
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

May 5–6, 1998
Ottawa, Ontario



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MINUTES

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

Meeting of May 5-6, 1998

Ottawa, Ontario

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 5-6, 1998

1. Opening remarks

The Chairperson welcomed the delegates to the 25th annual meeting of the Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. He also noted John Palmer's (Prince Edward Island) return after a two-year absence and greeted Claude Dionne (Quebec) who was replacing Guy Savard in his absence. (The list of delegates and participants is attached as Appendix 1.)

The agenda proposed for the 1998 meeting was approved (the agenda is attached as Appendix 2) and the minutes from the previous year's meeting were adopted without amendment.

2. Statistics Canada Update

Dr. Fellegi outlined the latest developments in the Gaps II initiative since Statistics Canada presented its proposal for an improved information system to the Clerk of the Privy Council. This initiative, which aims at improving the information base required to strengthen the policy capacity of the federal government, has received first-year funding for some developmental work. Efforts are now being made to secure approval for permanent funding.

The continuation of the Environment Statistics program and of the Science and Technology program was part of the proposal, as well as the development of several new surveys. These include the Workplace and Employee Survey, which is a longitudinal study of the economic and social characteristics of the labour market, as well as the Asset and Debt Survey. A feasibility study in the area of Education Statistics related to the development of a longitudinal administrative student data base is also envisioned and would be developed in collaboration with the provinces. Increased or improved activities were also proposed to respond to the additional data needs generated by PIPES.

The delegate from British Columbia inquired whether legislative changes are required to ensure that they can access business files once the new data collection process brought about by PIPES is implemented. Mr. Ryan confirmed that the current legal framework does not allow Statistics Canada to share administrative data obtained from Revenue Canada. He informed the Council that a working committee of the legal community at Revenue Canada and Statistics Canada was struck to determine if the Revenue Act is amendable in this regard. Feedback from this working committee is expected in the next few months.

The delegate from the Northwest Territories requested clarification of Statistics Canada's policy on producing data for Nunavut and whether the quality and the scope of the data would be the same as in other provinces and territories. Dr. Fellegi pointed out that the small population size of the Northwest Territories is an unavoidable constraint that impacts on the quality and accuracy of the data produced. Nonetheless, wherever possible, separate data will be produced for Nunavut and the western Northwest Territories and collaboration between Statistics Canada and the territories will continue.

3. Provincial and territorial activity reports

Provincial and territorial delegates presented their respective activity reports. The provincial and territorial written reports are attached as Appendix 3.

The delegate from Saskatchewan presented the report of a study on the data and methodology used by Statistics Canada and the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics to calculate wheat exports. This study attempts to identify the cause of the growing discrepancy between the two organizations' annual value of wheat exports and emphasizes the need for the establishment of a review mechanism. Mr. Ryan stated that this report could serve as a model to further the investigation of the discrepancies in the trade flows and he recommended that a group be formed to work at reconciling the data.

The delegate from Newfoundland reported that the newly created Association of Atlantic Provinces Statistics Agencies had met for the first time. The goal of the Association is to further the interests of the Eastern provinces. Members of this Association will exchange information, possibly embark in joint projects, and meet regularly with staff of the Statistics Canada's Atlantic Regional Office to be informed of survey activities in their provinces.

4. Program Committee Report

The chairperson, Mr. Emmet Weatherhead, reported to the Council that the Committee had held a teleconference on February 15, 1998 to identify several subjects they wished to be addressed at the Council and to set an agenda. He mentioned that most of these subjects - Gaps II, the Asset and Debt Survey, data availability for Nunavut and new provincial data generated by PIPES - had already been discussed. (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 National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program

a) Historical revisions of the provincial economic accounts

Mr. Wells elaborated on the different milestones of the release schedule established for the historical revisions of the income and expenditure accounts, gross domestic product and provincial economic accounts. He indicated that the deadlines are likely to be met and that the schedule might have to be reviewed once the results from the various PIPES surveys start becoming available. He asked the provinces and territories to provide Statistics Canada with a calendar of deadlines by which their respective governments require data series essential for budgeting purposes.

b) Training on the System of National Accounts

Mr. Wells announced that Statistics Canada would be inviting staff of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies to participate in training sessions on the System of National Accounts' concepts and methods. Following consultations with the provinces and territories, a training session will be designed based on the feedback received.

c) Provincial GDP at market prices

The Ontario delegate suggested that the analytical portion of the provincial GDP releases should focus on the growth rate at market prices rather than at factor costs by industry. This would serve to avoid confusion when comparing with the national economic accounts, which focus on the market price GDP, and to be consistent with what seems to be the standard used by financial houses and forecasters. Mr. Wells indicated that Statistics Canada should be able to accommodate this request. Mr. Fellegi explained that the focus is currently on the factor costs since the income and expenditure accounts are much more national and macro-oriented in scope. He said that, in his opinion, the factor costs by industry series provides a more interesting picture since it is in these estimates that real provincial differences lie.

6. Report on the Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program

The Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics meeting having been conducted the day prior, Mr. Petrie limited his presentation to the following items:

a) 2001 Census

Mr. Petrie reminded the delegates that the National Census Test would be conducted in October prior to developing recommendations to Cabinet on the content of the 2001 Census questionnaire. He pointed out that the issues of ethnicity and same-sex couples need to be addressed, and that suggestions from the focal points were welcome. The delegate from Manitoba asked that special attention be paid to the consistency in the questions asked to ensure the comparability of the data over time.

The delegate from British Columbia asked why Statistics Canada was contemplating using dissemination units in the 2001 Census instead of the traditional enumeration units. He is concerned that this change in both number and size of the units used will greatly impact on the historical comparability of the data. He asked to receive information on the methodology to help him better understand the reasons for the change. Mr. Petrie reminded him that even if the traditional enumeration units were used, the comparability of the data would still be affected. He also explained that the main reason for the change was the move to the centralized edit methodology for the 2B questionnaire.

b) Coverage studies and population estimates

Mr. Petrie stated that the analysis of the results of the coverage studies should be completed by September 1998. By that date, the appropriate process to produce the estimates should also have been determined. He thanked the focal points for their contributions to the analysis process and stated that further discussions on the statistical processes and decision criteria used to determine the methodology would be initiated. It was agreed, following a suggestion made by the delegate for the Northwest Territories, that the final decision on methodology would be communicated to the focal points prior to the September release of the population estimates.

c) HRDC market basket measurement

The delegate from the Yukon Territory asked to receive a written clarification of Statistics Canada's involvement with the market basket measurement proposed by Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC) in order to dispel the impression that Statistics Canada is endorsing this HRDC approach to poverty measurement. Dr. Fellegi confirmed that Statistics Canada's involvement in HRDC's effort was strictly limited to supplying data or clarifications.

d) Composite estimators for the Labour Force Survey

In answering a question raised by Manitoba's delegate about the composite estimators for the Labour Force Survey, Mr. Petrie stated that only the timing of the implementation remains to be determined. The delegates agreed to a January 2000 implementation date that would coincide with the regular annual revisions and the introduction of revised weighting brought about by the revised population estimates. This would avoid two consecutive years of historical break in the time series.

7. Access to Statistics Canada data

The delegate from Nova Scotia proposed the creation of a task force that would review the issues of access to Statistics Canada data. In his presentation, Mr. Pilkey elaborated on the rationale for such a review and the issues that should be considered when formulating recommendations. Mr. Fellegi noted that it was unclear what the parameters of this review were and what the expected outcome would be. He emphasized that a review could not lead to the abandonment of Statistics Canada's cost-recovery policy, which is a federal government policy applied uniformly by Statistics Canada to federal and provincial governments alike as well as to the private sector. A round-table discussion then led to the conclusion that there were in fact insufficient issues to warrant such a review. Mr. Pilkey opted to withdraw the proposal and thanked the Council for having considered it.

8. PIPES Update

Following Mr. Philip Smith's update on PIPES, the delegate from Ontario asked if improved estimates will be provided for corporation profits based on enterprise data. Mr. Smith replied that the new Generalized Index of Financial Information (GIFI) from Revenue Canada, combined with data from the Unified Enterprise Survey, would generate a much more comprehensive measurement of corporate profits. The quarterly data will also be improved through the redesign of the Quarterly Survey of Financial Statistics once it is converted to the Business Register and brought under the NAICS classification. Statistics Canada is expecting to produce reliable provincial data from GIFI for the 1998 calendar year towards the end of 1999.

The delegate from Alberta asked if non-employer businesses had been added to the Business Register. Mr. Smith explained that this would be done in three stages and that by the fall of 1998, the Business Register should include a total of 2.1 million businesses.

9. Report on the Business and Trade Statistics Program

a) Data sharing agreements

Mr. Ryan recalled that, at the January 27 meeting of a sub-group of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Business Statistics, the need for changes to data sharing agreements as a result of the implementation of PIPES was discussed. Data sharing agreements for each of the provincial and territorial statistical agencies were prepared and distributed for review. These omnibus agreements were based on the one signed with British Columbia. This provides authority for the Chief Statistician and the heads of the provincial or territorial statistical agencies to modify the list of surveys in the appendices without additional Orders-in-Council and approval of the ministers or deputy ministers. The focal points were asked to review their respective agreements. Feedback is requested by the end of May.

b) Small Business Profiles

Mr. Ryan noted that Industry Canada would be funding the Small Business Profiles program, while the cost of the Employment Dynamics will be shared with provinces. At the end of May, a group from Industry Canada, Statistics Canada and provincial sponsors will meet to clarify the direction of the program and define its market. The focal points were invited to attend this meeting.

c) Monthly Survey of Manufacturers (MSM) redesign

Mr. Ryan pointed out that the MSM is under a major redesign that should be concluded by this fall. This redesign will generate new analytical tools for shipment, orders and inventories data that will allow for the multi-dimensional identification of the sources of monthly changes.

d) International Trade data

The delegate from Ontario asked if Statistics Canada could include monthly time series, seasonal adjustment and historical revisions in the International Trade data releases. To obtain this missing information in the past, he has had to purchase expensive special tabulations. Mr. Ryan stated that he would discuss this matter with the subject-matter division concerned.

10. Year 2000

Barbara Slater presented a progress report on the activities related to the Year 2000 preparedness plan for the Agency. She pointed out that the focal points could be instrumental in ensuring that there is awareness and readiness within their respective provincial and territorial government administrations. The focal points were encouraged to remind their respective governments of the importance of providing administrative data to Statistics Canada without interruption caused by Year 2000 problems to avoid affecting programs such as the calculation of transfer payments.

11. Nominations to the Program Committee

Mr. Ron McMahon was nominated to chair the 1999 Program Committee. Mr. Pilkey and Mr. Savard were nominated to be the other focal point members, with Mr. Desjardins remaining as ex officio member. The nominations were accepted.

12. Other business

None

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	John Palmer	Director Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division Department of the Provincial Treasury
Nova Scotia	Dennis Pilkey	Acting Director Statistics Division Department of Finance
New Brunswick	George Richardson	Director New Brunswick Statistics Agency Department of Finance
Quebec	Claude Dionne (for Guy Savard)	Director Sociodemographic Statistics Quebec Bureau of Statistics Department of Finance
Ontario	Emmet Weatherhead	Manager Current Analysis Unit Office of Economic Policy Ministry of Finance
Manitoba	Wilf Falk	Chief Statistician Manitoba Bureau of Statistics
Saskatchewan	Ron McMahon	Director Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics

Alberta	Bill Hyshka	Manager Statistics Alberta Treasury
British Columbia	Don McRae	Director BC STATS Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations
Northwest Territories	David Stewart	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	Ray Ryan	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	Philip Smith	Director General Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)
Statistics Canada	Wayne Smith	Director Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Lyne Bélanger	Head Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat Communications Division

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA

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

May 5 and 6, 1998
Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1998

- 9:00 a.m. **Opening remarks**
— Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Adoption of the agenda
 - Approval of the minutes of the 1997 meeting
- 9:15 a.m. **Statistics Canada report: Gaps II**
— Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- 10:00 a.m. **Provincial and territorial reports**
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **Provincial and territorial reports (continued)**
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 11:45 a.m. **Program Committee report**
— Emmet Weatherhead
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. **National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program**
— Stewart Wells
- Program update
- 2:30 p.m. **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program**
— Bruce Petrie
- Program update
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. **Access to Statistics Canada data**
— Dennis Pilkey
- Proposal to establish a task force

4:00 p.m. **PIPES update**
 — Philip Smith

5:00 p.m. **Reception**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1998

9:00 a.m. **Business and Trade Statistics Program**
 — Ray Ryan
 • Program update

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. **Year 2000**
 — Barbara Slater
 • Presentation on Statistics Canada's Y2K project

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

11:15 a.m. **Other business**

Concluding remarks

APPENDIX 3

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

ALBERTA

Overview

During 1997–98, Statistics, a group within Alberta Treasury, provided custom statistical services to public and private clients on a cost-recovery basis. Core activities undertaken for the Government of Alberta increased slightly to meet demands for a better means of accessing standard data. The main focus of these activities was providing custom analytical services and data development. As the central statistical group in the Alberta government, we provided departments with consultative and technical support to ensure a standardized approach to statistical analysis.

Administration and budget

During the 1997–98 operating period, Statistics maintained a core staff of seven, supplemented by contract personnel for special projects. Our budgetary expenditures remained stable, and about \$125,000 in revenue was realized from cost-recovery work.

Core services

The core services offered by Statistics were unchanged from the previous year:

- 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
- municipal census training

Projects and programs

The services we provided had the aim of developing and maintaining standardized statistical information for Alberta Treasury and provincial government clients, and minimizing needless overlap and duplication.

Provincial government information retrieval system

ASIST (Alberta Statistical Information SysTEm) is a centralized online database 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.

Publications

Statistics produced and distributed more paper copy products over the past year in response to user requests. However, we are trying to produce more of our information in electronic form in order to save money on distributing statistical information. In 1997-98 we produced the following publications:

- *Alberta Economic Multipliers*
- *Alberta Municipal Census Enumerators Manual*
- *Alberta Export Services Survey*
- *Alberta Economic Accounts*
- *Alberta Population Estimates and Projections*
- *Alberta Facts* (under development)
- *Alberta Statistical Review* (under development)

In order to streamline its operations and gain market efficiencies, Statistics has started to contract the design, printing and distribution of its publications to a secondary vendor. In addition to these functions, the vendor provides general marketing, promotion and subscription services.

Statistical database management

Several databases were managed to support various core departmental and custom contracted projects:

- Alberta Health Care Registration Statistics System
- Alberta Business Register
- Employment Insurance Statistics System
- Alberta Vital Statistics System

Survey operations

Statistics offered custom survey services, including general consultation, survey design, sample selection, implementation, project management and custom analyses, as well as full turnkey solutions to data collection initiatives. A major trade survey, the Alberta Export Services Survey, was completed during 1997-98.

Demographic program

Custom population estimates and projections are now part of the in-house core services we provide. Centralized demographic statistics give departments the uniform data needed to plan programs and policies that are consistent across departments. Projections and estimates are available for a variety of standard and user-specified custom geographies. Current standard output is at the census division and provincial levels of detail.

Data development and analyses

- Economic multipliers

We provide custom industry aggregations for specific client requirements, based on public use Alberta economic multipliers and intensity–supply ratios we have developed.

- Economic Impact Model

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

- Geographic Information Services

Statistics provides custom boundary digitizing and data geo-referencing services (using the SMARTS System) to clients on a cost-recovery basis. To help users conduct in-house analyses and research, Statistics markets a geographic information system translation product to clients on a subscription basis.

- International trade database

Statistics continued to process and distribute custom international trade information, acquired from Statistics Canada, to provincial government departments. These reports provide users with custom import and export data and analyses, generated on a monthly or quarterly basis.

- Alberta statistical focal point

In addition to the consultative role as the statistical focal point for liaison with Statistics Canada, Statistics co-ordinates the purchase and acquisition of data in order to reduce overlap and duplication between government departments.

Acknowledgement

Statistics would like to thank the many divisions of Statistics Canada that provided help in the past year.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Overview

Last year I reported that the 1997–98 year was expected to be a difficult one for the Agency. We were facing a 35% budget reduction as a result of a government-wide cut to policy and research functions. It appeared that the Agency was about to suffer a similar fate to that experienced by some of my colleagues around the table. The plan we put in place to meet our budget shortfall had three components. About one-third of the reduction was to be achieved through staff reductions, one-third through non-salary expenditure reductions, and the final one-third through an increase in cost-recovery revenues for products and services provided largely to government.

Now that the year is behind us, I am pleased to report that we achieved our budgetary targets, although in a different fashion. Rather than reducing our operations during 1997–98, we actually expanded, growing from 26.5 person-years (PYs) in 1996–97 to 28.7 PYs in 1997–98. Despite a 35% net reduction in our base funding, our gross expenditures only declined by 2%. This was achieved through a dramatic increase in the level of cost-recovery activity we undertook. During the year, our recoveries more than doubled; they now account for 42% of gross operating expenses, compared with just under 20% in 1996–97.

Our cost-recovery success hinged on one key client, a crown corporation with a large budget and a need for data-gathering and analytical services. However, we found significant, albeit smaller, sources of new revenue in several other areas during the year.

Another major thrust that has been developing within the Agency over the past few years and accelerated last year was the dissemination and marketing of our statistical services within government. A key component of this thrust was providing timely and relevant analysis of statistical events in an easily digestible format to the media and senior government executives. The media was singled out for special treatment along with the senior executives because we have found that the most effective way to raise the Agency's profile is to be seen as an information source by the media. As the media is also one of the primary sources of information for these senior government executives, we were also satisfying our objective of ensuring that this client group was kept abreast of key statistical findings. This "openness" to the media was a risky approach to follow given ministry communications departments' near-monopoly control of government information dissemination. However, under the circumstances, we had very little to lose.

For the most part, our efforts have paid off. Not only were we able to raise the necessary funds, we were also able to raise the Agency's profile. This appears to have been reaffirmed during the budget planning process for the current fiscal year. The current state of the provincial economy has made necessary another year of belt-tightening and cutbacks. As a result, Treasury Board issued budget reduction directives to many of the ministries across government, but rejected the BC STATS proposal for program cuts.

Hence, our initial 1998–99 budget was assessed at 100% of our 1997–98 level. However, a further round of budget cuts is expected as the provincial economy, and revenues, continue to deteriorate.

Despite our success of the last year and the partial reprieve for the coming year, we have little else to celebrate. Our current level of cost recovery is so high that it is not sustainable over the long term under current government administrative procedures. The dependence on outside funding for statistical activities has raised concern over the impact on base services and over the Agency's mandate to satisfy the government's corporate requirements for statistical information. Under the current 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 Agency's priorities away from the corporate needs of government toward the specific needs of government clients that are willing and able to pay for those services.

1997–98 Activities

Income Assistance/Employment Insurance data development project

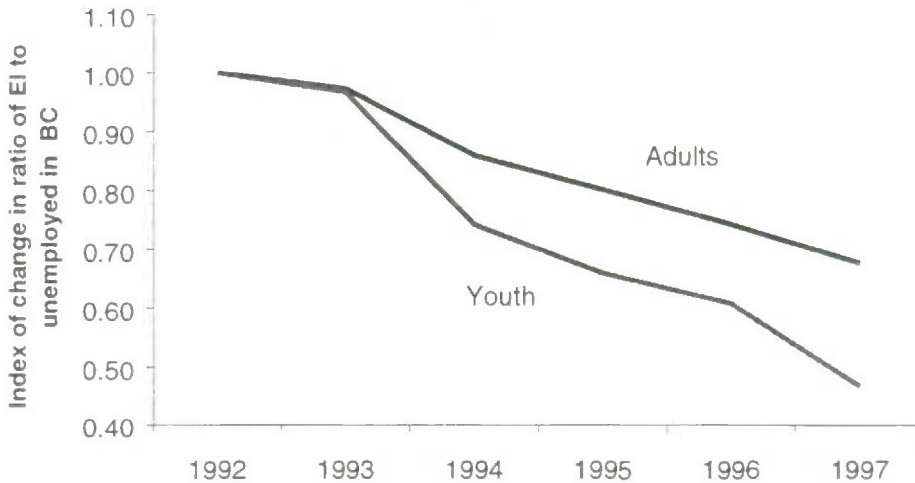
An important part of the labour and social statistics program at BC STATS is the production of data on Income Assistance and Employment Insurance recipients at various geographic levels within the province. The expanding provincial role in labour market policy has caused growing demand for this type of information.

The program was expanded this year to include counts of children on income assistance by school-age group, namely, pre-schoolers, elementary school- and high school-age children. The information was further analysed by the child's family type, such as single-parent or two-parent family. These data are compiled by school districts based on a postal code translation, and expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population age group in the area.

The information is of value to the provincial government and local school boards when determining the need for special programs geared to the economically disadvantaged, such as school lunch programs. Among school districts in the province, the percentage of elementary schoolchildren whose families receive Income Assistance varies from a low of 1.3% in West Vancouver to a high of 20.6% in Lake Cowichan, a small community just north of Victoria.

BC STATS has also been monitoring the effects of administrative and legislative changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program. In BC, as in the rest of Canada, there have been significant reductions in the number of persons qualifying for benefits. However, the impact of this reduction has not been shared equally across demographic groups. In general, youth have been most affected by the changes.

All Age Groups Have Seen Declines in the Number Who Qualify for EI Benefits, but Youth Have Been Most Affected



Sources: Statistics Canada Labour force Survey, Human Resources Development Canada

Furthermore, assurances from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) that the 1997 merger of the Unemployment Insurance and Training acts into the Employment Insurance Act would have no impact on the overall number of beneficiaries have not been borne out in British Columbia. The provincial Employment Insurance beneficiary-to-unemployment ratio was seven percentage points lower in 1997 than in 1996.

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 BC government employees are surveyed to determine if they are members of the designated groups. With the information collected, along with information obtained from government payroll files, 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 first two and a half years of the program showed that BC's public service had made only limited gains toward an equitable representation of the designated groups. This lack of significant progress can be attributed to recent downsizing on the part of the provincial government, as well as freezes on external hiring.

However, last year the Deputy Premier "reminded" deputy ministers of their responsibility to ensure that the public service reflects the diversity in the society being served, despite the continued limitations on government hiring. Since that time, the representation of visible minorities has increased from 5.6% to 5.9%, after having remained virtually unchanged in the previous two and a half years of the program.

Likewise, the representation of women in upper-level management increased from 22.5% to 25.1% in just 12 months.

Subprovincial poverty indicators for seniors

In recent years there has been growing interest in data on seniors' economic conditions at the community level. Policy issues affecting seniors will no doubt increase in importance with the ageing of the population, and it is likely that ability to pay will be a critical part of any policy decisions. An obvious example at the local government level would be seniors' housing policies.

Using HRDC's Old Age Security (OAS) administrative files, BC STATS is now producing statistics on the percentage of seniors receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by census division. The subprovincial groupings are based on the postal codes of OAS/GIS recipients. So far, we have compiled data from 1992 to 1997. These data are intended to supplement the poverty indicators that we have developed based on income assistance rates for the other population age groups.

The GIS rate for British Columbia seniors has decreased from 34% in 1992 to 32% today. One reason for the decline is obvious from the data. Young seniors, both men and women, are considerably better off financially than seniors over 80 years old are. As the less financially secure die and are replaced by the more financially secure cohorts, the hardship rate falls. The difference in the percentage of seniors who require income supplements is almost 20 points between the 65-to-69 age group and the 80-plus age group (24.8 and 44.4% respectively).

The differences in rates between census divisions within the province are also great. In many areas, more than 40% of seniors require income supplements; in the Victoria region, only 21% require such assistance.

Small area employment projection model

Last year I reported that we had begun a joint project with the BC regional office of HRDC and our Ministry of Education, Skills and Training to develop a projection model of subprovincial employment by industry and occupation. In the past few years, the lack of subprovincial information on future employment levels by industry has produced a "data gap" in our understanding of the regional implications of labour market shifts occurring at the provincial level. There was also a need to measure the regional employment dynamics of major construction projects and plant shutdowns, as well as the impact that these events will have on other industries in the region.

The model has now been completed. The results from an initial simulation on future regional employment patterns by industry and occupation have been published. The findings drew interest from many regional government planners. The simulation to the year 2005 showed that most of the job growth in British Columbia would be in the service and non-forestry related manufacturing sectors; the simulation predicted job

losses in the resource extraction industries and the forestry-related manufacturing sector. As a result, the regions of the province that are heavily resource dependent are projected to receive less employment, hence less population growth, than areas such as Greater Vancouver, where the service and non-forestry related manufacturing industries are more dominant.

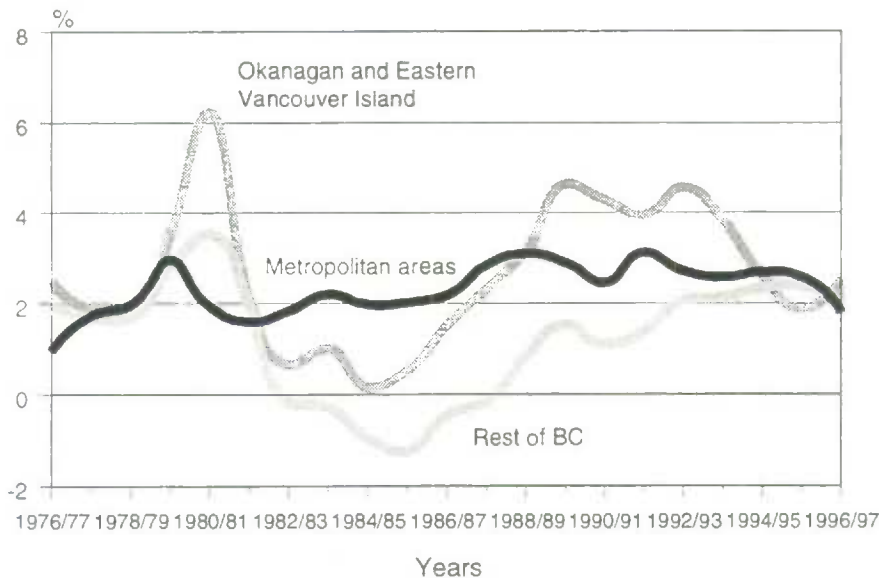
Over the next six months, we intend to update the existing model coefficients with the 1996 Census data on regional labour force by industry and income.

Regional population estimates and projections

One of BC STATS' core functions is our small-area population estimates and projections program. During the last year we prepared 1997 population estimates for British Columbia municipalities, school districts, regional districts, health areas, and RCMP detachments. They were used in various provincial-local government per-capita funding formulae, and as indicators of regional economic expansion. The estimates incorporated 1996 Census data with a preliminary adjustment for net census undercount, and also involved a major restructuring to a new health area geography.

The 1997 estimates indicated that population growth within the province continues to be relatively evenly distributed. Areas that have been the centres of high growth in the recent past, such as the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan and the eastern portion of Vancouver Island saw slower growth, while other, rural regions of the province saw stronger growth.

BC Population Change by Subregion



Source: BCSTATS

There has been a growing interest in our regional population and household projections, partly as a result of a new piece of 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 planning for housing, transportation and other infrastructure development is consistent with the projected population for their areas. We plan to extend this consultation to other regions of the province as local planning for population change develops further.

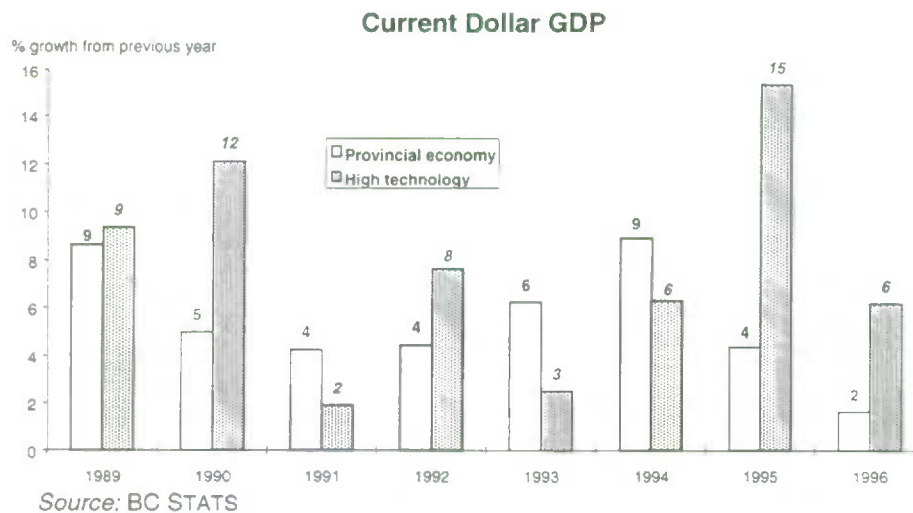
Immigration and migration analysis

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. Some recent articles that received considerable interest were:

- the outlook for immigration from Hong Kong to BC after the 1997 handover;
- changes proposed to the Investor Immigrant program;
- immigration to BC from APEC member countries;
- a comparison of the immigration characteristics of Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal;
- an outlook of the interprovincial and international migration prospects for BC in 1998; and
- a review of the effect of migration to BC on the demand for housing.

High technology statistics

Relatively secure funding is now in place for the annual publication *The British Columbia High Technology Sector*. The sponsor is the Information, Science and Technology Agency of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training, and Technology. The objective of the program is to maintain a stable definition of the high tech sector in British Columbia, and to build up a time series of output measures for this important sector of the economy. Variables covered include GDP (in current and constant dollars), revenue, employment, wages and salaries, number of firms, exports, and imports. The third edition, covering the data years 1988 to 1996, has just been produced.



Once again, 1996 GDP growth in BC's high tech sector surpassed that in the economy as a whole—6% compared with 2%. This has been the case for most of the years studied. However, high technology output is still only a small part of the overall provincial GDP, 2.3%.

A special study now under way is using the LEAP database to examine the demographics of high tech firms. A cohort of high tech company births is being followed over time to examine survival, by size and industry. A second initiative will look at occupations and wages in the high tech sector. It is expected to reveal a large proportion of low tech activities within the high tech umbrella.

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. Last year, BC STATS entered into a partnership with FRBC to survey the proponents of the various projects funded by the corporation to measure expenditures, physical outputs, and employment creation. This was the largest cost-recovery activity the Agency undertook. The project now involves about six staff members, and is expected to peak this year with a staff complement of 10.

Our estimate for job creation as a result of spending by FRBC in 1996–97 was 4,970 PYs. The cost per PY varied dramatically across the 55 or so programs that comprise FRBC operations. Producing these figures is an important building block in the Jobs and Timber Accord, a government strategy to create almost 38,000 direct and indirect new jobs in the BC forest sector by 2001.

Unfortunately, we expect our involvement in this project to wind down this year. As part of a reorganization of the crown corporation intended to shore up its regional presence, Forest Renewal BC will be relying more heavily on internal regional staff for data collection, despite the possible implications for efficiency and credibility.

Small business, tourism and culture statistics

As a result of last year's budget cuts, we witnessed the virtual abolishment of statistical activities within our Ministry of Small Business, Tourism, and Culture. However, there has been a recovery in recent months, with the result that we expect to see continued support for the Small Business Data Consortium, as well as funding for our *Small Business Quarterly* publication. In addition, our paper *Small Business Growth and Employment in British Columbia* will form part of a series produced in conjunction with Western Economic Diversification Canada. The next report expected to be released this year will be *A Profile of Small- and Medium-sized Exporters in British Columbia, 1990 to 1995*.

We are also producing a monthly compendium of small business, tourism, culture, and sports statistics. This 120-page monthly report of data, graphs, and analysis, is produced

exclusively for the Minister and Deputy Minister of our Small Business, Tourism and Culture ministry, and represents an important source of briefing material.

Current quarterly economic accounts

Last year BC STATS developed a set of preliminary 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 were based on a methodology developed to produce the quarterly data in our *British Columbia Economic Accounts* publication. While the estimates were of good quality, it was decided to mothball the program until a later date. The revisions, re-basing, and methodology changes to the national and annual provincial economic accounts will require some modifications to our systems; new current quarterly estimates will likely be produced before the end of the calendar year. Notwithstanding problems with the current estimates component, the BC STATS economic accounts program received strong support from Treasury Board in the most recent budget exercise. On this basis, it remains one of the Agency's core programs.

Data services

Over the past year we continued to maintain all our major statistical products. Some additional temporary staffing was provided during the year, but this was more than offset by the necessity to process and disseminate census data. A summary of section activities is provided below.

- Our *Infoline* fax broadcast continued to be popular, and has resulted in a stream of stories and citations featuring analysis prepared by the Agency. This is helping to give us additional exposure in government and to the public.
- Most of our regular monthly and quarterly statistical releases and *Infoline* were distributed one day in advance to key government officials (deputy ministers, heads of crown corporations and their communications directors), giving them time in which to develop a communications strategy, if necessary, before general dissemination.
- The first year I reported traffic on the BC STATS Internet site it stood at approximately 400 users per week, accessing an average of 8,000 pages. Last year I reported 1,400 users per week, accessing 25,000 pages. We continue to grow beyond our expectations; we now average 2,700 users a week accessing approximately 50,000 pages. 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 at no charge. A subscriber-only section provides access to our priced monthly and quarterly periodical releases. This section is free to provincial government users but priced to all others. Web publishing offers tremendous savings on distribution costs, and we are committed to sharing these savings with our clients.

- We are continually modifying our Internet site to improve its presentation, navigation and content. In progress is a makeover that will give clients better ways to locate the information they seek.
- Sales of both the book and the electronic version of the *BC Manufacturers' Directory* have fallen short of our targets. We are planning to attack this problem from both the cost and the demand side, and I hope to be able to report success on one or both of these fronts the next time we meet. We are now exploring partnerships to finance some of our production and printing costs. We also plan to introduce a much better advertising effort directed at our Internet clients.
- 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 more than 3,300 clients from both inside and outside government, generating more than \$126,000 in recoveries.
- Apart from our Web site, during the year we directly answered approximately 12,500 requests for statistical information; 36% originated from within the provincial government, 11% were from other levels of government and crown corporations, 25% were from the business community, 14% were from the public, 9% were from students and unknown origin, and 5% were from the media. The media number, although small, is more than double the 2% reported last year.

Plans for 1998–99

Despite the cost-recovery treadmill that we find ourselves on, we still plan to maintain a number of core statistical activities as well as introduce some new ones this year. Some of our key priorities for the coming year include:

- maintaining current quarterly estimates and analysis of provincial economic output;
- analysing and reporting monthly BC exports and imports by commodity and world area, used for trade policy formation and in determining provincial GDP;
- updating to 1997 estimates on the contributions made by the tourism and high technology industries to overall growth in the economy, as these non-standard industries are emerging as drivers of the economy, and require monitoring in order to ensure effective policy formation;
- identifying, collecting and analysing information pertaining to Forest Renewal BC-funded projects on a cost-recovery basis;
- continuing to assemble and publish information on the health of small business in the province, and co-ordinating data purchases with the federal government;

- identifying and reporting on emerging issues with respect to youth in the labour market in support of the Premier's Youth Initiative;
- reporting on income assistance 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;
- tracking provincial government hiring, separation and transfers, and preparing ministry- and division-specific workplace profile reports in support of the provincial government's employment equity program;
- preparing provincial and subprovincial population estimates and projections for planning purposes and for provincial-local government transfers;
- estimating the economic dependency on key industries in various communities throughout BC in order to assess local economic impacts of changes to timber harvest levels, and to help formulate regional economic development policies;
- preparing projections of subprovincial employment by industry and occupation, which are used to help understand and predict the regional implications associated with population and labour market shifts occurring at the provincial level;
- analysing and reporting quarterly interprovincial and international migration to BC, required to forecast population growth, income assistance caseloads and to formulate provincial immigration policy;
- continuing efforts to include "value added" analysis with all statistical releases and improve the content and presentation of some releases;
- expanding and redesigning the BC STATS web site to allow a geographic as well as a subject matter index to data and analysis;
- redeveloping and expanding our census extraction system to combine all census data holdings from 1981 to 1996 into one database, thereby providing more cost-effective access to the information;
- testing all BC STATS systems for Year 2000 compliance, and ensuring that modifications are made to any systems that are not compliant;
- continuing to centralize government purchases of data from Statistics Canada through BC STATS, thereby reducing the cost of data purchases by the government.

MANITOBA

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 11 years.

Budget

For 1998–99, the MBS net budget allocation has increased by 7%. An additional two staff years were approved, bringing the staff complement to 13 persons (11 regular and 2 contract). An additional staff year should be added effective October 1998.

The three new staff will work in the areas of demography, economic data, and information systems. MBS is required to generate 7.3% 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

MBS continues with its business plan as approved by Treasury Board. 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 are 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 prime funding for the organization will be for the provision of corporate services to the Manitoba Government, its departments and crown agencies. Cost-recovery activities will be concentrated in the area of custom service delivery to individual clients.

In order to strengthen the process of assessing system-wide statistical program priorities, an MBS Advisory Board will be instituted later this year. 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 departments.

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.
- Areas of interest include: population, Labour Force Survey, Aboriginal matters, public finances, low income cut-offs, economic activity, performance measures for the new economy, and global socio-economic trend determination.

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 ministers and directors.
- Bring to production MBS Online, our general desktop-accessible electronic information system for general provincial government usage. MBS Online is currently available for testing by more than 30 users.

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.
- An initial "core" Manitoba Policy Impact Simulation Model is expected to be operational by July 1998. The prime clients for this analytical model are central policy groups within government.

Improve operational efficiency by enhancing MBS internal system infrastructure.

- Create an integrated and comprehensive database for statistical data and document retrieval (e.g., Information Management Project).
- 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.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Statistics Agency monitors and reports on trends in the economy to the government, and prepares the five-year economic forecast, which is used for budget planning and revenue forecasting.

The Agency also conducted regular data dissemination activities last year, including responses to nearly 3,000 inquiries. Our annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy*, was released in February, and is available on the Internet for the fourth consecutive year. We produced several monthly and quarterly reports for government distribution on economic, demographic and social indicators. We also have expanded a weekly briefing document for senior officials, providing a capsule report of the latest statistical, economic and social indicators and a look at what numbers may be released in the following week.

Following a review of the operations and organization of the Taxation and Fiscal Policy Division of the Department of Finance, the amalgamation of the Fiscal Policy Branch and the New Brunswick Statistics Agency was announced in late July 1997. Since then, the two branches have made great strides towards a common operational focus. As we moved along in this process, it became evident that major changes were required to facilitate the amalgamation, clarify operational roles and responsibilities, and make the best use of the human resources available. The ultimate goal is to more closely tie information on socio-economic trends into public policies, decision-making and program delivery. The Director of the New Brunswick Statistics Agency serves as Assistant Director of the newly created Fiscal, Economic and Statistical Policy Branch.

Major efforts in 1996 were concentrated in promotion and dissemination of the 1996 Census results, in conjunction with Statistics Canada's Halifax Regional Office.

Demographic profiles were prepared for a variety of government regions and studies. A new set of population projections was prepared for use in the provincial economic forecast. The Agency delivered several presentations to senior officials of several departments on the demographic outlook to 2015.

A contract employee has been working on a project to measure the impact of the sales tax harmonization on the CPI. Initial results confirm Statistics Canada's earlier estimates. This person has also been helping staff upgrade our econometric and statistical knowledge and procedures.

The Agency has been heavily involved in the impact analysis of the changes to the tax system in New Brunswick. The Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (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. The model was also used in developing guidelines for several specifically targeted government programs.

Concerns

We still have concerns over fluctuations in monthly data series, especially the Labour Force Survey and retail trade. While the improvements implemented over the last year have improved quality in most provinces, our series still contain large fluctuations. Any work Statistics Canada may do on this would be of great interest to us.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Business plan

The government has recently conducted an across-the-board program review. One outcome has been business plans for each department. These plans precede performance measures, which are to be established soon.

The Newfoundland Statistics Agency (NSA) plan outlines where we have been heading over the past three years, and what we will be doing over the next three. One positive aspect of the plan is that it lays the groundwork to develop a training program for departments that Treasury Board will fund. NSA will develop a training program for all staff during April and May 1998, and will request funds to begin initiatives right away.

Branch manual

Another product of program review has been the in-house development and production of a Programs and Services User Guide on the Economics and Statistics Branch. (The NSA is a division of the Economics and Statistics Branch of the Ministry of Finance.) The manual outlines the branch's structure, and explains what each division in the branch does and how to access various types of information and services each division provides. There is a longer, more detailed document and a shorter version that provides only the essentials. We have begun to use the guides already and believe they will have many uses in the future.

Branch database

A new central database of statistical information has been under construction for well over a year. While there have been many delays due to shifting priorities and workloads, work is proceeding well, and testing should begin by early May. When fully operational, the system will provide data to the branch to be used in the province's econometric model, and to fill requests from walk-in clients. The system contains many automated features; for one, it will automatically download hundreds of CANSIM series from CGI/IST. The system will also house data sets developed in-house. Summary information from the database will be integrated with a Web site in the future. It is anticipated that work on the Web site will commence by this summer.

Statistics Canada liaison

NSA has implemented an initiative to ensure that staff are adequately aware of Statistics Canada (STC) activities and events. Gwen Murphy has taken on this role, and has made considerable progress in organizing and starting up the effort. A formal mechanism has been put in place to inform all staff of the outcomes of meetings at STC, to identify current and emerging issues emanating from STC and to ensure that all the information staff require regarding meetings and topics are ready and available when needed. Staff

will also be kept up to date on meetings and seminars taking place at STC, and a schedule of those who will attend those meetings and seminars will be kept current. Gwen will also make sure that information held by STC regarding NSA is current and accurate. It is believed that this initiative will keep staff better informed of STC issues and also ensure that both STC and NSA received good value for the efforts and funds both governments dedicate to maintaining links between agencies.

The Association of Atlantic Provinces Statistics Agencies

NSA helped establish, and is a member of, the Association of Atlantic Provinces Statistics Agencies (AAPSA). The association has been formed by the collaboration of the focal points from each of the Atlantic provinces. The association's general purpose is to build better lines of communication between the eastern statistics agencies and to provide a vehicle for furthering the interests of the Atlantic province agencies. Meetings will be held twice yearly, and activities are being planned for the current and next fiscal year. A memorandum of understanding is being drafted, which outlines the objectives and points of agreement that underlie the collaborative effort.

Permanent voters list

The Clerk of the Executive Council requested that the NSA work with the Chief Electoral Officer to develop a permanent voters list for the province. We have agreed to participate in this project and our approach is to create the provincial list by adding to and extending as necessary the information developed for the federal government's voters list. Meetings were held with federal authorities, and it appears that such a collaborative effort will be feasible. The federal government will gain from feedback from the province and fine-tuning provided by NSA. Using the federal information would save a great deal of money and significantly shorten the time required to create the provincial list.

Social assistance reform

Between July and December 1997, NSA built a model of the current social assistance program. It was constructed at the request of the Department of Human Resources and Employment (HRE) to assist officials who were responsible for reforming the present program. In January 1998, HRE requested that NSA carry out additional work to assist more closely in developing new program parameters. This project continues, and is scheduled to be substantially completed by June 1998. The Social Assistance Model that was built has been used to assess the number of winners and losers associated with changes in the program, assess the potential costs of changes and analyse the regional impacts. The work has been carried out by NSA staff and Dr. Michael Denny of the University of Toronto, who has extensive experience working in this subject area.

Upgrade of the Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS)

The REDIS GIS system, which was developed by NSA and partners, has now been in use for about one year. The system is a collection of census and other data at the census

subdivision and community level. It has been very well received by users; NSA, other departments and economic zone officials are using the system, and are very pleased with what it can do and the information it provides. Non-government usage has, as anticipated, been much more limited due primarily to lack of the skills needed to use the system effectively. Nonetheless, we believe that over time use by both types of clients will increase. We also believe that the system is an important tool to assist economic developers. Based on these factors, plans are now being made to upgrade the system for a new release during the fall of 1998. Considerable work has been carried out on new base maps, and a new licence agreement for data will soon be discussed with STC.

TAGS report, analysis and support to responsible ministerial committee

The ending of The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS) program is an important issue in Newfoundland and for government. NSA has played a major support role to the ministerial committee responsible for dealing with the TAGS issue. In August 1997, a report entitled *The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy: An Analysis of the Program on a Regional Basis* was released. The report was a collaborative effort of the local office of the Department of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the federal and provincial departments of fisheries and NSA. NSA wrote and published the report with contributions of information, data and funds from the partners. The document became the "bible" for TAGS information for both levels of government. It saved a great deal of time that would have otherwise been spent responding to ad hoc requests.

We have also built a capacity to do simulations of TAGS families in Statistics Canada's Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M). It has been a great asset to provincial ministers and senior officials in discussions with the federal government. Current databases concerning TAGS clients and their use of the program and incomes are also held and kept current at NSA. Most requests can be provided on demand as needed.

Demographic study

At the request of the Premier, the branch is carrying out a major study on the demographic situation in the province. In recent years population loss has been very large, and the implications for the province are expected to be far-reaching. The project is spearheaded by Beverley Carter, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the branch. NSA is helping manage the project and is heavily involved in technical work on the study. One key product from NSA will be a database of population by single years of age and sex, births by sex and deaths by age by census subdivision, economic zone, and hospital and school board region. The database will provide this information for the period 1986 to 1997. Parts of the project are also contracted out. Dr. Byron Spencer and Frank Denton are adapting models built for HRDC to the Newfoundland situation; Dr. Dane Rowlands of Carleton University is studying the impacts of population loss on communities and Dr. Stanley Winer is reviewing data and models which may be of use to the project. Dr. Doug May of Memorial University is the senior technical advisor for the project. This study is expected to continue for another year.

Community Income Accounts

In response to many requests for better quality and consistent regional data, NSA has completed the development of its Community Income Accounts. This project has run for about two years. The research and development was carried out, and a report written, by Dr. Doug May of Memorial University and Terry Quinlan of NSA. The accounts are based on tax filer data from Statistics Canada's Small Area and Administrative Data Division, and provide a wide range of information and indicators for provincial economic zones and school and health board regions. The lowest level of geography is the census-consolidated subdivision, based on postal code conversions. Following Statistics Canada's review of the report and methodology, we plan to provide the information to clients. The AAPSA is also considering applying the accounts to other provinces and developing the data for Atlantic Canada as a whole.

Provincial government employment database

NSA is part of a new task force on government employment and human resource data. The task force will review both deficiencies in the data and how they are provided, and then recommend ways the data can be made more accessible at an affordable cost. Recommendations will most likely be broadly based and relate to the entire provincial government and its agencies. One outcome of this work will be a NSA database that will be available to all parts of government.

Surveys of regional migration patterns

Research continues on migration patterns to, from and within the province. Activities began two years ago; information is being collected via the medical and school systems. Data are now being examined for their quality, and it is hoped that the information will be made available for selected purposes this fall.

Miscellaneous initiatives

Other major tasks undertaken this past year are:

- a project group to review the non-permanent resident component of the population estimates; and
- an analysis of impacts of population adjustments emanating from the census.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Overview

The NWT Bureau of Statistics is the central statistics agency for the Government of the Northwest Territories and is comprised of 6 permanent positions and 4 term positions. The Bureau is located in the Department of Finance.

The Bureau of Statistics has five major functions:

- develop, analyze and interpret economic, social and demographic statistics required for territorial government purposes;
- 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;
- provide statistical advice and assistance to departments, regional offices and central agencies with the analysis of statistical information and to complete statistical surveys;
- 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
- provide a limited statistical service to the general public, to the private sector and to other governments.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics' budget has increased by 55% for the 1998–99 fiscal year as funding has been provided to complete a community labour force survey. This survey has been completed in the past during 1994, 1989, and 1984.

During the past year, considerable effort has been put into planning for the creation of two new northern territories, Nunavut and the Western NWT. Current planning for Nunavut includes the creation of a Nunavut Bureau of Statistics that will be located in the Executive Council and will have 5 permanent positions.

Although Nunavut comes into legal existence on April 1, 1999, deputy ministers are already in place with additional staff being hired in the coming months in order to have an operational government by the time the new territory is created. The current plan is for a Territorial Statistician to be recruited and in place by September, although this may be delayed.

No changes in the organizational placement of the Bureau of Statistics in the Western NWT are currently planned. However, the Western NWT Bureau of Statistics expects to lose one permanent position at the time of division.

Data development and dissemination

Although the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Bureau of Statistics are in transition as we approach division, there were a number of significant data development and dissemination initiatives completed by the Bureau of Statistics during the past year.

First, the dissemination of the results of the 1996 census has been a focus. The Bureau of Statistics produces summaries of the census releases highlighting results for the Northwest Territories. More focus has been placed on the analysis of the results, in particular comparing 1996 results with previous census results.

The Bureau of Statistics has also continued to prepare and publish regular Bureau statistical publications such as the *Statistics Quarterly* and the 1996 version of *Northwest Territories ... by the numbers*. Additional statistical reports have been prepared on the NWT Economic Accounts, Inter-provincial and International Trade, the 1996 NWT Business Survey, and a detailed set of results for the 1996 NWT Alcohol & Drug Survey.

As part of its on-going commitment to the completion of the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) and the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSC/Y), the Bureau of Statistics completed the data processing for Cycle 2 of the survey. Planning for Cycle 3 of the survey is now well advanced with field operations planned for the fall of 1998. This project is completed jointly with Statistics Canada and the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

The Bureau of Statistics completed a food price survey late in 1997 on behalf of our Income Support Division. This survey produces spatial price indexes for all NWT communities and includes approximately 150 food items.

A major accomplishment during the past year has been the completion of a project to significantly improve access to territorial statistics in an electronic format. The Bureau's strategy on electronic dissemination has been to make available as much data as possible to the public via our Web site and then have additional data accessible only to government employees via T-stat our on-line data retrieval system. These restrictions are necessary due to the cost-recovery policy of Statistics Canada.

For the web site, data is made available for viewing using HTML tables, for printing using PDF files, and for further manipulation using Excel files. The web site continues to change as the Bureau of Statistics receives input from users to ensure ease of use for both frequent and occasional users of statistical information.

T-stat, the territorial government's on-line statistical data retrieval system, has been moved from mainframe computer to micro-computer and is now accessible via the Bureau of Statistics web site. This system is only available to territorial government employees and has three major components. First, the time series retrieval system contains approximately 3,500 series and focuses on NWT data. This system is similar to Statistics Canada's CANSIM. The system allows users to view data in HTML tables or download data directly into Excel for further manipulation.

The second component of T-stat is the census tables. Basic summary tabulations for NWT communities are available for the 1996 and 1991 census. These tables allow users to quickly access information for any NWT community for any of the basic summary tabulations and compare those results with previous censuses. Currently, all of the basic summary tabulations from the 1996 census are available along with 29 tabulations from the 1991 census. Methods of providing 1986 census results are also being explored.

The final component of T-stat is community profiles. It is expected that three types of profiles will be available in the component. First, general community profiles providing a range of statistics from population and demographic characteristics, education levels, labour force activity, income levels and prices are available. The profiles are intended to provide a two-page overview of each community. The second type includes profiles of labour force activity produced from the 1994 NWT labour force survey. These profiles provide a range of community statistics including employment rates by various characteristics; education levels; and involvement in the wage economy, trapping, hunting and fishing, and arts & crafts during the previous year. The third type of profiles that has yet to be added will be based on the census profiles. These profiles will provide a more detailed examination of census profiles including comparisons with previous census results.

Assistance to territorial government departments

A significant amount of the Bureau of Statistics resources are committed to helping territorial government departments with the statistical aspects of their work. As part of the effort to improve awareness of available statistical information, the Bureau of Statistics has become active in visiting senior management within each department to provide updates on Bureau products and services. In addition, presentations are frequently made to departmental staff on key findings from statistical activities such as our business survey and the NWT Alcohol & Drug Survey.

In addition to better promoting the Bureau of Statistics, two other developments within the Government of the Northwest Territories have impacted the Bureau of Statistics. First, for the first time the Bureau of Statistics was asked to play an active role in developing socio-economic scans for use as the initial phase of the government-wide business planning. Secondly, the government has created a division to research cross-departmental policy issues. This division expects to be a major client of the Bureau of Statistics and make extensive use of our statistical information including micro-data files from statistical surveys. An on-going relationship between the division and the Bureau of Statistics is currently being negotiated.

Finally, as in the past, the Bureau of Statistics continues to provide advice and assistance to government departments on specific statistical aspects of their work. The most significant of these projects continues to be the on-going pay equity dispute involving our government. Although a negotiated settlement is being sought, it is possible that this complaint will end up before a tribunal similar to the complaint against the federal government. To date, the Bureau of Statistics has provided support on the statistical aspects of determining wage lines and calculating the value of the wage gap between male and female dominated positions.

Work with Statistics Canada

During the past year, the NWT Bureau of Statistics has continued to provide input to a wide variety of Statistics Canada programs, including participation in federal-provincial committee meetings on statistics. Working with Statistics Canada on improving the scope and quality of statistical information for the Northwest Territories is an important part of the Bureau of Statistics mandate.

A major element of the work completed with Statistics Canada during the past year was data processing of Cycle 2 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and the National Population Health Survey and initial planning for Cycle 3. Operations for these two surveys are integrated into one collection for the Northwest Territories and Yukon. Departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories continue to be concerned with the timeliness of the data releases from these two surveys for the NWT. In fact the NLSC have not 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. It is hoped that there will be continued improvements in the timing of the release of the data for Cycle 2 and for future cycles.

Other work with Statistics Canada of note includes attempting to incorporate economic activity related to diamond production into the statistical system, work on the coverage studies that followed the 1996 Census, and dissemination of results from the 1996 Census.

Creation of two new territories

As noted earlier, a major amount of resources by the Government of the Northwest Territories has been put into planning for the creation of the two new northern territories, Nunavut and the Western NWT, on April 1, 1999.

On the statistical front, there have been three major priorities:

- re-packaging statistical information that is currently available for Nunavut and the Western NWT and making it widely available;
- answering requests for statistical information and analysis that are needed immediately for planning the creation of the new territory;
- working with Statistics Canada to ensure that the range and quality of statistical information available for each of the two new territories is similar as to what is available for any province or territory.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics has attempted to work with Statistics Canada to address the third priority since approximately 1993. In the past year or so, there have been two working groups involving Statistics Canada and the NWT Bureau of Statistics to oversee the preparation of separate statistics for Nunavut and the Western NWT.

There have been two particularly noteworthy events in the project to develop statistics for Nunavut and the Western NWT. First, a colloquium was held in the fall of 1997 with representatives from a wide variety of Statistics Canada's subject areas to determine their capability to produce separate estimates for the two new territories as well as to identify any potential problem areas. Secondly, a workshop was recently held in Nunavut to discuss requirements for statistics within the new territory. Statistics Canada had representatives at this workshop.

A major concern that has emerged from the work on producing separate statistics for Nunavut and the Western NWT, is what appears to be a de facto policy of Statistics Canada where separate statistics will only be produced for the two new territories where there is little or no cost involved. If this is Statistics Canada's policy, this is not acceptable. The people of Nunavut and the Western NWT expect the same scope and quality of statistical information that Statistics Canada produces for other provinces and territories.

It is hoped that clarification of Statistics Canada's policy on producing data for provinces and territories can be provided and that specific timetables can be immediately developed on the production of all statistical series for Nunavut and the Western NWT.

NOVA SCOTIA

The year 1997–98 has been one of change and rebuilding for the Statistics Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Finance (the division is the Nova Scotia Statistics Agency as described in the Nova Scotia Statistics Act). This report highlights many of the changes that have taken place over the past year, and outlines directions and priorities for the coming year.

Staff

With the retirement of the former Director of Statistics under the early-retirement program, the position of director was eliminated. An acting director, with a two-year appointment, has been seconded from the Department of Education and Culture with a mandate to review and strengthen the operation of the Statistics Division. As well, in the fall of 1997 a permanent full-time professional position was added to the staff complement. The new position has an economics focus—our intent is to concentrate the efforts of the incumbent on the impact of Statistics Canada's PIPES initiative. This staff addition complements the other three professional positions and a secretary. In addition, casual support staff was hired as required throughout the year. An MPA co-op internship student has been hired for the summer of 1998, who will focus on the coverage studies and upcoming adjustments to the population estimates based on the 1996 Census.

Clients, services and products

A comprehensive review of the division's clients, services, and products is under way. Improvements are being implemented continually. The division is reducing its services outside the provincial government, and plans to deliver the majority of its services by electronic means, mainly to internal government clients. As shown in the next section, the division is acquiring the hardware and software technology needed for this method of service delivery.

A review of publications has resulted in several changes. The *Nova Scotia Manufacturers Guide* is being developed through a partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The major thrust of this partnership has been to improve the content of the guide as an economic development tool, and to earn realistic revenues to cover the production costs. Some publications have been expanded in scope, such as the *Nova Scotia Statistical Review*. Other publications, such as regional profiles, fact books and monthly statistics have been discontinued. Other publications may be discontinued as electronic dissemination capability improves; their contents may be distributed online instead.

Technology

Within the past year, all technology equipment including computers, printers, and copiers as well as associated software have been upgraded to current standards. All staff now

uses Windows 95 on Pentiums with both Microsoft Office 97 and Corel Office 8 software. Although not yet implemented, the division has recently acquired web development and management software. In addition, the division is in early stages of working with geographic information systems and is exploring the use of SPSS in the development and dissemination of its services. The division will soon have the services of a secure CD-ROM tower, which will allow easier access to data received in this format.

Technology improvements in the division are taking place as part of major computer infrastructure upgrades within the Department of Finance. The division is dependent on the completion of these infrastructure arrangements, and so its own upgrading has been slowed.

Partnerships

In addition to working with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism on the *Nova Scotia Manufacturers Guide*, the Statistics Division recognizes the value of working closely with colleagues in other departments, provinces, and agencies. A series of meetings has been held with various departments to determine their needs and to explore opportunities for improved service delivery. The division also participates in interdepartmental initiatives, such as defining labour market information requirements and the economic impact of cultural statistics.

In addition, the Nova Scotia Statistics Division took the initiative in hosting the inaugural session of the Association of Atlantic Provinces Statistics Agencies. This first meeting was held in February 1998 in Halifax. Since that time there have been exchanges of information, and a teleconference. As well, a second meeting has been planned for Charlottetown at the end of July 1998. The Statistics Division has also arranged several meetings with the local Statistics Canada Regional Office. Staff of the two offices also had an extended session where information about each of the operations was exchanged. The Atlantic Regional Office and the Nova Scotia Statistics Division have together carried out several cross-department consultations.

Government-wide initiatives

The Statistics Division is participating in a number of government wide initiatives as follows:

GeoNOVA (Nova Scotia Geographic Information)

GeoNOVA is the name given to the province's geographic information initiative. GeoNOVA provides for a "corporate" approach to creating, managing and disseminating geographic information within the province. This initiative recognizes the mandates of each provincial department and agency to carry out its individual mandate, but requires that these efforts be directed towards creation of a corporate resource—geographic data and information collected, maintained and disseminated to mutually accepted standards

and shared with government users to support decision making and to reduce or entirely eliminate duplication of effort. The Statistics Division has been asked to determine how to make Statistics Canada and census data available through this project.

Outcome measures

This is a provincial government initiative being led by the Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning. It was set up to link government goals to departmental goals with an explicit results-oriented perspective. A commitment was made to do a better job by setting goals and measuring them. All government departments participated in developing these measures; business, academia, and interested Nova Scotians also provided input.

In addition to government-level goals, each department has developed its own set of measures that reflect specific activities and departmental goals. This new use outcome measures as a part of the integrated accountability system is raising the profile and use of statistical information to support program management and review, policy development and financial allocations. The Statistics Division provides support to several departments for developing and providing statistics for this initiative. The division has also taken a leadership and resource role in developing some aspects of the outcome measures framework and process.

The Statistics Division has also been asked to represent the Government of Nova Scotia on the federal Treasury Board's External Advisory Panel for the Accounting for Results report to the Federal Cabinet. In addition, the division also expects to participate in developing the genuine progress indicator (GPI) being carried out by GPI Atlantic. The work of GPI Atlantic has contributed to Nova Scotia being a pilot for Statistics Canada's work on a GPI.

Information Policy Initiative (IPI)

This initiative, led by the Technology and Science Secretariat, is reviewing and developing policies on access to information. The IPI envisions the creation of an open system of shared communication that will provide information to the general public, the private sector, and government departments. The goals of IPI are to:

- improve government service delivery;
- improve and increase the access to government-held information;
- control costs and promote economic opportunities;
- ensure the protection of privacy and security of information;
- standardize the management of government-held information; and,
- preserve vital and archival information.

The IPI is now developing guidelines for the distribution of government-owned information. The Statistics Division is the legislated agency for the province to advise departments on and assist with statistical matters, projects and programs. The division

will be involved in this initiative, to ensure that it is still able to meet its mandated functions.

Atlantic Canada On-line (ACOL)

ACOL is an online information service that provides electronic access to government information maintained by the four provincial governments of Atlantic Canada. It offers a convenient single point of access to public information from remote personal computers. The Statistics Division represents the Department of Finance on this initiative.

Key issues

There have been several issues related to specific statistical programs that have been receiving priority within the division.

Population estimates

Over the past year, the division has reviewed various aspects of the population estimates that have a significant financial impact on fiscal transfers to the province. A paper was prepared and circulated to focal points and Statistics Canada demonstrating that Nova Scotia has the largest net inflow of university students of any province in Canada, but that these students are not included in Nova Scotia population estimates. Other provinces generally conceded that Nova Scotia made a legitimate case, and that the issue deserved further study. However, there was no agreement on how to resolve the issue in the short term. The major difficulty is that census and population estimates measure population on a de jure basis, but a fiscal transfer program funds on a de facto basis. Nova Scotia has requested that the 2001 Census and the reverse record check for the 2001 Census be expanded to include information on the mobility of university students.

Like many other provinces, Nova Scotia participated in workshops on non-permanent residents. Nova Scotia agrees that the new methodology for non-permanent residents that was implemented in January 1998 is an improvement over the old methodology. However, Nova Scotia disagrees with the actual method of implementation, which assumes that changes in estimates of non-permanent residents represent a change in classification and not an actual change in population count. A series of papers and letters on this issue have been exchanged with Statistics Canada, who has agreed that Nova Scotia's case warrants further study. It is hoped that the issues raised will be dealt with at the coverage study workshops scheduled for April 20 and 21, 1998.

Historically, Nova Scotia has had its population estimates adjusted downwards with each new census. These major adjustments with each census, combined with the continuous improvement philosophy for population estimates, has made financial planning for Nova Scotia extremely difficult. As a result, the Statistics Division is assigning more resources to the review of the population estimates and developing a better understanding of the various coverage studies and their application to Nova Scotia.

PIPES

Statistics Canada's Project for the Improvement of Provincial Economic Statistics has direct applicability to Nova Scotia because of the impact of the Harmonized Sales Tax and subsequent allocation of revenues to the three participating provinces. The division has increased staff with the intent of assigning some of these resources to monitoring the PIPES program. The program will have a direct impact on the allocation of revenues and, therefore, will be monitored with this in mind. In addition, the program also has the potential to provide a much better source of economic statistics at the provincial level. The division intends to find more resources for this initiative so that the province can realize full benefits of the expanded program.

Labour Force Survey

The division has been asked by other departments and agencies in Nova Scotia to become more involved in understanding the Labour Force Survey because of what appeared to be inexplicable changes in parts of the province. The division recognizes that both the strengths and weaknesses of the survey need to be better understood, and that the information is best used in conjunction with other related information. As a result, the division is preparing a proposal for Statistics Canada's consideration that would examine how this information can best be used from a policy perspective.

Data access

Nova Scotia purchases relatively little data from Statistics Canada, and the data that it receives for free is, for the most part, simply filed. The need for easier access to a wider range of data in all areas involving program planning and policy development is well recognized. Nova Scotia would like to discuss with Statistics Canada and other provinces the range of data that could be made available to the provinces, under what conditions it could be disseminated, and the best way to disseminate it within the provincial government. Nova Scotia believes that a proper approach to this could strengthen provincial focal point offices through improved partnership arrangements with Statistics Canada. However, there are many policy issues and practical issues to be dealt with in trying to improve access to data.

1998-99

For 1998-99, the Nova Scotia Statistics Division has set the following plans for improvement:

- a more focused approach to understanding and meeting client needs, i.e., better service to provincial government departments and agencies;
- better use of technology to disseminate statistical information to clients, with emphasis on easier access to relevant data, i.e., use of the Internet and Intranet as major service delivery tools;

- working with our department's Fiscal Policy Division, take a more proactive role in assessing Statistics Canada's data, especially where they impact on funding and economic analysis; and
- increased partnership roles with user departments, Statistics Canada, and other regional statistical offices to make services more relevant and deliver them in a more cost-effective manner.

ONTARIO

Overview

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

The unit's major function is to analyse and report on the current state of the Ontario economy by producing the *Ontario Economic Accounts* and other key bulletins. It also reports on emerging economic trends and issues. The Current Analysis Group also provides economic and statistical support to the Minister of Finance, Cabinet, other divisions of the Ministry of Finance and other government ministries. Economic and revenue forecasting functions are carried out by other units within the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch.

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

Major reports

The unit produces several bulletins, which are released throughout the government. The quarterly Ontario Economic Accounts is also distributed outside the government to libraries and economic research institutions. It is also available on the Internet.

Government-wide circulation

- *Ontario Key Economic Indicators*: This weekly bulletin covers major economic news released the previous week, plus monthly and quarterly tables.
- *Ontario Labour Markets*: This publication consists of monthly reports on Ontario labour market conditions.
- *Consumer Prices*: This monthly report tracks consumer price movements in Ontario, Canada and the United States.
- *Canadian Economic Conditions*: This quarterly bulletin tracks Canada's GDP.

Ministry-wide circulation

- *Ontario International Trade Update*: This monthly report follows Ontario and Canadian trade trends.
- *Ontario Auto Production*: This monthly report tracks production, sales and other activity in the auto sector.

- *Housing Markets*: This monthly report follows housing conditions in Ontario.
- Various fact sheets: The unit also circulates monthly fact sheets on related Ontario economic data, including bankruptcies, wage settlements, financial statistics, retail and wholesale trade, manufacturing shipments and building permits.

External Circulation

- *Ontario Economic Accounts*: This quarterly publication reports on Ontario's nominal and real GDP, by major income and expenditure components, as well as estimates of Ontario's real GDP at factor cost by major industry.

Electronic services

Economic Monitoring Overview

This report is a daily electronic update and synopsis of major economic releases to senior government staff.

Internet Releases

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

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 helps co-ordinate ministerial data acquisitions from Statistics Canada and other data sources. It also assists and advises ministries with locating and accessing economic and statistical data.

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

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

From November 1995 to February 1998, the province's statistical functions, formerly carried out by the Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division, were housed in the Fiscal Management Division of the Department of the Provincial Treasury. During that period, John Palmer, the long-time Statistical Focal Point, was on a leave of absence to serve as Chief Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Finance in the Government of the Bahamas.

During his absence the unit lost the services of its one statistical assistant; consequently the quarterly statistical reports and other statistical publications were not produced. However, efforts are now under way to produce the *1997 Annual Statistical Review*.

In March 1998, the Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division was re-established in the Department of the Provincial Treasury, and Mr. Palmer was reappointed as its Director.

The Division continues to field statistical questions from the line departments and the public. As well, the Director is working closely with the Employment Insurance Enhanced Research Project. A joint project of Human Resources Development Canada, the University of Prince Edward Island and the provincial government, it analyses the impact of EI reform on PEI's small communities and the families in them.

The provincial government continues to rely heavily on the data produced by Statistics Canada.

In 1998, the Director has a mandate to rebuild the Division's economic and statistical functions.

QUEBEC

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN 1997-98

New publications

In addition to its some 20 regular publications that it continued to produce, the Bureau de la statistique de Québec (BSQ) issued a number of new publications in 1997-98.

Socio-economic statistics

In July 1997, the BSQ released a report called *D'une génération à l'autre : évolution des conditions de vie—Volume 1* [From one generation to the next: changes in socio-economic conditions]. The report is an integrated statistical study of Quebecers' socio-economic life and focuses on generational characteristics. The first volume of the study covers age distributions, the family, education, occupations, income and social mobility. The second volume examines demographic phenomena (mortality, fertility and migration), certain causes of death, the workforce, consumption patterns and educational mobility. This second volume is nearing completion and will be published in the summer of 1998.

Statistics on computer use

Last year, the BSQ conducted a survey of computer use in Quebec households. As a follow-up to the survey, it published a report jointly with the Centre francophone de recherche en informatisation des organisations (CEFRIO [Francophone centre for research on computerization in organizations]) called *Informatisation des ménages québécois et accès à l'autoroute de l'information* [Computerization and access to the information highway in Quebec households].

In October 1997, following a survey of the electronic services and multimedia industry in Quebec, the BSQ published the report called *Enquête sur l'industrie québécoise des services électroniques et du multimédia : analyse descriptive* [Survey of the informatics and multimedia industry in Quebec: a descriptive analysis]. This publication paints a portrait of Quebec companies that are involved in communications, informatics and content (off-line multimedia publishing, Internet services and other online services, specialized applications and software development, programming, digitization, etc.).

Regional statistics

At the beginning of May 1998, the BSQ will publish the first 18 reports in its series *Recensement de la population —1996, 1991, 1986 — données comparatives et faits saillants* [Census of Population —1996, 1991 and 1986 — comparative data and highlights]. The series will comprise a total of 90 regional statistical reports on five themes: 1) Population and housing; 2) Age, sex, marital status and families; 3)

Immigration, language and ethnic origin; 4) Work, education and mobility; 5) Family and household income, and household and housing characteristics. Produced for each of 17 administrative regions, the reports will contain descriptive analyses, tables containing detailed comparative data from the three last censuses, as well as percentages, ratios and rankings broken down by municipalités régionales de comté [equivalent to census divisions], census metropolitan areas and large municipalities.

Culture statistics

The 1997 edition of *Indicateurs d'activités culturelles au Québec* [Indicators of cultural activity in Quebec] was published in May 1997; the last edition had been published in 1993. The agency also began work on a publication on cultural activities in the regions. A study of the economic impact of the cultural industry in greater Montréal was also undertaken on behalf of the ministère de la Métropole, the City of Montréal and the Montréal regional office of the ministry of culture and communications. Finally, in November 1997, the BSQ published the proceedings of the *Recherche: culture et communications* conference which was held under the aegis of the 65th annual congress of the Association canadienne française pour l'avancement des sciences (ACFAS) in May 1997 at Trois-Rivières.

Economic statistics

The BSQ co-published a document with the Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes [Canadian intergovernmental affairs secretariat] entitled *Le Tableau politique canadien* [The Canadian political picture]. This general reference book provides concise and detailed data on the population, economy, immigration and francophone communities in each province and territory and Canada as a whole. Particular attention is paid to data on ethnic origin, labour, investments, interprovincial and international trade, and public finance. At the request of the ministry of finance, the BSQ also produced a study entitled *La création d'un indice de compétitivité internationale pour le Québec* [The creation of an international competitiveness index for Quebec], the aim of which was to rank Quebec among some 50 countries by giving it a competitiveness index for 1996 and 1997. The BSQ applied the methodology used in the *World Competitiveness Yearbook* published by the International Institute for Management Development. Last year, considerable effort also went into the preparation of a new edition of *Statistiques bioalimentaires — L'agriculture québécoise et l'ALENA* covering the period 1992 to 1996. The report should be released in 1998–99. Finally, in the context of its work on Quebec's economic accounts, the BSQ produced estimates of personal income and disposable personal income for Quebec's 16 administrative regions and the region of Montréal.

New surveys

As well as conducting the various surveys and methodological work that are part of its regular program, the BSQ responded to a number of requests from various ministries and other organizations. The following are the main activities of this type that were

completed or started since the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council:

- Survey of urinary and genital problems and general health (Centre de la prostate du Québec);
- estimation methodology for the Survey of physical activity in Quebec (Kino-Québec);
- Survey of the small-business launch program and a descriptive analysis of its results (Société de développement industriel);
- a second Survey on the Quebec electronic services and multimedia industry (ministry of Culture and Communications);
- Survey on computer and information highway use in Quebec households and a descriptive analysis of the results (CEFRIO).

The BSQ also continued to be responsible for the statistical aspects (survey methodology, data analysis) of the surveys undertaken by Santé Québec [the Quebec ministry of health]. In 1997–98, the BSQ focused on preparing the 1998 Social and Health Survey and on the adjuncts to this survey, notably the Quebec Survey of Activity Limitation. Data collection for the 1998 Social and Health Survey began in January. At the request of Santé Québec, a number of parallel surveys have also been developed (a survey of a cohort of Quebec babies called *En 2002...J'aurai cinq ans* [In the year 2002...I will be five], a study to measure the effect of collection methods on survey results, the 1998 Survey of Cultural Communities, the Social and Health Survey of Quebec Children and Youth and the Survey of Youth and Smoking).

Electronic dissemination

Database for developers and investors

At the end of June 1997, the BSQ was commissioned to study the feasibility and cost of designing a detailed, centralized database that would permit regional, inter-urban and international comparisons to be made. The database would support public-sector economic development officials involved in finding investors. Once the preliminary analysis was done, a group of ministries asked the BSQ to design and set up the database as well as the statistical components of a promotional interface that would support investor-search activities.

The database and interface design began at the beginning of 1998, and it is now possible to access the first modules on Investing in Quebec, Investing in Montréal, Living in Québec, and Living in Montréal. The BSQ's partners in the project can now integrate these modules into their Internet sites. The database will be accessible by intranet in October 1998 and will contain indicators for Quebec and its main competitor regions in Canada and the United States, as well as indicators for certain municipalities, census divisions and census metropolitan areas.

In 1997–98, the BSQ was allocated \$1,283,000 by the BSQ Fund to complete the first phase of this project which will cost a total of \$4.1 million over two years. The project is an indication of the role that the government has conferred on the BSQ in the areas of statistical co-ordination and control, as well as data dissemination, for the Quebec public and private sectors.

Internet

Over the last year, the BSQ has continued to improve its Internet site. Sixteen statistical tables, with highlights, on the service sector in Quebec, Ontario and Canada have been added. These tables make it possible to follow various economic indicators—employment, unemployment rate, salaries and wages, gross domestic product, the number and value of commercial bankruptcies, and income and expenditure—for the entire service sector and its component industries.

The BSQ also added to its Internet site a new analytical bulletin on financial institutions statistics (also published in its quarterly *Institutions de dépôt* publication). The first two bulletins focused on Quebecers' investments in mutual funds (unreleased data from a new survey by the BSQ on mutual funds) and on consumer debt in Quebec and Canada.

Since January 1998, and in collaboration with the Régie du cinéma, the BSQ now disseminates on the Internet a new newsletter called *Données culturelles en bref: l'industrie du film* [Cultural data in brief: the film industry]. The results of the monthly film screenings survey of movie theatres and cineplexes in Quebec are released in this newsletter.

Finally, the BSQ has doubled the number of demographic tables on its Internet site. It has also added some monthly poultry and dairy data which it used to fax to its clients.

Statistical co-ordination

The BSQ has contributed to the analysis of a number of major Statistics Canada surveys (Labour Force Survey and the International Adult Literacy Survey) by raising questions and participating actively in discussions with survey designers and methodologists. It also participated actively in discussions on undercoverage (and its correction) in the 1996 Census and on the 2001 Census content and geography. It also joined Statistics Canada and the other provinces in discussions on revising the non-permanent residents estimates methodology.

The BSQ also co-ordinated the purchase of summary and custom tables for the 1996 Census to meet the needs of various ministries and public-sector organizations.

Finally, as part of the Quebec government's geomatics plan, the BSQ has been very active in a user forum in which it has contributed to discussions on the geomatics aspects of socio-economic data. In partnership with several ministries and organizations, it has

undertaken the development of tools that will facilitate the spatial integration of these data.

External relations

The BSQ, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, once again organized a colloquium on statistical methods and applications at the annual ACFAS conference held at Trois-Rivières in May 1997. It also helped organize a colloquium on statistical methods and applications which will be held in Sherbrooke in June 1998 during the annual conference of the Canadian Statistical Society.

In response to a request from the Secrétariat à la condition féminine [status of women secretariat], the BSQ agreed to join a mission to Tunisia at the end of March 1998 to consult on surveys of the status of women in that country. The mission was part of the five-year Tunisia-Quebec co-operation program.

France invited two representatives of the BSQ to make a presentation at the Entretiens Jacques-Cartier conference in Lyon on the agency's work on intergenerational comparisons.

A document entitled *L'impossible équité intergénérationnelle dans un contexte de fort vieillissement démographique : le cas des dépenses sociales* [The impossibility of intergenerational equity in a context of pronounced demographic aging: the case of social expenditures] was distributed to participants in one of the seminars offered at the 23rd general congress on population of the International union for scientific population studies held in Beijing in October 1997.

The creation of Statistique Québec

In a speech at the Assemblée nationale in October 23, 1997, the premier of Quebec announced the government's intentions in response to the report of the Groupe de travail sur l'examen des organismes gouvernementaux [working group on governmental organizations]. He indicated that the government intended to bring all organizations involved in collecting and processing statistical data under one umbrella. The new organization, he said, would be known as Statistique Québec and would be given the independence it needed to assure its credibility. In addition to the BSQ, Statistique Québec will include the Institut de recherche et d'information sur la rémunération (IRIR), the Centre d'enquêtes in the ministry of health and social services (Santé Québec) and the ministry of labour's Centre de recherche et de statistiques sur le marché du travail (CRSMT).

Since then, steps have been taken to implement the decision. The two projects on which the BSQ had focused last year (the memorandum to cabinet on the co-ordination of statistical activities and the role of the BSQ, and the establishment of an autonomous service unit) have been redirected following the government's decision. The BSQ is now collaborating on drafting the bill that will establish Statistique Québec.

SASKATCHEWAN

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

The bureau continues to release the *Monthly Statistical Review* and the *Saskatchewan Economic Review*. Both publications are a compendium of the most asked-for Saskatchewan monthly, quarterly and annual data. In addition, the bureau produces a set of economic accounts twice yearly, which are published as *Saskatchewan Economic Statistics*. The *Saskatchewan Fact Sheet* provides a snapshot of important economic and social statistics on Saskatchewan for the past two years.

During this past year (for the second year in a row) we have continued to devote considerable resources to reconciling our statistics on Saskatchewan trade flows with those produced by Statistics Canada. This has been a much lengthier process than first anticipated. For the past 10 months we have been attempting to understand the methodology employed by Statistics Canada to produce wheat export data. We hope to have a report on our findings shortly. However, our preliminary findings suggest that the area of commodity exports requires the attention of Statistics Canada's senior management.

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

YUKON

Administration and Management Unit

The Administration and Management Unit of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics provides internal management, administration and financial services to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics. As well, the unit offers statistical support to the Yukon Government and the federal government, advocates management research and promotes research as an integral part of management.

During the past year, the Administration and Management Unit has:

- continued support in the area of financial services;
- developed and implemented new project initiation and approval forms;
- initiated a draft bilateral data-sharing agreement with a local First Nation;
- established a new working relationship with the Northern Research Institute of Yukon College.

Operations Unit

The Operations Unit of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics provides cost-recovered research services to departments, and provides all internal operational, control and staff support to the research function.

During the past year, the Operations Unit has completed the following initiatives:

- the Yukon Business Survey
- the Mayo Road Survey
- the National Population Health Survey
- the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth
- the Yukon Travel Survey.

Research and Analysis Unit

The Research and Analysis Unit provides methodological and analytical support to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, develops government administrative records for statistical purposes and provides statistical and methodological services and advice for departmental initiatives.

During the past year, the Research and Analysis Unit of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics completed the following initiatives in the following areas:

- high risk alcohol use: analysis and report writing
- Yukon Student Information Management Reporting System: implementation
- Yukon Business Survey: analysis of access to financing, profile of businesses exporting goods and services, and 1997–98 Business Directory database
- Yukon Immunization Reporting System: implementation and continuing reporting
- Yukon River Survey: design, analysis and report writing

- Survey of Internal Communications (for the Department of Renewable Resources): analysis and report writing
- STD/Chlamydia Control Study: design, analysis and reporting
- Survey of Yukon Seniors: design, analysis and reporting
- poverty: conducted extensive research and analysis of poverty measurement issues, and published article in *Policy Options*
- social indicators: drafted report on Yukon social indicators
- Community Price Survey: conducted price survey in Yukon towns, which is to be repeated twice yearly.

Health Research Unit

The Health Research Unit provides research and analysis specific to the following projects: the Yukon Cancer Registry, vital statistics, health utilization and the Health Status Report.

During the past year, the Health Research Unit of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics completed the following initiatives:

- publication of *Vital Statistics: A Look at Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Yukon from 1986 to 1995*
- development of a statistics report (in government use), entitled *Yukon Births, Therapeutic Abortions and Pregnancy Rates—1986 to 1997*
- development of Yukon physician profiles
- development of an analytical framework and production of individual profiles of Yukon physician activities and expenditures (under the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan) from April 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997.

Information Services Unit

The Information Services Unit provides statistical information services. For example, it responds to requests for statistical information, maintains a statistical resource centre and provides access to electronic databases such as CANSIM. The unit also: distributes publications and electronic information on Yukon; offers in-house services on Bureau products; supports internal desktop publishing services for all Bureau publications and research instruments; and provides quality control services for publications.

During the past year, the Information Services Unit completed these initiatives:

- began to familiarize First Nations with the information available at the Yukon Bureau of Statistics
- initiated a daily electronically distributed update of the latest Yukon-specific information available
- produced the first map of the Yukon as a prototype for displaying information geographically
- initiated contact with local firms to arrange to use their data to produce publicly available information on house sales in the Yukon.

APPENDIX 4
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Last Meeting: September 22–23, 1997
Next Meeting: September 21–22, 1998
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.

Many members noted the release of the Census of Agriculture in May and emphasized the importance of this program to the agriculture community. Nova Scotia expressed concern over the net income estimates, while Ontario had reservations about the data on pigs, cattle and cropland. These issues were followed up after the meeting.

There were few changes to the members' survey programs; Quebec mentioned the redesign of their survey of maple producers and the Yukon was planning an intercensal survey of farms in the summer of 1998. Manitoba suggested that consideration be given to reinstating the telephone survey of prices of special crops. Saskatchewan announced that they were building a list of forage producers.

The agriculture statistics function in the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing will be moved to the Policy Secretariat. The statistics unit of the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food underwent personnel changes and a reorganization. Alberta has completed a study of its program, and foresees a need to review the federal-provincial agreement with Statistics Canada's Agriculture Division. The Northwest Territories delegation was pleased to attend the meeting after an absence of several years.

The four Atlantic provinces expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the Truro office of Statistics Canada.

In the coming year, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will integrate the data from the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) into the Whole Farm Data program. The provincial ministries of agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are undertaking a complete review of income protection programs with a view to developing long-term programs that meet farmers' needs. This exercise will require analysis and forecasting skills that will depend on the Whole Farm Database and the regional model of the agri-food sector.

The leading issues facing the Statistics Canada's Agriculture Division are the impact of the Project to Improve Provincial Economics Statistics (PIPES), the dissemination of the results of the 1996 Census of Agriculture, the 1998 Farm Finance Survey and the Farm Energy Use Survey. The division appreciates the support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that enabled continuation of the Fall Fruit and Vegetable Survey and the enlarged sample for the production of estimates for special crops. The coming year will see the development of improved maintenance of the Farm Register and the implementation of both the intercensal survey redesign and the AG2000 survey processing system.

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:

- releasing information on farm operators from the 1996 Census of Agriculture
- determining content for the 2001 Census of Agriculture
- maintaining an up-to-date Farm Register
- continuing the special crops and fall fruit and vegetable survey programs
- consulting the users of livestock statistics
- improving coverage of agriculture enterprises in the Cash Receipts accounts.
- the impact of PIPES on the Agriculture Division program
- aquaculture statistics
- implementing the North American Industrial Classification System
- developing a program of rural data
- the improvements to the food statistics program
- the cancellation of the Area Farm Survey
- the post-census redesign of the major surveys

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Last meeting:	November 27, 1997
Special subgroup meeting:	January 27, 1998
Next meeting:	November 16-17, 1998
Members:	Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

At the November 27 meeting, Jacob Ryten told the provincial delegates that this would be his last conference. Ray Ryan, newly appointed Assistant Chief Statistician for the Business and Trade Statistics Field, will be next year's conference chairman. Statistics Canada divisional reports were distributed to the delegates.

Round table

- British Columbia experienced a 35% cut to the program last November. This resulted in a high reliance on cost-recovery projects such as tourism and a high tech balance of trade.
- Alberta worked on an export services survey for businesses with \$25,000 in revenue, and on using provincial administrative files to improve Statistics Canada's frame for the Business Register.
- Saskatchewan reported no change.
- Manitoba is relying less on cost-recovery work, and has conducted highway construction and mineral exploration surveys.
- Ontario experienced an increase in what they describe as "immediate analysis."
- Quebec is forming "Statistique Québec" comprised of the Bureau de la statistique du Québec and three other government agencies, to be in place on September 1, 1998.
- New Brunswick's statistical group is now part of a larger unit called the Fiscal and Analysis Statistical Group for a one-year trial period.
- Nova Scotia experienced a 25% budget cut. A new government Internet site, GeoNOVA, to be available to all provincial departments, will contain all Statistics Canada data. There was concern with the latest Statistics Canada proposal regarding the Small Business Profiles. The 12-year-old project could die if not managed.
- Prince Edward Island reported that the opening of the new bridge complicated their tourism survey.
- Newfoundland reported no change.
- Yukon announced that a visitor exit survey is planned for next year.
- The Northwest Territories indicated that a new Nunavut statistical agency should be formed this year and a delegate from it will attend next year's conference. The chairman would like to have a Nunavut protocol prepared, including Statistics Canada's publication intentions for the two territories.

Possible topics

- Consumer Price Index overestimates of inflation due to the balance between goods and services: need for a constant price index for data from the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)
- changing skills and occupations in science and technology require better data on computing, telecommunications and biotechnology
- trade data quality
- data on services as well as goods
- data on the activities of large multinationals
- a classification system for services

General PIPES update

Philip Smith presented an overview and distributed notes on:

- yearly PIPES objectives
- progress on organizing, staffing, planning, and communicating
- data quality analysis, assessment and control
- response burden management strategy
- data sharing and confidentiality issues
- transition issues

Concern was expressed that 13 months' inactivity is required to remove units from the Business Register. A study conducted in Alberta showed that 40% of records on the Business Register were inactive. Statistics Canada is looking into sampling options to help in this area.

Enterprises have more than one Business Number. Statistics Canada is analysing this important problem.

The cost of the Small Business Profiles, the quality of the General Index of Financial Information (GIFI) file, and data needs would be discussed in January 1998.

Strategy for and progress on the pilot Unified Enterprises Survey (UES)

George Beelen, Don Royce, Laurie Hill and Victoria Crompton made presentations and distributed notes on:

- timing of pilot data releases
- integrated questionnaire
- sampling strategy
- frame issues
- use of tax data
- encouraging response and discouraging non-response by Key Provider Managers (KPMs)

Questions were fielded on:

- Survey coverage (North American Industrial Classification System [NAICS] and census issues): Ultimately all the industries, except the government sector, will be covered, as will all complex enterprises of significant size. For simple enterprises, GIFI will eventually provide a near-census-type database. A sample will collect variables not available from tax data.
- The UES will eliminate duplication and integrate existing surveys. Questionnaires or modules could be sent out at different times throughout the year. Quality and response burden improvements have been incorporated into the UES, making the new survey a better option than expanding existing surveys.
- Because small businesses and certain industries are more important in some provinces, survey thresholds will vary by industry or province. The trade-off, especially for small provinces, may be between response burden and CVs.
- The pilot survey-sampling plan will be sent to the provinces by January 1998 when it is completed. Nunavut will be shown separately.
- Section 11 agreements currently refer to specific surveys. There will be a Section 11 statement on each new questionnaire. A more general agreement should be negotiated.
- Head offices of enterprises operating in more than one province pose an access problem. Will a province with the operating units have access to the data if a head office located in a different province submits them? Serge Bernier and Wilf Falk agreed to work with Statistics Canada on this issue.
- Concern was raised about availability of interprovincial trade data by category of client.
- For the pilot survey, a telephone follow-up will be done of Northwest Territories respondents in order to get an estimate for Nunavut.
- A respondent compliance approach, like the Census model, was suggested. This would include formal follow-up procedures to enforce the Statistics Act. Some delegates felt that this model was not appropriate. While Statistics Canada will not prosecute small respondents, it should pursue the prosecution of larger respondents if necessary. In all cases, the preferred resolution remains to make satisfactory reporting arrangements without prosecution.

Interim statistical improvements

Statistics Canada presentations were made, and notes distributed, on:

- Services industries.
- GST housing rebates statistics: Concern was voiced that, despite improvements, about 10% of the universe is now missing. Ray Ryan undertook to provide provincial data relating to the GST housing rebates file free of charge to the delegates. Questions on the quality of the stock measurement of housing, more a national accounts issue, would be addressed the following day. Microdata, although available in land titles files, will be subject to the standard Statistics Canada confidentiality rules. This issue will be tabled with the Statistics Canada Confidentiality Committee, and followed up in the future.

- Survey of municipal building permits: The Investment and Capital Stock Division of Statistics Canada will work with Finance Canada to finalize a new procedure for provincial estimates to be shared with the provinces.
- Telecommunications survey: While the Voorburg model was followed in principle, changes since the model was introduced in 1992 have resulted in developments beyond the Voorburg model. The research and development module was not included since a good research and development survey is already in place. What provincial detail is available will depend on confidentiality requirements. A pilot survey in the field should clarify possible confidentiality issues. The international trade module, which follows the Balance of Payments (BOP) concepts, nonetheless asks more detailed questions than does the BOP survey. Respondents are given the option of not responding to this module if they are already responding to the BOP survey.
- Retail and wholesale surveys: P13 is not available at the subprovincial level. Robert Lussier will look into the possibility of providing the Retail June 98 revisions to the provinces. Retail should have a slightly larger base under NAICS. Mr. Lussier will make available the methodology used to estimate provinces for the quarterly survey once it is available. Jacob Ryten suggested that yesterday's proposal about small business profiles be accepted, and that the small business issues be scheduled for a special meeting at the end of January. At that time, the provinces will know better their requirements, and Statistics Canada can better explain the cost structure. Jacob Ryten also referred to a Statistics Canada survey on the preparedness of Canadian business for the computer challenge of the year 2000, done for John Manley, the federal Minister of Industry and the minister responsible for Statistics Canada. The results are to be released on December 8. Trish Trépanier is the contact point.
- International trade—Origin and destination: Compliance for Chapter 87 is only 67% and needs to be improved. Dennis Pilkey of Nova Scotia pointed out that "net" petroleum is overstated on Strategis, and he will work with Industry Canada to fix this. David Dodds will provide his "winners and losers" series of export by province of origin by HS code to Manitoba.
- Monthly survey of manufacturing redesign.
- Manufacturing destination of shipments survey.
- Introduction of Nunavut: The Northwest Territories delegation congratulated Statistics Canada on the work done so far and offered to help draw the frontiers. A Nunavut statistical office with five positions is being set up, and a member may attend the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Business Statistics next year.

Other Business

- Serge Bernier expressed an interest in receiving a list of the divisions responsible for each chapter of NAICS. Statistics Canada will provide.
- A program committee will work on next year's agenda. Serge Bernier and Wilf Falk agreed to work with Ray Ryan on this.

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL SPECIAL SUBGROUP¹ MEETING
ON BUSINESS STATISTICS
January 27, 1998**

Agenda 1998

Philip Smith, Chair

For the two-day conference to be held in late November or early December 1998, topics proposed included:

- results of the Unified Enterprises Survey pilot on seven business sectors and of the three household surveys
- Central Frame Data Base numbering system and problems
- Statistics Canada's intentions for PIPES subprovincial-level dissemination
- implementation of Jacob Ryten's "statistical will"
- description of Statistics Canada Science and Technology program
- description of Statistics Canada confidentiality practices, suppression techniques, tools, waivers, Statistics Canada communication strategy, and GIFI impact
- data-sharing agreements
- Unified Enterprises Survey update
- Consumer Price Index overestimation
- Statistics Canada release practices for data from Revenue Canada
- review of Statistics Canada revenue-generation practices
- the small business program
- strengthening the role of provincial focal points
- Statistics Canada training for provincial representatives.

The agenda will be finalized later in 1998.

Data-sharing Agreements

George Beelen, Chair

Issues:

- continued provincial access to data covered in present agreements

¹ Subgroup meeting attendees included:

Serge Bernier, Quebec
Wilf Falk, Manitoba
George Fox, New Brunswick
Dennis Pilkey, Nova Scotia
James Kendrick, Industry Canada
Penny Bassett, Statistics Canada
George Beelen, Statistics Canada
Rosemary Campbell, Statistics Canada
Ed Hamilton, Statistics Canada
Albert Meguerditchian, Statistics Canada
Gerry Potter, Statistics Canada
Ray Ryan, Statistics Canada
Philip Smith, Statistics Canada
Tricia Trépanier, Statistics Canada

- new data the provinces want, and how Statistics Canada can best provide this through data-sharing agreements
- increased use of tax data and impact on provincial access to microdata
- access to data of enterprises with head offices located in one province and establishments located in other provinces, and allocation of head office amalgamated data to establishments across provincial boundaries.

Continued access

Provinces were interested in knowing entitlements under the Unified Enterprises Survey. Many expressed support for the BC model, consisting of a general agreement between Statistics Canada and a province with specifics detailed in an appendix. This allows the Chief Statistician and the provincial focal point to amend the appendix; this contrasts with the type of agreement several provinces now have with Statistics Canada, which includes specifics such as a survey name in the agreement proper and which requires the signature of ministers to amend, a process that could take two years.

In response to interest in what agreements are in place, Gerry Potter will provide copies of all agreements in place, as well as a copy of the BC agreement for information. Access to information previously received, but now gathered by an instrument with a new name, would be continued. However, obtaining access to new information is more onerous.

Access to new data

Statistics Canada will identify what data will be available from the Unified Enterprises Survey. Once the provinces determine which new data they want, the process for obtaining this data (such as an Order in Council for a particular province) would be known. The urgency for this was emphasized in light of the next surveys going out in 1999, which will gather data for the 1998 reference year. The provincial representatives wished to obtain a new Statistics Canada organizational chart. Dennis Pilkey is now working with Ernie Boyko on a Data Liberation-type initiative to give provincial focal points complete data access.

Implications of using more tax data

Revenue Canada tax data cannot currently be shared with the provinces, according to the Income Tax Act. This limits the extent to which Statistics Canada can replace survey data with tax data. Statistics Canada's strategy to reduce response burden and survey costs through use of such administrative data needs to be looked at. Aggregate data can still be provided by Statistics Canada to the provinces. However, aggregated data may not provide detail on structure or size of larger enterprises. Provincial statisticians could work with Statistics Canada data under the Statistics Act, but such microdata accessed could not be released off the premises. Moreover, complexities of Statistics Canada data sets when combined with Revenue Canada's makes this option less attractive. Provincial representatives want better knowledge of the databases of both Statistics Canada and Revenue Canada.

Head offices and interprovincial structures

Where enterprises have establishments in more than one province, a comprehensive data-sharing statement is necessary on the questionnaire. Statistics Canada will exercise extreme caution in dealing with enterprises that have establishments in more than one province. Algorithms, such as allocating profits of multi-establishment head offices across provinces, have not yet been determined.

Small Business Profiles

Albert Meguerditchian, Chair

Issues:

- Ontario's lack of participation, particularly financial support
- financial support for the upcoming contract for the program
- putting the Small Business Profiles on the Internet
- content of the Small Business program's outputs
- alternative data sources
- a status report on the 1995 small business profiles.

The Small Business Profiles program is totally cost-recovered; 50% of the funding comes from the provinces and 50% from Industry Canada on behalf of its clientele. Two products result: Small Businesses Profiles, and Employment Dynamics. The current two-year financial contribution contract expired in March 1998. Ontario has stated officially that it will not continue funding the program. At present, Statistics Canada is running a deficit to cover off the Ontario share.

The challenge of the Small Business program is to define the data needs and applications. Defining a core program for small business would be a start; savings from cancelling non-core activities could be rechannelled into new priority areas. Industry Canada is looking into its policy directions for small business. Industry Canada was asked to fund the Profiles project for now, while the consortium would cover the costs of the Dynamics output. This proposal will be raised to the Minister of Industry Canada, John Manley. A complete communication strategy will be developed. Clearer direction for the program is essential, determining whether the outputs are to be "for" or "about" small business, and then defining what the products should be. It is essential to develop a strategy, conduct research, and examine other data sources. The consortium could learn more about its clients and what they might want by placing the products on Strategis, where hits could be monitored.

A proposal to place the Profiles product on the Internet without Ontario's data (because of Ontario's withdrawal of financial support) was rejected.

A two-part strategy was suggested; address short-term issues such as funding for the next year or two, while a wider strategy could be developed and put into place. One short-term funding option might be to have Industry Canada pay for the Profiles, and the provinces pay for Dynamics.

A proposal will be prepared, to be reviewed by the consortium in early March in a teleconference. A volunteer group comprising Ed Hamilton, George Fox, James Kendrick and Dennis Pilkey agreed to draft such a proposal. The key points of the draft would cover the following:

- Continuing the Profiles and Dynamics products for one more year. Industry Canada funding will be sought, and an appeal made to provinces to maintain their support during this transition;
- Continuing these products beyond this period should not be assumed;
- Users' requirements should be determined; and
- A long-term plan should be developed, perhaps including recommendations for a small business program to become part of Statistics Canada's core program.

The linkage of Statistics Canada data to Industry Canada data needs might help the argument that the data are important to support policy.

In summary, the issues raised for this agenda item were concluded as follows:

1. Ontario's financial support: The consortium will inform Ontario of the plans, to determine whether they could be enticed to stay in for one year while product directions are being developed.
2. Financial aspects of the coming contract: Industry Canada will raise the issue of increased financial contributions for one year with the Minister.
3. Small Business Profiles on Internet excepting Ontario: It was decided not to make any program changes, including posting to the Internet, until other program aspects were decided.
4. Outputs of the Small Business Programme would await the client needs assessment and strategic directions of the program.
5. Alternative Data Sources would also await the strategic work.
6. Status report for Small Business Profiles 1995: A progress report on the 1995 data was delivered.

CENSUS OF POPULATION

Last meeting: September 24, 1997
Next meeting: June 1998
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

At the committee's meeting on September 24, 1997, Benoit Laroche brought the membership up to date on the progress that had been made on the 1996 Census. Population figures were published in April 1997, and release of basic demographic data would be essentially complete by the time the data on family structure and marital status were published on October 14, 1997. Mr. Laroche looked forward to hearing the provinces and territories' views on the coverage studies, the methods of estimating Indian reserves that refused to participate, or refusal reserves, the geography products and dissemination plans for the 1996 Census, and the research and development plans for the 2001 Census.

1996 Census

Coverage studies

A workshop was held on coverage studies in June 1997. The studies' approach, content, schedules and any resulting products were reviewed in detail. A progress report and the activities involved were highlighted.

The following is a status report on some of the studies.

- The Vacancy Check Study: An evaluation was conducted and a final report was produced in June 1997. Some of the results of this study were presented at the June workshop.
- Evaluation of Imputation for Forms 4: A report was produced in October 1997.
- Reverse Record Check Study: A new activity, quality control, was added; this began on August 5, 1997 and ended on October 31, 1997. The final activity for the basic reverse record check was the first estimates for evaluation and analyses produced at the end of November 1997.

At the meeting on September 24, 1997, a detailed update was presented. The activities of the overcoverage studies and specific activities carried out since the June 1997 workshop were highlighted: verification, classification and quality control activities. Discussions turned to future particular activities: final classification; non-response adjustment and weighting; and feasibility of using a direct estimator to calculate the variance. In

conducting these three special studies, an attempt would be made to reproduce the 1991 situation so that there would be a basis for comparison.

Methods of estimating refusal Indian reservations

A definition of an incomplete reserve is now in place. The procedures of list preparation were reviewed, as were the procedures for certifying a reserve to be incomplete. The dissemination strategy was to be the same as in 1991: estimates would not be included in census publications; the list of reserves and population figures from previous censuses would be provided in special notes inserted in each publication; and population estimates would be adjusted.

The method used to estimate 1996 population figures for incomplete reserves was reviewed. A comparison with the reverse record check (RRC) is presented. Since the RRC is based on a very small sample, estimates for incomplete reserves would be highly unreliable if the same method was used. It would be better to rely on simple linear regression models that use population figures for 1981, 1986 and 1991 as explanatory variables. The characteristics of regression were reviewed, and it was stated that several tests had been carried out. Following a discussion, it was agreed that a report would be produced that would address the various issues the members raised.

Geography Products

As planned, the population and dwelling counts were released for all levels of geography. For the first time, all standard levels of geography were released either on paper or in GeoRef electronic format, and postal code counts products were published for population and dwelling counts using the six-digit code. All reference maps, Digital Boundary Files and Digital Cartographic Files were also released as scheduled. The release schedules for other products are as follows:

- November 19, 1997: This will be the release date for the block-face data file and Street Network Files (SNFs).
- December 3, 1997: This date will open the door for geocoding services.
- December 4, 1997: The first version of the 1996 Postal Code Conversion File will be released on this date, along with a subset that is the Federal Riding File.

The new features added to some of the products were addressed, as well as what the plans are with respect to the 1996 Census Postal Code Conversion File, along with a review of a new product which is an extension to the SNF coverage.

The Street Network File itself has been updated to May 1996. Efforts have been made to increase address ranges. Also, for the commercial product a system has been put in place to impute addresses.

The vintage of the data for the first release of the Postal Code Conversion File will be June 1997. A new conversion method is being used to limit the number of cases where we must rely solely on the EA correspondence file to do the conversion.

A new product known as SNF+ will be available by the end of the year. The product will use digital data from Natural Resources Canada to complete the coverage of the street network.

Census dissemination

The 1996 Census Dissemination electronic products strategy was reviewed. Client sectors, product trends, technology trends, sources for 1996 Census products and the formats of the products were discussed.

Enhancements to the Beyond 20/20 software application were reviewed, along with the benefits of using it.

Also reviewed were the products and services of what has already been delivered or received, as well as what the focal points will be receiving in the near future. The material that the focal points receive on the day of release are paper copies of *The Daily*, The Nation tables on diskette, and as for the October release, the census division/census subdivision profile components. The methods of delivery for this material are those as agreed upon by the regional offices and the focal points. Problems were raised by several focal points concerning the servicing of focal points by the regions, and it was agreed that the Project Manager of Census Dissemination would meet with the regions and together work out a solution to the situation.

One month after each major release, the profile components for all levels of geography (excluding FSAs and EAs) will be released. It was pointed out that the FED profile components (1996 Representation Order) would only be provided at the beginning of March 1998.

The arrangements for data dissemination to the focal points are basically the same as those in 1986, 1991 and for 1996. Most of the focal points (with the exception of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan) will get a choice of 20 basic summary tables for the level of geography that they choose. The Yukon and the Northwest Territories will get all basic summary tables, but only at the census subdivision level. Saskatchewan chose to receive the profile and the census subdivision boundary.

2001 Census

Centralized edit

A full centralized edit with mail-out of questionnaires in urban areas and flow processing will not be fully implemented in 2001, given the very limited time frame for building the

control and communications systems as well as the high risk it presents for the 2001 Census. Instead, Statistics Canada is investigating what is known as the Centralized 2B option. A study team is working to review the details of this method, to work out some costs and to identify testing requirements.

Content consultation

The consultation guide was finalized in the spring of 1997. In May 1997, a pre-test was conducted to examine respondent reactions to the various formats and questions of the 2A questionnaire. The results were released in November 1997.

Consultation in Atlantic Canada began in November 1997; consultation on content in Ontario and Quebec occurred between November 1997 and January 1998; consultation in British Columbia and the Yukon was held in February 1998; consultation in the Northwest Territories and the Prairie provinces was held in March 1998.

Post-censal surveys

Since the Post-censal Surveys Program is conducted on a cost-recovery basis, the first task is to determine whether there is a requirement for data. If so, a source of funding has to be identified. In late fall and next spring, a census team will consult with the provinces and federal government departments to identify data requirements and determine which ones could be met by the Post-censal Surveys Program.

Geography consultation

For the 2001 Census, Geography Division, in consultation with the Census Content Consultation team, is making a concerted effort to find out users' concerns, what changes need to be made to the geographic levels, and, of equal importance, what should be kept protected and unchanged. One of the purposes of the visits, in addition to the discussions, is to encourage the provinces and territories to put their submissions in writing. The provincial/territorial representatives were informed that the deadline for these submissions was September 30, 1997 (this was later extended to October 30, 1997).

DATA DISSEMINATION

Last meeting: November 26, 1997
Next meeting: November 18, 1998
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Highlights of data dissemination activities

The **Bureau de la statistique du Québec** (BSQ), is undertaking an important data dissemination project to release regional profiles based on 1996 Census data. A total of 80 products will be released for various geographical levels and will cover variables such as population, housing, employment, income, ethnicity and language.

A CD-ROM of the BSQ's 1996 publications was created. All of the BSQ's paper publications are now produced in PDF format so that they can be included in the CD-ROM and posted on the Internet.

The BSQ is supplying data for the construction of maps to be included in a multimedia atlas of Quebec being prepared by the Université du Québec à Montréal. Because of the growing interest and activity in the field of geographic information systems, the BSQ is conducting a pilot project called Gestion de l'intégration spatiale de données socioéconomiques (Managing spatial integration of socio-economic data) to ensure that key ministries are using the administrative boundaries defined in a Ministère des ressources naturelles database. The standardization of geographic information system will facilitate the use of administrative data and prevent duplication of work.

Over the last two years, **Newfoundland** has been implementing a regional economic development program under which 20 zoning boards were established. The Newfoundland Statistics Agency is compiling data for the zones that is consistent with the System of National Accounts. Since the Agency has taken a changeable, template approach based on a variety of geographic levels, this system can be used to describe virtually any geographic entity.

The Newfoundland agency has published two books on the Atlantic fisheries moratorium and its impact, one of which has been posted on the provincial government's Internet site.

The focal point for the **Northwest Territories** reported that while there has been little change in the Bureau of Statistics' print publications, there has been significant growth in its electronic dissemination activities. The Bureau has developed its Web site considerably, providing users with a wide range of downloadable files in various formats.

The online data-retrieval system known as T-STAT has been moved to an Internet-accessible system which is run in parallel with the mainframe system. It is currently

restricted to Bureau staff, but by the end of the fiscal year will likely become a password-protected site available to territorial government employees.

Prince Edward Island is currently involved in a major new initiative being co-ordinated by the Economic Development and Tourism Department. Data from a number of rich data sources are being catalogued and will then be merged into a single database. Baseline data will begin to be released on the Internet in the spring, and new data will be added to it over time.

Cost-recovery has become less important for the **Manitoba** Bureau of Statistics, falling to 10% of its budget from 20% several years ago.

Nova Scotia's delegate to the committee underlined the new directions his office is taking, notably towards electronic dissemination, including the development of an Intranet which will be a common source of data from some 40 different databases available for internal use.

In **Ontario**, much of the statistics unit's information is still released in print, although several economic reports are posted on the Ministry of Finance's Web site. E-mail is also used for data dissemination, and the Intranet is currently being developed as a dissemination tool.

Presentations made at the 1997 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Dissemination

Statistics Canada's Strategy for Electronic Publishing

Martin Podehl provided an overview of the strategy, describing its objectives, anticipated benefits and various phases. In response to a question from the focal point for Saskatchewan, Mr. Podehl gave his assurance that Statistics Canada would have a mechanism in place to advise users of the conversion of printed publications to electronic documents. David Roy noted that an inventory has been conducted of all non-catalogued publications in the IPS with a view to putting them on the Internet as PDF files, which would make them easily accessible to the focal points.

In response to a question from Mr. Boyko, the delegate from Quebec said that the CD-ROM has not affected the depository libraries program significantly; most of the CD-ROM's users are governments and educational institutions. Like Statistics Canada, the BSQ will eventually replace low-circulation paper publications by electronic publications.

Internet site research

Yves Dupuis presented the objectives, methodology and results of the qualitative and quantitative research on Statistics Canada's Internet site which was conducted for the Agency by Phase 5 Consulting Group Inc.

The future of online services

Don DeGenova described the development of Statistics Canada's premium online service, StatsCan Online, the parallel emergence of its Web site, and the options for reconfiguring the Agency's array of online services.

Clients' Readiness for Electronic Services study

Yves Dupuis gave a brief presentation on the study's objectives, methodology and results.

Meta-data project

Mr. Boyko gave a brief report on the status of the meta-data project which was also discussed at the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy in May 1997.

The Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)

Wendy Watkins, manager of the Carleton University Data Centre, described the history of the DLI from the users' perspective. She encouraged the focal points to form partnerships with the universities in the DLI and to add provincial and territorial data to the collection.

In response to a discussion on the focal points' access to Statistics Canada data, Mr. Desjardins suggested that the delegates table a proposal to the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. Mr. Pilkey, as chairperson of the Program Committee of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Dissemination, agreed to take on the responsibility for the project; the other members of the committee also consented to their involvement.

DEMOGRAPHY

Last meeting: September 25–26, 1997
Next meeting: June 18–19, 1998
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The September 1997 meeting was split into two separate days. The first morning focused on the proposed methods for adjustment for net undercoverage to be applied to the 1996 Census. After an overview of the general strategy, different aspects of the adjustment were discussed. The issues associated with this activity were the subject of five presentations by Statistics Canada staff. In the afternoon, discussion then shifted to specific components in the estimation program: interprovincial migration, non-permanent residents, and international emigration.

The second day included three presentations by Statistics Canada staff on comparisons of 1996 Census counts to postcensal population estimates. The final activity was a roundtable discussion, in which the provincial and territorial focal points described their governments' current demographic activities.

Since the September meeting, provincial population estimates up to January 1, 1998 have been released. These estimates were derived using the revised methodology for estimates of change in non-permanent residents. The annual demographic statistics (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 91-213), including detailed estimates for July 1, 1997, were released in March. A workshop, held in April and attended by provincial and Statistics Canada officials, discussed the preliminary results from the 1996 Census coverage studies.

LABOUR STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 5–6, 1997
Next meeting: October 14, 1998
Members: Departments concerned with human resources, education or job training, and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The 32nd meeting of the Labour Statistics Committee was held in Ottawa on June 5 and 6, 1997, 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, attended the meeting.

The following topics were covered on June 5:

- redesign of the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) (Stephen Johnson)
- data validation and results from the SEPH-PD7 Micro-match (Lizette Gervais-Simard)
- Workplace and Employee Survey (Ted Wannell)
(Action item: Final sample allocations for WES by province will be communicated to the provinces when they are known.)
- impact of the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics on Labour and Household Surveys (Maryanne Webber)
(Action item: Maryanne Webber will provide the final sample size allocations for the FAMEX survey of household spending).
- Employment Insurance (Michael Scrim)
(Action item: Peter Lys and Mike Sheridan will meet with Michel Bédard and/or Dianne Carol to clarify issues surrounding the Employment Insurance program.)
- labour force updates (Deborah Sunter)
(Action item: Rounding of the Labour Force Survey data series will be addressed. Deborah Sunter will look into the price of the file.)
- the North American Industry Classification System (Serge Lavallée)
- the Standard Occupational Classification (Peter Lorenz)
- the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (Phil Giles)
- special surveys (Scott Murray)
- Public Institutions Division (Art Ridgeway)

On June 6, the topics presented were:

- records of employment (David Wallace)
- the Assets and Debts Survey (Karen Maser)

- work arrangements (Dominique Pérusse)
- SEPH/Labour Force Survey gap (Peter Lys)
(Action item: Peter Lys and Mike Sheridan will look into explaining data movements at the time of release. Ontario will act as a conduit of information on this topic to the other provinces.)
(Action item: The British Columbia delegate and Peter Lys will determine methods to improve communications with the provinces.)

In a discussion on Statistics Canada products, Kurt Schreiner and Maryanne Webber agreed to look into putting together an outline concerning the creation of a compendium of major releases at Statistics Canada.

Optional in-depth discussions with subject matter specialists followed the presentations. Delegates were invited to make appointments to pursue further discussions in their area of interest with the specialist of their choice.

MINERAL STATISTICS

Last meeting:	September 29, 1997–October 1, 1997
Next meeting:	October 21-23, 1998
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 statistics bureaus.
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 interest in Canadian mining and mineral statistics. Although the annual meeting provides a milestone event for Committee activities, contacts between member organizations will occur throughout the year as the need arises.

While, for the most part, it would appear that the major budgetary reductions for participating organizations had been already made prior to 1997, these cutbacks continue to have a limiting effect on the joint statistical program. Nevertheless, all provincial and territorial ministries affected by resource reductions are continuing to participate in the Federal-Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPCMS) and to work to strengthen ongoing communication links.

The introduction of the new preliminary/forecast and final annual surveys for exploration expenditures has made the past year a difficult one for members participating in this survey process. However, the Committee remains confident that the redefined structure of exploration activities implicit in the new survey program will provide more valuable statistics on the dimensions of the Canadian mineral exploration industry than had previously been available.

The year 1997 saw only limited progress toward updating memoranda of understanding between Natural Resources Canada and the participating provincial and territorial ministries.

The annual meeting of the FPCMS was held from September 29th to October 1st in Ottawa. For the second consecutive year, the meeting was spread over three days, permitting topics of specific interest only to certain members to be discussed outside the plenary sessions. The first day (September 29th) consisted of a workshop on information dissemination. In the plenary session on the second day, major issues and decisions of importance to all committee members were discussed, followed by the traditional dinner hosted by Natural Resources Canada. On the third day (October 1st), the plenary session concluded and was followed by working group sessions on diamond statistics and Nunavut (in that order). It was gratifying to note that the attendance at the 1997 meeting was the best in recent memory with virtually all member organizations being represented.

The workshop on information dissemination included an update on the SoftAccess systems currently being extended at Natural Resources Canada, and a discussion of data- and information-sharing within the framework of emerging technologies. The growing importance of the Internet as a vehicle providing great potential to share and to disseminate statistical surfaced as a subject of some importance.

Welcoming remarks to the plenary session were made by Linda Keen, the newly appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of the Minerals and Metals Sector at Natural Resources Canada. Highlights of the meeting proper were: i) the final approval to proceed with the redesigned exploration expenditure questionnaires and with the supplementary mines, mills and concentrators survey supplementary questionnaires; and ii) a presentation by Statistics Canada and Natural Resources Canada on the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES). Included in the latter was an update on the development of the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and its implementation for industries of interest. In addition, 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 impact of the BRE-X scandal on the Canadian mineral industry, of mineral taxation in Canada and the provinces, and of the statistical implications of the new Canadian minerals and metals policy in the measurement of progress toward a sustainable mineral industry.

The commitment, made in 1994 by Natural Resources Canada to cooperate fully with all provinces and territories by adjusting its statistical programs to dovetail with those of the participating provinces and territories, 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.

While it remains the FPCMS' intention to eventually move its annual meeting to the spring, the 1998 meeting will be held in the fall and has been scheduled for October 21-23, 1998. Important agenda items at the 1998 meeting are expected to be PIPES and its implications for the mining industry surveys, a review of progress and issues on the revamped exploration expenditures survey, final approval for new diamond survey questionnaires, and discussion on the directions for the use of the Internet for information dissemination and sharing purposes.

Summary of issues currently facing the FPCMS and its member organizations

1. The continuing effect of past budgetary reductions by provincial ministries.
2. The impact of the PIPES initiative on the integrated survey program of the member organizations.

3. The preparation of new and updated memoranda of understanding between Statistics Canada and Natural Resources Canada as a result of the introduction of the NAICS codes, and the new integrated business survey strategy being proposed under PIPES, etc.
4. Conversion of survey data from a 1980 SIC base to a NAICS base and preparations to address the impact of creation of the territory of Nunavut.
5. Review of progress made in the implementation of the expanded exploration expenditures surveys and identification of the steps required to address survey problems encountered during the first year of the new survey operation.
6. Preparation of a memorandum of understanding with the National Accounts and Environment Division of Statistics Canada covering several areas, including the use of exploration expenditure data in the National Accounts.
7. Response to emerging needs for data on energy efficiency, environmental issues, Aboriginal participation in the mining industry, recycling, etc.

Important events for the FPCMS during 1998-99

1. Introduction of the FPCMS Web site and initiation of its use as a means to disseminate information to member organizations and to provide a forum for the discussion of current issues affecting the member organizations.
2. Inauguration of an annual diamond commodity questionnaire for the 1998 survey year, and the collection of monthly diamond information.
3. The annual meeting currently scheduled for October 22-23, 1998.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Last meeting: February 6, 1998
Next meeting: October 16, 1998
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Among the major items on the agenda of the meeting held on February 6, 1998 in Ottawa were reports on the progress of existing provincial programs within the System of National Accounts Branch (SNA) and in each province and territory. The main items presented by the SNA branch included:

- Report on the historical revision of the income and expenditure accounts released in December, 1997
- Report on the forthcoming release of the Provincial Economic Accounts
- Report on the new Provincial Analyst Program
- Report on the production schedule and release dates

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee is schedule for October 16, 1998 in the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room of the R.H. Coats building. Items on the agenda will likely include discussion on historical revision issues, the contributions of the new Provincial Analyst Program and plans for the integration of data into the SNA of data emanating from the Project for Improving Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES).

The release schedule is provided on the next page.

Release schedule

<i>Item</i>	<i>Release date</i>
Revised national estimates of GDP by industry at current prices, reference period 1961–1993	February 1998
Revised national estimates of GDP by industry at constant prices, reference period 1961–1993	April 1998
Provincial Economic Accounts, reference period 1992–1997.....	May 14, 1998
Provincial GDP by Industry, reference period 1992–1997	May 14, 1998
Estimates of Provincial GDP by Industry, reference period 1984–1991.....	end June 1998
Quarterly National Income and Expenditure accounts	June 1, 1998
.....	August 31, 1998
.....	November 30, 1998
.....	March 1, 1999
Quarterly National Income and Expenditure accounts: revisions from first Quarter 1993 to second Quarter 1998 (postponed from spring)	October 1998

Please note that while the Provincial Economic Accounts and Provincial GDP by Industry for reference period 1992–1997 will be presented in separate tables beginning May 14, 1998, there will be a single integrated write-up in *The Daily* for the two sets of data.

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

Last Meeting: February 5, 1998
Next Meeting: October 15, 1998
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives) and delegates from provincial and territorial departments of finance

The committee met on February 5, 1998 in Ottawa. All provinces and territories were represented except Ontario and Prince Edward Island.

The proceedings were chaired by Art Ridgeway, Director of Statistics Canada's Public Institutions Division. The first item of business was the provincial/territorial roundtable. Quebec, Alberta and Manitoba representatives indicated that they were very satisfied with their collaboration with Statistics Canada over the last year, in particular with the historical revision. New Brunswick and British Columbia stated that they would like more information on how the Financial Management System (FMS) data were put together. Manitoba expressed concern about the interprovincial comparability of debt charges data, and the general differences between FMS and System of National Accounts (SNA) data. Newfoundland officials said that they would not have a new personnel information system in place for another year; this would be used to provide improved public sector employment data to Public Institutions Division. The Northwest Territories representative indicated he would like to see improvements in the presentation of public sector employment data on CANSIM. He also mentioned that deputy ministers will be named soon for Nunavut, and that the activities of staffing and recruiting will become increasingly important.

Public Institutions staff provided the delegates with an overview of the recently completed historical revision of public sector revenue, expenditure and balance sheet data on both FMS and SNA bases. Mr. Ridgeway provided an overview of the 1998 work plans of the Public Institutions Division.

In the area of public sector employment, staff gave a presentation comparing the 1995 public sector employment data before and after the historical revision, highlighting the major reasons for the revisions to provincial, territorial and local government data. A good discussion of the changes followed. It was mentioned that Public Institutions Division would be releasing monthly public sector employment data on a quarterly basis commencing with the fourth quarter of 1997. Alberta stated the importance of having consistent and comparable public sector employment data by industry for each provincial and territorial government.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: May 1997
Next meeting: May 1998
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

D.B. Petrie welcomed all provincial and territorial delegates to this annual meeting. The agenda was accepted as submitted and the minutes of the May 1996 were tabled without discussion.

Aboriginal data collection and dissemination

Doug Norris reviewed the Aboriginal data collected in the 1996 Census, and outlined the various census products to be released in the coming year. He reminded delegates that major changes had been made to Aboriginal identification in the 1996 Census, and that the number of questions on Aboriginal identification were expanded to deal with four areas: ethnic origin, Aboriginal self-identification, registered Indian status, and Indian band/first nation. He reported that the number of incompletely enumerated Indian reservations in the 1996 Census was almost the same as in the 1991 Census. Population counts of Indian reservations released in April 1997 showed a population growth of 23%. Such a growth is higher than what could be accounted for by natural increase or by Bill C-31; better enumeration than in 1991 and/or migration back to reserves may explain part of this.

Mr. McMahon stressed the importance of the Aboriginal population for the province of Saskatchewan; it forms between 10% and 15 % of its population. He reported that his government had been approached by the Métis Association of Saskatchewan to engage in an enumeration of the Métis people of that province, and that Saskatchewan and the federal government had recently decided to proceed with this initiative. The overall budget for this initiative is around \$600,000, shared equally between the two governments.

Mr. Falk informed delegates of the result of a study that the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics performed on behalf of the Native Affairs Secretariat. Simulations of Aboriginal program expenditures were developed considering various population growth, utilization rates and inflation rates for service delivery. In the best-case scenario (assuming no inflation, no increase utilization and using only the population growth), Manitoba's cost for delivering services to Aboriginals will go from \$200 million in 1991 to \$316 million in 2016. Using the worse case scenario (an inflation rate of 6% and an increase of 75% of the utilization rate), the expenditure in 2016 will be \$2.3 billion. This is a major issue for Manitoba, many other provinces and the federal government. Mr. Falk stressed the need for better information in order to monitor the situation.

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth

Gilles Montigny covered activities on the first three cycles of the National Longitudinal Survey on Children and Youth (NLSCY). He reminded delegates that this survey focuses on the child, the family, the school and the community. Another feature of the NLSCY design is the global approach adopted to child development. The first cycle, collected in 1994, covers close to 23,000 children aged 0 to 11 in 1994–1995 who will be followed over time until adulthood. The design of the NLSCY was also influenced by the need to produce cross-sectional estimates; replacement cohorts are introduced at each collection cycle (4,000 children aged 0 to 1 were added for cycle 2).

He then addressed the release activities of Cycle 1 (in three waves, October 1996, April 1997 and September 1997), the collection and release activities of Cycle 2 (collection of the household component completed, school component to be completed in July 1997, a longitudinal file to be released in the spring of 1998 and a cross-sectional data file in the fall of 1998), and the initial work and activities of Cycle 3. He noted that the current plans for the development of Cycle 3 were relatively modest because there was very little time to do a major redesign. Consultation with experts has been initiated to determine content for Cycle 3. Proposed topics are: more on school readiness, community and neighbourhood, engagement in schooling, victimization, family resiliency, and better measure on social support. Information on fathering, depression among teenagers, perception of the media, criminality and coping strategies for teenagers will also be treated.

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada

Joan Coulter introduced her topic by indicating that the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants was a new project that was being considered by Statistics Canada. The objective of the survey is to study the process by which new immigrants integrate into Canadian society; the longitudinal nature will facilitate analysis of the factors influencing integration, as well as impacts of services and policies on immigrant integration. The survey design calls for new immigrants to be interviewed six months, two years, and four years after landing in Canada. Survey content includes: reasons for coming to Canada, network of friends and family in Canada, official language skills, housing, education, employment, health, income and perceptions of settlement. A pilot test was conducted in March 1997 by Statistics Canada on behalf of Citizenship and Immigration Canada; both organizations are now in the process of seeking funding to be able to proceed with the full survey. The base costs of the survey have been estimated to be approximately \$5 million over the period 1997–1998 to 2001–2002.

Status report on Culture Statistics Program

Paul McPhie noted that the Culture Statistics Program, with an annual budget of \$1.5 million, conducts surveys in the areas of films, books, periodicals, sound recordings, performing arts, heritage industries and institutions, and government expenditures in culture and the arts. He added that the program had given special emphasis in the past

few years to broadening its research activities, particularly with the provinces, and that research contracts had been signed with Saskatchewan, the Atlantic provinces, Ontario, and British Columbia to produce cultural sector profiles at the regional and provincial levels. The profiles will cover such matters as economic impact of the cultural sector, labour market analysis, local government spending, profiles of culture industries and institutions, cultural tourism and festivals. He concluded his presentation by expressing the hope that more direct contact with all provinces would result in partnerships involving the better exploitation of local knowledge and datasets, and assistance to the program in the maintenance of survey frames.

Centre for Education Statistics

Sange de Silva informed delegates that the Centre for Education Statistics had recently been created and that a strategic plan for the centre was being developed. Provinces and other stakeholders had been contacted. Users expressed the opinion that the centre's efforts should be put on meeting the emerging need of the labour market by providing information both on the transition from education to work and also the education system itself. Users would also like the centre to rethink its output strategy.

Status report on Health Division and Canadian Institute for Health Information

Janet Hagey began her presentation by updating delegates on the status of the National Population Health Survey. Cycle 1 data were used extensively: the overview publication, the public microdata file, articles in specialized journals, health reports and analyses at various levels. The second cycle was carried out in 1996–97. The content of this cycle included topics such as health status, injuries, health practices, health services, behaviour, social and psychosocial stress, income, labour force status, demographic characteristics and access to health services. She noted that data from the second cycle were scheduled to be released in the winter of 1997–98 (in the form of a microdata file and overview report).

Ms. Hagey continued her presentation by addressing the Vital Statistics Program. The important strategic goal of improved timeliness (within a year) was met in 1996. She noted that there was strong reaction to the proposed cut of marriage and divorce statistics. She concluded this topic by informing delegates that negotiations are under way to update the 1945 Agreement on Vital Statistics to cover, in particular, electronic exchange of data and the funding mechanisms.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information is a non-profit, non-governmental institution that was established in 1994. Its 29-member board of directors is a mix of government and non-government representatives. Six activities of Statistics Canada's Health Statistics Division have been identified for potential transfer to the institute (over a period of several years): hospital morbidity, abortions, nurses, the annual hospital survey, residential care facilities, and cancer. She noted that an external review examining the institute's mandate and operations was recently completed and a report was presented to the board of directors.

Low Income Cut-offs

A continuation of last year's discussion on Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) was requested by a number of delegates. Clarification was asked on the intended purpose of LICOs. Mr. Macredie explained that they originated in a 1961 census monograph written by Jenny Podoluk, and were then created as a summary measure to indicate the portion of population that had very limited discretionary capacity in their incomes. There was considerable interest in the data user community, and there were requests for LICO updates, for further breakdown of its components and for further tabulations, which were done over the years.

Mr. Petrie commented that in the late 1980s, Statistics Canada conducted a thorough review of the LICOs and looked at alternatives, because the Agency was quite unhappy (and still is unhappy) with the uses to which LICOs were often put (associating it with poverty) and the importance they had taken on. As a follow-up to the review, Statistics Canada developed some alternate Low Income Measures (LIMs), which were not widely accepted by the user communities. So, for lack of something better, the LICOs continue to be used, abused and misused. Statistics Canada would still like to find a better solution, but there is no general agreement on what poverty is, and it is not the role of Agency to define it. The Agency would be prepared to measure poverty if a political decision is made as to what, in the Canadian context, constitutes poverty.

It was suggested that the Agency shows leadership in explaining what the data really mean; some education of the users can be done through appropriate notes in publications and documentation on LICOs. Mr. Petrie agreed with that suggestion but stated that he was not optimistic that more explanations would do much to change the reality given how the association between LICOs and poverty is embedded into the usage. Delegates agreed that a positive step has to be taken on LICOs, and encouraged Statistics Canada to undertake another review, along the lines of the 1989 review, by putting out a concept paper that could be shared with the provinces and territories. Mr. Petrie responded that Agency will seriously consider the idea of an other review. However, he recognized that such an initiative requires a lot of work and, therefore, Statistics Canada will want to be reasonably certain of positive outcomes before launching it.

Strategic direction of Social Statistics Program

Mr. Petrie presented the proposal developed by Statistics Canada to address the data needs associated with policy issues facing the country. He noted that over the past several months there had been several task forces of federal assistant deputy ministers that had considered the various dimensions of the policy development process. A task force chaired by Dr. Fellegi looked at the analytical capacity of the system to provide policy options. Another task force looked at policy concerns and put together a report that looked at a broad range of issues. Using this report's findings, Statistics Canada identified data gaps that must be closed to meet these challenges. In the area of social statistics, these are: transition from school to labour market; wealth; time use and

allocation; volunteer activities; immigration and Aboriginal issues. Mr. Petrie stressed that the proposals had not been designed as a request for more funding, but simply an outline of activities (and their estimated costs) that would be needed to close the identified data gaps.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Petrie assured members that the Agency would follow up on the issues that were raised during the deliberations. He thanked all delegates for their valuable contributions, noting that he and his colleagues looked forward to their continued co-operation and support on the many initiatives that will be developing during the year.

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Federal-Provincial Committee on Transportation Statistics

Last meeting: June 3–4, 1997, Ottawa

Next meeting: June 2–3, 1998, Ottawa

Members: Delegates from provincial and federal departments of transportation and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

North American Transportation Statistics Interchange

Last meeting: November 3–5, 1997, Ottawa

Next meeting: May 6–8, 1998, Mexico

Members: Transportation staff from Canadian, U.S. and Mexican statistical, regulatory and policy departments

Activities and Progress

Topics covered at these meetings included:

- updates on trucking, aviation, marine, rail and multi-modal data;
- the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES);
- passenger travel and tourism;
- the status of transportation and tourism satellite accounts;
- assessing user needs;
- trade and transportation; and
- the North American transportation statistics publication.

Progress was also reported regarding the implementation of the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and the development of a Standard Classification of Transported Goods. Presentations and discussions took place on the pilot project on the courier industry, on the development of a new Canadian Vehicle Survey, on the redesign of the Marine Financial Survey of Canadian domiciled carriers; and on solutions to be explored with the United States Department of Transportation to address the use of joint flights and code sharing between Canadian and United States airlines. U.S. delegates reported on the progress of the 1997 Commodity Flow Survey and the plans for an economic census (which would include transportation). Mexico reported on its progress in the implementation of NAICS.

VITAL STATISTICS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

Last meeting: June 17–19, 1997
Next meeting: June 30–July 3, 1998
Members: Provincial and Territorial Registrars/Directors of Vital Statistics

- Work on developing a Vital Statistics Council for Canada Web site will commence during the coming year.
- A Data Dictionary which gives standards for the collection/coding methods for births, marriages, deaths and stillbirths was accepted by Council, and an implementation date will be established with each jurisdiction.
- The Vital Statistics Council for Canada has started to produce a quarterly newsletter, with a distribution list of approximately 1,800.
- A User Committee was formed with the jurisdictions that are using MICAR/ACME.
- Coroners using a different coding system than V.S. will be investigated, and this will be reported back to Council.
- Develop a strategic business plan for the Vital Statistics Council for Canada.

APPENDIX 5
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MINUTES

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Program Committee held a teleconference on February 25, 1998. The meeting was chaired by and attended by focal points Emmet Weatherhead (Chairperson), Bill Hyshka and Dennis Pilkey; Denis Desjardins, Wayne Smith and Paula Fedeski-Koundakjian participated from Statistics Canada.

The Committee identified several subjects which they wished to be addressed at the Council.

- Administrative data

Increasing use will be made of administrative data—particularly Revenue Canada data—under PIPES. The Committee resolved that the question of the impact this may have on focal points' access to Statistics Canada data could be addressed in the PIPES update.

- Focal points' access to Statistics Canada data

It was agreed that Mr. Pilkey would table a proposal to establish a task force that would both identify and suggest solutions to data access issues.

- Nunavut

The Committee suggested that a number of questions related to the establishment of the new territory—such as data availability and Council membership—could usefully be addressed at Council.

- PIPES

The focal points asked for an update on PIPES, with particular attention to any new provincial data that the project may generate.

- Gaps II and the Assets and Debts Survey

There was particular interest in hearing a progress report on these two items.

The Secretariat developed a draft agenda on the basis on the discussions at the teleconference. The agenda was approved by the Program Committee members.

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