
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

April 29–30, 1999
Ottawa, Ontario



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MINUTES¹

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

Meeting of April 29-30, 1999

Ottawa, Ontario

1. Items in the minutes are ordered as they appear in the agenda, regardless of the order in which they may have been discussed at the meeting.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 29-30, 1999

1. Opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed delegates to the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. Established in 1974, the Council is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Dr. Fellegi noted the presence of two new focal points, Yvon Fortin for Quebec and Jack Hicks for the new territory of Nunavut. (See Appendix 1 for a complete list of focal points and other council participants.)

The proposed agenda for the 1999 meeting (see Appendix 2) was approved, and the minutes of last year's meeting were adopted without amendment. The focal point for British Columbia suggested that in this year's minutes, action items should be listed in an appendix. (You will find the follow-up items for this year's meeting recorded in Appendix 6.)

2. Accomplishments and priorities

Dr. Fellegi briefly reviewed the main points of his year-end report, published in the 1999 *SCAN Special Issue*, and invited the focal points to ask questions about subjects of particular concern to them.

British Columbia's focal point stated that he would like to participate in the development of draft agreements with the various health ministries. He noted that the provinces might be able to access their own health care records through the Statistics Canada database.

The focal point for Alberta raised the subject of access-to-information and privacy legislation. He pointed out that the need to cross-link data was growing and expressed concern that obstacles to data sharing were being encountered. Dr. Fellegi acknowledged the seriousness of the situation and stated that he was holding meetings with provincial privacy commissioners on the issue.

The focal point for Nova Scotia asked whether focal points could receive some training, and he volunteered to assist in developing the curriculum for such a training program. Dr. Fellegi applauded the idea and invited interested focal points to contact Mr. Ray Ryan.

The focal point for Manitoba wanted to know how Statistics Canada planned to manage the loss of corporate knowledge and memory that occurs when large numbers of employees retire. Dr. Fellegi listed the various steps that had already been taken: investing in training; rotating staff; running generic competitions; and making staff aware of the increased importance of versatility.

Some focal points expressed concern about cost recovery. In their view, the cost of some kinds of data was so high that some projects had been cancelled or had never even been started. In other cases, the data purchased did not meet the clients' actual needs. Dr. Fellegi replied that Statistics Canada did not make a profit from its cost-recovery activities. In a way, cost recovery shapes Statistics Canada's relations with its clients: clients get the data they want, while the Agency produces only what meets their needs.

3. Provincial and territorial reports

The provincial and territorial focal points presented their activity reports. These reports are reproduced in Appendix 3.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories raised the issue of the difference that may exist between Statistics Canada's subprovincial population estimates and the estimates produced by the provinces and territories. He pointed out that those estimates are a delicate issue because they are increasingly being used as the basis for funding formulas. He stressed the importance of close co-operation between Statistics Canada and the provinces and territories, and suggested that the question be discussed at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography.

4. Presentation on Nunavut

The focal point for Nunavut, Jack Hicks, gave a brief presentation on the creation of the new territory, the establishment of his statistics agency, and its plans for the future. On behalf of all the members, Dr. Fellegi presented him with a plaque welcoming him to the Council.

5. Report of the Program Committee

The chairman of the Program Committee, Mr. Ron McMahon, stated that the Committee had had a very good year. He noted that the subjects discussed in conference calls had been placed on the agenda of the present meeting. (Federal-Provincial committee reports and the report of the Program Committee are reproduced in appendices 4 and 5, respectively.)

6. Business and Trade Statistics Program

a) Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)

Mr. Philip Smith provided a synopsis of PIPES and described the progress made over the past year.

In response to a question from British Columbia's focal point, Mr. Smith stated that the pilot input-output tables for the provinces would be available in October or November 1999.

The focal point for the Yukon asked for some assurance that adequate data would be produced regarding the number of visitors to the Yukon, both from Canada and from other countries. Mr. Smith pointed out that the lack of precision in the data was often due to the small sample sizes of household surveys conducted in the North.

The Northwest Territories' focal point expressed concern that the Canadian Travel Survey did not include the North. He requested an explanation of what would be done, under PIPES, to fill this gap. Mr. Smith said he would have Dave McDowell contact him to discuss the possibilities in greater detail.

At the request of the focal point for Manitoba, it will be determined whether tourism data are revised after publication.

b) Confidentiality issues

Mr. Smith summarized the subjects discussed at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Business Statistics two days earlier. The subjects included data sharing, the treatment of confidential cells, training, and a working group update.

c) Small Business Statistics Program

Mr. Albert Meguerditchian provided a synopsis of the discussions that took place during the presentation on the Small Business Statistics Program. He noted that the focal points would be consulted to determine what form this program could take and that they would be kept informed of consultations with other interested parties.

The focal point for Quebec asked to be sent more information on the export business register and suggested that a meeting be held to discuss the Business Register as a whole. Messrs. Meguerditchian and Ryan agreed to the suggestion.

At the request of Manitoba's focal point, Mr. Ryan explained the consultation process. He planned to arrange a meeting with the focal points in the near future and to use Ms. Penny Basset's report as a starting point for the discussions. The group would focus on the characteristics that a small-business data set should have, both the data themselves and the information about them. Mr. Meguerditchian added that the notes to be sent to the focal points would include some initial ideas about what could be produced, aside from basic statistics, from the available data.

The focal point for Alberta asked whether the exporters' database would encompass both service businesses and merchandise businesses. Mr. Meguerditchian replied that large service enterprises were already covered, but that the current methodology did not permit the production of statistics on small exporters.

Prince Edward Island's focal point raised concerns about the loss of traffic flow information since the construction of the bridge between the Island and New Brunswick. He noted that the company that owned the bridge was less than enthusiastic about giving the information to anyone. He asked whether the company would be covered by the Unified Enterprise Survey, and when he was told it would not, he pointed out that the information gap would also have an impact on the National Accounts. Mr. Smith said he would see what could be done about the situation.

The focal point for Nunavut asked when the Consumer Price Index would be published for his territory and whether it would be updated monthly. Mr. Ryan suggested that he gets in touch with the Prices Division and find out what the priorities were; this step had to be taken before anything further could be done.

7. National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program

Mr. Stewart Wells announced that the national accounts time series would be revised back to 1981; these revised data were scheduled for release in the fall of 1999. He also informed the focal points that the 1996 input-output tables for the provinces would be available this fall and that they would be used for the first time as reference data for the provincial accounts.

Mr. Wells reported that Mr. Dave Stewart, of the Northwest Territories, had requested that the data for Nunavut be separated from the data for the Northwest Territories in the 1996 input-output tables. Mr. Wells explained that, unfortunately, this was currently not possible but that he would try to do something to help. The matter was to be discussed at a meeting in June.

In response to a request made by British Columbia's focal point on behalf of that province's Treasury Board to have preliminary gross domestic product estimates at the provincial level, Mr. Wells said he regretted that this could not be done. He added that the focal point would receive an official written explanation shortly. He further noted that as a result of current requirements and available resources, the provincial estimates would not be released until the fall (late October).

The focal point for Saskatchewan asked whether the economic accounts would eventually be revised back to 1961. Mr. Wells said it was not in Statistics Canada's plans at the moment, but he left the door open for future discussions. Ron McMahon raised the issue of the statistical discrepancy between the various measures of gross domestic product. Mr. Wells stated that the discrepancy could be removed artificially but that that would result in the loss of a certain kind of information. He suggested that the implications of such a decision should be discussed at a future meeting.

Citing recent media coverage on the issue of personal savings, the focal point for Manitoba said that some types of income were not included and asked whether action would be taken to correct the problem. Mr. Wells replied that although he was reluctant to change the way savings were measured, the issue would be examined at next month's meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Canadian System of National Accounts.

The focal point for Prince Edward Island added that personal expenditure included out-of-province purchases and that if a province had many visitors—as was the case for his province—personal expenditure could be overstated. Mr. Wells said he believed the provincial accounts reflected that situation, but he recommended that the issue be re-examined.

8. Health Statistics Program

Mr. Gary Catlin, Director of the Health Statistics Division, described the Health Statistics Program and the Health Information Roadmap initiatives approved and funded in the last federal budget. He explained how the initiatives were affecting Statistics Canada's program, and he briefly reviewed the initiatives for which the Canadian Institute for Health Information was responsible.

In response to a request by a number of focal points, Dr. Fellegi stated that they would be kept informed on a regular basis of activities in the health field, including meetings that were held and the people who were involved. General information and a list of people who had helped with the consultations in each province and territory would be sent out as well. He also planned to include a Health Statistics Program update in the agenda of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics.

The focal point for Alberta outlined some of the obstacles his province had encountered in requesting access to medical records, and he asked whether Statistics Canada was having similar problems. Mr. Catlin replied that 95% of National Population Health Survey respondents had answered affirmatively when asked whether they consented to linkage of their data.

Following a question by Manitoba's focal point, Mr. Catlin stated that it would be possible to examine the issue of Aboriginal health through the Community Health Survey.

9. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program

a) Program update

The Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics having met the previous day, Mr. Bruce Petrie confined his presentation to the main points discussed at the meeting, including GAPS II, the National Census Test, and post-censal surveys.

The focal point for British Columbia asked whether Labour Force Survey (LFS) data or Public Institutions Division data provided a better measure of public-sector employment. Mr. Petrie replied that the latter were more precise, and that LFS data must be used with the understanding that they are an indicator and not a precise measure.

The focal point for Prince Edward Island raised the issue of counting people who are out of their province or territory at the time of the Census. He wanted to know whether the Federal-Provincial Committee on the Census of Population would study the issue at its next meeting. Mr. Petrie said that the issue, though relevant, was not on the agenda. He did not foresee any changes in universal concepts and definitions. The way in which those concepts and definitions were implemented in the field, however, remained under close scrutiny.

b) Access to Census Data

Dr. Fellegi led a discussion of the requests by many genealogists for access to census data for research purposes. The confidentiality of the data is currently protected by law. Dr. Fellegi listed three possible scenarios: (1) keep the status quo; (2) change the law retroactively to remove the guarantees given at the time and allow access to data collected over 92 years ago; or (3) change the law to allow access to the data 92 years after they were collected, starting with the 2001 Census.

Most focal points opposed options 2 and 3. They felt that if the government reneged on its commitments or changed the law, the reputation of Statistics Canada and all the provincial and territorial statistics agencies would be tarnished, people would be less likely to complete survey questionnaires, and those who did would probably give poorer-quality information. In their opinion, the benefits that genealogists would reap from access to census data would be minimal compared with the negative effects this access would have on the Canadian statistical system.

The focal point for the Yukon saw it as an ethical question: in his view, the government can never change an agreement with an individual without that party's consent, no matter what the reason.

According to Nova Scotia's focal point, even polling Canadians on the subject would be very risky since it would show them that the possibility of overturning the law was being considered. Dr. Fellegi explained that the Minister of Industry had already responded to hundreds of genealogists that Statistics Canada would come up with some options.

The focal point for Ontario pointed out that the privacy issue had evolved in Canada over the last few years. With information sharing on the rise, he pointed out, did we want to tie the hands of future generations with today's views?

Newfoundland's focal point was of the opinion that various interest groups should be consulted before a decision is made.

The focal point for Quebec stated that the political battle was joined and that the views of statisticians were unlikely to alter its course. He believed it might be better to find out what privacy advocates thought and sound out Canadians on the issue. He also suggested that the issue should be put to access-to-information commissioners. In his view, political leaders were more likely to respond to pressure from society as a whole than to the opinion of a group of statisticians.

10. Appointment of Program Committee Members

In the past, one representative from the Atlantic provinces, one from central Canada and one from the Western provinces (representing the North as well) were chosen to sit on the Program Committee. It was decided that, to reflect the fact that there were now three territories, the North would henceforth have its own representative. The focal points on the 1999-2000 edition of the Committee will be George Richardson, Denis Baribeau, Wilf Falk and Gerry Ewert. It was recommended that Denis Baribeau be appointed chairman. Mr Desjardins remained an *ex officio* member. The appointments were approved.

11. Other business

The focal point for Nova Scotia suggested that the specific subjects that presenters planned to discuss should be included under the main headings in the agenda. The proposal was noted for the following year.

The focal point for Saskatchewan asked whether in future a summary of the presentations to be made by Statistics Canada representatives could be provided a few days before the meeting. It was decided that this would begin next year.

Various focal points mentioned a number of difficulties caused by electronic dissemination. It was decided that the Program Committee would draw up some guidelines for subject-matter divisions on various points, including indicating the location of information added to the External Communications Network, describing what the files contain and assigning unique names to the files.

The focal points, who wanted to be notified of the publication of important data, were reminded that the Friday edition of *The Daily* includes a section on the following week's releases.

The focal points requested that the report on Survey of Household Spending sample sizes and response rates, discussed in Ms. Maryanne Webber's presentation, be mailed to them.

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF FOCAL POINTS AND PARTICIPANTS

FOCAL POINTS

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	Director Statistics Division Department of Finance
New Brunswick	George Richardson	Director New Brunswick Statistics Agency Department of Finance
Quebec	Yvon Fortin	Director General Institut de la statistique du Québec
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 Alberta Treasury Statistics
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
Nunavut	Jack Hicks	Territorial Statistician Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

PARTICIPANTS

Statistics Canada	Ray Ryan	Assistant Chief Statistician Business and Trade Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Philip Smith	Director General Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)
Statistics Canada	Albert Meguerditchian	Director General Prices, International Trade and Finance Statistics Branch
Statistics Canada	Bruce Petrie	Assistant Chief Statistician Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Gary Catlin	Director Health Statistics Division
Statistics Canada	Stewart Wells	Assistant Chief Statistician National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field
Statistics Canada	Janet Hagey	Director Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Nathalie Turcotte	Head Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat Communications Division

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA

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

April 29 and 30, 1999
Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1999

- 9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
— Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Adoption of the agenda
 - Approval of the minutes of the 1998 meeting
- 9:15 a.m. **Achievements and Priorities**
— Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
(Dr. Fellegi will respond to questions arising from the contents of the 1999 special issue of *SCAM*)
- 9:45 a.m. **Provincial and Territorial Reports**
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. **Provincial and Territorial Reports (continued)**
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 11:15 a.m. **Nunavut Presentation**
— Jack Hicks
- 11:45 a.m. **Program Committee Report**
— Ron McMahon
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. **Business and Trade Statistics Program**
— Ray Ryan
- Program update
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. **National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program**
— Stewart Wells
- Program update
- 4:15 p.m. **Health Statistics Program**
— Gary Catlin
- 5:00 p.m. Reception

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1999

9:00 a.m. **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program**

— Bruce Petrie

- Program update

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. **Nominations to the Program Committee**

10:45 a.m. **Other Business**

Concluding Remarks

APPENDIX 3
PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

ALBERTA

Overview

For the 1998–99 fiscal year, Statistics continued to operate as the central statistical agency for the Alberta government, reporting to the Alberta Treasury through its Economics and Public Finance section.

The general focus of statistical activities remained unchanged over the past year: we have continued to provide both core and custom statistical services to public and private sector clients. However, the core activities Statistics undertook for the Alberta government continued to increase during 1998–99; this increase was the result of cross-departmental demands to maintain statistical standards for data production and reporting. Statistics' custom activities focused on providing unique analytical services and data development to clients on a cost-recovery basis.

At the request of the Auditor General, and as part of the Government's Performance Measures initiative, Statistics has substantially increased its consultative role, providing technical support and advice to all departments to ensure they achieve a standardized approach to statistical analysis.

Administration and budget

During the 1998–99 operating period, Statistics maintained a core staff of seven, supplemented by contract personnel for special projects. Our budgetary expenditures remained stable and we realized approximately \$200,000 in revenue from cost-recovery initiatives.

Goals and objectives

The guiding principle under which Statistics operates is to provide a co-ordinated and standardized approach to the development, production and reporting of statistical information within the Alberta Government.

While Statistics has no direct authority to impose the implementation of specific statistical methodologies, the consultative services it provides to all government departments have given us the opportunity to achieve our objectives in this area.

Core services

The core services offered by Statistics on behalf of the Alberta Government remain unchanged from the previous year:

- Alberta economic accounts
- Alberta economic modelling program
- 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 translation services
- municipal census training and consultation program

Projects and programs

Statistics' projects, programs and services are based on the continued premise of developing and maintaining standardized statistical information for Alberta, while minimizing needless overlap and duplication.

Alberta government information retrieval system

- **ASIST (Alberta Statistical Information System)**
ASIST is a centralized on-line database system used by Alberta government departments to access and share a wide variety of socio-economic information. ASIST is made available to users on a pay-per-use basis to meet the demands of both internal and external clients for cost effective data.
- **System redevelopment: 1999–2000**
With general staff reductions in all areas of the Alberta provincial government, an emphasis on the cost-effective delivery of data to a wide range of clients has become essential. To meet users' growing demand for cost-recovery services that provide enhanced functionality, Statistics has embarked on a staged redevelopment program for the ASIST database system.

After 14 years of service to client departments and agencies in its current form, the ASIST data retrieval system will be redesigned. We hope to complete the first phase of this redevelopment project (movement to a new hardware and upgraded software platform), by late 1999, in time to meet Y2K requirements. The development of enhanced data extraction and manipulation tools will be phased in during the next 18 to 24 months.

Publications

While production and distribution of print publications and products have increased over the past year in response to user requests, Statistics continues to move towards electronic media to meet the challenge of cost-effective statistical information distribution. In 1998–99, Statistics produced the following publications:

- *Alberta Economic Multipliers*
- *Alberta Municipal Census Enumerator's Manual*
- *Alberta Export Services Survey*
- *Alberta Economic Accounts*
- *Alberta Population Estimates and Projections*
- *Alberta Facts & Figures*
- *Alberta Provincial Electoral Division Profiles*
- *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 through a secondary vendor.

In addition to these functions, the vendor provides general marketing, promotion and subscription services.

Statistical database management

Statistics managed several databases to support input into various core and custom-contracted projects:

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

Survey operations

Statistics offers a wide range of custom survey services to qualified clients, including general consultation, survey design, sample selection, implementation, project management and custom analyses, as well as full turnkey solutions to data collection initiatives.

- Alberta Wage & Salary Survey:
Statistics undertook the development of a comprehensive Alberta wage and salary survey at the beginning of this year; we estimate completion in the fall of 1999. The survey will cover 24 major industrial sectors covering nearly 500 occupations, and will use a sample frame of approximately 25,000 businesses.

Demographic program

Custom population estimates and projections are now part of the in-house core services provided by Statistics. Centralized demographic statistics, a core function, give departments the uniform data they need 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.

Work is now underway on behalf of a consortium of provincial government departments and municipalities to develop aboriginal population estimates as input into provincial population-based funding formulas.

Data development and analyses

- Economic multipliers
Based on the development of public-use economic multipliers and intensity-supply ratios, Statistics provides custom industry aggregations to meet the specific requirements of our clients.
- Economic impact model
The Alberta Economic Impact Model, operated by Statistics, provides a basis for public and private users to measure the impact of various changes in the Alberta economy using standardized inputs and algorithms.

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

Alberta statistical focal point

In addition to the consultative role as the Statistical Focal Point for liaisons with Statistics Canada, Statistics continues to co-ordinate the purchase and acquisition of data to reduce overlap and duplication between government departments.

Acknowledgement

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Overview

The fiscal year 1998–99 was a good one for the Agency. Our operations expanded as we took on a number of new projects, largely on behalf of other departments on a cost-recoverable basis. Our staff complement increased from 28 to 33 person-years, resulting in an increase of 10% in our gross budget.

Several new cost-recoverable activities undertaken this past year have involved the expansion of our regional statistics program. The Agency has always had a well-developed regional population estimation and projection program. We are now expanding our regional data inventory to include a greater variety of social and economic information. Our goal is to improve the availability and utility of regional data for decision makers.

One of these new initiatives was the development of a regional “stress” index. Compounding the problems of data quality and availability at the regional level is the difficulty faced by decision makers in effectively synthesizing large volumes of data across many regions. To help address this problem, we have been experimenting with collapsing regional social and economic data variables into a handful of “strata” and then fusing the strata into a single index. The goal is to provide policy makers with information that will support fact-based decision making when they are allocating budgetary resources. As part of an evaluation of the methodology and results, we solicited feedback from various researchers in academic institutions across Canada as well as federal government departments. The comments we have received from this external review process have been very useful. In particular, both Garnet Picot and Michael Wolfson of Statistics Canada have provided some very valuable feedback.

Another major development was the addition to our sector economic accounts program, which currently includes tourism and high technology, of the sport and commercial fisheries. We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to continue to expand our sector accounts program to those areas where information is required to support policy development.

Our efforts to improve the policy relevance of the statistical information that we produce continue to be a priority. This means converting data into information by putting it into context that can be understood by decision makers. A key component of this process is ensuring that the information is timely, relevant and accessible to decision makers. As part of this process we have continued, and in some cases enhanced, our statistical release program to government, the public, the business community and the media. As economic conditions within the province have weakened, this transparency in our dissemination activities has come under considerable scrutiny. However, we have been fortunate to receive the continued support of the senior executive within our Ministry. There is a general recognition that a degree of independence is necessary if a statistical agency is to be seen as relevant to the policy development process.

This report gives readers a more detailed inventory of projects undertaken by the Agency over the past year.

Fiscal situation

Last year Treasury Board directed that our base budget remain at 100% of the 1997–98 level. This meant that we could concentrate on maintaining core statistical services as opposed to reducing them. However, as part of this status quo budget we were required to maintain an extremely high proportion of cost-recovery activities. We initially set our cost-recovery target at 44% of our gross expenditures—an all-time high for the Agency. By the time the year was over, we had not only achieved our target, but had surpassed it by reaching 51%.

On the positive side, cost recovery demonstrates and validates the demand for our statistical services and products and, as such, is the ultimate performance measure. However, there is a heavy cost to this policy. 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 continued to raise concern about the impact of such funding on base services and 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 has, in turn, shifted the priorities of the Agency away from the corporate needs of government toward the specific needs of government clients that are willing and able to pay for those services.

The current state of the provincial economy has made another year of belt tightening and cutbacks necessary. As a result, Treasury Board issued budget reductions to many of the ministries across government, but rejected program cuts to BC STATS. Hence, our 1999–2000 budget is once again assessed at 100% of the 1998–99 level.

1998–99 Activities

Regional "stress" indicators

At the request of the Deputy Minister's Subcommittee on Social Policy, we began the development of a set of indicators summarizing regional socio-economic activity. Our intent was to measure social and economic conditions within B.C. and summarize the results in the form of a single index with the goal of providing policy makers with information that would support fact-based decision making when allocating budgetary resources on a regional basis.

Five basic indicators of regional prosperity were developed, each a composite of three or four variables. These five indicators were labelled:

- Index of Human Economic Hardship
- Index of Impending Change in Economic Hardship
- Index of Crime
- Index of Health
- Index of Education

Two additional indicators that highlight the target groups of children and youth were also developed, bringing the overall total to seven indicators. A weighted summary of the

seven indicators noted above was also created and termed the "Overall Index of Stress". In addition to the data variables that compose the seven indicators, supplementary data variables were compiled for background information, but were not directly included in the calculation of the index.

This project is still in the development stage. An external review of the methodology and results has been undertaken. Reviewers were asked to comment on the variables used in the construction of the indices, the validity of the data, the reliability of the data, the weights used in estimating the indicators, and any general views on the use of indicators for public policy. Within Statistics Canada, both Michael Wolfson and Garnett Picot were asked to reviewed the methodology and have made a number of constructive suggestions, many of which are being implemented.

Projection model of supply and demand of B.C. public service employees by occupation

B.C.'s Public Service has the same profile as most other public services in Canada—an aging population, particularly among middle and upper managers. There is an emerging realization that the government will be faced with labour shortages in the next ten years. However, the severity of these shortages, in what occupation groups they will likely occur and what, if any, human resource polices are available to address these shortages are just beginning to be investigated. To aid this process, BC STATS is developing a model to project the hiring, promotion, separation and retirement patterns of the B.C. Public Service based on the experience of recent years. The intent is to flag occupation groups and ministries that are heading for major personnel shortages.

The penalty structure of the B.C. Government's retirement plan primarily affects the 55- to 59-year-old age group. It is based on the "rule of 90" (sum of age plus years of experience), where pension penalties are imposed if the retiree falls short of the rule. In 1997, the government encouraged early retirement by dropping the rule from 90 to 80 over a three- or four-month window. At that time, 27% of those aged 55 to 59 left government, whereas the usual attrition rate for this age group was in the neighbourhood of 10%.

In April 2000, a permanent reduction to 85 in the age plus years of service rule will come into effect. This change is intended to push forward some of the expected outflow and consequently moderate the problem by spreading the retirement bulge over a longer period of time.

Upper level management is a major concern for the Government. According to past patterns, ADM's/DM's begin to retire at age 55, and are virtually all gone by the age of 60. In five years' time it is expected that one-third of the ADM's/DM's will be over the age of 55. Hence, beginning in 2008, the annual turnover rate is projected to double, with one in five ADM's/DM's leaving government each year. To complicate matters further, the feeder group to the executive level is also "long in the tooth". If the existing hierarchical structure for promotion is kept in place, the senior management ranks will experience major churning as large numbers are promoted to backfill the ADM/DM vacancies, on top of high retirement rates of their own.

Analytic support forestry jobs initiative program

In June 1997, the province announced the signing of a Jobs and Timber Accord (JTA) with forest industry representatives. As part of this accord, industry and government agreed "to work co-operatively towards increasing the number of direct and indirect jobs created by British Columbia's forest sector by 37,800 by the year 2001." Exactly how the indirect jobs were to be estimated was not specified in the Accord or its supporting documents.

In the spring of 1998, BC STATS was contracted to provide defensible job multipliers for all activities deemed to result from the provisions of the Accord. In October 1998 we released our report entitled *Indirect Employment for the Jobs and Timber Accord*, which provided suitable job multipliers for JTA initiatives. The B.C. Input-Output Model was the tool used to develop these multipliers, with special care taken to avoid double-counting in the highly integrated forest sector.

Local area dependencies and impact ratios

A major study using data from the 1996 Census was undertaken to examine the economic dependency of 63 local areas in the province on various driver industries such as forestry, mining, fishing, tourism, high technology, etc. The study was intended to provide policy makers with a quantitative understanding of the regional economies and help in the estimation of the economic impacts of changes in those local economies. This work was particularly relevant of late, given the economic downturn that is affecting many communities outside the metropolitan areas of the province.

The study utilized an economic base methodology. The fundamental premise is that the economy of a community can be represented by income flows that can be classified as "basic" or "nonbasic", depending on where the income comes from. Basic income is assumed to flow into the community from the outside world, usually in response to goods and services produced in the community and exported from it. On the other hand, nonbasic income is paid to individuals in the community for goods and services they provide to other individuals in the community. Aside from 1996 Census data on income by industry, other sources of information used to help make the allocation of community income to the basic/nonbasic sectors included the B.C. Input-Output Model, FAMEX, and the 1995-96 B.C. Visitor Study.

As well as providing useful descriptive information about the various regions of the province in the form of income dependencies, diversity indices, and forest vulnerability indices, the study was also able to develop useful employment multipliers for examining the local impacts of changes in the basic industries. The final version of the report will be available soon on the BC STATS Web site.

Land selection impact model

A few years ago the province entered into treaty negotiations with the Government of Canada and First Nations to settle Native land claims that cover most of the province. To date, only the Nisga'a negotiations have reached the point of ratification. However, there is a well-defined negotiation process in place, and between 50 and 100 First Nations' groups are at various stages in the queue.

The B.C. Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has an ongoing need to provide information to their treaty negotiators that will assist them in understanding the impacts of proposed settlements. To date the impacts considered have largely been confined to financial impacts and timber values associated with land selection. However, the Ministry recognizes that other social and economic impacts may be equally important both for the communities most affected and for the province as a whole.

BC STATS was contracted to provide economic impact expertise in the development of the "Land Selection Impact Model". The model is intended to provide negotiators with a user-friendly tool that they can utilize to estimate a wide array of economic impacts under a variety of assumptions about any particular proposed settlement.

The initial contract was for a demonstration proof of concept model, to focus on only one small region of the province. If the pilot is successful, a province-wide version will be developed during 1999–2000.

High technology statistics

We are currently updating our annual publication on the British Columbia high technology sector. Last year's version was labelled 1996, which was the latest year of data used. This time, the title will be tagged with the year 1999. This reflects a change from labelling the data year to referencing the year of publication. The switch is more than cosmetic, as individual data series will now be presented with the latest available data. As a result, the span of time covered by the report will not be uniform for all topics. The change was inspired by increased use of monthly as opposed to annual survey data within the estimation methodology.

A major policy thrust in the high technology area has raised the profile of high technology statistical measurement in B.C.. BC STATS is participating on several inter-ministerial measurement initiatives. In one instance, comparable employment statistics were produced for B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Canada using a standard definition of the high technology sector. To these were added approximations for several U.S. states.

In addition, we have prepared two special reports on the High Technology sector in B.C. The first is an analysis of the life cycle of firms in the high tech sector. The report addresses questions such as: are new firms being formed more or less quickly in the high tech sector relative to other sectors; are they going out of business more or less frequently; what is the life expectancy of a firm in the high tech sector; and is growth in employment in the sector due to expansion of existing firms or to the creation of new firms. The second study examines the extent of non-high tech jobs in high tech industries. The findings indicate that a high proportion (around 50%) of the jobs in high tech industries are in high tech occupations. The other 50% are in occupations such as sales, clerical support, etc. The findings also show those high technology industries only account for about 40% of the high technology jobs in the province. Both reports are in the final editing stage and will be released shortly.

Economic accounts

The May 1998 release of the rebased Provincial Economic Accounts has impacted on our own accounts program, requiring methodological changes and the inclusion of new

data sources. As a result, the production timeframe has stretched considerably. The B.C. Economic Accounts 1961–1997, containing rebased quarterly estimates, are now expected to be completed by the summer of 1999, approximately nine months behind schedule.

Forest renewal data development program

Projects undertaken for Forest Renewal BC (FRBC) remain the largest single source of cost-recovery funds for BC STATS, representing over 50% of our 1998–99 cost-recovery total. In the coming fiscal year, a new administration system will reduce the need for assistance from BC STATS in mainline data collection for the corporation. Nevertheless, a series of smaller survey projects has resulted in a substantial amount of work over the past year for the crown corporation.

Significantly, the “kick start” effect of the FRBC project has led to an ongoing and increasing survey/consulting activity within BC STATS. Projects currently underway include a comprehensive survey of the sport fishing industry, a study to streamline administrative procedures in the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, and a review of employee relocations within the B.C. Assessment Authority.

Sport fishing survey

We are proceeding with a pilot survey for the Ministry of Fisheries to determine the economic impact of the B.C. sport fishing industry in selected regions within the province. The economic impact of the sport fishing industry in British Columbia has led to much debate between industry and government both here in Canada and in the United States. The B.C. sport fishery, both tidal and freshwater, generates significant economic benefit and many jobs depend on it. Although it is known that the effects of sport fishing are significant across the province, little information is available at a regional level. Since the level of participation in the sport fishing industry ranges from very high to relatively small, there is a need to examine the economic impact of the sport fishing industry in each region.

The survey will provide a base line for measuring the impact of the sport fishing industry in subsequent years as well as a sound basis for policy planning and economic development initiatives.

Sport/commercial fishing sector economic impact analysis

Government programs, policies and regulations significantly influence the environment in which the British Columbia fishing industry develops and operates, but there has not been an attempt by either the federal or provincial governments to quantify the total level of economic benefits being realized from this industry. A number of analyses have been completed for some components of the industry, but these are not comparable across sectors (i.e., commercial, processing, aquaculture, recreation) and not comparable with economic profiles of other industries in British Columbia.

As a result, BC STATS has been contracted to accurately quantify the direct, indirect and induced economic impacts of British Columbia's fishery, and to distinguish the contributions of each sector (i.e., commercial harvesting, processing, aquaculture, and recreation). The results will provide a sound and justifiable basis for policy planning,

adjustment measures, and economic development initiatives for the industry as it undergoes transition.

Small business statistics

A short publication profiling small business growth and employment in B.C. was produced this year in conjunction with Western Economic Diversification. Some of the highlights included:

- 98% of all businesses in B.C. are small businesses;
- B.C. has had the highest growth (1990–97) in small businesses of any province in Canada;
- the fastest small business growth is occurring in financial services, forestry services and high technology industries; and
- the greatest increase in small business job creation is occurring in health services, tourism and business services.

This publication covered business counts, jobs and payroll, self-employment, and the small business component of high technology, tourism, value-added manufacturing, and other fast-growing industries. Many of the statistics were presented with provincial comparisons, but no use was made of Employment Dynamics or any other data from the Small Business Consortium. Alternative sources with equivalent detail but improved timeliness have been utilized.

Tourism statistics

We have continued our Tourism Sector accounts program producing Tourism GDP and employment estimates to 1997. Other tourism statistics slated for development in the coming year include a Tourism Price Index, which will help explain trends in tourism revenues, and the extension of Tourism Room Revenue statistics to cover a sub-provincial geography required by Tourism BC. Tourism Regions will join Regional Districts and selected Municipalities as the units for small area analysis.

Regional population estimates

One of the core functions of BC STATS is our small-area population estimates and projections program. During the last year we prepared 1998 population estimates for a number of sub-provincial regions including municipalities, school districts, regional districts, health areas, and RCMP detachments. These population estimates are used in various provincial–local government per-capita funding formulae, and as indicators of regional economic expansion. Our current regional population estimates incorporate 1996 Census data adjusted for net census undercount, and have been revised back to 1971 to correspond to the new provincial totals published by Statistics Canada.

With the release of the 1996 Census counts and undercoverage studies, we were able to re-evaluate the BC STATS sub-provincial population estimation methodology. The error structure associated with our municipal and census division population estimates were very similar to those found in previous evaluations conducted in 1991 and 1986.

Our 1998 population estimates indicated that growth slowed considerably in most areas of the province. Areas that have been centres of high growth in the recent past, such as the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan and the eastern portion of Vancouver Island, are still experiencing stronger growth than other parts of the province; however, the rate of increase has declined. Population growth in many of the resource-dependent regions of the province has weakened considerably.

Regional population projections

During the past year new regional population projections to 2026 were developed, based on a new health-area geography which divided the province up into 88 separate regions. This created a challenge as some have quite small populations. Accessibility to the population projections by the regional health community has been increasing and it is expected that the projections will be used extensively in regional health planning.

There has also been growing interest in our regional population and household projections partly as a result of the *Growth Strategies Act*, which 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 and Greater Victoria areas to ensure that planning for housing, transportation and other infrastructure development is consistent with the projected populations for these areas.

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. A number of the articles have been based on data from the 1996 Census. Some recent articles that received considerable interest were:

- the effects of immigration on the ethnicity and language characteristics of the population;
- family and income characteristics of the immigrant population;
- foreign students studying in B.C.;
- China-B.C. immigration trends;
- interprovincial mobility of immigrants;
- mobility and migration between 1991 and 1996; and
- analysis of place of work and mode of transportation information.

Our immigration-related analysis program has benefited from staff participation in a number of meetings and conferences, including the recent National Metropolis Conference. These conferences have been a useful forum for discussing issues relating to immigration data sharing and research initiatives with Canadian Immigration and Citizenship (CIC) staff. Currently, immigration databases accessed by BC STATS for analysis purposes include the Immigration Database (IMDB) and the Landed Immigrant Data System (LIDS).

Geography for the 2001 Census

We have been working closely with Geography Division, our Ministry of Municipal Affairs and regional governments to define new rural Census Subdivisions and Designated

Places for the 2001 Census. In conjunction with this process, staff from the Geography Division, BC STATS and other B.C. government ministries recently held a video conference to discuss a number of the new geographic concepts and methods proposed for use in the 2001 Census.

Data services

Data services has worked to maintain "business as usual" on most fronts while at the same time developing strategies and products to supplement or replace some of the older lines.

Within BC STATS, Data Services is responsible for servicing the vast majority of enquiries and initiating the dissemination process for our full range of periodicals. Our successes in working to heighten our profile inside and outside government now means that all our periodicals are reviewed for emerging issues by deputy ministers and Crown CEOs as well as communications directors. In addition, designated statistical contacts in each ministry receive an electronic copy of each release.

Data Services is also nominally responsible for BC STATS' Internet site. In reality, our site is overseen by a committee, including representation from each of our authoring branches and chaired by myself. Navigation around the site has been vastly improved this year. We took advantage of a move from an OS2 to an NT environment to incorporate features not available from the older platform. We added a search tool and a geographic approach to browsing for our small area data. Usage of the site continues to expand. Three "subscription only" areas are now available: one for our regular statistical releases, one for our Major Projects Inventory, and one for the 1996 Census place of work data for the transportation consortium. Each of these areas has password- or IP address-protected access.

We are currently working on a profile of Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) that, when finished, will feature maps, charts and data tables. The chart section is now largely finalized and has been put up on our Internet site. The tables are awaiting the completion of a new census data reporting system being written. The new system will allow us to report on custom (such as the PED) and standard geography using a combination of FED/EA, and FED and CD/CSD data to get a better quality result than we have had before using just FED/EA aggregations.

MANITOBA

Introduction

The Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) continues to operate as the central statistical agency for the Province of Manitoba. Through the deputy minister, it reports to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, the minister responsible for the Statistics Act. MBS has been administratively housed within the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism for 12 years.

Budget

For 1999/2000, the MBS net budget allocation has increased by 14%. An additional one staff year was approved, bringing the staff complement to 14 persons (12 regular and 2 contract).

MBS is required to generate 6.5% 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.

For the 2000/2001 fiscal year, MBS will be seeking Treasury Board approval to reduce our absolute government recovery requirement by at least \$30,000 or 50%. This would allow the free availability of MBS information products, via electronic means, within Manitoba government departments.

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 its crown agencies. MBS's 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 usable in support of decision making at all levels.
- *Responsiveness*: On-time delivery of products and services and 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; continuing to focus on relevant cross-departmental products and services; emphasizing original data development and analysis.
- *Results*: Giving clients 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 its crown agencies. Electronic dissemination of information products will be emphasized in this corporate service environment. Cost-recovery activities will be concentrated in the area of custom service delivery to individual clients.

Primary goals and objectives

1) *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 cutoffs, economic activity, performance measures for the new economy, environmental climate change information, and global socio-economic trend determination.

2) *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.
- We will continue to improve and expand the desktop-accessible MBS InfoNet information system for use by Deputy Ministers, Assistant Deputy Ministers and Directors.
- We will expand MBS Online, our general desktop-accessible electronic information system for general usage by subscribers.

3) *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.
- The Manitoba Policy Impact Simulation Model, in conjunction with the existing Manitoba Economic and Tax Revenue Impact Assessment Model, will significantly enhance our analytical capability to support strategic decision making.

4) *To improve products and services by developing new initiatives*

- We will investigate the development and maintenance of a central Manitoba Business Register to identify the number of businesses and their selected characteristics (location, industry, employment size) and business creation/dissolution statistics.
- We will investigate the implementation of the Geographic Information System (GIS) for Manitoba statistics to allow the display of information on a geographic basis.
- We will investigate the development, presentation and dissemination of social statistics in the area of health, education, family services and justice.

5) *To improve operational efficiency by enhancing MBS internal system infrastructure*

- Providing even better service requires further internal operating efficiencies.
- We will create an integrated and comprehensive database for statistical data and document retrieval.
- We will proactively identify current and future client needs.
- We will foster partnerships to maximize limited resources and client service.

6) *To improve direct customer service through administrative procedural changes*

- We will expand custom service capability to better meet the ongoing strategic information needs of clients through various special initiatives (e.g., Project Staffing Initiative).

NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Statistics Agency monitors and reports to the government on trends in demographics and the economy, and prepares the five-year economic forecast, which is used for budget planning and revenue forecasting. The Agency has also been involved in providing research, analysis and advice to several special committees set up in recent years to look at the delivery, targeting and future demand of social programs, as well as demographic and economic analysis and outlooks.

The Agency conducted regular data dissemination activities last year. These included responses to nearly 3,000 inquiries, with about 60% coming from the public service. Our annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy*, was released in February, and is available on the Internet. We produced regular monthly and quarterly reports for government distribution on economic, demographic and social indicators. We have also expanded a weekly briefing document for senior officials and the Premier's Office, providing a capsule report of the latest statistical, economic and social indicators and a look at the numbers that may be released during 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, and continued this process in 1998. It became evident early on in the process 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 tie information on socio-economic trends more closely to public policies, decision making and program delivery. To some extent this has been accomplished. The Director of the New Brunswick Statistics Agency serves as Assistant Director of the Fiscal, Economic and Statistical Policy Branch.

In 1998 the Agency concentrated major efforts on promotion and dissemination of the 1996 Census results, in conjunction with Statistics Canada's Halifax Regional Office. Several consultations with Statistics Canada officials were held in Fredericton, with positive results for both the provincial departments involved and Statistics Canada. The level of contact and relations with the Halifax regional office of Statistics Canada have shown marked improvement.

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 and other planning processes, such as forecasting demand for kindergarten services and looking at age distribution in rural areas for the planning of health delivery services in the next decade. The Agency delivered a number of presentations to senior officials of several departments on the demographic and economic outlook to 2015.

A co-op student from the University of New Brunswick in Saint John was employed by the Agency to prepare sub-provincial demographic profiles. Recognizing existing demographics, the New Brunswick government has announced a new program to hire at least 20 additional young people per year for a period of five years. These 'interns' would be rotated through several departments before taking a term position in a line department. It is anticipated that a large proportion of these new employees will be

working in the Agency for a period of two to four months, becoming familiar with available data and research techniques. This is expected to put a significant burden on the Agency's human resources over the next five years.

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

Provincial Economic Accounts revision covers only the period from 1992 to 1997. What about previous years? This is becoming an alarming trend, with several other Statistics Canada series not being historically updated following methodology changes.

There appear to be some provincial differences in what data/services are charged and what are free. Is there some way to sort out which we have to pay for and which we don't?

NEWFOUNDLAND

REDIS upgrade

The Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS) is a GIS-based micro-economic database and software that was developed by the Newfoundland Statistics Agency (NSA) during the early 1990s. It is our primary storage and retrieval facility for sub-regional data and has been provided to government and quasi-government groups under licence. This year the system was upgraded to include 1996 Census data and improved base maps. The upgrade is under beta test now and should be released for general use by June.

NSA is also working with Nova Scotia to initiate a project where REDIS would be expanded to form a joint Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Nova Scotia Statistics Agency and NSA. This additional upgrade would expand the system significantly in terms of its functionality and its data resources. Meetings have been held in both provinces and a proposal is being developed. It is hoped that work can begin this summer.

Demographic study

A major demographic study has been under way since last year at the request of the Premier. The Branch's ADM is spearheading the project and NSA has been providing the technical support. Database building and analytical work have been done in-house and outside researchers have also been hired. Two of the researchers, Byron Spencer and Frank Denton, will build models to provide projection capability for the province as a whole and at the level of the Economic Zone. Other academic researchers have written papers regarding migration between provinces. A major report is to be produced by this fall, so work on the project is intensifying.

Strategic Social Plan

Last September, the government unveiled its Strategic Social Plan (SSP). An essential element of the plan is to initiate a more evidence-based approach to policy development and monitoring. NSA was mandated to provide technical support and to facilitate a Social Audit that is to be carried out in five years. This is a major project that will extend for the period and that comes with a budget. To date, work has been intensive. Work has begun on the development and implementation of a system of Community Accounts. The information will be published on a Web site and will be provided to those involved in the Plan's work as soon as approval is received from Cabinet. A report that outlines a framework and approach for developing and carrying out the Social Audit has been submitted to senior officials. The report discusses the data needed to develop the indicators to support the policy development and monitoring necessary for facilitating the Audit. It also proposes an integrated methodology for building and carrying out the Audit. A group that has been established within NSA is doing most of the data and technical work and Dr. Doug May of Memorial University is overseeing the conceptual work.

The Community Accounts

Development of the system of Community Accounts is well under way. They will provide data at the community level that come from a wide variety of sources—the health,

education, social assistance, and economic development departments, the Medical School at Memorial University and Statistics Canada (STC). In this regard, discussions and negotiations continue with Small Area and Administrative Data Division (SAADD) concerning the pricing of data purchases as well as to develop a licence agreement that will permit NSA to provide STC data to those who need it. Final agreements are at hand and SAADD data will now be available under STC's DLI initiative.

Human resource data initiative

A project has been under way for over a year to develop an approach for standardizing and organizing human resource (HR) data and information for the government as a whole. NSA has played an important role in this exercise. A plan has been developed and major recommendations on how to proceed will soon be submitted to senior officials. If our proposals are accepted, NSA will be active in this area for about two years. This work will see a variety of HR-related data become available to those who need it both inside and outside government.

New data dissemination unit

Approval has recently been granted for a renovation of the Branch and therefore, the Agency as well. A main goal of the renovation is to build and establish a walk-in data dissemination self-help centre. The purpose of the centre is to provide better and more efficient service to clients and to create areas where confidential work is inaccessible to clients. To support this move, two new positions—Manager of Data Dissemination and Statistical Officer—have been created and staffed. The renovations are to begin shortly the centre should open for business by June 1999.

Web site

A new Web site is being developed for NSA. Work is under way to prepare the data to be provided and to set up the software. The Nova Scotia statistics group has assisted us by providing access to their site software. The support from Nova Scotia will help us "fast-track" the implementation of our own site. We hope to launch a preliminary version of the site by mid-summer. When fully developed, we will use the site to provide data and information to clients and to publish Agency reports and studies. This site will be in addition to the SSP site, which is accessible only to SSP clients with passwords.

New Survey Services Unit initiated

The NSA has created a unit to provide survey services and support to clients. The unit was created to meet the growing demand for this type of service throughout government. Two staff members, Linda Bartholomew and Gwenda Murphy, have developed the concept and will specialize in this area as a part of their responsibilities. We will help clients develop and fine-tune survey documents, ensure that surveys have a proper scientific basis, input collected data and provide data and reports of results. We do not plan to actually make calls—this kind of work will be contracted to others who are properly equipped. If current trends continue, this subject area will increase in prominence for NSA.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Overview

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

The Bureau of Statistics has five major functions:

1. to develop, analyse and interpret economic, social and demographic statistics required for territorial government purposes;
2. to circulate official government statistics and other statistical information in both print and electronic formats, to 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;
3. to provide statistical advice and assistance to departments, regional offices and central agencies on the analysis of statistical information and on statistical surveys;
4. to provide for the continuing and effective representation of territorial statistical interests within the national statistical system, including participating in federal-provincial committees on statistics, serving as the government's focal point for contacts with Statistics Canada, and consulting with federal departments including Statistics Canada regarding territorial statistics; and
5. to provide a limited statistical service to the general public, to the private sector and to other governments.

The base budget for the NWT Bureau of Statistics has decreased by 34% for the 1999–2000 fiscal year since operational funding for the 1999 Community Labour Force Survey was included in last year's budget.

No changes in the organizational placement of the Bureau of Statistics are planned. However, the NWT Bureau of Statistics lost one permanent position when the territory was divided to create Nunavut.

Division

A major focus for the NWT Bureau of Statistics in the past year has been to prepare for division of the territories and the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. The work of preparing for division has involved three main components:

1. The NWT Bureau of Statistics has been working with Statistics Canada to adjust its programs to reflect the data needs of the two new territories.

2. While the Government of Nunavut develops its capacity, some statistical services are being contracted back to the NWT Bureau of Statistics. A one-year arrangement has been negotiated with the Nunavut government. The agreement focuses on statistical products and on providing orientation for new staff of the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics.
3. Finally, there has been strong demand from both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for separate statistical information for the two new territories. Statistics Canada has made significant commitments to produce separate data as of April 1, 1999. Ensuring access to this information, as well as providing comment and assistance to Statistics Canada in the development of the data, is expected to be a key activity in the coming year.

Data development and dissemination

Although preparing for division has been a focus of the NWT government and the Bureau of Statistics during the past year, a number of significant data development and dissemination initiatives were completed by the Bureau.

As noted above, operations for the 1999 NWT Community Labour Force Survey were completed during the past year. This survey covered all communities in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and involved approximately 7,000 households and 15,000 individuals. Data capture is currently being completed. An overall response rate of approximately 81% was achieved.

As part of the Community Labour Force Survey, two additional survey modules were completed. First, an injuries module was completed on behalf of the NWT Department of Health and Social Services with approximately 750 respondents in each of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In addition, a separate Nunavut module was completed with approximately 900 Nunavut residents. This module was completed on behalf of the new Nunavut government and covered a wide range of issues such as labour market mobility and expectations for the new government. Both the injuries and Nunavut modules were completed with randomly selected individuals from households completing the Community Labour Force Survey.

As part of its commitment to the collection for the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) and the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSC/Y), the NWT Bureau of Statistics completed data collection for the 1998–99 cycle between October and December 1998. Approximately 1,500 households participated in the surveys with sample sizes expected to be approximately 500 each for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for the NPHS and 700 each for the NLSC/Y. Response rates remained high in both territories, at about 85% overall. Data capture has been completed and processing is in process. The Bureau expects to provide files to Statistics Canada by the end of April.

A major accomplishment during the past year has been the development of a methodology to prepare community population estimates. The NWT Bureau of Statistics has not released community estimates since the elimination of the Family Allowance Program. Estimates have recently been released for all Northwest Territories and Nunavut communities for 1996, 1997 and 1998. The community estimates include an allocation of the territorial coverage adjustment following the 1996 census.

A further development in the demographic field has been the redesign of the territorial population projection model. The model has been moved from a mainframe to a microcomputer platform. As well as updating fertility and mortality assumptions, new approaches to modelling interprovincial migration were introduced. The model produces community level projections for a 20-year period.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics continues to prepare and publish regular statistical publications such as the *Statistics Quarterly* and separate 1998 versions of *Nunavut ... by the numbers* and *Northwest Territories ... by the numbers*. Numerous publications related to the 1996 census were developed and released in both print and electronic format during the year. In addition, periodic releases designed to complement Statistics Canada data releases were also undertaken during 1998. This included releases for gross domestic product, public and private investment, retail trade, consumer price index, and territorial population estimates. In addition, the 1995 small business profiles were released in electronic format. A summary set of profiles has also been prepared as resource material for regional economic development offices.

A major focus for the NWT Bureau of Statistics during the past year has been improved access and awareness of territorial statistics. T-Stat, the Bureau's electronic dissemination system, has been an important element of this initiative. Use of this system has more than doubled in the past 12 months and there is a growing focus within the government on the system. A major improvement to the system was the development of community profiles for all Northwest Territories and Nunavut communities. These profiles provide an overview of demographic, social and economic data available at a community level. The profiles present data from the Bureau of Statistics, other NWT government sources, Statistics Canada, and Revenue Canada. Data are presented in tables and graphics.

As part of the NWT Bureau of Statistics' initiative to improve awareness, presentations have been made to a variety of audiences within the territorial government. Presentations have been made in the past year to the government's senior management committee of deputy ministers, to committees of MLAs at the Legislative Assembly, to the Minister's Forum on Education, and to numerous departmental and regional staff. In addition, the Bureau of Statistics played a lead role in providing data for the development of an environmental scan as part of the government business plan. The Bureau has more recently been heavily involved in the development of government-wide performance measures for the territory.

Assistance to departments

As in the past, the Bureau provides a significant amount of advice and assistance to government departments on specific statistical aspects of their work. The most important of these projects is the pay equity dispute involving our government. Although settlement offers have been accepted by over 75% of eligible current and past employees, a tribunal is hearing a pay equity complaint similar to the one brought 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.

Our Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is another important area in which we have provided assistance. Two major initiatives with the department have examined:

1. the government's involvement in the environmental review process for the proposed second diamond mine in the Northwest Territories; and
2. the department's attempt to develop a 10-year base economic forecast. As part of the second project, the Bureau of Statistics, with support from the National Accounts and Environment divisions of Statistics Canada, produced a separate 1997 estimate of GDP for Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

As part of our expanding work with departments, the Bureau of Statistics entered into a partnership arrangement with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Under this arrangement, a labour market analyst position has been created within the Bureau of Statistics. The analyst undertakes major research projects related to the northern labour market and provides statistical support to the department for general planning and policy and program development. Two current analytical projects examine Aboriginal urbanization and characteristics of the imported labour market. This agreement has recently been extended for an additional two years. We are considering a similar partnership agreement proposed by another department.

Work with Statistics Canada

During the past year, the NWT Bureau of Statistics has provided input to a 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.

Working with Statistics Canada on the development and distribution of separate statistics for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut will be a primary focus for the NWT Bureau of Statistics in the coming year. In a report prepared last summer, Statistics Canada committed itself to produce separate estimates for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for their first release following April 1, 1999. This commitment involves some 89% of the statistical programs that produce data for the Northwest Territories.

For example, the Bureau of Statistics was extremely pleased to see that the Demography Division included separate estimates for their release of quarterly population estimates on March 30, 1999. However, no information has been received on the availability of these series on CANSIM. The Bureau of Statistics is waiting with some interest for the release of separate territorial estimates of monthly retail trade and employment by industry from SEPH which are scheduled for release at the end of April.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics fully expects that Statistics Canada will live up to its commitment, although we are also expecting some difficulties. An early example may have been the release of the 1997 Household Spending Survey earlier this year. All projects under PIPES were designed to produce separate data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Unfortunately, the release of the 1997 Household Spending Survey combined the two territories. A commitment has now been made to provide all tables from that survey separately for the two territories.

A second major area of work with Statistics Canada that has emerged during the past year concerns the completion of household surveys in the Northwest Territories. Information from household surveys—the “national” labour force survey, the Canadian Travel Survey, the General Social Survey, as well as many of the surveys conducted by the Special Surveys Division that produce provincial detail—is required by the NWT government for program planning and decision making. The Northwest Territories is not currently included in any of these “national” surveys.

However, the NWT Bureau of Statistics also recognizes the need to consider respondent burden. In our opinion, respondent burden is the only legitimate reason for not completing all household surveys in the Northwest Territories. In the past six months there have been five major household surveys completed in the Northwest Territories (three related to STC programs and two by the Bureau of Statistics). If the NWT labour force survey is excluded, some 2,700 households were approached out of approximately 12,700 households.

One solution with enormous potential is the concept of an Integrated Northern Survey for the Northwest Territories. The primary objective of such a survey would be to provide the required information on the Northwest Territories, while minimizing respondent burden. For the approach to succeed Statistics Canada must commit to a true partnership with the NWT Bureau of Statistics—this will entail examining survey content, operational methods, and data dissemination approaches. We look forward to discussing this project further with Statistics Canada.

Concerns

Finally, we still have concerns about the cost-recovery policy and its impact on the use of statistical information in government planning and decision making. In a recent example, the NWT Bureau of Statistics asked for a special tabulation from the Census to complete an analytical project. The basic content of the request was for 2A and 2B profile data for the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population by five-year mobility status. For family and household variables, some programming was required to define the unit as either an aboriginal or non-aboriginal household. The cost estimate we received for this request was approximately \$48,000. This estimate has a serious impact on our government's ability to complete the required analysis and brings into the question the method used to develop it.

Moreover, we observe Statistics Canada expending time and effort to ensure that no information is provided to Canadians that the national statistics agency wishes to sell.

It is our hope that Statistics Canada some day comes to the realization that it is in the statistical communities' best interest to have as many people as possible using statistical information. We believe that in this era of electronic communication, Statistics Canada could take no better step to ensure the future of its organization than to adopt the principle of making the maximum amount of statistical information available to the greatest number of users.

NOVA SCOTIA

For the Statistics Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Finance, 1998–99 has been a continuation of the change and rebuilding that was started in 1997–98. This report highlights many of the activities and 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. As a result of a formal review of the Division's mandate, the position was reinstated in March 1999 and a new permanent director has been appointed as of April 1, 1999. In addition to the director, there are four other professional positions and a secretary. Also, casual support staff was hired as required throughout the year. An MPA co-op internship student, hired for the summer of 1998, focussed on a review of the coverage studies and adjustments to the population estimates based on the 1996 Census.

Strategic plan 1998

A comprehensive review of the Division's clients, services and products was carried out and a draft strategic plan¹ was completed in September 1998. This strategic plan reviewed the current operating situation of the Statistics Division, outlined various key initiatives and projects that have potential impact on the Division's operations, and highlighted relevant technological changes. The plan demonstrated a strong imperative for strengthening the statistical information products and services offered through the Division. The strategic plan proposed a new mission and goals that are aimed at meeting Nova Scotia government and departmental needs and are consistent with the *Statistics Act*. It also proposed the types of services that could and should be offered by the Division. Recognizing the fiscal restraints of the province, a number of funding alternatives were also highlighted. Although the plan is still waiting for formal departmental approval, many of its recommendations are being implemented. The reinstatement of the director's position was a key recommendation and was considered a necessary condition to achieve many of the other opportunities outlined in the plan.

Mission and goals

It was clear that the Statistics Division must alter its role within government to meet the rapidly changing needs of its clients. To achieve this, the Division has developed a new mission statement supported with redefined goals, services and funding strategies.

The proposed mission statement reads:

“To provide the Nova Scotia Provincial Government with comprehensive, timely and reliable economic and social statistics to support strategic decision making.”

¹ Nova Scotia Department of Finance, Statistics Division, *Putting Statistics in Context: Strategic Plan 1998*.

In order to fulfill this mission, four key goals have been set:

- to plan, develop and promote an integrated social and economic statistics system to meet provincial government statistical needs;
- to ensure that statistics affecting Nova Scotia's social, economic and fiscal interests are fairly and accurately represented through data provided by Statistics Canada;
- to advise and assist departments on statistical matters, projects and programs; and
- to avoid duplication and promote cost-effectiveness in the acquisition of statistics-related information.

Technology

All computing equipment and software continue to be reviewed and upgraded as needed. All staff use Windows 95 on Pentiums with both Microsoft Office 97 and Corel Office 8 software. Having acquired web development and management software, the Division is in the early stages of working with geographic information systems and is exploring the use of SPSS in the development and dissemination of its services. The services of a secure CD-ROM tower, acquired but not yet fully incorporated into Division operations, 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. Y2K concerns have also reduced the availability of central information technology resource support services.

During the past year, the Division has implemented a new web site² that features current statistics on its home page and provides easy access to a wide range of core statistics with a Nova Scotia perspective. Experimental work on developing key functions for an internal government Intranet is ongoing.

Partnerships

The Statistics Division has valued the opportunity to work closely with colleagues in other departments, provinces and agencies. Over the past year it has initiated or participated in several consultations with Statistics Canada encouraging a good cross-section of representation from various departments. Six consultations have been held, involving 11 departments and 64 participants.

The Nova Scotia Statistics Division has continued to communicate with the statistics agencies of the other Atlantic provinces. A second meeting of the directors was held in Charlottetown at the end of July 1998 and was attended by the regional director of Statistics Canada. The group continues to develop several project ideas and concerns it has identified.

² Department of Finance, Statistics Division's web site: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/fina/statisti/index.htm>

Newfoundland and Nova Scotia are working together to redevelop Newfoundland's Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS). New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are interested in the development but are not able to participate at this time. The system will provide a wide range of social, economic and environmental data through an easy-to-use GIS-based system. National, provincial and municipal sources of data are to be included. Community-level data and access will be a key part of the proposed system as will analytical capability for knowledgeable users. A contract to carry out a series of workshops and develop a formal project charter was issued in March 1999. This first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of May. There is strong interest in the project across many government departments and community development agencies.

Government-wide initiatives

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

GeoNOVA (Nova Scotia Geographic Information)

GeoNOVA, the province's geographic information initiative, provides for a "corporate" approach to creating, managing and disseminating geographic information within the province. This initiative recognizes the need for 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. In cooperation with GeoNOVA, the Statistics Division has initiated a project that will make data from Statistics Canada and other national, provincial and community levels available through an easy-to-use GIS-based system, building on Newfoundland's REDIS.

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. *Nova Scotia Counts*³ was released in October 1998.

In addition to the published government-level measures, each department developed its own set of measures that reflect specific activities and departmental goals and are available at each department's web site. This use of 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

³ Government of Nova Scotia, Communications Nova Scotia, *Nova Scotia Counts 1997-98* is located at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/prio/nsc98/default.htm>

resource role in developing some aspects of the outcome measures framework and process.

The Statistics Division represents the Government of Nova Scotia on the federal Treasury Board's External Advisory Panel for the *Managing for Results* report to the Federal Cabinet. Although the Division has not directly participated in developing the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) being carried out by GPI Atlantic⁴, it is strongly supportive of this leading work. The work of GPI Atlantic has led to Nova Scotia being a pilot for Statistics Canada's work on a GPI. The group has published several key documents over the past year, including the value of volunteer work and unpaid work, and the costs of crime.

Nova Scotia Business Registry

Nova Scotia's Department of Business and Consumer Services has partnered with Revenue Canada and Workers' Compensation to develop the Nova Scotia Business Registry (NSBR). A key part of the system is the use of Revenue Canada's business number to identify entities. In addition to providing revenue and payment transactions for the partners, the registry will include information on licences, permits and applications. There will also be provision for linking of program area applications to the core data kept in the registry. This system is a major infrastructure component that will make it much easier for businesses to interact with the government. It will also be a potential source of excellent statistical information. The first phase of the system will be functional in June 1999, with most of the major functions being ready by October 1999. The Statistics Division is a member of the NSBR advisory committee. Atlantic Canada On-line was awarded the contract for development and delivery of this service.

Atlantic Canada On-line (ACOL)⁵

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. It has an infrastructure investment in excess of \$10 million, providing secure, state-of-the-art access to a range of web-enabled government services. The Statistics Division represents the Department of Finance on this initiative.

ACOL has been chosen to deliver the services of the Nova Scotia Business Registry as described above and is a strong candidate for delivering the services of the GIS project being led by the Newfoundland and Nova Scotia Statistics Agencies.

Key issues

There have been several issues related to specific statistical programs that have received priority within the Division.

⁴ GPI Atlantic's web site: <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/custsites/gpiatlanticQS.nsf>

⁵ Atlantic Canada On-line's web site: <http://www.acol.ca/>

Population estimates

Over the past two years, 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 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. 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. Nova Scotia has also carried out further work in this area and has developed a costing model that shows that it has contributed a net \$45.9 million to the education of out-of-province students, after economic benefits to the province are considered.

Like many other provinces, Nova Scotia participated in workshops on the topic of non-permanent residents. Nova Scotia agreed that the new methodology for non-permanent residents that was implemented in January 1998 was an improvement over the old methodology. However, Nova Scotia disagreed with the actual method of implementation, which assumed 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 were exchanged with Statistics Canada, who agreed that Nova Scotia's case warranted further study. Subsequent research showed that further changes to the data, especially the refugee backlog, were warranted to address many of Nova Scotia's concerns on NPR flows. The fundamental issue of stock versus flow changes on major methodology changes was never adequately addressed in Nova Scotia's opinion. The province's work on NPRs and the coverage studies carried out in the summer of 1998 were presented at an Immigration Data Sharing Work Group meeting in Victoria in October 1999.

More recent concerns have to do with inter-provincial estimates of migration. The latest estimates show that Nova Scotia has a very large negative net migration. The results are contrary to the most recent trends and economic indicators for the province. Nova Scotia will be documenting its concerns and officially forwarding them to the Demography Division by the end of April.

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 and assigned some of its 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, it 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. The Omnibus Sharing Agreement initiated under this program has recently been completed.

Data access

Nova Scotia purchases relatively little data from Statistics Canada and has the lowest incidence of data-sharing agreements of any province with a statistics act. Recent attempts to improve its purchased data content have demonstrated inconsistencies in pricing practices as well as a very time-consuming process in trying to get the best data available to meet its needs. With limited resources to both purchase and use the available data, Nova Scotia will be pursuing various alternatives to maximize the value of its investments. The Omnibus Data Sharing Agreement and the redevelopment of Newfoundland's REDIS are considered two key initiatives that will help with this objective.

1999–2000

For 1999–2000, the Nova Scotia Statistics Division has set the following priorities:

- to carry out a user needs and capacity survey of statistical information sources and services of all government departments and agencies;
- to work with Newfoundland and Nova Scotia stakeholders to redevelop Newfoundland's REDIS;
- to continue to make 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;
- to work with our department's Fiscal and Economic Policy divisions to take a more proactive role in assessing Statistics Canada's data, especially where they impact on funding and economic analysis; and
- to increase 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, Office of Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance. The Unit consists of a staff of eight economists and a secretary.

The major function of the Current Analysis Unit is to analyse and report on the current state of the Ontario economy, through production of the Ontario Economic Accounts and other key bulletins. The Unit also reports on emerging economic trends and issues, and provides economic and statistical support to the Minister of Finance, Cabinet and other Divisions within the Ministry of Finance, as well as to other government ministries. The 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 Unit.

Major reports

The Unit produces a number of bulletins which are released throughout the government. The quarterly *Ontario Economic Accounts* is also distributed to libraries and various economic research institutions outside the government and is 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 traces consumer price movements in Ontario, Canada and the U.S.
- *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.
- *Retail and Wholesale Sales*: This monthly report tracks retail and wholesale sales activity.

- *Manufacturing Shipments*: This monthly report examines manufacturing shipment activity.
- *Ontario Economic Chronology*: This quarterly report covers domestic and international events in financial and labour markets and public finance.
- *Various fact sheets*: These monthly fact sheets consist of related Ontario economic data, including bankruptcies, wage settlements, financial statistics 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 a number of documents on the Internet, including the Ontario Budget and related economic and fiscal bulletins. *Ontario Economic Accounts* is also available on the Internet, as well as a bulletin describing recent economic developments in Ontario.

Library services

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

Co-ordination services

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

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

The Unit is responsible for dissemination of standard Census of Population materials to Ontario ministries and agencies. Complimentary 1996 basic summary tabulations, based on a survey of users' needs, have been acquired, and consultation on special census requests is provided.

The Unit coordinates information and consultation sessions between Statistics Canada and ministerial data users. This year, we hosted meetings regarding the 2001 Aboriginal Postcensal Survey and the General Social Survey.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division operates within the Provincial Treasury under the direction of Mr. John Palmer. It comprises a small group of professionals with responsibility for federal fiscal relations, economic analysis and provincial statistical services. The Director is the statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island.

Statistics Canada is a valuable source of information within the provincial government, and the Division relies heavily on this agency for the majority of its data. Statistical information supplied by Statistics Canada, together with data supplied by provincial government departments, are used in the maintenance of its statistical database.

The Division continues to publish the *Annual Statistical Review*, and is in the process of producing a series of *Quarterly Economic Reviews*. These reviews are supplemented by monthly statistics on key variables. The Division also responds to public queries and supplies statistical information to PEI's government Web site, www.gov.pe.ca. The Division is currently in the process of developing key information for senior government officials via an inter-departmental Intranet site.

In addition to the dissemination of statistical information to government, corporate, industrial, and private sectors, the Division maintains an economic forecasting model for PEI, and is establishing a demographic model for the Island.

The Division encourages its staff to become more proficient in the use of statistical methods through training courses offered by Statistics Canada on, for example, the System of National Accounting, or through video-conferencing on issues dealing with the 2001 Census.

Statistics Canada also provides on-site consultation by providing experts, such as Mr. Peter Dudley, Analyst, Public Institutions Division, who visit the Division to enhance mutual communication and understanding.

QUEBEC

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN 1998–99

New publications

In addition to the 20 or so regular publications that it continued to produce, the Bureau de la statistique du Québec (BSQ) issued a number of new publications in 1998–99. It also modified some of its existing publications to reflect revisions made in certain sectors.

Socio-demographic statistics

In July 1998, the Bureau published the second volume of *D'une génération à l'autre : évolution des conditions de vie*,¹ which discusses mortality, fertility and migration in Quebec, a number of specific causes of death, occupational activity and occupations, consumption patterns and social mobility. In addition, in collaboration with the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance and the Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance², the Bureau produced the document entitled *Portrait statistique des familles et des enfants au Québec*.³ Finally, the Bureau published its new population estimates for the whole of Quebec for the period 2001 to 2051 in the February 1999 issue of *Données sociodémographiques en bref*.⁴

Regional statistics

In May 1998, the Bureau published, as planned, the first 18 regional statistical reports in its series *Recensement de la population—1996, 1991, 1986—Données comparatives et faits saillants*,⁵ which will comprise a total of 90 reports. The first series is about population and housing. The second, to be published in May 1999, presents data on age, sex, marital status and families. The remaining three series, on other themes covered by the census, are in production and are slated for publication throughout the coming year. The information is presented in the form of analyses, tables, graphs and charts for the following main geographic details: administrative regions, regional county municipalities (RCM) and large municipalities.

In addition, the BSQ produced estimates of personal income and disposable personal income by administrative region, census metropolitan area (CMA) and RCM (on a trial basis), and released them on its Internet site. These estimates are consistent with the results of the provincial accounts, and will be published at the end of April.

¹ *From one generation to the next: changes in socio-economic conditions*. Translations of French titles and names are provided as a reading aid only.

² Quebec ministry of the family and childhood and the Family and Childhood Council

³ *Statistical profile of families and children in Quebec*

⁴ *Socio-economic data in brief*

⁵ *Population Census—1996, 1991 and 1986—comparative data and highlights*

Economic statistics

In 1998–99, the Bureau co-published a document with the Quebec Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation⁶ entitled *Profil sectoriel de l'industrie bioalimentaire au Québec, édition 1998*.⁷ It begins with a general economic profile of the bio-food industry in Quebec. It goes on to present detailed information about production, processing and distribution in the sectors of animal production, plant production and fisheries. It concludes with an overview of the main data for Quebec, comparing them with those for Canada and the United States. The Bureau together with the Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce, began a revision of its publications on small and medium-sized businesses in Quebec.

The main achievement in 1998–99 of the economic accounts program was the revision of the economic accounts of Quebec with a view to adapting them to the new international conventions⁸ now used both by international agencies and Statistics Canada. The annual and quarterly publications were adapted to these new conventions, necessitating a thorough revision of the methodologies used. In the case of quarterly publications, the revision also allowed for the addition of estimates of the external balance of the Quebec economy, expressed in current dollars and constant dollars. This action responds to needs expressed by users numerous times in past years.

The process of correcting the customs data for foreign trade in Quebec commodities also underwent a thorough revision, particularly with respect to imports. The new data, more consistent with the estimates of the input-output tables, will be released in the summer of 1999.

In January 1999, the Bureau launched *Stat Express*, its weekly newsletter of economic indicators. The newsletter is produced and disseminated free of charge every Friday in hardcopy and on the Internet (PDF format). It provides information about the Quebec economy published during the week, and announces data and publications that will be issued in the week to follow. It also presents a number of summary tables on the economy of Quebec, Canada and the RMR of Montreal.

Methodological reports on data analysis

In addition to preparing analytical reports on several of the surveys mentioned in the following section, the Bureau produced a methodological report on the updating of allowances for the travel expenses of public servants for the Treasury Board Secretariat in 1998–99. In addition, at the request of the Groupe de recherche interdisciplinaire en santé⁹ and McMaster University, it prepared a methodological report on the estimate of per capita costs for health services according to a number of variables.

New surveys

As well as conducting the surveys and the methodological work that are part of its regular program, in 1998–99 the Bureau also responded to numerous special requests from

⁶ Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

⁷ Sector-based profile of the bio-food industry in Quebec, 1998 edition

⁸ The revision is based on the conventions adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 1993.

⁹ Interdisciplinary Health Research Group

ministries and 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:

- a survey of the small business start-up program and a descriptive analysis of its results, for the second consecutive year (Investissement-Québec);
- a profile of Quebec Internet users and a descriptive analysis of its results (Centre francophone d'informatisation des organisations (CEFRIO),¹⁰ in collaboration with the Réseau interordinateurs scientifiques québécois (RISQ);¹¹
- a survey of the needs of families for day-care services and a descriptive analysis of the results (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance and the Ministère de l'Éducation);
- a survey of transactions and identification in the context of the information highway and a descriptive analysis of the results (Ministère de la Culture et des Communications);
- a survey of the clientele of Placements Québec;
- a survey of the impact of the ice storm (Institut de recherche et d'information sur la rémunération);¹²
- a survey of the clientele of the support payments collection directorate (Ministère du Revenu);
- a survey of self-employed workers (Ministère du Revenu);
- a survey on the size of the agri-food market in Quebec and of the share of Quebec products in the market (Groupe "Réalités économiques," a follow-up committee of the Sommet économique sur l'industrie bioalimentaire¹³);
- an inventory of orchards (Fédération des producteurs de pommes du Québec);¹⁴
- a survey on multimedia, which is currently development (Ministère de la Culture et des Communications).

The Bureau continued to provide services for the statistical aspects (survey methodology, data analysis) of all surveys undertaken by Santé Québec.¹⁵ In 1998–99, the BSQ focused on the monitoring and processing of data from the 1998 Social and Health Survey. At the request of Santé Québec, the Bureau also provided methodological services for two new surveys, one on persons of no fixed abode, and one on violence against children.

Electronic dissemination

Database for developers and investors

In response to a need expressed last year by a number of ministries, the Bureau completed the design of the Banque de données pour les investisseurs et les promoteurs (BDIP)¹⁶ and has begun to install the database. This detailed, centralized database is intended to support Quebec public-sector economic development officials involved in finding investors. This project also includes the development of a promotional interface accessible via the Internet. About 2,000 economic development officials throughout Quebec can access the BDIP by Intranet. The training of 500 users, who will act as training replicators in their community, will extend through May 1999.

¹⁰ Francophone centre for research on computerization in organizations

¹¹ Quebec scientific computer network

¹² Institute of research and information on compensation

¹³ Economic summit on the bio-food industry

¹⁴ Quebec federation of apple growers

¹⁵ Quebec ministry of health

¹⁶ Database for developers and investors

Database of official statistics on Quebec

A project to develop a database of official statistics on Quebec is currently under consideration. The database would help to simplify, facilitate and speed up access to statistical information about Quebec, while improving overall government efficiency in the provision of statistical data.

The Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) collaborates in this project with several ministries and organizations that produce or use statistical information about Quebec. The project is designed to ensure access to, and continuous updating of, statistical data on Quebec. It is furthermore designed to provide the most appropriate vehicle for meeting the general needs of a diverse clientele—the media, businesses, associations, students, teachers, the general public, people outside the province who have an interest in Quebec, government employees, and so on. In February 1999, the Comité de coordination de l'infrastructure gouvernementale¹⁷ said it regarded this project as relevant. A preliminary study will be done and steps will be taken to obtain the necessary funding in 1999–2000.

Internet

The prospect of creating the ISQ (see the section on “The creation of l'Institut de la statistique du Québec”) prompted the constituent agencies to set up an Internet site in 1998–99 for the new body. To this end, the former sites of the BSQ and the Institut de recherche et d'information sur la rémunération have been combined and revamped into a single Internet site to represent the new entity once it is established.

A new CD-ROM

In addition to the CD-ROM it now produces annually and which contains all of its publications issued the previous year, the Bureau prepared, in 1998–99, a CD-ROM of tables showing the impact of the Quebec inter-sectoral model. These tables are the products of standard simulations of the direct and indirect impact of capital or spending programs on value-added, employment and government revenues. The simulations take into account nearly 200 sectors of economic activity in Quebec.

Statistical co-ordination

In 1998–99, the Bureau again contributed to the analysis of a number of major Statistics Canada surveys or work plans (for example, the Labour Force Survey, the Survey of Family Expenditures, the Survey of Consumer Finances, the General Social Survey and the International Adult Literacy Survey). It continued its discussions with Statistics Canada on census correction methods to determine the best possible estimated population. It also co-ordinated the Statistics Canada consultation with Quebec ministries and organizations on the Aboriginal Peoples Survey and the next cycles of the General Social Survey.

A BSQ representative was invited by the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC)¹⁸ to participate in a project to establish a “book monitoring body” in the near future. The body will consist of a group of government and book industry

¹⁷ Co-ordinating committee of the government information highway

¹⁸ Cultural businesses development corporation

representatives who will monitor the evolution of the industry in Quebec. The Bureau also took the initiative of encouraging greater collaboration between various producers and holders of scientific and technical data, to provide more complete coverage of this statistical field. It also organized a seminar on statistics related to the knowledge economy, which provided an opportunity for representatives of several Quebec ministries and organizations, the Quebec academic community and Statistics Canada to discuss this issue and to share their views on work priorities.

The BSQ began to exploit, for statistical purposes, the business data of the Quebec Ministère du Revenu to which it had access in 1998–99. It also continued talks aimed at a comprehensive agreement with Statistics Canada on the gathering and sharing of statistical information on industries. The agreement will replace the existing agreements in various fields.

In keeping with the Quebec government's geomatics plan, the Bureau carried out projects with some 10 ministries and organizations to facilitate the spatial integration of socio-economic data. As part of this project, the Ministère des Ressources naturelles is busy developing a sizeable file of digitized territorial limits, to be ready in June 1999.

Finally, the BSQ participated in the Statistics Canada consultation on the 2001 Census content and geography. More than 15 ministries and organizations have outlined their needs, particularly those that are connected to Statistics Canada's geomatics plan (census blocks). This process will promote consistency between the data spatialization arrangement of the Quebec government and that of Statistics Canada.

External relations

In collaboration with Statistics Canada and the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC), the BSQ organized a colloquium on statistical methods and applications at the annual SSC conference held in Sherbrooke in May 1998. In partnership with Statistics Canada, the Association des statisticiennes et des statisticiens du Québec (ASSQ) and the SSC, the Bureau is organizing a colloquium for the annual conference of the ACFAS (Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences) to be held in Ottawa in May 1999. The colloquium will focus on statistical methods and applications.

A BSQ representative presented a paper on the "Quebec Input–Output Model for Economic Impact Analysis" at the colloquium of the Canadian Agencies Working Group on Economic Impact Assessment, held in Montréal from December 1 to 4, 1998. The BSQ also participated at the meetings of the Comité des retombées économiques d'Investissement-Québec¹⁹ to present and discuss its methods of assessing economic impact. This committee is composed of 13 representatives from Investissement-Québec, Université du Québec, the Direction des sociétés d'État²⁰ of the Ministère des Finances and the BSQ. Its mandate is to foster exchanges with the other Canadian provinces, with the United States and with ministries and organizations interested in the methodology of economic impact assessment.

At the Entretiens Jacques-Cartier conference in Lyon, a BSQ representative presented a paper on the choosing of patronymics in Quebec. A Bureau member is also helping to

¹⁹ Economic impact committee of Investissement-Québec

²⁰ Crown Corporations Directorate

organize the next congress of the Association internationale des démographes de langue française (AIDLF).²¹

Representatives of the Bureau also held training sessions for employees of the Ministry of Natural Resources on the classifications used by the Bureau, on the statistical program for the manufacturing sector and on international trade statistics. The sessions were very favourably received. Similar sessions will be held for other ministries and organizations.

The creation of l'Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ)

In June 1998, the Assemblée nationale du Québec adopted the *Loi sur l'Institut de la statistique du Québec*. The Institut also goes by the name Statistique Québec and brings together the Bureau de la statistique du Québec, the Institut de recherche et d'information sur la rémunération, Santé Québec and the Centre de recherche et de statistiques sur le marché du travail (formerly attached to the Ministère du Travail).

The Act entrusts the new agency with the following mission:

The Institut has the role of providing reliable and objective statistical information on all aspects of Quebec society for which such information is relevant.

The Institut constitutes the privileged place of production and diffusion of statistical data for the government departments and organizations, except for information that is produced for administrative purposes. The Institut is responsible for the realization of all statistical surveys of general interest.

The Institut establishes and updates population estimates for Quebec. For that purpose, it collects and compiles data on births, marriages, deaths, immigration and emigration. Moreover, it produces an annual estimate of the population of municipalities.

The Institut informs the public of the comparative state and evolution of the total compensation of employees governed by a collective agreement—government, schoolboards, colleges and other establishments—and the total remuneration of other salaried Quebecers from all the categories that it determines.

The last section of the Act stipulates that the creation of the ISQ must be by Order in Council. In October 1998, executive decrees were adopted for the creation of the Institut, the designation of the minister responsible and the appointment of the director general. Those decrees that formalized the coming into force of all other sections of the Act on April 1, 1999 were adopted by the Conseil des ministres.²²

²¹ International association of French-speaking demographers

²² The Quebec cabinet

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, the Bureau has been involved in numerous activities including the Métis Enumeration Project, which is scheduled to take place this spring. The enumeration will attempt to identify all Métis in the province using a combination of the "snowball" mail-out and "targeted" community approach enumeration methodologies.

We would like to thank those in 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

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is within the Executive Council Office. Our budget has been at the same level for the past several years, but we generate significant revenue through cost-recoverable projects.

The core staff consists of 8.5 permanent positions, supplemented by over 20 casual and auxiliary personnel hired for specific projects.

As an official Statistics Canada depository we receive all public products of Statistics Canada. The Resource Centre houses all publications received from Statistics Canada in print and electronic format, as well as all our own statistical products. We release approximately 75 publications per year, ranging from pocket-sized pamphlets to 100-page reports. All Bureau publications are available on our Web site. The Centre is open to the public during normal business hours and we can be reached by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail. We respond to approximately 800 requests for information every year. Most requests take only a few minutes, but some require more than an hour's attention.

The Bureau is organized into two basic areas—Administration and Information Services and Operations and Methodology.

Administration and Information Services:

- provides internal management, administration and financial services;
- provides statistical liaison to the Yukon government and the federal government;
- advocates management research and promotes research as an integral part of management;
- prepares, prints and distributes all Bureau publications and research support materials; and
- handles all information requests, prepares statistical briefing notes, and manages on-site training of statistical users.

Operations and Methodology:

- provides methodological and analytical support;
- develops government administrative records for statistical purposes;
- provides statistical and methodological services and advice for Yukon Territorial Government initiatives; and
- provides internal operational, control and staffing support to research projects.

We are building working relationships with First Nations governments in the areas of information gathering and analysis. As Aboriginal peoples move from negotiation to the implementation of land claim agreements, there will be an increasing need for good demographic, economic and social data. Unfortunately, the blanket application of national standards to Yukon census data produces census products that are randomly rounded to the point where they are of little use for small area work. The credibility of census products is very low for our First Nations users.

Major Projects in 1998–99:

Carcross–Tagish First Nation Census: in response to a request for assistance in developing and implementing a survey of members by the Carcross–Tagish First Nation, the Bureau assisted in:

- developing a census form;
- training local interviewers;
- developing a data base; and
- analysing initial results.

Energy report: The Bureau compiled and prepared for publication a comprehensive listing of all responses to an open-ended questionnaire on energy issues in the Yukon.

1998 Whitehorse Air Travelers Survey: In response to increased air access and growth in air travel to the Yukon, the Yukon Department of Tourism contracted the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to conduct the 1998 Air Travelers Survey. This research was designed to test and refine survey methodology for an upcoming visitor exit survey and to provide data on this significant visitor market. The survey, which targeted all flights departing the territory, was conducted at the Whitehorse International Airport between July 7 and August 28, 1998. Nearly 1,000 non-resident air travelers were interviewed.

Health status report update: The Bureau provided statistical compilation and analytic support to the Department of Health on health-related statistics.

1998 National Longitudinal Health and Children's Survey: The 1998 edition marked the third administration of this survey. Content of the various surveys was discussed in detail with Statistics Canada. There was also discussion of the methodological issues to be resolved prior to the start of fieldwork.

Poverty initiative: The Bureau provided research and analytic support to Yukon Territorial Government Poverty working group.

High Risk Drinking and Alcohol-related Harm in the Yukon: This research project was a joint undertaking of the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, Health Canada and Carleton University. A comprehensive public report and a shorter report based in part on the same research were released in 1998.

Operational Review of Social Assistance: This project is a review of the Yukon government's social assistance program to assess the program and to see if it can be improved. Bureau staff provided:

- research leadership to the review team;
- coordination and management of the review;
- methodological and technical assistance as required; and
- a summary of review team findings.

Social assistance rate review: The Bureau developed alternative methods of determining social assistance rates, ranging from a modified market basket base through a food-based index.

Teen Parent Profile: The purpose of this research project is to better understand the risk factors surrounding teen pregnancy, with the goal of reducing the number of teenage pregnancies and their negative consequences. The target population is Yukon females between the ages of 14 and 19. Bureau staff:

- designed and monitored file review methodology;
- designed individual interview and focus group scripts;
- designed data collection screens; and
- are finalizing a statistical summary of findings and a profile of risk factors.

Youth at Risk: The purpose of this research project is to follow up the findings of a secondary analysis of the Yukon Health Promotion Survey (1992). The survey was reported by the Institute of Health Promotion Research (IHPR), University of British Columbia, in "A preliminary examination of selected health risk behaviours of Yukon youth." Bureau staff:

- provided analytical and technical support in the confirmation of the IHPR findings;
- developed profiles of youth based on the findings used in the selection of participants in the individual interviews and focus groups;
- designed appropriate interview scripts and focus group "road maps";
- trained the research team in their use;
- provided a first order analysis of the resultant data; and
- provided operational coordination of the research project.

Yukon River Survey: This survey collected information from 2,125 river travelers about their travel on the Yukon, Teslin and Big Salmon Rivers between June 13 and September 15, 1997. Analysis of the survey results resulted in a draft summary that was finalized as a public report in the winter of 1998.

Health Care Update: To keep the files of health care registrants current, all registrants without a billing for the previous 12 months are surveyed semi-annually. Health care records are the basis of Yukon population estimates.

Community Price Survey: This semi-annual survey compares prices in seven Yukon communities with Whitehorse prices.

Population projections: The Yukon population was projected to the year 2008, using high, medium and low growth scenarios.

Yukon RCMP data: The Bureau entered into agreement with the RCMP to function as the Yukon government contact for RCMP data based on occurrence reports by community, type of crime and clearance rates.

Whitehorse Seniors' Housing Survey: Whitehorse seniors were surveyed to estimate future housing needs.

Weekly Fuel Price Survey: The Yukon Bureau of Statistics collects information on the price of gasoline and home heating fuel on a weekly basis for the Department of Economic Development. The information is released once a month.

1999 Visitor Exit Survey: There has been detailed planning and recruitment in preparation for this extensive survey of visitors to the Yukon. The survey will employ approximately 30 field personnel and will be administered from June to September 1999.

Liaison with Statistics Canada: The Bureau provided assistance and advice to Statistics Canada regarding staffing for the Yukon edition of the Survey of Household Spending.

Electronic catalogue of all items within the Bureau's Statistical Resource Centre: This catalogue will be linked to the catalogues of other resource centres within the Yukon government.

Community support: As part of our ongoing community service program, the Bureau assists non-governmental organizations with methodological and analytic support on research projects. This year, assistance was provided to hospice societies, to associations working with FAS/FAE, and to school councils.

APPENDIX 4
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Last Meeting: September 21–22, 1998
Next meeting: October 4–5, 1999
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 received from the committee members have been distributed in advance of the meeting. The provincial/territorial reports summarized program activities and new initiatives, organizational changes and new data dissemination practices adopted since the last meeting.

Many members noted the importance of the data produced by Statistics Canada. Data from the Census of Agriculture, the Fall Fruit and Vegetable Survey and the Whole Farm Database Project (WFDP) were mentioned specifically. Manitoba requested that Statistics Canada reinstate a scaled-down version of the monthly phone survey of commodity prices for special crops and hay. This would help fill in the void left when the GRIP and Canadian Grain Commission data collection services were discontinued.

The member from Saskatchewan was concerned about Agriculture program funding. In 1998 the Average Prices of Selected Farm Inputs publication was cancelled. Funding concerns were again raised with both the specialty crop and horticulture survey programs. Agriculture Division has taken steps to address these latter issues. Alberta has acquired the agriculture economic statistics database on CD-ROM to enhance its analytical work in farm finance and farm structure.

Newfoundland has a number of new survey initiatives underway to support the information needs of the 20 newly established Regional Economic Zone Boards. New Brunswick, because of its limited resources devoted to agriculture statistics, continues to rely on Statistics Canada data and analysis. Nova Scotia continues to use extensively the Census of Agriculture data. Both the public and provincial government data users participated keenly in the 2001 Census of Agriculture consultations.

Quebec maintained its statistics program in 1998 on the dairy, poultry, apiary, apple, potato, and blueberry and vegetable production. No survey was carried out in 1998 on maple syrup production. Production data will be estimated for 1998 from administrative data. Data on the dairy industry is being produced according to a new formula for calculating producers' remuneration.

With its relocation to Guelph, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has made new efforts to re-establish its capacity for economic analysis. The survey program is continuing as usual. New initiatives announced in 1998 were the Ontario Tree Fruit Survey to be carried out in July 1999 and the 1998 Pesticide Use Survey, which is underway. Demand for information has been very high in the past year especially for new Census of Agriculture statistics, for data from the Fall Fruit and

Vegetable Survey, and for taxfiler data from the WFDP. OMAFRA has also been given access to the Ontario NISA database to undertake research and program analysis.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food has undertaken a number of initiatives in the past year. An information exercise was undertaken that focuses on administrative data sources. The exercise covered emerging primary sectors such as specialized livestock and value-added sectors including food processing, dehydrated forage products, agricultural biotechnology, and agricultural machinery manufacturing. The Crops Section of Agriculture Division was contracted to conduct a survey of emerging specialty crops in Saskatchewan.

The Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Statistic's Unit has developed a new strategic plan to improve the service delivery, and to meet the changing needs of its clients. The main purpose of the Statistics Unit now is to ensure the existence of statistical data and information that accurately measure and describe the performance of Alberta's agriculture and food complex. The Statistics Unit provides a wide range of services to both internal and external clients. It also produces many publications and products either for general dissemination or to meet specific client needs.

The Manitoba Agriculture Market Analysis and Statistics Section provides market analysis and statistical services for Manitoba Agriculture. Three new publications were produced in 1997 and are being updated for release in the fall of 1998—"Manitoba Grains and Oilseeds Industry Profiles, 1996"; "Manitoba Specialty and Forage Crops Industry Profiles", 1996; and "Manitoba Potato Industry Profile, 1996".

national

The Statistics Unit of the recently renamed BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food suffered staff reductions in 1998. Even with the limited resources, the Unit has maintained the level of data collection of previous years. This has been accomplished through increased reliance on the ministry's new commodity teams in the field for validation of Statistics Canada's surveys, through efficiencies in processing of its own surveys and through contract work.

The Yukon's Agriculture Policy was approved in November 1991. The Agriculture Policy has two sections. Section 1 is concerned with programs of the Agriculture Branch, while Section 2 is concerned with agriculture land. The policy is to be evaluated by the end of the 1998 calendar year.

In the past year, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) was working with Statistics Canada to incorporate NISA data into the farm level database. AAFC will also be exploring Statistics Canada's longitudinal tax data, which has been used to analyze various safety net options. Statistics Canada has been exploring the possibility of creating a representative longitudinal data set for future years. AAFC has also funded the 1998 Farm Financial Survey and the results will be released in late fall. The Policy Branch and the Market and Industry Services Branch of AAFC have been working with Statistics Canada to resolve the funding issue for special crops and the fall fruit and vegetable surveys. AAFC has also been working with various divisions within Statistics Canada to improve access to statistical data beyond the farm gate. This work will allow

AAFC to improve the analysis of the food-processing sector. Work continues on the development of a new market and performance system, which includes two key outputs:

1. an annual report on the Performance of the Agri-Food Sector; and
2. a Scenario Analysis System consisting of the medium term baseline information and an expanded farm income baseline and forecast.

The new system should be in place in 1999.

Agriculture Division and AAFC have spent considerable effort in negotiating a five-year funding agreement covering a number of special projects. Although no final agreement has been reached as yet, the prospects are good that an agreement will be reached early in the next fiscal year.

General program updates and discussion

This year, in addition to the committee discussion on the background papers prepared for the meeting and presented by Agriculture Division, the agenda of the meeting allowed for presentations and discussions on special agricultural topics by committee members and other invited guests. All participants appreciated this change in the content of the meeting.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Last meeting:	November 16–17, 1998
Special subgroup meeting:	April 27, 1999
Next meeting:	October 28–29, 1999
Members:	Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Progress and decisions since last meeting

Opening remarks

Ray Ryan briefed the group on three broad topics: GAPS 2, Year 2000 preparedness, and United Nations Climate Change Convention, which took place in Kyoto in December 1997.

1. GAPS 2

- The newly funded business and trade initiatives include
 - wired and wireless telecommunications (the Science and Technology Redesign Program, or S&TRP);
 - multimedia producers (Services Division, or SD);
 - electronic commerce and information highway (SD); and
 - computer services survey enhancement (SD).
- The S&TRP framework, along with a five-year strategic plan for the program, have been drafted.

2. Year 2000 preparedness

- Reviewed the readiness of most STC mission-critical systems, as well as its respondents' ability to provide data.
- Reported on status of surveys on the Y2K preparedness of Canadian businesses. Surveys were conducted in the fall of 1997, spring 1998, and a third survey is slated for March 1999.

3. United Nations Climate Change Convention—Kyoto, December 1997

- Measurements are needed on energy-use and alternative energy sources (ethanol blends, propane, natural gas, fuel cells, and hydrogen).
- All energy data must be indexed to 1990.
- As part of a bilateral arrangement with the Ministry of Natural Resources, STC has developed a 20-step energy program.
- A new vehicle survey was developed with Transport Canada.
- STC will attend at the Kyoto follow-ups where it will participate in the "Analysis and Modeling Table" and the "Federal Family Table."

Provincial updates

- **Quebec:** The new Institut de la statistique du Québec, headed by Yvon Fortin, is an amalgamation of the Quebec Statistics Bureau, the Center of Research and Statistics on the Labour Force, and Health Quebec.
- **New Brunswick:** The Statistics Agency has a new organizational structure and the province has a new premier.
- **British Columbia:** Budget cuts in the province led to a greater emphasis on cost-recovery activities, which in turn resulted in more monies becoming available. The pricing of STC's Survey of Employment, Payrolls, and Hours (SEPH) custom work is considered too high. BC Small Business Week activities drew upon SEPH, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and alternative data sources, but not upon Small Business Program outputs. The BC delegate suggested that the S&TRP framework should address the education system, policy, and imports, and that STC should draw upon American or Japanese work on science and technology indicators and other measurements of "high technology."
- **Saskatchewan:** The province has passed an Order in Council for data sharing. They Saskatchewan reported definitional problems affecting 'exports from a province'—particularly for wheat and other grains—but not 'exports from the country.' Saskatchewan also reported some e-mail problems with STC and noted that passwords, permissions and software have not yet been co-ordinated for the STC publications available via the Internet.
- **Newfoundland:** The Statistics Agency actively promotes STC's *Small Business Profiles* and the *Market Research Handbook*, and responds to considerable public interest for information on how to start a small business.
- **Northwest Territories:** NWT appreciated Statistics Canada's efforts to ready its programs to present Nunavut data separately from that of NWT. It enquired about the status of 1997 PIPES survey sample sizes separate for Nunavut, how the data will be released, "standard" outputs, and any special outputs for Focal Points. It reported problems with the NWT business data contained in the product *Employment Dynamics*. The number of NWT businesses reported in this product exceeds the number reported in STC's Business Register.
- **Nunavut:** Nunavut elections took place on February 15, 1999, and the new territory of Nunavut was born April 1, 1999. Nunavut will be administered by the Office of the Interim Commissioner and ten government departments, including a statistics bureau staffed by five employees. The bureau's top priority is separate data for Nunavut; it is also interested in waivers regarding mineral statistics and in the Small Business Program.
- **Yukon Territory:** A status report was provided on Yukon Territory's General Business Survey, focussing on exports, business access to financing and tourists' impact on the economy. Yukon reported that both The Survey of Tourists Arriving to Whitehorse by Air and a survey of people requesting information from the Whitehorse tourism office, will be conducted in 1999.
- **Alberta:** Statistics provided an update on the Provincial Business Register. The 1996 Export Services Survey will be repeated in 1999. The Wage and Salary Survey, with 25,000 business respondents, will address wage rates and hiring intentions. Statistics noted inconsistencies in the STC-focal point competitive bids for the Wage and Salary Survey, which is funded by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and the Workers' Compensation Board.

- **Prince Edward Island:** The statistical and economic division's plans for increased staffing were announced.
- **Manitoba:** The Manitoba Data Sharing Agreement will go to Cabinet in the next month. The bureau indicated its interest in a follow-up with STC on Kyoto developments. Manitoba reviewed its agriculture sector (including employment, exports, GDP and so on), and foreign trade. They have implemented an electronic retrieval system for import and export data. The trade concept of "first destination" versus "final destination" proved problematic in the case of Manitoba bean exports; the beans were exported to the US and subsequently re-exported to Mexico, which has national quotas.
- **Nova Scotia:** Nova Scotia reported the release of *Nova Scotia Counts* and the completion of a strategic plan which recommends hiring a statistical director. Nova Scotia is progressing with its business registry. They are concerned by the lack of development on the Small Business Statistics Program, and also sought a schedule for PIPES data outputs.
- **Ontario:** Ontario provided positive feedback on the more detailed Wholesale Trade Survey and on STC's progress thus far with Ontario's international trade request.

Unified Enterprise Statistics (UES)

A progress report was provided on the UES. All annual economic surveys will be tied to the unified framework and the content will be harmonized. Use of administrative data will increase, largely because of Revenue Canada's Generalized Index of Financial Information (GIFI) for financial statement-type information. In 1999, five new surveys of service industries will be conducted for the 1998 reference year; five such surveys already exist and will be repeated in 1999.

The Gambling and Horse Race Tracks Industry will not be surveyed in 1999.

The preliminary release of financial information (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) of complex non-financial industries (at the two digit NAICS code level) for Canada only, will take place in February 1999. Each database release will include a general UES Backgrounder, containing UES schedules, data quality indicators, notes on the use of administrative data, methodology, response information, and names of contacts.

Questionnaire content (Parts 1, 2 and 3, head office and support units), industry-specific questions, changes in the 1998 questionnaires, and the planned introduction of "personalized questionnaires" were discussed.

Collection and response management principles and initiatives were addressed. In particular, the quality of the Business Register frame information for head offices was discussed, with the special attention given to taxis and construction. Reports were given on small firm exclusion thresholds, flexible reporting arrangements, electronic data reporting, and the KPM (Key Provider Manager) Program. Other collection management initiatives were described, including industry information for interviewers (Q's and A's), letters to respondents explaining what the data will be used for, and market research initiatives.

Sampling strategy was addressed, as was the use of tax data for units not surveyed.

The complexity of response rates, when both establishment and collection entities are involved, was noted. STC will present response rates for the number of units *for* which it has information, as well as for the number of units *from* which it gets information, in its data outputs.

Processing decisions were outlined. Edit and imputation will be integrated, using common tools and the same environment, with some flexibility for subject matter areas. The Generalized Edit and Imputation System (GEIS) will be used.

The following allocation decisions (which are defined as the distribution of data to the units, that is, to enterprises or to establishments) were reviewed:

- disaggregating a collection entity down to its establishments;
- allocating tax data to the statistical units when imputing for partial or non-response; and
- head offices and other ancillary units are to be classified with the major activity that they support, and to be allocated the appropriate share of the enterprise's "value added."

Developments regarding calendar and period adjustments ("calendarization") and the Data Management Reference Database were presented. The impact of processing changes on historical series was noted.

Decisions on data analysis tools and techniques were outlined. The provinces' interest in USTART was satisfied by a demonstration.

Update on the use of tax data

Decisions made relating to the Generalized Index of Financial Information (GIFI) were outlined.

GIFI will be introduced in 1999. For the 1998 tax year, the interim solution, in that consists requires Revenue Canada to transcribe balance sheets and financial statements into GIFI format. Thereafter, corporations will submit their data in GIFI format. GIFI format will be mandatory beginning January 2000.

To allow micro-data files that include tax data to be shared with the provinces not only for administrative purposes but also for research and analysis, there must be a change to the *Income Tax Act*.

Revenue Canada conducted focus sessions to examine privacy implications of tax data sharing and reported that no major problems were noted during these sessions. Revenue Canada will conduct a survey involving 1,200 to 1,500 Canadians to help federal organizations develop a policy framework. The results of these collaborations are to be available by March 1999.

STC's priorities will be to ensure that:

1. all provincial statistical bureaus covered by Section 11 Agreements, are authorized to receive data from STC for the purposes of research and analysis;

2. those provincial groups covered under Section 12 Agreements—namely, PEI and the territories—have authorization and access to this data (Gordon Deecker advised that this may require one more year to accomplish); and,
3. federal agencies who have data sharing agreements with STC gain authorization and access.

STC maintains tax data separate from survey data, but once these data are integrated in a common database, STC cannot distribute those data unless and until the *Income Tax Act* is changed. (It is possible that the required changes may be part of the next federal budget.)

Nunavut will have its own Statistical Act, and will therefore be eligible for Section 11 Agreements.

Confidentiality and related issues

The complex issues that surround the disclosure of statistical data were outlined, with discussion focusing on STC's requirement and search for standard disclosure screening software. STC benchmarked three software products: CONFID was chosen as the STC standard, and will be run centrally from the ESD server. It was noted that automated means alone might result in uneven provincial data availability or problematic trend analysis; therefore manual intervention will continue to be necessary, but on a significantly reduced scale.

Status updates were provided on the Omnibus Data Sharing Agreements (This the main sharing agreement between STC and a province or territory; the agreement lists the surveys to which the agreement applies in an independently updateable appendix). STC now has the Order in Council allowing the Minister to sign the agreements. It was clarified that retroactivity in data sharing was not the STC's practice and that STC identifies the statistical office with which it will share data at the time of collection. Data sharing intentions can be conveyed to respondents either on the questionnaire or, as is often done when questionnaires have been pre-printed, in an accompanying letter.

Focal Points were surveyed on the sharing of head office allocation data, and their interest in a remote access facility.

STC clarified its approach to waivers—that is, the mechanism by which respondents give their permission to publish their data that are otherwise confidential. Waivers are classified by STC based on when the waiver is requested and is either an

- *ex ante* waiver, which is sought at the time of collection; or a
- *ex post* waiver, which is sought after collection.

STC normally seeks *ex post* waivers to release specific confidential cells.

A working group will follow up on the need for more explicit STC release—suppression guidelines and/or policies to ensure that the release of provincial data takes priority over the release of detailed industrial data. The working group will also look into the handling of residual disclosure practices for custom tabulations across the agency and will prepare examples.

Concern was expressed that costly custom tabulations might be rendered valueless by excessive STC suppression, and that the UES influence on manufacturing statistics might result in loss of detail in sub-provincial tabulations. The working group will examine training, and the transfer and use of the complex CONFID software to the provinces in order to minimize their custom work charges. Section 11 Agreements will be reviewed regarding charges applied to the delivery of shared information. The working group will review the appropriateness of STC's policy of reminding respondents of the existence of a waiver every three years.

Respondent reactions to release of identifiable data: Focus group study

Results were presented on the January 1988 study conducted by STC, on business respondents' reactions to the request at the time of data collection to authorize release of identifiable data. Participants selected to be in the study were the only one, or one of only a few, of an industry group within a province, or were chosen from a business that dominated an industry in a province.

In general, respondents were not willing to sign an *ex ante* waiver form authorizing STC to publish data relating to their firm. They were concerned that their competitors would get the information, that wrong conclusions could be drawn from some numbers, and that STC failed to provide a clear reason for the request. Furthermore, the waiver request raised very serious concerns on the part of respondents regarding STC's responsibility to ensure confidentiality. In addition, residual disclosure worried respondents and they stipulated that any waiver must be signed by someone with authority to authorize the release of the data. This strong reaction resulted in the recommendation that STC not ask respondents to authorize the release of their data at the time of data collection, which effectively puts STC in the *ex post* waiver business only.

Business Register (BR) improvements

In the NAICS conversion of the previously SIC-80-coded Business Registers, automated conversion was used when there was exact correspondence (one-to-one) of the codes. This occurred for 28% of the one million employer-enterprise records.

For SIC-80 codes that had various NAICS possibilities (one-to-many), STC experts assigned both a code and a degree of confidence. Seventy percent of the one-to-many relationships were coded with a very high level of confidence. For the remaining 30% assigned a low level of confidence, NAICS possibilities were listed and the business itself was contacted with a "Nature of Business Report" and asked to indicate the most appropriate NAICS code choice. Fifty percent of the businesses contacted agreed with the STC coder's choice. Both SIC-80 and NAICS classification systems are currently maintained on the Business Register and the appropriate codes are assigned to new businesses added to the register.

The Business Register frame was expanded to include "non-employers." All entities with Revenue Canada assigned Business Numbers (BN) will be on the Business Register (BR).

Focal Points will get their next semi-annual provincial extract of the BR for the December 1998 reference period in March 1999, with coverage expanded to include all corporate tax filers and all GST registrants reporting \$30K or more in sales.

The correspondence between Revenue Canada's 2.1 million units with BNs and STC's BR was detailed and it was noted that the number of inconsistencies vary by both industry and province. STC's BR increased from one million to 1.8 million establishments, as a result of working with Revenue Canada BNs.

The challenges still facing STC include

- dealing with active/inactive firms,
- handling establishments with unknown industrial classifications, and
- handling enterprises with several payroll deduction accounts (payroll deduction accounts are used by Revenue Canada to assign BNs). When an enterprise had multiple Revenue Canada BNs assigned to it because of separate payroll accounts, STC lists all the BNs on the BR, however this causes logic problems in the BR.

New information that has been added to the BR including a flag to indicate work of a multi-provincial nature, and new data fields for GST sales, country of control, System of National Accounts Sector Classification, and a profit/non-profit indicator.

The BR frame was reconciled with the IOFD Financial Statistics Program and other sources. New frame preparation was done for industries for which surveys did not exist.

A final concern raised centered on outdated geo-coding on the BR. Although updates are done as soon as the postal code conversion file (PCCF) is available, the BR will continue to be affected by any time lags in the availability of the PCCF tool. The issue of postal code differences between location and mailing addresses for BR records was also raised; however, it was noted that 98% of BR records are accurate for location.

Science and Technology Redesign Project (S&TRP)

Preliminary activities of the original program involved creating indicators, building a community of users, and conducting surveys (Biotechnology Surveys in 1983 and Intellectual Property Survey in Universities.)

A coherent picture or framework for science and technology became critical, and the recently drafted framework document now addresses main players, activities, linkages, outcomes, and impacts (economic, social and policy). Provincial measurement of activities is planned, as are more analysis and surveys on innovation, technology diffusion, and human resource development.

BC felt current S&TP activities don't meet BC needs on the size of the science and technology industries, growth trends, importance, and policy directions. BC also indicated interest in a definition for national "high technology."

Quebec agrees there is demand for classification of technology. Quebec offered to share a Quebec document on technology classification, if STC would cover translation.

Fred Gault stated that he would work with any provinces interested in tackling this matter, and Ray Ryan encouraged the provinces and territories to participate.

Nunavut

STC is required to provide preliminary estimates for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut as part of the Fiscal Arrangements Act and Transfer Payments process.

STC identified the boundary of Nunavut, using the postal code structure. This information was then run against the BR, to identify businesses in Nunavut. Survey Managers of STC's 400 surveys were asked whether they could provide information separately for Nunavut by April 1, 1999. While STC was in fairly good shape, some additional efforts were needed to change methodology or processing systems, and funding was secured.

STC is working to ensure Nunavut can supply STC with the necessary administrative data, to ensure Nunavut statistical developments are compatible, and to encourage Nunavut to developing a Statistics Act, so their Section 12 Agreements can be converted to Section 11 Agreements.

Small Business Program (SBP)

When the Small Business Program (SBP) came into existence in the early 1980s, it had funding of \$1 million and two objectives: to provide data for small business and to collect data about small businesses. Data came primarily from administrative sources and, originally, the program generated seven products. Funding later eroded, and at currently only the two products remain: *Small Business Profiles* and *Employment Dynamics (ED)*. The annual *ED* is a longitudinal file carrying information on the creation of businesses by size and number of jobs created, and is used by provincial and federal departments. *Small Business Profiles*, released biennially, was designed to be used by the businesses themselves, to compare their financial ratios with those for their industry, province, and financial structure, so that changes can be made or financing can be sought. *Small Business Profiles* will soon be loaded onto Strategis.

Funding shortfalls required that the program be re-evaluated by a consortium of provincial organizations and federal organizations (the latter co-ordinated by Industry Canada). A proposal was developed to fund the programs two products—*Employment Dynamics* and *Small Business Profiles*—for a single transitional year.

The exclusion of the SBP from STC's core funded statistical program was discussed; many felt the SBP should not have to rely on the Consortium to keep it going. People are asking for information on small businesses, and the government does not have the answers. Data alternatives to the SBP exist within STC, such as the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Survey on Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH), but this information is not easily organized within STC and is charged out at cost. Members felt that little was being said about the future of the program, and that there was scant progress on developing a marketing strategy, finding out about client needs, or developing strategic directions under the auspices of Industry Canada. It was stated that Northern data in *ED* is unusable.

A proposal had been planned for November, but changes in the Entrepreneurship in Small Business Office in Industry Canada delayed matters. The MacKay Task Force Report, which may provide funding opportunities, has not yet been delivered.

It was agreed that a new directional document was needed and something concrete has to be put to the Consortium soon. At Ray Ryan's request, Industry Canada agreed to provide a concrete update on the Small Business Program by the end of February 1999. Ray Ryan stated STC would look at all data possibilities, data sources and SBP options to put before the Consortium. Penny Basset agreed to put a data proposal together, covering where we're at, what we think we can do, where the current package is going, or with what it might be complemented or replaced.

Conclusions

It was noted that for the Trade Analyzer versus TIERS, information gets built into the software and can't be separated. This limits the use and value of some of the data.

Developing a one-hour slide show on surveying for senior officers in provincial offices show was suggested. STC could deliver some training to provinces, and equip them with such products to do some of the training. Ray Ryan agreed to look into the training matter. He also offered to find places for any interested Focal Points in any of the STC training courses on survey taking or data analysis and presentation.

It was also requested that STC develop standards for a statistical workbench against which to test its end-user products.

Action items

Two major agenda items will be addressed at a **special meeting** to take place on **April 27, 1999**:

1. Confidentiality, disclosures, waivers and use of tax data

- A Confidentiality and Related Issues Working Group is to be established. Its members will include Wilf Falk, Dennis Pilkey, Ron McMahon, David Stewart, Serge Bernier, Kurt Schreiner, Bill Hyshka.

The working group will

- address guidelines on provincial-industrial presentations of data;
- review STC practices on residual disclosure involving custom tabulations;
- prepare examples of "inter-program custom work" and suppression issues
- address cost-recovery and Section 11 implications;
- determine the appropriateness of training provincial staff on CONFID or transferring CONFID to the provinces; and
- review the appropriateness of the STC policy on informing respondents about waivers every three years.
- John Crysdale will distribute the group's report as soon as it is available.

2. Small Business Program

- Industry Canada to provide an update on SBP directions by end of February 1999.
- STC will develop a document on possible data products for the SBP by March 1999.

Action items resulting from the last meeting:

The following action items resulted from the last meeting; work for most of these items is currently underway:

- STC to provide the papers on the science and technology framework as well as the program's five-year strategic plan.
- STC to provide Y2K Business Readiness Survey results, and to contact jurisdictions with specific interests on the third survey.
- STC to provide copies of *20 Step Energy Program*, which was co-published by STC and NR-Can.
- Mike Sheridan to be informed of concerns with high costs of SEPH custom work.
- E-mail problems between STC and Focal Points to be addressed.
- Alberta to provide STC with documentation on the conflicts that arose on the Wage and Salary Survey;
- STC to provide threshold exclusion information by industry and jurisdiction.
- STC to provide universe and sample tables by jurisdiction, as well as exclusion impact data for Taxicabs and Couriers.
- STC to provide information on the impact of head office and ancillary units allocations, by province and industry, for the pilot survey.
- STC to set up a USTART demonstration.
- STC to confirm if the *Statistics Act* requires that it release the name of the organization with which it will share data.
- Focal Points to complete and return a questionnaire to John Crysdale.
- STC to provide Focal Points with December 1998 Business Register information in March, 1999.
- STC to provide copies of André Monty's slides, as well as basic documentation on the BR.
- BR to test new PCCF on new Census Divisions.
- STC to electronically disseminate working paper ST-98-10.
- STC to provide a list of all its Science and Technology publications.
- Quebec to provide STC with documentation on its high technology classification for STC to translate and distribute.
- STC to look into the basic elements of the survey taking course with an eye to developing a short workshop or slide show for use by Focal Points.
- Focal Points interested in taking STC training courses to contact Ray Ryan or the Secretary .

CENSUS OF POPULATION

Last meeting:	June 17, 1998
Next meeting:	June 9, 1999
Members:	Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

After welcoming participants, Benoît Laroche opened the meeting by saying that he looked forward to hearing the reactions of the provinces and territories to the update on 2001 Census geography concepts and to the National Census Test and Content Consultation. He then brought the membership up to date on the activities that remained to be done for the 1996 Census and provided the following highlights on work toward the 2001 Census.

2001 Census

- The consultation phase has been completed and preparations are under way for the National Census Test (this took place on October 20, 1998).
- The strategic objectives for the 2001 Census are to hold the line on relevance, quality and cost, but to improve on timeliness and privacy issues. This means that new content will only be introduced in response to major data needs, and that coverage targets and processing systems will be essentially the same as they were for the 1996 Census. However, to improve on privacy and confidentiality, it will be necessary to review the collection methodology in order to revise the edit and follow-up procedures. This must be done to alleviate the negative perceptions of some respondents regarding the use of local enumerators.
- Funding for the 1997–1998 to 1999–2000 period has been approved to develop content options for Cabinet approval. Funding for the remaining years of the Census cycle (2000–2001 to 2003–2004) will be commensurate with the approved content. Work is to begin with the Central agencies in the fall of 1998 to identify the process for obtaining funding. The plan is to go to Cabinet in the fall of 1999 with the hope of obtaining approval in early winter.

2001 Census Geography Concepts

An information package was distributed to all participants before the meeting. The following were some of the recommendations that were highlighted:

Designated Places (DPLs)

Two letters were sent to the provinces/territories. The first letter was sent to all the provinces except those that did not have Designated Places in 1996. This letter asked focal points to verify the existing DPL boundaries and names that were in place for 1996, and to respond to any discrepancies that Geography Division had identified. A second letter sent out shortly after that asked focal points if there were any new DPLs. The focal points were asked to name a contact person on DPLs that Geography Division could work with on an ongoing basis.

Census Tracts (CTs)

It has been decided to reinstate the program to split Census Tracts. Geography Division will be working with the Regional Offices and municipalities on this activity. Given that the Census Tract program is at the municipal level, there will be no specific provincial involvement.

Unincorporated Places (UPs)

Geography Division has proposed that Unincorporated Places be switched into the Designated Place approach, as much as possible. The advantages of this approach were highlighted. Focal points will be asked to define their boundaries. The workload will be assessed based on the number of UPs the provinces and territories choose to send in to Geography, and an attempt will be made to accomplish as much as possible for 2001. The Block Program is one alternative to being able to obtain data for areas at sub-Enumeration Area (EA) levels; this may solve some issues regarding Unincorporated Places as well.

Enumeration Areas/Blocks/Dissemination Areas

In the consultation process, there was an overwhelming request for a small, stable dissemination unit that was not subject to data suppression. EA limits have traditionally changed from one census to the next. For the 2001 Census, Geography expects the collection EAs to be 1.5 times larger than before in order to introduce a new collection methodology that addresses growing concerns over the privacy and confidentiality of 2B data. (The new approach will involve the editing of all 2B questionnaires in a centralized environment).

For the first time, collection and dissemination geography will be split. This will permit significant changes to collection geography without causing significant grief for data users. This new approach is being considered now because of the creation of the new National Geographic Base, which will provide the tools needed to create dissemination areas in an automated fashion.

To take advantage of this opportunity, the Block Program will be introduced. For 2001, the country will be divided into blocks. The intersection of road networks and higher level geography will define blocks. There will be no population or dwelling threshold governing the creation of the blocks. (The process was further explained and examples were highlighted.) The Block Program will lead to more representative data in user-defined areas than was previously possible using the EA.

For output beyond population and dwelling at the block level, plans call for the aggregation of blocks to form Dissemination Areas, the newest standard geographic area.

Metropolitan Influence Zones and North-South Delineation

The Metropolitan Influence Zone approach has been developed to deal more effectively with non-metropolitan Canada (i.e., the area outside Census Metropolitan Areas [CMAs] and Census Agglomerations [CAs]) and to try to gain a better understanding of the data

for those areas. Maps that show a north–south line and a north transition and a south transition were also highlighted.

National Census Test and Content Consultation

National Census Test (NCT)

An overview of the NCT was provided, including the content objectives and collection objectives, methodology, planning assumptions, sample design and major milestones.

- For the NCT, data capture will be traditional key entry. Although scanning and optical character recognition are being researched for the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, they will not be part of the NCT. However, the NCT questionnaires have been designed to facilitate scanning and optical character recognition for future research with this technology. These changes will not have any impact on the respondents.
- The Block Program will also be tested during the NCT.
- The NCT will take place on October 20, 1998. It will be a voluntary survey with an expected average final response rate of 75%.
- The sample for the NCT is 75,000 dwellings, made up of 25,000 short-form questionnaires and 50,000 2B long-form questionnaires. The 2B sample will be split in order to test two long-form questionnaires. (Three different questionnaires are being tested in the NCT.)
- The dwellings in the sample were identified by selecting 1996 enumeration areas in 13 sites across Canada. The objectives were to provide a balanced geographical representation of the Canadian population, and to provide groups of respondents with the characteristics needed to test particular questions. In addition, some rural sites were selected to meet the needs of the Census of Agriculture, which is also participating in the NCT. The 13 sites have been selected and the EAs have been redelineated to meet the increased workload assignments (400 dwellings in rural EAs and 600 dwellings in urban EAs). For the NCT, all 2B questionnaires will be mailed back to one central office in Toronto where the edit and telephone follow-up will be done.
- At this point, all of the questions have been finalized and the questionnaires have been designed. The data files should be ready to start analysis by the beginning of March 1999 with a presentation of the results at the end of May 1999. The final report will be out some time after that.

Content Consultation

An overview of the content consultation process was provided. Following the consultations, more than 1,600 comments on a wide range of census topics were received. Comments related to issues such as same-sex couples, the measurement of seasonal work, multiple-job holders, job tenure, and whether part-time work was by choice or not. Other suggestions touched upon telework and the use of computers. There was support for obtaining data on apprenticeship programs and on the place

where individuals received their highest certificate, diploma or degree. Requests for information on continuous education and training in the workplace were also received.

There was widespread support for post-censal surveys. As part of the Gathering Strength initiative—Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan—Statistics Canada has been mandated by the federal government to conduct an Aboriginal People's Survey and to help develop the statistical capacity of Aboriginal groups. Consultations with Aboriginal associations on the content of the post-censal survey will begin in the fall of 1998. STC also hopes to conduct the Health and Activity Limitations Survey in 2001.

Questionnaire Content

The main objective of the pre-test of the 2A questionnaire was to test various formats of the questionnaire. Sequential ordering of the questions instead of the present matrix format was also examined. The plan for the NCT and for the 2001 Census is to maintain the same formats that were used in 1996.

All variables on the census except income and housing have been part of qualitative tests in Montréal, Ottawa-Hull, Toronto, Saskatoon, Lethbridge and Vancouver.

The 1998 NCT will include eight additional questions. Fertility and religion are decennial questions last asked in 1991. Three others deal with language spoken in the home, at school and at work. The birthplace of parents will be asked, as well as birthplace of grandparents. There will be a new question on the place a person obtained his/her highest certificate, diploma or degree. All questions tested will not necessarily be included in the 2001 Census. Decisions will be taken on the content of the 2001 Census following analysis of the NCT results, qualitative testing and further consultation.

The question modules were highlighted and these were reviewed. These modules included: basic demographics, language, activity limitations, socio-cultural, ethnic origin, population group, education, labour market activity, as well as other modifications.

There were a few suggestions that were not retained for the 1998 NCT.

- With regard to blended families, Statistics Canada recognizes the requirement for information on the changing nature of the family and is currently collecting data on blended families using other vehicles such as SLID and GSS. Results of the 1993 NCT and of the 1997 Pre-Test indicate that data of sufficient quality could not be collected in the census.
- There is not enough support for use in government programs or policies for data on men's fertility.
- The year of an immigrant's arrival, while preferred by many researchers, cannot replace the year in which an immigrant obtained landed immigrant status, which is required by Citizenship and Immigration Canada for immigration programs.
- A few provinces have requested modifications to questions on the type of dwelling to better identify specific types of dwellings such as ground-oriented dwellings, secondary suites and granny flats. This will not be part of the 1998 NCT, but we have

begun discussions with CMHC to look into revising these codes. We have yet to determine whether these revisions can be implemented in time for the 2001 Census.

- A question on access to tax records in lieu of the income questions will not be tested in the NCT. While we recognize that there is much support for this option from the user community, and that it could significantly reduce response burden, there are important confidentiality considerations that must be examined carefully. Future plans include some ground-work consultation and testing activities in this area.

A summary report describing the consultation and the qualitative testing leading to the content determination for the NCT was later sent to the provincial and territorial focal points.

DATA DISSEMINATION

Last meeting: November 18, 1998
Next meeting: October 29, 1999
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Highlights of data dissemination activities

Nunavut was represented at the Committee for the first time. The division of data for both Nunavut and the new Northwest Territories has progressed well with Statistics Canada's collaboration. Until the dissemination function can be accomplished from Iqaluit, the Northwest Territories' Bureau of Statistics will make data on Nunavut available and provide dissemination services through their Web site. The **Northwest Territories'** online data-retrieval system, known as T-STAT, has been integrated into their Web site and has been expanded to include census data. Print products will be revised to reflect the territorial division.

Summary tables of current economic indicators included on Statistics Canada's Web site will be expanded to incorporate data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut wherever available and reliable.

The *Bureau de la statistique du Québec* (BSQ) has maintained the production of its print publications, and has released a second edition of its CD-ROM. A significant number of tables have been added to the Internet site, and the existing tables have been updated. A complete review of the content and look of the Internet site is under way.

The BSQ has developed a database for investors and developers that includes a data storage and promotional display to support the activities of government economic development agents. As part of the *Plan géomatique gouvernemental* (Government geomatic plan), the Bureau was tasked with harmonizing geographic data for grouping and disseminating statistical data.

Alberta is moving away from offering general dissemination services to the public and to some provincial departments. Their data collection activities have increased because of a heightened interest in performance measurement operations on the part of the provincial government. The Alberta Statistical Information System (ASIST), which is still the main data dissemination tool, will be made Y2K-compliant and will be integrated into a centralized, secure system within Alberta's Treasury Department.

The acquisition of new technologies by **Nova Scotia's** Statistics Division offers additional dissemination opportunities and simplifies the customization of products and distribution to clients. They have changed their approach to pricing. Electronic publications are now being offered for free, and the costs involved in research and analysis are being recovered. Advertising and cost sharing also generate revenue.

The **Newfoundland** Statistics Agency is creating a new Data Dissemination Unit. The Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS) provides clients with access to a wide variety of data, and a Web site is in the planning stages.

The **New Brunswick** Statistics Agency has been involved in gathering and providing information to the province's newly created Social Policy Renewal Committee. This information is used to study all social programs within the province and to analyse and measure their success.

Ontario's Intranet site is close to being operational and will make economic information available to line ministries and government officials. Although much of the information is still released in print format, a daily e-mail service to senior officials is offered, and current information and data are posted on the Ministry of Finance's Web site.

Statistics Canada's shift from print to electronic publications has had a direct impact on the **Yukon's** dissemination unit, which has to review the content of CDs and produce paper copies for their clients who still prefer print materials and are not familiar with CD-ROMs.

Presentations made at the 1998 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Dissemination

Electronic Publishing

Martin Podehl reported that the number of hits on Statistics Canada's Internet site has been steadily increasing, and that the traffic should intensify further with the recent inclusion of the community profiles module and the In Depth module. The migration from print to electronic format of low-sales titles is progressing as planned and has been well accepted by users.

Statistics Canada's CANSIM database is being re-engineered to include pull-down menus and pick lists. This will offer a better presentation and allow easy downloading of multidimensional files. Metadata at any level will also be part of this corporate data warehouse, which could also drive Statistics Canada's publication activities by allowing the automatic generation and updating of templates corresponding to tables in existing publications.

Provincial/Territorial Access to Electronic Information

A password-protected Web page for focal points has been added to Communications Division's External Communications Network (ECN). A single username and password for all focal points is now required to access this common navigation umbrella, which links to modules on Statistics Canada's Intranet, to the Information on Products and Services module, and to various divisional sites within the Agency.

Metadata project

Progress on the metadata project has been slower than expected due to the size and the complexity of the task at hand. The objective is still to present every Statistics Canada division or survey area with an electronic questionnaire that would allow the standardization of information provided about surveys and products. A new technology, compatible with CANSIM, will be implemented. Different metadata sources will be migrated to an integrated environment and will form a complete browsable database.

Government On-Line

In his presentation, David Roy mentioned that Government On-Line could significantly affect Statistics Canada's dissemination and marketing activities. For this reason, revenue and cost implications are being identified. The increased awareness and use of data could lead to an expansion of custom services offered by regional offices. Statistics Canada's broader role in this project is to provide meta-information in general and to ensure that standards and common concepts are used across Government On-Line. To maintain high visibility, the Agency will insist on preserving its identity by ensuring that its presence is apparent from all linked sites.

Provincial/Territorial spotlight

Newfoundland's REDIS

A presentation was given on Newfoundland's REDIS (Regional Economic Development Information System). This system uses interactive desktop software for making regional comparisons through mapping and data analysis. It incorporates various data sets into one CD-ROM and serves as a data dissemination tool and a graphical tool for making presentations. Newfoundland wishes to have access to more data in order to enhance REDIS' community-based statistics. Delegates were reminded that there is a licence agreement with Statistics Canada attached to REDIS, and that a proposal is being considered to extend REDIS to the other three Atlantic provinces.

Manitoba's use of Beyond 20/20

The software package Beyond 20/20 is being used by Manitoba's Bureau of Statistics for the retrieval and presentation of 1996 Census data, Labour Force Survey results, and merchandise trade data. The major strength of Beyond 20/20 is its capacity to present multidimensional tables and export files into spreadsheets.

DEMOGRAPHY

Last meeting: June 17–19 and August 27, 1998
Next meeting: June 10–11, 1999
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Last year, two meetings of the Federal–Provincial Committee on Demography were held: one in June and one on August 27. Both meetings focused on coverage issues related to the 1996 and 1991 Censuses and their impact on population estimates.

The June meeting included presentations on such topics as returning Canadians, incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves, evaluating estimates of interprovincial and international migrations, non-permanent residents, and adjusting the population for coverage errors by age and sex. The presentations and discussions were aimed at releasing revised and consistent population estimates for 1996 and 1991, and ensuring that previous estimates were comparable with the revised estimates.

The August meeting was a follow-up to the June meeting. Presentations were made on the revised estimates of the 1996 net undercount, research on the net undercount in 1991, and the evaluation of direct estimates. Another objective of this pre-release meeting was to arrive at some consensus as to whether revised population estimates could be released for periods prior to 1991.

Since the August meeting, new population estimates by age, sex and marital status have been produced, as well as new family estimates. These estimates are based on revised undercoverage and overcoverage rates for the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. Revised population estimates for Canada, provinces and territories, by age and sex are now available from 1971 to 1999. The following are also available: revised estimates by marital status; Census Divisions and CMAs since 1991; and family estimates since 1986.

LABOUR STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 14, 1998
Next meeting: June 16, 1999
Members: Departments concerned with human resources, education or job training, and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The 33rd meeting of the Labour Statistics Committee was held in Ottawa on October 14, 1998 at the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Centre, Statistics Canada.

The following updates were presented:

- joint projects initiated last year (Mike Sheridan);
- LFS (Deborah Sunter and Nathalie Caron);
 1. Methodology and results of the pilot survey on place of work
 2. Implementation of SOC91 and NAICS
 3. Y2K—population rebasing and composite estimation
 4. How to interpret movements in LFS data: a study proposal
- SEPH (Peter Demmons and Justin Lacroix);
 1. Update on SEPH Redesign
 2. SEPH pilot to produce small area data
- SLID (Maryanne Webber);
 1. Current survey status
 2. Integration of SLID and SCF
 3. Income Historical Review CD-ROM
- Special Surveys (Wayne Smith);
- BLMA (Garnett Picot); and
- Data Gaps initiatives (Mike Sheridan).

MINERAL STATISTICS

Last meeting:	October 21–23, 1998
Next meeting:	September 20–22, 1999
Members:	Delegates from Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Statistics Canada, provincial and territorial mining departments or agencies and the Saskatchewan, Yukon and Northwest Territories bureaus of statistics.
Observers:	The Mining Association of Canada, Territory of Nunavut (observer only for 1998 meeting)

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 occur throughout the year as the need arises.

The annual meeting of the Federal–Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPCMS) was held from October 21 to October 23 in Ottawa. As has been the recent custom, the meeting was spread over a three-day period to permit topics of specific interest to certain members to be discussed outside the plenary sessions. Representatives from Nunavut attended this annual meeting as observers but are expected to participate in the 1999 meeting as full members of the Committee.

The 1998 annual meeting of the FPCMS was marked by the launching of the official FPCMS Web site. Not only does this Web site provide an increasing level of information on Committee activities, but it also contains the mechanisms through which participating agencies can access the data contained in Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) SoftAccess system, winner of a gold medal at the 1998 GTEC awards. Interest in directly accessing information using SoftAccess is growing rapidly in the participating provinces and territories, particularly in light of the resource cutbacks that several of them have experienced in recent years.

The first day consisted of a meeting of the small working group on diamond statistics, followed directly by a meeting of a working group to discuss issues pertaining to Nunavut. A workshop that discussed systems and information dissemination was held in the afternoon. In the plenary session on the second day, issues relating to decisions of importance to the Committee were discussed, followed in the evening by the traditional dinner hosted by NRCan. The plenary session concluded on the third day. Despite the unavoidable absence of the representatives of two provinces and the representative of the Mining Association of Canada, there was strong show of attendance at this year's meeting.

In the meetings of the working groups on diamonds and Nunavut, concern was expressed that the new diamond mining activity and the split of the Northwest Territories into two parts would result in additional suppression of published data in order to preserve the confidentiality of individual respondents.

Important agenda items at the plenary sessions of the 1998 meeting included:

- an update on the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES) and its implications for mining industry surveys,
- a review of progress and data issues related to the redesigned exploration expenditures survey,
- approval for proceeding with new diamond survey questionnaires and other survey changes recommended, and
- a discussion of methods for collecting data related to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

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. The commitment by NRCan, originally made in 1994, to co-operate fully with all provinces and territories by adjusting its statistical programs to dovetail with those of the participating provinces and territories, was stressed once again.

Areas of special interest were highlighted in information sessions held on the last day of the meeting. These included recycling, economic and environmental indicators, NRCan's Survey of Services and Equipment Suppliers, and Aboriginal participation in mining. It was made clear that issues related to climate change will need to be addressed, quite possibly both in a working group and in the plenary session at the 1999 annual FPCMS meeting.

Two general themes prevailed among the concerns expressed during the meetings of the Committee and its working groups. First, Quebec, Saskatchewan and other provinces and territories expressed concerns about response burden. As a result, it was agreed to establish a small working group on response burden management that would start deliberations in early 1999. Michael Issa, Ombudsman for issues surrounding the response burden placed on small businesses, described the role of the Ombudsman and outlined measures that might be taken to minimize the burden on businesses. Second, concerns were raised that the protection of respondent confidentiality through data suppression would result in reduced data availability, particularly for the territories. This concern emerged particularly as a result of the commencement of diamond production at the Ekati mine in late 1998. Statistics Canada and NRCan will address issues of survey data confidentiality as part of the PIPES initiative.

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.

Summary of issues facing the FPCMS and its member organizations

1. The impact of the PIPES initiative on the integrated survey program of the member organizations.

2. The preparation of new and updated MOUs between Statistics Canada and NRCan as a result of the introduction of the new integrated business survey strategy being proposed under PIPES, etc.
3. Preparations required to address the impact of creation of the Territory of Nunavut.
4. Development of methods to address data confidentiality and response burden issues.
5. Improvements required in the frame used to survey the Canadian mining industry.
6. Preparation of an MOU with Statistics Canada to cover the use of exploration expenditure data in the System of National Accounts.
7. Development of a strategy to collect principal statistics for the NAICS industry—Support Activities to Mining.
8. Response to emerging needs for data related to energy efficiency, environmental issues, recycling, innovation, productivity and diffusion of advanced technology.
9. Effective use of the Internet as a vehicle to exchange statistical information.

Important events for the FPCMS in 1999–2000

1. The release of more comprehensive data available from the expanded exploration expenditures surveys. The release of survey estimates that include estimates of Canadian diamond production for the first time.
2. The inauguration of the Small Working Group on Response Burden Management leading to a series of recommendations to be presented at the 1999 meeting.
3. The conclusion of several MOUs between NRCan and the provinces and territories.
4. The annual meeting currently scheduled for September 20–22, 1999.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Last meeting: October 16, 1998
Next meeting: November 19, 1999
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Among the major items on the agenda were progress reports on provincial programs within the System of National Accounts Branch (SNA) and within each province and territory. The main items presented by the SNA branch included:

- a report on the Provincial Economic Accounts and plans for revision prior to 1992;
- a report on Provincial GDP at Factor Cost by Industry, including a presentation of a feasibility study for the production of quarterly estimates;
- a report on the Interprovincial Trade flows and the upcoming release of the 1996 Interprovincial Input-Output Tables;
- a presentation on an Interprovincial Input-Output framework; and
- a presentation of a methodology paper on the valuation of wheat in the System of National Accounts.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for November 1999 in the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room of the R.H. Coats building. We have decided to postpone the conference until November, in light of our upcoming major provincial release on October 25, 1999.

Items on the agenda will likely revolve around a discussion of the newly integrated set of provincial data: Interprovincial I-O tables, Provincial Economic Accounts, and Provincial GDP at Factor Cost by Industry. Other potential issues include SNA training for provincial statistical focal points and their staff, and progress on historical revisions prior to 1992 for the Provincial Economic Accounts.

Release schedule

<i>Item</i>	<i>Release date</i>
Provincial Economic Accounts, reference period 1993–1998.....	October 25, 1999
Provincial GDP by Industry, reference period 1993–1998	October 25, 1999
Interprovincial Input-Output Accounts, 1996	October 25, 1999
Quarterly National Income and Expenditure Accounts:	
First Quarter, 1999 (including revisions from the First Quarter 1995 to the Fourth Quarter 1998)	June 10, 1999
Second Quarter, 1999.....	August 31, 1999
Third Quarter, 1999.....	November 30, 1999
Fourth Quarter, 1999	February 29, 2000
National estimates of GDP by industry at constant prices, revisions to reference period 1995 to 1998	September 30, 1999

Please note that the Provincial Economic Accounts and Provincial GDP by Industry are presented in separate tables, but by a single integrated write-up in *The Daily* for the two sets of data.

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

Last Meeting: October 15, 1998
Next Meeting: November 18, 1999
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives) and delegates from provincial and territorial departments of finance

The committee met on October 15, 1998 in Ottawa. All provinces and territories were represented. There were also representatives from Nunavut.

The proceedings were chaired by Kishori Lal, Director of Statistics Canada's Public Institutions Division (PID). The first item of business was a provincial/territorial round table. Representatives from Newfoundland, Quebec, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon indicated that they were satisfied with the new quarterly release of monthly employment data. While representatives from Nova Scotia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia and the Yukon appreciate the electronic dissemination of data, they mentioned a lack of context as well as problems accessing the information. Delegates from Quebec, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon requested the deadlines of the PID releases for the upcoming year. Delegates for Nunavut noted that there is a strong commitment to statistics in the new territory.

Public Institutions' staff gave delegates an overview of the public debt, the consolidation of government revenue and expenditure, the sources of government employment data, the logic of reconciliation statements, the proposed release schedule for PID statistics, and progress being made on the Public sector Universe and the Business Register.

Staff and delegates exchanged views on a number of key issues. These included the contents of remitted profits revenue category, why grants in lieu of taxes were consolidated, the reconciliation of PID and LFS employment data, the integration of PID wages and salary data with IEAD, the possibility of consolidating provincial estimates, and differences between ECTD and PID education data.

PID mentioned the need for increased co-operation with the provincial governments and announced plans to visit the provinces.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: May 4, 1998
Next meeting: April 28, 1999
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Mr. Petrie welcomed the members and tabled the agenda, which was accepted. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without discussion.

Work of the newly created Income Statistics Division (M. Webber)

Ms. Webber reviewed the various programs that are under the responsibility of the newly created Income Statistics Division. This division is responsible for the integration of SLID and SCF, the Survey of Household Spending (formerly FAMEX), the Survey of Financial Security (which measures assets and debts), the Pensions Section, which used to be part of Labour Division, and the Census Income Section. The structure of the division is geared more to the products than to the way that information is collected. Ms. Webber then turned her attention to the integration of SLID and SCF, which can be seen as a major step toward integrating income data. The decision to integrate the surveys was taken in 1995. From 1996 to 1998, the two surveys were run in parallel to reduce their impact on time series; their differences were evaluated and documented. In 1999, SLID will produce cross-sectional income data for 1998 and SCF will then be discontinued.

Status Report on Health Division and CIHI (G. Catlin)

Mr. Catlin presented the major elements of the Health Statistics Division programs (i.e., the National Population Health Survey, Vital Statistics, Cancer Statistics, and the Residential Care Facilities.) He specifically discussed their major databases and their analytical outputs. Mr. Catlin then mentioned some of the recent changes at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). CIHI is now increasing its emphasis on analysis and data standards, which are its major strengths. Mr. Catlin concluded by presenting joint STC/CIHI/Health Canada initiatives. The three organizations are trying to identify health information needs; more specifically, they are trying to see how each can better respond to the needs of the health constituency.

Education and Cultural Statistics (Scott Murray)

Education Statistics

Mr. Murray reminded participants that the purpose of the Centre for Education Statistics (CES) is to develop and carry out a comprehensive program of pan-Canadian education statistics and analysis. The goal is to support policy decisions and program management, and to ensure that accurate and relevant information concerning education is available to the Canadian public and other stakeholders. The key partners are the Council of Ministers of Education, the Canadian Education Statistics Council and HRDC. The strategic plan and the management structure of CES and its main products were also described and discussed.

International Adult Literacy Survey

Mr. Murray provided an overview of the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS), which is currently in its third round of data collection. The goal of this survey is to obtain a data set with a large enough sample and enough variation across countries to allow us to look at evidence for skills demands, characteristics of supply and the role that literacy plays in wage determination. Future work on IALS was described. An International Life Skill Survey will be done this spring with seven other countries to see how literacy reacts with other skill domains. A consultation on IALS 2002 will be held so that provinces and territories will be able to advise STC on survey content and design, and to put the flag up for provincial buy-in for a larger sample. Monographs from IALS results will be produced on a regular basis.

Culture Statistics

Mr. Murray concluded his presentation by reviewing the work of the Culture Statistics Program. Its main activity is to define a framework to describe what culture is; this is being produced in consultation with the provinces and territories. A provisional framework will be released in the fall for discussion.

General Social Survey (Doug Norris)

Mr. Norris informed members that funding has now been received for this fiscal year to undertake some developmental work on the redesign of GSS to meet the needs of the policy research initiatives that were described at last year's meeting. The GSS sample size could be increased from 10,000 to at least 20,000. As part of the funding received, approval was received to undertake the Victimization Survey in 1999 instead of 2000, with a sample size of at least 15,000. Mr. Norris also informed members that, in the coming months, STC will be consulting with the provinces and territories on the design and sample size of future GSS surveys, especially the one for 2000.

Life Paths Model (Michael Wolfson)

Life Paths has emerged from the Data Gaps exercise. Life Paths is an attempt to measure in a more sophisticated way the transitions that people make in their lives. It is designed to support an emerging set of public policy issues for which conventional socio-economic statistics are inadequate. There is an increasing appreciation in Canadian policy circles of the need to consider individual circumstances from a life-cycle perspective. An image of the population microcosm generated by a Life Paths simulation was presented, followed by a review and discussion of various results and their graphical representations. Mr. Wolfson concluded by stating that Life Paths is a proof by construction that shows the feasibility of building on previous work to produce a new framework. This framework can then be used to generate a coherent set of statistical and graphical socio-economic indicators that are badly needed by our policy and decision makers.

Canadian Centre on Justice Statistics (Bruce Petrie)

The CCJS has been an active participant in a federal/provincial/territorial task force that was created to develop recommendations for amending the *Young Offenders Act* and for developing programs to provide alternatives for low-risk offenders and to encourage

rehabilitation and reintegration. In supporting the discussions about the issue of youth crime, the CCJS was able to present timely, relevant data on the specific issues being debated. These data provided the basis for contributions not only to the Task Force and its reports, but also for data presentations to meetings of justice ministers and deputy ministers over the past year. CCJS will be co-ordinating the collection and analysis of data from a variety of sources for an annual report on family violence in Canada.

Gender Equality Indicators (Leroy O. Stone and Sheila Regehr)

In her opening remarks, Ms. Regehr, who works with Status of Women Canada (SWC), stated that the Gender Equality Indicators initiative is a co-operative endeavour of federal/provincial/territorial ministers responsible for the status of women. It has been designed for two basic purposes:

1. to design a better picture of women's situation that starts not from the data available but from the perspective of women's reality (which often includes the presence of children and unpaid work); and,
2. to build this project into other existing social indicators.

Dr. Stone described STC's involvement in this initiative. STC became involved only after the ministers and their senior officials had decided to focus on the economic aspects of gender equality and had selected those aspects that would be covered. The Agency provided statistical services and information to produce the document. It also supplied descriptive drafts about data patterns and technical notes about procedures.

Ms. Regehr then addressed the issue of future work in this process. At their last meeting, the ministers agreed they were committed to having some of the underlying analysis done; they also agreed that they wanted some regular updates to this information. Statistics Canada took the initiative, along with SWC, HRDC and Health Canada, to organize a symposium to look at the larger issue of gender equality indicators in Canada. From a policy perspective, SWC is examining how to further promote this work. There are two upcoming conferences where these results will be presented. Further work will also be done to help women's groups understand how they might use this document and the background analysis to develop better policy options and more rigorous gender analysis.

PIPES and the Social Statistics Program (Alison Hale)

Ms. Hale explained that, although PIPES emphasizes economic data, there are benefits to social statistics stemming from the requirements for annual data for three of our household surveys that collect expenditure data. These are the Family Expenditure Survey (FAMEX), the Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey (HRRS) and the Canadian Travel Survey (CTS). She described in detail how PIPES has affected each of these surveys.

Market Basket Measure of Poverty (A. Zeesman and M. Hatfield)—Special Meeting of June 19, 1998

Mr. Zeesman gave the general context for the development of the Market Basket Measure of Poverty (MBM). The MBM was developed at the request of ministers of

social services because of the controversy and misunderstanding around the existing measures of low incomes. The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Social Development Working Group on Research and Information and HRDC were asked to look at the question of measuring poverty.

The work of this group highlighted the importance of a third concept of poverty—one based on Adam Smith's definition of necessities. This concept embodies a creditable or decent standard of living that falls between and complements the two most common concepts of poverty (i.e., subsistence and social inclusion.) An absolute measure for this new concept called Market Basket Measure was developed to fill that gap. This initiative will place the full panoply of poverty measures at the disposal of policy makers, which will then allow them to exercise the political choice of which to use and how to measure poverty.

Concepts of poverty (subsistence, social inclusion, creditability), methods of poverty measurement (absolute and relative measures), and current measures of poverty (LICOs, LIM, Metro Toronto Social Planning Council, CCSD, Sarlo), were presented. It was shown that the MBM fills the existing gap in the absolute measurement of creditability. The criteria and the features of the MBM index were described.

Mr. Zeesman concluded by stating that the MBM initiative is a preliminary product at this stage. It is necessary to collect additional data to make the MBM a credible tool for analysis. Developmental work continues. Rounds of consultations were initiated in the spring and will continue through the summer. The consultation findings will be reported to the ministers of social services in the fall of 1998.

Closing Remarks (Chair)

Mr. Petrie assured members that we would follow up on the issues that were raised during the deliberations. He thanked all delegates for their very valuable contribution and looked forward to their co-operation on the many initiatives that will be developed during the year.

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Federal–Provincial Committee on Transportation Statistics

Last meeting: June 2–3, 1998, Ottawa

Next meeting: June 17–18, 1999, 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: May 6–8, 1998, Mexico

Next meeting: May 24–28, 1999, Washington

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);
- trade and transportation; and
- the North American transportation statistics publication.

Progress was also reported on the implementation of Year 2000 Conversion. Presentations and discussions took place on the pilot projects in the taxi and courier industries, on the development of the new Canadian Vehicle Survey, and on containers information. U.S. delegates reported on the progress of their transportation satellite accounts. Mexico reported on its progress in implementing projects related to its economic census.

VITAL STATISTICS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

Last Meeting: June 30–July 3, 1998
Next Meeting: June 22–24, 1999
Members: Provincial and Territorial Registrars/Directors of Vital Statistics

- Work continues on the development of a Web site for the Vital Statistics Council for Canada. This Web Site indicate all jurisdictions that have their own sites; HSD will supply basic data for those that do not.
- Model questions, as well as “how to complete” registration forms for incorporation in the Data Dictionary, Year 2000, are being developed.
- Permission will be asked to put the “Cause of Death” online and eventually on the Internet.
- The Electronic Registration of Birth and Death Committee will produce their findings at the 1999 Council meeting.

A sub-committee was formed to look at how each jurisdiction handles adoptions and to propose a national standard.

APPENDIX 5
PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY**

Teleconference of March 25, 1999

Committee members:

Ron McMahon (Saskatchewan) - Chairperson
Guy Savard (Quebec)
Dennis Pilkey (Nova Scotia)
Janet Hagey (Statistics Canada)
Denis Desjardins (ex-officio)

Secretariat:

Lyne Bélanger

SUMMARY

Program Committee members indicated that they would be interested in hearing a presentation on Nunavut, particularly on the work accomplished to date and on the remaining challenges involved in the creation of the new territory's statistical office.

Program Committee members from the provinces indicated that the following items may be raised for discussion:

(The respective ACSs have been advised accordingly)

- Statistics Canada's dissemination policy as it relates to data access via the Internet, and its position in relation to Government Online.
- Procedures to follow when modifying the list of surveys in data sharing agreements.
- Update on the reconciliation issues of the economic accounts, more particularly the growth rates.
- Conflicting productivity measures.
- Why the Provincial Economic Accounts are not revised beyond 1992.
- Update on Statistics Canada's contribution to the establishment of HRDC's market basket measurement.
- The direction that Statistics Canada will be taking concerning the reverse record-check for the 2001 Census.

APPENDIX 6
FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTION
1.0 Opening remarks		
1.1 British Columbia's focal point suggested that in this year's minutes, action items should be listed in an appendix.	Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat	The suggestion will be implemented.
2.0 Accomplishments and priorities		
2.1 British Columbia's focal point stated that he would like to participate in the development of draft agreements with the various health ministries. He noted that the provinces might be able to access their own health care records through the Statistics Canada database.	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics	The possibility will be explored.
2.2 Nova Scotia's focal point asked whether focal points could receive some training, and he volunteered to assist in developing the curriculum for such a training program.	Focal points and ACS, Business and Trade Statistics	Interested focal points should contact Mr. Ryan.
3.0 Provincial and territorial reports		
3.1 The Northwest Territories' focal point raised the issue of the difference that may exist between Statistics Canada's subprovincial population estimates and the estimates produced by the provinces and territories. He suggested that the issue be discussed at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography.	Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat and Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography	The Secretariat has conveyed the question to the chair of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Demography.
4.0 Presentation on Nunavut		
No action required.		
5.0 Report of the Program Committee		
No action required.		

ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTION
6.0 Business and Trade Statistics Program		
6.1 The Northwest Territories' focal point expressed concern that the Canadian Travel Survey did not include the North. He requested an explanation of what would be done, under PIPES, to fill this gap.	Assistant Director, Income and Expenditure Accounts	Mr. McDowell will contact Mr. Stewart to discuss the matter.
6.2 Manitoba's focal point asked whether tourism data are revised after publication.	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics	The answer to the question will be communicated to Mr. Falk.
6.3 Quebec's focal point asked to be sent more information on the export business register and suggested that a meeting be held to discuss the Business Register as a whole.	Director General, Prices, International Trade and Finance Statistics	Information will be sent to the focal points and a meeting will be arranged.
6.4 Concerns were raised by Prince Edward Island's focal point about the loss of traffic flow information since the construction of the bridge between the island and New Brunswick. He pointed out that the information gap would also have an impact on the National Accounts.	Director General, PIPES, and ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies	The matter will be studied.
6.6 Nunavut's focal point asked when the Consumer Price Index would be published for his territory and whether it would be updated monthly.	Director, Prices Division	Mr. Ducharme will contact Mr. Hicks.
7.0 National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program		
7.1 In response to a request by the Northwest Territories' focal point, Mr. Wells explained that the data for Nunavut in the 1996 input-output tables could not be separated from the data for the Northwest Territories, but he promised to try to determine how the focal point's needs could be met.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies, and Northwest Territories' focal point	A meeting on this subject will be held this summer.

ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTION
7.2 Saskatchewan's focal point raised the issue of the statistical discrepancy between the various measures of gross domestic product. Mr. Wells stated that the discrepancy could be removed artificially but that that would result in the loss of a certain kind of information. He offered to discuss the implications of such a decision at a future meeting.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies	The issue will be studied.
7.3 Manitoba's focal point said that some types of income were not included in the definition of personal savings and asked whether action would be taken to correct the problem.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies	The issue will be discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Canadian System of National Accounts.
7.4 Prince Edward Island's focal point said that personal expenditure included out-of-province purchases and that if a province had many visitors, as was the case for his province, personal expenditure could be overstated.	ACS, National Accounts and Analytical Studies	The issue will be studied.
8.0 Health Statistics Program		
8.1 The focal points asked to be kept informed on a regular basis of activities in the health field, including meetings that were held and the people who were involved.	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics	General information and a list of people who had helped with the consultations in each province and territory would also be sent to the focal points. A Health Statistics Program update will be added to the agenda of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics.

ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTION
9.0 Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program		
No action required.		
10.0 Appointment of Program Committee Members		
No action required.		
11.0 Other Business		
11.1 Nova Scotia's focal point suggested that the specific subjects that presenters planned to discuss should be included under the main headings in the agenda.	Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat	The agendas of future meetings will contain subheadings.
11.2 Saskatchewan's focal point asked if in future a summary of the presentations to be made by Statistics Canada representatives could be provided a few days before the meeting.	Federal-Provincial Relations Secretariat	Starting next year, the Secretariat will send summaries to the focal points.
11.3 Various focal points mentioned a number of difficulties caused by electronic dissemination, including the directions for accessing information added to the External Communications Network, the descriptions of file contents, and the assignment of unique names to the files.	Program Committee	The Committee held a teleconference on June 2, 1999, to begin preparing guidelines for subject-matter divisions.
11.4 The focal points requested that the report on Survey of Household Spending sample sizes and response rates, discussed in Ms. Maryanne Webber's presentation, be mailed to them.	Director, Income Statistics Division	The report will be mailed out.

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