work with the Department of Education to undertake a review of the education program and develop a program reporting structure.

***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.

### ***Strategic Initiatives (614)***

Help design a needs assessment for the Department of Health and Social Services which would address educational, vocational, life and independent-living skills for secondary school students and unemployed people with disabilities.

### **Customer Services and Liaison Projects**

#### ***Requests for Information (1 and 524)***

Continue to respond to requests for statistical information from Yukon Bureau of Statistics sources and Statistics Canada sources such as CANSIM.

#### ***Federal Provincial Consultative Council (55)***

Represent Yukon on the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy and its subject matter committees. This forum is part of the national statistical system composed of Statistics Canada and all provincial and territorial statistics agencies.

#### ***Liaison Activities (61)***

This refers to the ongoing liaison between the Yukon Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Canada, other provincial agencies and other departments (federal and territorial) not covered by initiated projects.

#### ***Program of information and special releases (219)***

Publish and distribute reports including:

- Annual Statistical Review (566)
- Community Price Survey
- Consumer Price Index
- Energy Statistics
- Estimates of Labour Income (226)
- GDP by Industry
- Income
- Monthly Statistical Review (565)
- Population
- Population Projections, 2007
- Real Estate Survey
- Rent Survey
- Retail Trade
- Spatial Price Indexes
- Yukon Life Tables
- Whitehorse Population
- Yukon Alcohol Sales
- Yukon Economic Accounts
- Yukon Employment
- Fact Sheets (Yukon, Whitehorse and Environment) (567)

- Publication of small fold-out statistical summaries of the Yukon, Whitehorse and the environment.

***Methodological-Technical Materials (323)***

Organize, develop and maintain a statistical methods reference holding. The holding, which contains quantitative, qualitative and evaluation material, is located in the office of the Senior Statistician.

***Publication Format Specifications (405)***

Develop a standard format for all Yukon Bureau of Statistics publications.

***New Census 96 Releases (547)***

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

***Executive Updates (551)***

Provide statistical information to MLAs and executive assistants in a format that is concise and easy to read and understand.

***Community Research Support (555)***

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

***Monthly Yukon Statistical Review (565)***

Publish a monthly report of 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. The project also includes the provision of summary-level information to Cabinet as part of the Monthly Statistical Review release.

***Annual Yukon Statistical Review (566)***

Provide an annual single summary of statistical information. This document consolidates all monthlies and provides historical series of information.

***Customer In-service Program (582)***

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 shown.

***The Daily Briefing Notes (592)***

During the legislative session only, scan the Statistics Canada publication called *The Daily* every morning for mention of the Yukon, or for Yukon data, and prepare a briefing note.

***Department Research Support (605)***

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

***Community Profiles (611)***

Research and publish a statistical profile of each Yukon community.

***Statistical Release via the Internet (612)***

Maintain the Yukon Bureau of Statistics Home Page by posting an electronic copy of the most current issue of all Bureau publications.

**CONCLUSION**

This work plan is the basis for the activities to be undertaken by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics for the upcoming year. The planning and scheduling which follows the formulation of the work plan will help the Yukon Bureau of Statistics not only to accomplish the projects listed in the work plan but also to allow the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to respond to the unforeseen projects which will inevitably come forward in 1997-98.



**APPENDIX 4**

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

**Last Meeting:** September 9–10, 1996  
**Next Meeting:** September 22–23, 1997  
**Members:** Representatives of the provincial and territorial departments of agriculture or provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

### Committee Members' Reports

The reports from all Committee members were distributed in advance of the meeting. The provincial/territorial reports summarized program activities and plans, organizational changes and new data dissemination practices adopted since the last meeting.

The Bureau de la Statistique du Québec highlighted the new data collection arrangement with Statistics Canada under which some responsibilities will be rearranged in an effort to make better use of the resources in both agencies. New Brunswick noted that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada had now moved into the same building as the provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; this move will benefit both organizations. The representatives for British Columbia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan noted that they had established Internet sites for agriculture and food information. The Alberta Food and Rural Development representative reported that they had developed a pilot project to evaluate the use of the Internet for data dissemination, and had updated their business plan. They also continued to cope with reduced budgets for economic analysis and statistics. The report from the Yukon indicated that agricultural activity continued to increase, with 80% more farmland than in 1991. Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture and Food has experienced a substantial rearrangement of work and responsibilities and a reduction in the level of funding. In addition, the section responsible for statistics has moved to Guelph from Toronto.

Mr. Gellner of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) updated the participants on the plan to privatize the Department's economic and policy analysis work. The work has been identified as an essential internal activity and will not be privatized. AAFC will continue to work with Agriculture Division to examine the options to replace the cereal, oilseed and special crops information provided by the recently discontinued Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP).

Agriculture Division provided a status report on its work, most particularly the progress on the 1996 Census of Agriculture and the 1996 Farm Finance Survey. The first releases of *Apparent Per Capita Food Consumption*, *Farming Facts* and *Stocks of Frozen Meat* publications on the Internet were also highlighted. Plans for 1997 were reviewed, the most notable being the planned release of the results of the 1996 Census of Agriculture

on May 14, 1997; the proposed 1997 Farm Energy Use Survey; and Agriculture Division's involvement in the Project to Improve the Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES).

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

As has become the custom, background papers were prepared for the meeting and presented by Agriculture Division staff as a basis for Committee discussion. The following issues were reviewed or discussed:

- Plans for the crop and livestock survey redesign which uses the 1996 Census of Agriculture as a frame were reviewed. A number of changes were planned regarding sample design and sample allocation but the concept of separate, single-purpose crop and livestock surveys remains essentially unchanged, as does the overall budget.
- Manitoba highlighted the increasingly difficult task of estimating the interprovincial movement of cattle, and the importance of such movements. Although the participants agreed on the need to monitor the situation, it was noted that there did not appear to be any clear solution at this time.
- W. Baxter, Marketing Co-ordinator, Social Institutions and Labour Statistics, provided the Committee with an overview of the Talon Internet site which included information on the research tools and the available products and services. The Committee members were also given information on possible licensing arrangements for publishing Statistics Canada's data on their Internet sites.
- Planning for the 2001 Census has begun and funding for the project has received Treasury Board approval. The plans are for a mail-out and mail-back procedure in urban areas and drop-off mail-back in rural areas. The main impact of these plans on the Census of Agriculture will be the need to develop and maintain an up-to-date mailing list of farm operators living in urban areas.
- A demonstration of the census optical scanning system and the software used to retrieve documents and analyse information was arranged for all participants. The participants expressed their appreciation for the tour.
- M. Menard reported on the progress of the joint Revenue Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Statistics Canada initiative to develop a universal form for farm financial data. This form, when implemented, will accommodate information filed either electronically or on paper.
- The terms of reference of the Committee were discussed as well as the possibility of extending it to cover activities beyond the farm gate, such as food processing and food consumption. After deliberation, it was agreed that the mandate should remain

unchanged. However, because of the broad food and agriculture mandate of most provincial and territorial ministries represented at the meeting, it was agreed that representatives from divisions that are responsible for these subject matter areas would be invited to give presentations, as appropriate.

All representatives mentioned that they were anxious to see the 1996 Census of Agriculture data and expressed their encouragement to Agriculture Division to try to meet the 1997 release schedule. The Atlantic provinces also expressed their appreciation for the work performed by the staff of Agriculture Division's Truro Office.

## BUSINESS STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** September 5–6, 1996  
**Next meeting:** November 27–28, 1997  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

### Chairman's Opening Remarks

The chairman, Jacob Ryten, welcomed provincial and territorial delegates and reviewed five projects:

1. A four-year program had been initiated to overhaul the science and technology program; it focused, in particular, on providing information on the outcomes from science and technology funding.
2. Improvements were expected in the quality of information on the province of origin of trade with the U.S. This information had deteriorated seriously with the Canada/U.S. exchange of trade data. Problems like this are much more difficult to resolve if the solution rests with an outside source.
3. There was provision in the Statistics Canada budget for inter-provincial trade data for the next three years.
4. The GST harmonization data project (Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics—PIPES) will most likely be based on an algorithm for allocating federal and provincial value-added taxes based on Statistics Canada data. In this event, the quality of provincial survey data will have to improve significantly.
5. On December 10, 1996, there would be a small ceremony involving the heads of the U.S. Bureaus of Labor Statistics, the Census, and Economic Accounts, Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía y Informática, and Statistics Canada to sign an understanding concerning the adoption of the North American Industrial Classification System by the three countries' national statistical agencies. Although there were still some outstanding questions, there was a sufficiently broad measure of agreement to warrant conclusion of the understanding.

### Finance Canada/Statistics Canada GST Harmonisation Data Project

The Committee was briefed on the concepts, objectives and status of the GST Harmonisation Data Project. Provincial detail would not be restricted to provinces that had entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada for federal collection of the GST. In other words there would be no "Rest of Canada" aggregation: data would be



available for each province and, if possible, for the territories. Data sources would include not only Statistics Canada surveys, but also administrative records such as income tax data (corporate and personal), GST data, payroll deduction records, etc. One objective was to minimize the reporting burden, particularly for small businesses, although for large businesses the situation would be more problematic. The rationale for Statistics Canada's involvement was to streamline the process and provide an impartial accounting as a basis for the provincial/territorial allocation of revenues from the GST. Aggregate savings for the business sector from harmonising the GST administration had been estimated by the Canadian Tax Foundation as being in the order of \$400 million to \$700 million. It was agreed that if the project was approved there might be some interim reporting, possibly in the form of a special meeting, before the next annual meeting of the Committee. The project has since been approved and a Federal-Provincial meeting has been scheduled for May 6, 1997 with Provincial and Territorial focal points together with provincial finance department representatives.

### **Potential changes to the Annual Survey of Manufacturers (ASM)**

Changes to the ASM and its companion survey, the Monthly Survey of Manufacturers (MSM) were outlined. In the question-and-answer session, the status of the sub-provincial data was discussed. Data for 1992 and 1993 had been released; data for 1994 had not yet started to be processed. Small area data had originally been seen as cost-recoverable activity, but this has not turned out to be the case. Moreover, given difficulties in producing a full set of principal statistics on a small-area basis, the whole exercise is being reconsidered.

There was some discussion about procedures for grouping tax records into "triads." If Industry Canada was now developing "anonymized" individual tax records for small businesses, which would seem to provide more information than the ASM, the question was raised as to whether this might affect the ASM grouping strategy. This is not the case, however, and Statistics Canada will continue to use the triad approach. In some cases tax data are not available for individual establishments; where this occurs an imputation is made to allocate data to the establishment level, ensuring that data are allocated to the appropriate SIC or geographic area.

### **Domestic trade**

The Committee was briefed on two items concerning the distributive trades: SARTRE, a project to produce a small area database on retail trade from tax records; and a new quarterly survey on retail trade by commodity. Data for 1994 would be available shortly with detail down to the Forward Sortation Area of the Postal Code as well as by census sub-division, census district, census agglomeration and census metropolitan area.

SARTRE would provide data at the 3-digit level of the SIC. It was based on data from chain department stores and tax records, and so was more detailed than SABAL, which

provides information for CMAs only. The new quarterly Retail Trade Commodity Survey will supplement the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Survey (MWRTS). The MWRTS provides information on total sales by wholesalers and retailers classified according to their principal kind of business. However, with many stores handling a range of goods, distinctions between traditional product lines are becoming blurred, having a serious impact on trend analysis of the MWRTS. For instance, the data show a significant drop in food store sales, even though the population continues to increase, while drug store sales have risen dramatically. The reality is that consumer and retailers are ignoring traditional boundaries, and better information on the commodity composition of retail trade is required. Hitherto, commodity surveys have only been undertaken on a very occasional basis. To address the current requirements, a quarterly commodity survey is being introduced in January 1997. The survey is based on the chain department store survey, and will go to a relatively small number of larger stores. Work was also under way with the Industrial Organization and Finance Division to improve the data on sales and leasing of motor vehicles and equipment. In response to a question from New Brunswick, it was confirmed that information on leasing would be included in the dealership survey.

### **Establishment-based provincial data for service industries**

Work was undertaken to assess the feasibility of obtaining data on production (value added) by province. Province-specific information is currently available on revenues and employment, but this is inadequate. There have so far been 300 responses to 1,400 questionnaires to determine firms' ability to report on an establishment basis. Of these, 200 firms had indicated an ability to comply, 100 had indicated that they could not. Key problem areas included detailed expenditure breakouts, revenues by province, and a detailed distribution of revenues according to the types of services rendered.

### **International trade**

The Committee was briefed of significant revisions to international trade data following the discovery of under-reporting due to the non-receipt of customs documents. Other revisions had been necessitated by misallocation of commodity codes. To address some of these problems, training had been provided to Revenue Canada (Customs and Excise) to improve the quality of basic data entry that they performed for us. The allocation of exports by province was also being improved following discussions with the U.S. Customs Service, from whom the data are obtained. Also, the TIERS database was to be upgraded, possibly involving use of IVISION software.

### **Progress report on the CPI and plans for spatial**

Three topics were discussed:

- Spatial price indices

- Scanner data
- Auxiliary samples for the CPI

### **Small Business Program update**

The key initiatives affecting the Small Business program consisted of enhancements to the Small Business database (SBDB). The SBDB had hitherto consisted of the Small Business Profiles, but this was now being expanded to incorporate a broader range of information of interest to small business and to the program sponsors. The Small Business Profiles were being enriched with more detailed information, and data from the employment dynamics program were being added. Other enhancements included the development of public-use microdata files. A number of alternatives for “anonymizing” microdata files were currently being examined, with some promising results. Plans included making the SBDB available on-line, and engaging in longitudinal analysis to identify factors associated with the success or failure of small firms.

### **Recent developments in the Industrial Organization and Finance Division**

Profits data would be developed on a provincial and NAICS basis, and the content of the Globalization Database was described. The plans should also be viewed in the context of the GST Harmonisation Data project which, if it proceeds, will require credible provincial data and establishment/enterprise integration, and will call for a solution to issues that have been on the table for some years.

### **Alberta 1996 Service Exports Survey**

The Alberta Services Survey, conducted by the Province of Alberta, was discussed. It covered a broad range of service industries and sectors. It was designed to profile exporting and non-exporting services, to provide a breakdown of key types of services rendered, and to shed light on the marketing of services and how government could help. The survey covered most types of services, but excluded wholesale and retail trade and accommodation services and restaurants. Applicable services were identified after a close review of the CPC, the SIC, and the ISIC Rev. 3, at the 3- and 4-digit industry level. Input on definitions and data availability were obtained from industry associations and some of the larger firms

### **Status of Statistics Canada/ Revenue Canada Business Number (BN); developments/improvements in the Business Register (BR)**

A status report on the BN conversion was presented. The coverage of the BN system is comprehensive, including all industrial sectors, employer and non-employer businesses, commercial and non-profit organizations. The BR will store both the NAICS and SIC 80 codes. The new BN system will be implemented in 1997.



## CENSUS OF POPULATION

**Last meeting:** November 27, 1996  
**Next meeting:** September 24, 1997  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Mr. Petrie welcomed all participants and brought the membership up to date on what, from Statistics Canada's perspective, had been a good year. Mr. Petrie looked forward to getting the provinces' and territories' views and reactions to the data quality and dissemination work plan for the 1996 Census, and to the research and development plans for the 2001 Census.

### 1996 Census

An overview of the phases of the 1996 Census, not covered at the meeting, was provided. It was highlighted that collection was completed within budget, on time and without major problems. All the data had been keyed by October 1996 and coded by December 1996, with the exception of Place of Work which Statistics Canada intends to complete by the end of March 1997. Edit and Imputation, which was the next stage, would take until September 1997 to complete. Most of the coding was done automatically except for Industry and Occupation which was coded manually. In all likelihood, for the 2001 Census, all variables will be coded either automatically or with computer-assisted coding.

The 1996 Census data quality studies and coverage studies are underway. The content and schedules of these studies, which included the products resulting from these studies as well as the approach used for each, were reviewed in detail. The schedules are as follows:

- Vacancy Check Study            June 27, 1997
- Automated Match Study        July 31, 1997
- Collective Dwelling Study     July 31, 1997
- Reverse Record Check
  - Preliminary estimates        November 30, 1997
  - Final results                 May 15, 1998
  - Technical Report             April 1, 1999

The 1996 Census Dissemination Business Plan was reviewed. It was highlighted that the primary objective for the 1996 Dissemination Project is to improve service to clients. Five specific ways have been identified in which Statistics Canada intends to do this.

These are:

- creating a balance between providing public good information and seeking cost-recovery opportunities
- decentralizing tools and expertise to federal funding departments
- increasing electronic output while maintaining core print products
- providing more output at lower levels of geography on the day of release while improving or matching the 1991 planned release dates
- populating the electronic data warehouse with components of the standard data products available as single tables, not as complete products

The other major objective is to improve the revenue/expenditure cost recovery ratio over the 1991 Census Dissemination Program.

The products and services line, custom services, pricing and licensing and release schedule were discussed in detail, along with an overview of the products and services line by media, i.e., diskette, CD-ROM, Internet and print. Another point to note is that IVISION has been selected as the Windows version of presentation and tabulation software. Statistics Canada will also support C-91 for DOS users; IVISION will be compatible with C-91.

An overview of the 1996 Census geography product line was provided. The product line is basically the same as in 1991; however, consultations with various market sectors were conducted and based on their feedback, Geography's objectives for 1996 are to improve the quality and timeliness of products and to make them more user-friendly where possible.

## **2001 Census**

Even though the priorities this past year have been the 1996 Census, Statistics Canada was able to launch a few 2001 Census activities. These are basically research activities, e.g., methodological and some technological research, and content testing as well as some geography research. The 2001 Census Strategic planning assumptions were also presented.

### ***Research directions for the 2001 Census***

- One of the central features of the 2001 Census Research Program is Centralized Edit (CE) as it represents a significant change to the way Statistics Canada collects information in the census. One of the many advantages is the possibility that CE



might reduce the number of complaints received about respondents not wanting to give their information to local enumerators who may be known. Centralized Edit was tested in Eastern Ontario as part of the 1996 Census, and Statistics Canada will not know until next spring or early summer just how well it worked and whether Statistics Canada should move to a CE methodology in 2001.

- Statistics Canada will also look at redesigning the processing systems to take advantage of the ability to process questionnaire by questionnaire as opposed to “bulk” processing, as was the case in 1996. Another major issue is whether key entry should be replaced as the method of data capture by some form of optical technology for the 2A questionnaire although the possibility of also using it for 2B has not been ruled out at this point.
- There are two other areas of processing research: Statistics Canada would like to re-examine its census database technology (RAPID) and to establish whether or not an automated coding approach could be used for Industry and Occupation.
- A few methodological issues were also discussed: variable sampling fractions for the 2B questionnaires and possibly different versions of the 2B for different sub-samples; linking census data with administrative records; and exploring the potential for post-censal surveys.

### *Content Determination and Testing*

- Work is in progress on the Consultation Guide. Pre-consultation meetings are being conducted at the moment with a view to developing more of a regional focus to the consultation process for 2001.
- In January 1997, qualitative testing will be conducted on two prototypes of a short-form questionnaire both containing an Aboriginal question. In January 1998, qualitative testing will be conducted in Toronto, Montreal and in Western Canada. The potential of an Aboriginal question should be considered as it may be useful in developing a post-censal survey on Aboriginal peoples.
- In May 1997, a pre-test will be conducted to examine respondent reactions to the various formats and questions of the 2A questionnaire; this pre-test will also be used to examine the feasibility of using scanning for 2001. Five control-type questionnaires will be distributed for testing to approximately 1,200 households each, and the results will be out in November 1997. This will then lead into the NCT in September 1998, which will include a short- and long-form component.

## *Geography Research*

Some of the research issues raised have an impact on Geography, e.g., Centralized Edit which refers to a new way of undertaking collection operations, could bring many changes to the dissemination approach and to geographic units.

- A National digital road network database (which is an extension of the Street Network Files) will be created; for 2001, Statistics Canada will have digital national coverage instead of manual mapping for non SNF areas, as was the case in 1996.
- Statistics Canada is interested in building a dwelling frame to meet the needs of several proposed operational changes to be implemented for 2001 Census. A dwelling frame is a list of all the dwellings within Canada with attached co-ordinates describing where the dwellings are located. The dwelling frame would facilitate the decoupling of collection and dissemination areas in both urban and rural areas. Technically this dwelling frame can be created but given the U.S. Bureau of the Census' experience, integrating the data could be difficult.
- A new FED order will be in place by January 1997. Geography is going from 295 FEDs to 301 and only 31 will have the same limits as the 1987 Representation Order. The impact will be on the EA stability and should bring about a lot of changes.
- A challenge for the 2001 Census and the future is to build a geographic infrastructure (block program) that will allow flexibility in area grouping to create units that will meet the demand of the different users.
- A new concept being researched for 2001 is a Metropolitan Influence Zone which would address the gap in the geographic framework. This will allow intra- and inter-provincial comparisons on pressing rural issues. The development of this infrastructure has been encouraged by other government departments.

## DATA DISSEMINATION

**Last meeting:** September 4, 1996  
**Next meeting:** November 26, 1997  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The Chairperson welcomed the delegates and noted the presence of delegates attending a meeting of the committee for the first time: Terry Quinlan (Newfoundland), Dave Montgomery (Prince Edward Island), Joan Bisson (Nova Scotia) and Paul Lewis (Ontario).

With respect to two action items from the previous meeting, the Chairperson

- reported to the delegates that Communications Division had provided the Statistics Canada telephone book to focal points as a downloadable file; and
- recalled that Statistics Canada's policy on redistribution via the Internet had been discussed at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy on June 20 and 21, 1996. The Chairperson briefly reiterated the policy.

### **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 on September 4, 1996.

### **Telephone Directory**

In response to the concerns voiced regarding the telephone directory, Mr. Smith pointed out that this issue had come up informally at Council and that a flat ASCII text file had been produced and distributed to focal points following the Council meeting. The ASCII file, distributed quarterly, is as up-to-date as the electronic directory Statistics Canada employees use.

### **1996 Census Products and Services**

Ms. Burgess reported that she had consulted with focal points and the Census Dissemination Project Manager in each province in late spring and early summer, 1996. She provided an overview of the product line and release schedule for shelf, diskette, CD, Internet, print and custom products and answered delegates' questions.

The delegate from the Northwest Territories asked if community profiles would be made available on the Internet. Ms. Burgess explained that a corporate committee has been

formed to look at the Public Good Database for posting Census data on the Internet. A number of decisions regarding the contents of the database had yet to be made.

The delegate from Northwest Territories also asked if the new territory Nunavut would be identified as part of the standard output. The answer was negative, but some custom products may be produced once a variable is released.

### **Data Liberation Initiative**

Mr. Boyko provided an update on the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI). He described the five-year project as a service to faculty and students for teaching and research. Under the DLI, universities can acquire data for a set annual fee. Specialized institutes that want to participate in this initiative are considered on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Boyko underlined that the initiative is not a "data give-away." The universities pay for the data and the costs of maintaining the project will be recovered.

The DLI operates on the Internet; accordingly, questions are asked and orders placed via the Internet. Mr. Boyko talked about some of the challenges involved in filling such requests. He also discussed training needs.

### **The Internet: Progress and the Road Ahead**

Mr. Podehl presented an overview of the direction Statistics Canada intends to take with the Internet, opening his presentation by saying that the Internet has become a strategic dissemination channel. He talked about the progress that has been made to date and the future of the Internet at Statistics Canada.

The Agency's electronic publications will be available on the Internet. Mr. Podehl described the DSP pilot test involving more than 100 DSP libraries that will precede a wholesale move to electronic publishing. Mr. Podehl also spoke about some of the technical challenges of putting publications on the Internet.

Mr. Desjardins explained that a group has been assigned to look at the transition from print to electronic products. They will determine how fast Statistics Canada should proceed with the shift.

### **Flow of Electronic Data to Provincial and Territorial Focal Points**

Mr. Podehl led a discussion on the provision of electronic data to focal points. One of the key issues raised by delegates was the difficulty caused by changing formats. Mr. Podehl stated that Statistics Canada intends to stay with industry standards and to follow the mainstream.



Another issue raised by delegates was that electronic products (diskettes, for example) are often not properly documented. Mr. Podehl explained that diskettes should include documentation and be registered on the IPS and labelled with a product code.

### **StatsCan Online**

Mr. Grenier provided an update on StatsCan Online. The data sets currently available include international trade, horticulture, *The Daily* and CANSIM. Mr. Grenier provided an information kit to delegates which included fact sheets on StatsCan Online's main features.

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

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

### **Other Business**

The Chairperson inquired whether new irritants had surfaced in recent years. The delegate from Nova Scotia expressed concern about data being suppressed because of size and confidentiality (she mentioned rail statistics, cable television and manufacturing). Some delegates complained about Statistics Canada cancelling data sets without warning and asked that focal points be kept informed. Some delegates said they were confused about what to refer to the Statistics Canada Regional Office, noting communications problems between the Regional Offices and Headquarters. Delegates asked to receive the Recoverable Projects report.



## DEMOGRAPHY

**Last Meeting:** November 28–29, 1996  
**Next Meeting:** September 25–26, 1997  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The November 1996 meeting was split into two separate days. The first day was devoted to the provincial population estimation program. After an overview of the population estimates research program presented by Statistics Canada staff, the first morning focused on plans for adjustment for net undercoverage in the 1996 Census. The issues surrounding this activity were the subject of three planned presentations by Statistics Canada staff. Discussion then shifted to specific components in the estimation program, namely non-permanent residents, then to the international emigration component, and finally to interprovincial migration. These were topics for three planned presentations by Statistics Canada staff. There was also a presentation by Statistics Canada on two potential administrative data sources.

The second day included discussions on estimates of population for census subdivisions and estimates of households for provinces. These two presentations were given by Statistics Canada staff. Discussion then turned to data gaps and program directions of Demography Division. The final activity was a round-table discussion with provinces describing their current demographic activities.

Since the November meeting, provincial population estimates up to January 1, 1997 have been released. The annual publication (91-213) including detailed estimates for July 1, 1996 has gone to print and will be released shortly. A workshop attended by provincial, Citizenship and Immigration, and Statistics Canada officials discussed a new methodology for estimating non-permanent residents. The research on methods of census adjustment has progressed as planned, and a workshop for provincial focal points will be held in June 1997.

## LABOUR STATISTICS

**Last meetings:** May 14–15, 1996

**Next meeting:** June 5–6, 1997

**Members:** Departments concerned with human resources, education or job training, and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The 31st meeting of this committee was held in Ottawa on May 14 and 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 next meeting will be held June 5 and 6, 1997.

## MINERAL STATISTICS

- Last meeting:** October 1996  
**Next meeting:** June or October 1997  
**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

This committee provides a working forum in which the provincial and territorial ministries and federal government departments can exchange information and formulate joint courses of action to deal effectively with areas of common interests in Canadian mining and mineral statistics.

Cutbacks which had occurred in the spring of 1996 in the Ontario ministries of Northern Development and Mines and Natural Resources had significantly reduced Ontario's ability to contribute to the joint collection of statistical information on the provincial mineral industry. Later in 1996, similar reductions in British Columbia had a parallel effect for that province. The ongoing efforts of both Natural Resources Canada and Statistics Canada in concert with the affected provinces have succeeded in putting into place mechanisms that will permit the continuation of the joint national/provincial statistical programs. As part of these solutions, new MOUs reflecting the new reality are to be signed with Ontario and British Columbia. These are the vanguard of a new round of MOUs with all the participating provincial/territorial ministries. A new CD-ROM product developed by NRCan will permit the improved exchange of data and systems capabilities with the provinces. Both affected provinces will continue to participate in the FPCMS and to work to strengthen ongoing communication links.

The annual meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPCMS) was successfully held from October 21 to 23, 1996 in Ottawa. The meeting was spread over this three-day period in a move to improve its general effectiveness. The first day consisted of a workshop on computer systems and communications; on the second day, major issues and decisions of importance to all committee members were discussed, followed by the traditional dinner hosted by NRCan; the third day included information sessions and discussions on subjects of interest to the membership.

The workshop on computer systems included an update of the status of the SoftAccess systems being developed at NRCan and a discussion of data/information sharing within the framework of emerging technologies. The use of the Internet as a vehicle to share and disseminate statistical information remained a subject of some importance. MMSD,

NRCan made a commitment to provide data and supporting systems to all participating provinces and territories in the form of CD-ROMs.

Highlights of the meeting proper were (i) a presentation by The Mining Association of Canada detailing specific issues that the Committee should consider addressing, (ii) the establishment of a working group to develop a questionnaire to survey the emerging Canadian diamond mining industry, and (iii) an open discussion on the effectiveness of committee activities. Progress toward the development of the 1997 (NAICS) industrial classification system and its implementation for industries of interest was briefly reviewed. All members reported on their respective mineral and mining statistics programs and the status of the industry within their jurisdiction. As is customary at this annual meeting, schedules for the surveys in which there is a sharing of responsibilities were provided for discussion.

Information sessions included reviews of the Voisey's Bay mineral discovery, of Aboriginal land claim issues and of the promulgation by NRCan of a revised Canadian minerals and metals policy based on the principles of sustainable development.

Progress has been made toward the finalization of definitions contained in the report entitled *Revised Definitions for Mineral Statistics: A Proposal*. Modifications to the remaining (as yet unapproved) recommendations in the report are being prepared for discussion by Committee members. The first steps toward the development of a guide to the new definitions and an improved survey questionnaire based on these definitions are being taken.

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

Discussions between participants before, during and after the meeting itself proved valuable and will result in an improved sharing of responsibilities and increased opportunities for the elimination of overlap and duplication. Of particular importance were discussions involving NRCan, Statistics Canada and the Province of Quebec, focusing on the need to improve systems cooperation and to reduce response burden on the industry.

The next FPCMS meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 9–11, 1997. While it remains the FPCMS' intention to normally hold its annual meeting in the spring, the 1997 meeting may be moved to the fall either as a result of emerging issues or if a federal election is called for early June. The PIPES project will likely become an important agenda item at the 1997 meeting.



## PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

**Last Meeting:** October 25, 1996  
**Next Meeting:** October 24, 1997  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Among the major items on the agenda of the meeting held on October 25, 1996 in Ottawa was a report on the progress of existing provincial programs within the System of National Accounts Branch (SNA) and in each province and territory. There were also presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- report on the historical revision
- the production schedule
- the provincial trade contract
- the Project for Improving Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)

The *Provincial Economic Accounts, 1995*, were released on May 13, 1996 together with the provincial *GDP by Industry*. The 1991–1995 provincial trade estimates will be released in December 1996.

The 1996 preliminary estimates of provincial income and expenditure accounts and of personal disposable income are scheduled for release in mid-May 1997. Provincial GDP estimates by industry for the year 1996 will be available at the same time.

The next regular meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 24, 1997 in the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room of the R. H. Coats building. Items on the agenda will notably include discussions on historical revision issues and on the Project for Improving Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES).

## PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

**Last Meeting:** October 24, 1996  
**Next Meeting:** October 23, 1997  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives) and delegates from provincial and territorial departments of finance

The Committee met on October 24, 1996 in Ottawa. All provinces and territories were represented.

The proceedings were chaired by Art Ridgeway, Director of Public Institutions Division. The first item of business was the round table. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island representatives stated that they spent a lot of time working on the harmonization of the General Sales Tax (GST) and Provincial Sales Tax (PST) during the past year. Most of the provinces and territories expressed their pleasure with the progress to date on defining the public sector universe and the historical revision project. Ontario and Quebec expressed their satisfaction with the components of the public sector while Saskatchewan expressed a desire to reassess the Statistics Canada definition of government.

In the area of public sector employment Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon indicated that they would like to see employment statistics released on a quarterly basis. British Columbia and Manitoba requested that further work be done on the production of full-time-equivalent employment statistics. Many of the provinces and territories expressed interest in the discussions to take place later in the day on the public sector and the impact of historical revision.

The discussion of Chapters 1 and 2 of the of the document "Detailed Record of Decision: 1997 Historical Revision of the Canadian SNA" took the major portion of the day. Mr. Ridgeway highlighted the decision not to split up institutional units between sectors and sub-sectors. There was an enthusiastic discussion of the decision to treat the profits of fiscal monopolies, such as lotteries and liquor boards, as indirect taxes in the System of National Accounts and the Financial Management System.

There was a useful discussion of the list of public sector entities that had been provided to the provinces and territories prior to the conference.

Brief presentations were made by Public Institutions staff on the utilization of provincial and territorial government estimates, dissemination, and the harmonization of public employment data between Public Institutions Division and the Survey of Employment Payroll and Hours (SEPH).

## SOCIAL STATISTICS

**Last Meeting:** June 19, 1996  
**Next Meeting:** May 7, 1997  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

### **Topics discussed at the last meeting**

- 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 programs
- the integration of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics and the Survey of Consumer Finance
- status report on the 1996 Census collection
- the definition of the population "On and Off Indian Reserves"
- workshop on "low-income cutoffs"
- issue of sample size in household surveys
- provincial and territorial round table
- agenda-setting for future meetings

### **Topics proposed for the next meeting**

- Aboriginal data collection and dissemination
- meta-information and the data warehouse
- status report on the cultural statistics program
- status report on the Canadian Centre for Education Statistics
- the use of "unpaid work data"

- discussion of issues related to low-income cutoffs
- harmonization initiatives
- strategic direction of the social statistics program
- provincial and territorial round table

## TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

### Federal-Provincial Committee on Transportation Statistics

**Last meeting:** May 16–17, 1996, Ottawa  
**Next meeting:** June 3–4, 1997, Ottawa  
**Members:** Delegates from provincial and federal departments of transportation and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives). In May 1996, all provinces and territories were represented except Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

### North American Transportation Statistics Interchange

**Last meeting:** May 14–15, 1996, Ottawa  
**Next meeting:** October 1997, Ottawa  
**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)

### Activities and Progress

Topics covered at these meetings included ;

- 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 Statistics Canada's Standards Division, Statistics Canada'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 18–20, 1996

**Next Meeting:** June 17–19, 1997

**Members:** Provincial and territorial registrars/directors of vital statistics

- Work continued on finding mutually acceptable terms and definitions for a Federal/Provincial/Territorial agreement.
- A Data Dictionary which gives standards for the collection/coding methods for births, marriages, deaths and stillbirths that each jurisdiction has or will implement was accepted by Council.
- In consultation with the jurisdictions, Health Statistics Division has revised its outputs and is making much broader use of the electronic media.
- Council established a committee to develop a communications strategy that will further the development of a Canadian System of Vital Statistics by raising the level of consciousness of its importance. The first newsletter will be published in May 1997.
- Health Statistics Division and Registrars/Directors of Vital Statistics from each jurisdiction have worked with Elections Canada to enable the deaths to be supplied so that the Permanent Electors List can be maintained.

**APPENDIX 5**  
**PROGRAM COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Program Committee  
of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council  
on Statistical Policy**

Teleconference of February 4, 1997

**Committee members**

Mr. Bill Hyshka (Alberta) — Chairperson  
Mr. Luc Bessette (Québec)  
Mr. Alton Hollet (Newfoundland)  
Mr. Wayne Smith (Statistics Canada)  
Mr. Denis Desjardins (*ex officio*)

**Secretariat**

Ms. Paula Fedeski-Koundakjian

**Also present**

Ms. Krista Campbell  
Secretary, PIPES Task Force on Response Burden and Public Relations

**1. Agenda items**

*Note: The Program Committee had received a list of proposed Council agenda items prior to the teleconference.*

**a) Program reports by Assistant Chief Statisticians**

The Program Committee agreed that most of the agenda items proposed by the focal points could be addressed in the Assistant Chief Statisticians' reports (see below) three issues—PIPES, information redistribution, and the regional office/focal point relationship—were discussed separately (see points b) c) d). Denis Desjardins said he would draw these items to the attention of the appropriate ACSs, as follows:

Bruce Petrie

- i. Progress report on the non-permanent resident adjustment strategy
- ii. Status report on the 1996 Census
- iii. Provincial data quality issues (sample size considerations) for social and labour statistics
- iv. Labour Force Survey: update on methodology
- v. LICOs and the poverty-line issue
- vi. Status report on population adjustment methodologies

Stewart Wells

- i. Update on the reconciliation issue of annual GDP estimates (i.e. Industry Measures and Analysis Division vs National Accounts and Environment Division vs Input-Output Division)

Jacob Ryten

- i. Implementation strategy for the 1997 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)-Canada (effects on data continuity)

**b) Discussion on provincial statistical agency operations and Statistics Canada regional offices: relationship in a new environment?**

Mr. Hyshka reported that the focal points proposed that the Council clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the regional offices and the focal points, particularly with respect to data dissemination and marketing.

Mr. Desjardins stressed that the roles and responsibilities have not changed, but agreed with the Program Committee that the evolving roles of regional offices and focal points in data collection, dissemination and marketing could be addressed in a round-table discussion at the Council. Mr. Desjardins asked the secretariat to develop a title for this discussion and send it to the Program Committee members for consideration.

**c) Redistribution policy for Statistics Canada data in the electronic age**

Mr. Hyshka reported that the focal points find Statistics Canada's policy on data redistribution—particularly electronic redistribution—to require some clarification and wished to discuss the matter at the Council.

Mr. Desjardins recalled that the issue had been discussed at the 1996 Council and that a number of clarifying documents had been issued before and after that meeting. Mr. Desjardins assured the Program Committee that the policy was clearly and sufficiently stated in these documents and had not changed since.

The Program Committee agreed that the redistribution policy need not be discussed at the 1997 Council.

**d) Discussion of Statistics Canada's metadata projects**

Mr. Smith suggested that an item of interest to the Council delegates would be Statistics Canada's metadata projects. The Program Committee agreed. Mr. Smith and Mr. Desjardins said they would arrange a presentation.



## **2. Special pre-Council meeting to discuss the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)**

Mr. Desjardins explained that the PIPES Task Force on Response Burden and Public Relations is holding a series of information meetings on PIPES for government departments and other interested parties. A meeting has been planned for May 6, in the Simon Goldberg Conference Room in Ottawa, for focal points and others affected by PIPES in the various provincial and territorial government departments. Mr. Desjardins emphasized that the purpose of the meeting is solely to inform interested parties about PIPES, not to solicit support for the tax harmonization initiative.

The focal points in the Program Committee indicated that they fully supported holding and attending such a meeting.

Mr. Desjardins asked Mr. Hyshka, Mr. Bessette and Mr. Hollett to invite the other focal points to the meeting. It was agreed that the focal points should be responsible for inviting interested colleagues from provincial or territorial departments—particularly departments of finance.

Because the Simon Goldberg conference room has limited seating and numbers have to be controlled, it was agreed that the focal points would provide Mr. Hyshka with a list of the delegates they would like to invite, indicating their home departments. Mr. Hyshka will relay this information to Krista Campbell by Friday, February 14.

Once the numbers have been confirmed, the focal points will be asked to extend formal invitations to their colleagues. An agenda will be sent to them subsequently.

Mr. Desjardins stressed that Statistics Canada will not pay any of the expenses incurred by any of the delegates to attend the meeting.

**APPENDIX 6**

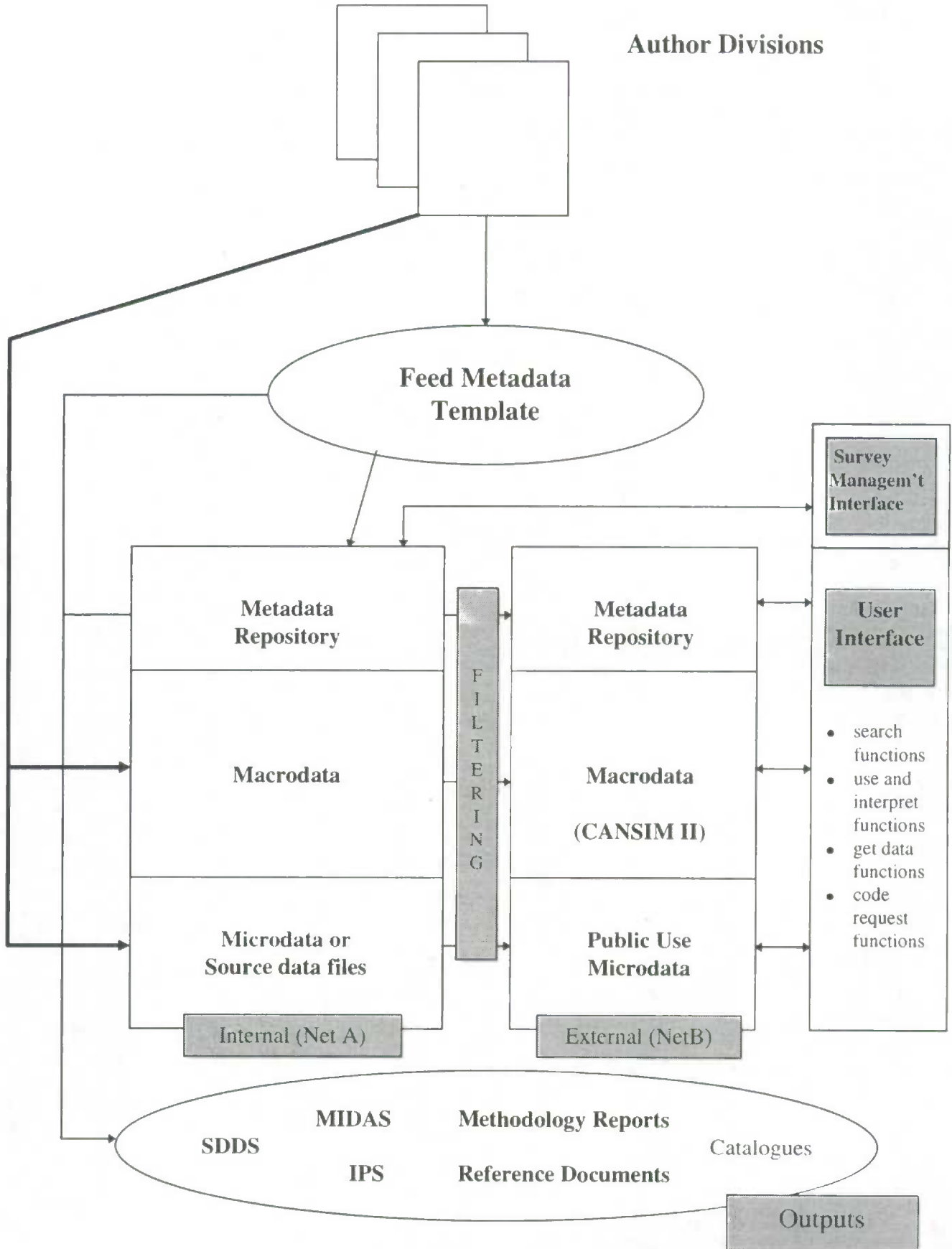
**1997-1998 SCHEDULE FOR  
NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS**

**1997-1998 SCHEDULE FOR  
NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS**

May 16, 1997	Release of preliminary provincial accounts for 1996 as well as revisions for 1994 and 1995.
June 2, 1997	Release of national income and expenditure accounts and national GDP by industry for the first quarter of 1997.
December 1, 1997	Release of historical revision of national accounts, with constant dollar estimates converted to a 1992 base. As many of the years as possible prior to 1995 will be made available on CANSIM during October.
April-early May 1998	Release of preliminary provincial accounts for 1997 as well as historical revision of provincial accounts with constant dollar estimates converted to a 1992 base, but back to 1992 only.
June 1, 1998	Release of national income and expenditure accounts and national GDP by industry for the first-quarter of 1998, as well as 5 years of revisions for both.
November 30, 1998	Release of revised and rebased (to 1992) provincial accounts back to 1981.

**APPENDIX 7**

**STATISTICS CANADA'S META-INFORMATION INITIATIVE:  
TEMPLATE**





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