
Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

May 4 – 5, 2000
Ottawa, Ontario



MINUTES*

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

Meeting of May 4 and 5, 2000

Ottawa, Ontario

***The minutes are presented in order of the agenda**

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 4 and 5, 2000

1. Opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed delegates to the 26th annual meeting of the Federal–Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. Dr. Fellegi said he had planned to welcome a new member of the Council, James Turgeon, but that unfortunately Mr. Turgeon was unable to attend. He noted that in fact two of the three Northern members were also unable to attend: Jack Hicks (Nunavut), who was meeting with Statistics Canada staff in Montreal to discuss the extension of the Household Survey to the North; and Gerry Ewert (Yukon), who was in the midst of a change of government.

The agenda for the 2000 Council meeting, as proposed by the Program Committee, was adopted (see Appendix 2) and the minutes of the 1999 meeting were approved without amendment.

2. Accomplishments and priorities

Dr. Fellegi described the major events of the past year at Statistics Canada and his expectations for the coming year, touching on GAPS I, PIPES, GAPS II, and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). He referred members to the 2000 Scan Special Issue for more detailed information. He added that after years of cutbacks and program reductions, the advent of PIPES, followed by the CCHS—and this just one year before the Census—has triggered a huge mobilization of effort within the organization. He cautioned that while the organization's ability to meet the challenges of these new programs has been "profoundly impressive," it is imperative that any new work be very carefully considered and monitored. Dr. Fellegi then opened a discussion on the issues around the potential release of historical census records and responded to queries on the Environmental Statistics program and other strategic initiatives.

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Historical census records

Dr. Fellegi addressed the issues around the potential release of historical census records—its implications and the possible impacts on the statistical system. He carefully explained his position on the matter and much discussion ensued about privacy and the legal and precedent-setting ramifications of releasing Census data. Dr. Fellegi added, "I don't know how this is going to play itself out ...but I certainly consider it a very serious potential threat to the statistical system."

Agreeing with Yvon Fortin (focal point for Quebec), Dr. Fellegi said that this issue was not simply about releasing data from 1911; it was about the implications for the 2001 Census and after. ACS Mike Sheridan underlined that the real issue for many people would be the notion of retroactively repealing legislation and Don McRae, the focal point for British Columbia, said that if this issue is sensationalized, it would have an impact on response rates and the quality of the 2001 Census. John Palmer, the focal point for PEI, added that the worst thing that could happen would be to engage in a big debate on this issue during the Census period.

Dr. Fellegi concluded, "My current thinking is that I'm comfortable being seen as trying to defend the confidentiality issue. It establishes that this is something on which we are willing to go to the wall—that it's part of the culture of this place."

David Stewart (focal point, NWT) agreed, saying that Statistics Canada has to come down on the side of protecting privacy.

The Council then discussed approaches to inform the ministers responsible for statistics across Canada about the potential implications and impacts of this issue on the statistical system.

Environmental Statistics

The focal point for Alberta asked for a run down on Environmental Statistics and the Chief Statistician presented a brief history of the environmental programs and their current funding at Statistics Canada. He touched on three projects—the Federal Round Table on Sustainable Development, headed by Stewart Smith, for which Statistics Canada has been asked to provide advisory support; a commitment to work with Environment Canada to define what is required in terms of environmental information; and the Kyoto agreement. Of these three projects, only the Kyoto agreement may bring funding. However, Dr. Fellegi explained, until a consensus is reached on how to implement the Kyoto agreement, no agreement on the right monitoring information can be reached. Karen Wilson later added that Statistics Canada is well placed to move once agreement on what the sustainable development indicators are has been reached and the go ahead is given. Ms Wilson offered to provide members with a status report on sustainability indicators prepared for the National Accounts Advisory Committee.

ACS Ray Ryan noted that the Environmental Statistics Division has found funding from various sources to augment the work in the Energy Statistics program. Together, the funding accounted for \$600,000 to \$700,000 of activity—including quarterly survey taking and improvements to the quality of estimates from the survey on the industrial consumption of energy. The goal is to look for permanent funding and to confirm the same level of funding from various sources for a third year so that the work can continue uninterrupted.

Wilf Falk (focal point for Manitoba) described the efforts of the Analysis and Modelling Group, which reports to the National Air Implementation Co-ordinating Committee (NAICC), a federal-provincial body. The group is one of 15 stakeholder committees formed out of the national implementation strategy. It has been charged with measuring the economic impacts of implementing various options. Mr. Falk reported that the group has just submitted its report to NAICC outlining data gaps, analytical gaps and issues related to analytical capacity, funding and time-line requirements. The report will be addressed at the next meeting of the joint ministers of Energy and Environment. He concluded that this may become a major undertaking, but advised that it would have no impact on funding in the short term.

Strategic initiatives

The focal point for British Columbia asked Dr. Fellegi to elaborate on strategic initiatives announced in the *2000 SCAN Special Issue*. Dr. Fellegi described the reorganization of the field and head office operations that included standardizing software between head office and the field, data-capture and processing software, platforms, and training facilities in the regions. Ray Ryan described Statistics Canada's continuing and enhanced education outreach program and Martin Podehl, Director General of Marketing and Information Services, elaborated on developments in dissemination—namely the

transition from print to electronic products, CANSIM II and web-site development and the need for new market research to measure the relevance of our data to clients.

3. Provincial and territorial reports

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

4. Report of the Program Committee

Yvon Fortin began his report by thanking Denis Baribeau whom he replaced as chair of the Program Committee. He underlined Mr. Baribeau's contributions to the System of National Accounts, adding that his departure is truly a loss in this field, and wished him well in his retirement.

In presenting the committee reports, Mr. Fortin informed the Council that he and Mr. Baribeau agreed that the time had come for a rejuvenation of the committee and welcomed input from all provincial agencies and from new members on new initiatives and issues. (Federal-Provincial committee reports and the report of the Program Committee are reproduced in appendices 4 and 5, respectively.)

5. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program

Program update

ACS Mike Sheridan reported that the May 2, 2000 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics was a frank and extremely productive session. He proposed that his presentation here be confined to those issues on the agenda that were not resolved or not discussed at the May 2 meeting.

Availability of historical employment insurance benefit payments and quality of current series

Mr. Sheridan responded to the request from the New Brunswick Focal Point for clarification on the EI benefit payment series and the historical series. He explained that Part 1 is regular EI payments to individuals who qualify for EI support (for example, while sick or on maternity leave) in addition to EI insurance for those who were unemployed. These beneficiaries, and payments in total, have decreased over time, driven down by sharp declines in the unemployment rate as well as specific changes to the program itself. However, it appears that Part 2 of those benefits (those that deal with job creation categories, such as TAGS, and which would affect the Newfoundland estimates specifically) is summed together with Part 1 and is aggregated on that file. Mr. Sheridan added that the declines seem too large and outlined an action plan to track this down in the next few days. Deborah Sunter will report to the focal points advising if there is a problem, what it is, and what we intend to do to fix it. Mr. Sheridan concluded by thanking New Brunswick for alerting STC to the potential problem.

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Status of the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and access by the Focal Points

Mr. Sheridan reported that the issues around the CCHS—namely access to those data and issues with respect to record linkage—had been successfully addressed at the May 2 meeting. He proposed that Section 11 and Section 12 issues be discussed together with the household discussion.

2001 Census Output Program Designated Places (DPLs)

The question of how Statistics Canada will be handling the DPLs (Designated Places) in the 2001 Census was addressed. DPLs are geographic entities that capture original settlements and have been established as census geographical entities. In the 1981 Census, there were approximately 20 DPLs; the 2001 Census will include close to 1,300. The problem that must be addressed is not the number of DPLs, but how the data will be released—that is, it is a dissemination issue. Statistics Canada is willing to consult to determine how to put the information and data out as part of the dissemination process.

Review of the LICOs initiatives

Mr. Sheridan reported that the review and discussion on the LICOs at the May 2 meeting provided members with enough to move on those issues surrounding rebasing.

Census and access to reserves

Mr. Sheridan reported that Statistics Canada has made good progress—and the keystone to the progress has been the post-censal Aboriginal Survey. He added that “we are in better shape than we have been in 1991 and 1996, but that doesn’t guarantee anything in terms of access to reserves and enumeration... There is currently a lot of good will around the table; however, in the end, it comes down to the day that we arrive at the particular reserve.” Mr. Ryan added that the discussions are continuing, and he outlined the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program at Statistics Canada.

Wilf Falk, Focal Point for Manitoba, highlighted the issue of inclusion of residents of reserves in the catchment population for the monthly Labour Force Survey, noting that the government of Manitoba feels strongly that exclusion of these individuals limits the use of the LFS. He noted that they want to work with STC to find a mechanism to breach this gap, adding that he wanted to bring the possible solutions—outlined at the March (2000) meeting closer to fruition. He underscored that the whole issue of the LFS and Aboriginal reserve population is vital to the Manitoba government. Mr. Sheridan responded that in the short term, as a solution to the problem Statistics Canada hopes to be able to include this population in the economic region estimators, based on estimates from the Aboriginal post-censal survey. He suggested that we might end up looking at a modelling solution as opposed to a data collection solution.

2001 Census: Update on the 2001 Census questionnaire and funding

Mr. Sheridan announced that Statistics Canada had received approval for funding and has finalized the content for the 2001 Census. He distributed drafts of the content, noting that it had been gazetted and had passed through the Special Committee of Council.

The new content concentrates on language: there are two new questions on language used at work and an additional question on language spoken in the home. Finally, there is a new question on birthplace of parents and one on same-sex couples.

Post-censal survey funding

Mr. Sheridan provided an update on questions raised at the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics concerning post-censal surveys, reporting first on the Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Aboriginal Peoples Survey

In developing the survey, Statistics Canada took a flexible approach, creating core content addressed to the group as a whole and additional content addressed to specific groups interested in such fundamentally different questions as Métis, Inuit and Aboriginal ancestral issues. The hope is that by building this flexibility into the survey, we can produce the information and data that the Aboriginal people feel they need to move forward in terms of both their own governance and relationships with federal and provincial governments. The approach on the sample selection is also flexible. There are two types of samples: one set of samples will target those who identified themselves as Aboriginal people; the second set will focus on those who identified themselves as having Aboriginal ancestry—a group of about 300,000 people.

Mr. Sheridan reported that drafts for three formal Memos of Understanding—one with the Métis National Council, one with the Assembly of First Nations, and one with the Inuit—have been written and that he would be in a position to share the draft questionnaire with the focal points in the coming weeks.

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In response to a request from the Focal Point from NWT, David Stewart, Mr. Sheridan clarified the relationship between the APS and the First Nations' Health Survey, explaining that the post-censal survey program would include a repeat of the First Nations' Health Survey. Statistics Canada is looking at collecting the two at the same time, but keeping the samples independent. He concluded that the issues of overlap and questions about dissemination have not yet been resolved, but will clearly require new approaches.

Health and Activity Limitation Survey On the Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS)

Mr. Sheridan reported that Statistics Canada has received funding to conduct the survey in the amount of about \$11.5 million. The funds are for the survey and analytical activity. He explained that the only fundamental changes to HALS are improvements to the screening questions and the decision not to conduct the 'no' sample survey this time around. The survey is at the draft questionnaire stage and STC will present the draft to its expert advisory group on May 16, 2000. Once reviewed by the advisory group, the draft will then be made available to the focal points.

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Ethnic identity and origin

Mr. Sheridan announced that the third post-censal survey would be on ethnic identity and origin. This survey is intended to provide data that can help us understand the evolving origins of Canadians and their cultural identities. This is of critical importance to

Heritage Canada and Statistics Canada is entering into a partnership with them to develop content. The goal is to have drafted key elements in time for the June 2000 Census meeting. Doug Norris added that it was still very early in the process, but that one of the major issues they had been grappling with was the whole issue of ethnicity versus identity.

6. Societal Indicators: Roles and progress

a) Statistics Canada's role, presented by Doug Norris

With regard to the Treasury Board initiative and the Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) quality of life indicators, as well as a number of other quality of life indicator projects, Mr. Norris reported that the main role of Statistics Canada has been one of providing data support. He added that Statistics Canada doesn't have any plans for developing quality of life indicators. There are many players who want this support—including the Canadian Federation of Municipalities and the Council for Status of Women, in addition to those already mentioned. Mr. Norris concluded, "What our role really has been, and for the foreseeable future will continue to be, is one of supporting various people from the technical data point of view."

b) *Managing for Results Report: Treasury Board Secretariat's perspective.* Presented by Dennis Pilkey, Focal Point for Nova Scotia

By way of background, Mr. Pilkey explained that he is currently the only official provincial representative at the table for the Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) project, a quality of life social indicators project. The intent of this initiative is to go out and ask people how they define quality of life, rather than asking experts. And it will be quite a large project, probably about \$400,000 to start. It is through this involvement, he noted, that he realized the extent of work in various provinces on social indicators and so wanted to bring this issue to the Council.

Mr. Pilkey then reviewed some of the current research available on social indicators, recommending key papers: a paper commissioned by Manitoba and written by Ralph Joyce that presents a good review of some of the societal indicator projects across the provinces; CPRN's paper by Barbara Gulagowski on a sampling of 21 community and citizen-driven quality of life societal indicator projects; and, again for CPRN, Andrew Sharp's paper that surveys indicators on social and economic well-being, with a focus on indexes. Mr. Pilkey then briefed the Council on Treasury Board's *Managing for Results Report* and the CPRN, focussing on the quality of life indicator, and noting that the roles (between Finance, Treasury Board, Statistics Canada, and so on) have been well defined by the management committee and that the information is available on their Web site. He added that 82 departments and agencies have put forward their plans and priorities. The plans and priorities are set in the spring and the performance reports are released in the fall.

Mr. Pilkey added, "This quality of life dimension is subjective, dynamic, and relative. It brings together social, economic and environmental issues over short-, medium- and long-term dimensions." He said he wanted to bring this issue to this forum because a lot was happening and it provides a new opportunity for those who want to take up the

challenge. He suggested that the floor be open to discussion once Bill Hyshka, focal point for Alberta, and Doug Norris, had presented their reports.

c) Bill Hyshka, Alberta: Provincial–Territorial perspective

Mr. Hyshka began his report by noting that he would be addressing the Alberta experience and not the provincial–territorial perspective *per se*. Where Mr. Pilkey had explained this as being more an exercise in words and management as opposed to statistics, Alberta took a different route than many other provinces—that is, to first look at performance indicators as a statistical exercise in measurement and then to examine the outcomes. The Alberta model, he reported, is based on the Oregon model, which began about 17 years ago. Oregon told Alberta not to expect results in the first two to five years with this type of exercise. They explained that this time is required to stabilize the societal indicators chosen, and Alberta has found this to be the case. Alberta has published for five years now their performance measurement indicators. Each social indicator is composed of three parts—people, prosperity, and preservation—that is, socio-demographic information, economic information and environmental information. Alberta now has between 50 and 75 indicators (depending on the year) that cover the full gamut—from teenage pregnancy to income statistics, to air and water quality. Mr. Hyshka noted that at the notion discussed at the Social Statistics meeting—namely, that societal and performance indicators have no impact on policy or program and that what is being produced are nebulous sorts of statistics—does not reflect the Alberta experience. The government has used these indicators to set (albeit arbitrary) targets and to measure programs and policies. Mr. Hyshka provided an example using educational attainment. He concluded by explaining that while they were initially involved in developing all of the information that goes into the indicators, their involvement is now limited to providing the data and looking at the veracity of the data to ensure that it is measuring what it is meant to measure.

d) Discussion

The floor was opened for discussion. Mr. Pilkey repeated that the intent of putting the topic of societal and performance indicators on the agenda was to share what was going on—not to make anybody an expert in societal indicators.

Dr. Fellegi proposed an alternative model, noting seven reasons for caution regarding societal indicators that are applied to large domains and broad fields:

- First, there are too many relevant indicators because there are too many issues and it is very hard to maintain an overview. Are we improving? Are we getting worse? Out of the 60 indicators, many will be pointing in opposing directions.
- The second point leads from the first: therefore, eventually somebody will say we can't cope with this—it has to be summarized. But how can it be summarized when you are trying to add up into an index things that are not commensurate with one another? It's like the misery indicator of adding up the inflation rate and the unemployment rate: what does it mean? Nobody knows, but somebody added it up and it became prominent. Using health indicators as an example, Dr. Fellegi added that, implicit in the question of weighting, is deciding that one disease is worse than another, cancer is worse than AIDS etc., and cautioned the group to think hard about the implications.

- Third, a heavy overlap exists among indicators. Using sustainable development as an example, he briefly outlined the different indicators at play including education and health.
- Fourth, in order for these indicators to be of use, they have to change reasonably quickly, otherwise one can't observe any progress one way or the other. Yet, most of these indicators do not change quickly if they are relevant or broad. An obvious example is the best overall indicator of health—life expectancy—which moves very slowly. Dr. Fellegi noted that this could lead to a loss of interest in relevant and broad indicators.
- Fifth, for all of these interactions, it's extremely difficult to pin down who can claim ownership for the evolution of those indicators. And, if you can't pin that ownership down, you can't use it as a performance indicator.
- Sixth, Dr. Fellegi noted that there has not really been a successful implementation—including the Oregon project—in the sense that governments mean it to have.
- Seventh, and lastly, Dr. Fellegi noted the potential of chosen performance measures to be counter-productive, using Grade 12 enrolment versus graduation as an example. If you pay too much attention to that ratio, it's very easy to fix: just lower your academic standards and everyone enrolled will graduate. If the figures obtained are used for further research—great. But, if they are used to measure performance, the attention brought to bear may not be the kind you want.

Dr. Fellegi advocated that governments apply these types of indicators to major new initiatives, building the measures of success in at that time. The measuring tools and devices could then be in place and governments could report on the success of that program. He concluded, "I think that's more meaningful because when a program is launched, presumably it has a finite objective—which may or may not be measurable and this can be stated up front. Then the electorate can hold the government accountable for particular initiatives."

Various Council members echoed these views. John Palmer, Focal Point for PEI, added that "it is very reasonable for governments to require their staff to have some form of performance measurement...but I wouldn't want to use general statistics for that." Dennis Pilkey commented on the recurring theme of causality and control: governments do not have complete control over all the factors that influence quality of life and other societal indicators. He added that the value of the numbers from these indicators exists in painting a big picture and in identifying areas that require more research. Dr. Fellegi responded that he was in favour of painting the picture, but using the indicators as performance measures is cause for concern. Alton Hollett, Focal Point for Newfoundland, agreed with the points raised and offered to update the council on the progress of Newfoundland's project in this area next year. Dr. Fellegi thanked Mr. Pilkey for pushing this agenda, concluding "It is useful for us to keep working with [those interested in societal indicators] so we understand their concerns and I think that is the level at which [Statistics Canada] can make a contribution."

7. National Accounts and Analytical Studies Program

Karen Wilson, STC Director of Income and Expenditure Accounts, said that the discrepancy between the GDP by factor cost and GDP by industry (IEAD and IMAD

measures) had been much improved by the appearance of provincial Input–Output tables and that things would get even better with PIPES data.

She went on to say that the category 'personal savings' was not going to be redefined. However, Statistics Canada was issuing a paper at the June 4th meeting of the Canadian Economics Association to highlight savings issues, including: capital gains and where they appear in the National Accounts; consumption versus spending and how that impacts on savings–consumption decisions; consumer durables and whether they have an impact over a longer period of time than the current year; and income tax numbers relative to personal income numbers. Alton Hollett, the focal point for Newfoundland, felt that personal savings deserved a higher profile, and that a copy of the paper should be sent to the CBC national news. He added that he felt previous coverage on the matter was atrocious.

As to the impact of the loss of information on traffic flow to PEI in the National Accounts, Ms. Wilson explained that most information comes from the PEI tourism bureau, and that work was being done to derive other statistics.

With the Survey of Household Spending (SHS) being annual, she expected improvements in the accuracy of PEI data on personal expenditure. She thought a provincial tourism satellite account would help as well.

Once comments are received from focal points about the remaining tables and the GDPS estimates, the historical revisions of provincial accounts back to 1981 will be complete. In response to a question from the focal point from Saskatchewan, Ron McMahon, Ms. Wilson replied that there are no plans to go back past 1981.

On the historical revision of public sector revenue expenditure data, she said there was no plan to go back past 1988. Doing so would be expensive, and Public Institutions Division (PID) has higher priorities, including the faster release of the Financial Management System (FMS) data after the provincial budgets come out, and working on response burden; progress has been made in both. The move to accrual accounting by both the federal and provincial governments, and the implementation of new rules by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the Government Financial Statistics (GFS) system, translates into a significant amount of work for PID.

As to the release schedule of the industry accounts, she explained that the plan was for income and expenditure accounts to go ahead with their flash re-implementation. She expects that by 2002 the full IEAD package will be available—the GDP as well as the personal income table. With the inter-provincial Input–Output tables coming on stream and with some reorganization of the National Accounts, the deflation of national tables has moved over to Industrial Measures and Analysis Division (IMAD), which plans to implement deflation of the provincial tables. They are aiming at quarterly estimates, which would eventually come on stream at about the same time as the Income and Expenditure Account Division's flash.

In response to Don McRae's question about what the quarterly accounts would include—a mirror image of the income and expenditure accounts, or just the industry—Ms. Wilson confirmed that only industry would be included, and that there was no plan to provide sub-annual income and expenditure data.

The focal points for the NWT and Newfoundland emphasized the importance of the employment vector to the provincial Input–Output tables. Ms. Wilson said that an official decision had not been made about the employment vector, but added that she too needed the model to do IEAD.

8. Geographic Information Systems/Community Accounts

Alton Hollett, focal point for Newfoundland, reported that there was some confusion regarding this agenda item. While he confirmed that Newfoundland is building a geographic information system, and offered to discuss this item at the next meeting, he speculated that the item was perhaps to have been related to the Community Accounts. Mr. Hollett proceeded to provide background on the Community Accounts system and its status, offering to present the system in more detail at the next meeting of the council.

9. Business and Trade Statistics Program

a) Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)

Statistics Canada's Director General for 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 provincial Input–Output tables would be available in October or November 2000.

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 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—including data sharing, the treatment of confidential cells, training, and a working group update—discussed at the meeting of the Federal–Provincial Committee on Business Statistics two days earlier.

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.

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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, Mr. Meguerditchian and Mr. 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.

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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 owns the bridge was less than enthusiastic about giving the information to anyone. He asked whether the Unified Enterprise Survey would cover the company, 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.

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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 get 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.

10. Communications and Operations: Role of Statistics Canada Regional Offices and role of Focal Points

Yvon Goulet asked participants to raise any issues they might have about the interacting roles of Statistics Canada, the Regional Offices and the provincial and territorial focal points.

Dennis Pilkey advocated a partnership as opposed to a client relationship between the regional offices and the Focal Points. Paula Tom^{Thomson}son of the Halifax Regional Office later added that the regions need provincial partners in order to advance regional issues.

Mr. Goulet clarified the main issues faced by the focal points in making this model work. The focus turned to roadblocks to increased involvement and good communication flow. The overall feeling was that there is a lack of communication between STC and focal points, and consequently, focal points are often by-passed and ignored. Mr. Pilkey used data licensing agreements and local training opportunities to illustrate challenges and improvements.

Alton Hollett stated his belief that focal points exist to cover gaps in STC data, and requested that Dr. Fellegi impress upon his senior staff that resources for sub-provincial-level data are available from the provinces but are being overlooked. Mr. Hollett added that the intersecting roles of STC and the provincial focal points are not always well defined and that it is embarrassing for the province to be called upon to solve a problem that it knows nothing about. Dr. Fellegi noted that a similar situation exists on an international level with OECD, which will often by-pass STC to deal directly with other government departments on statistical issues. What is needed is to raise awareness of the focal points among ministries such as Health where, until recently, the focal points had no involvement.

Dr. Fellegi underlined that exhortations to better communications are ineffective in the absence of a mechanism that triggers action of some sort, noting, "It must become top of mind for people in their domain and therefore a mechanism has to be built in somehow to trigger action." The committee agreed to Martin Podehl's suggestion that the Federal-Provincial Secretariat send a monthly reminder asking ACSs to identify, for the upcoming month, areas where they will have contacts with provincial departments. The Secretariat would then assemble the list and forward it on a monthly basis.

11. Nominations to the Program Committee

After discussion, the following nominations to the 2000–2001 Program Committee were made and approved: Chair: David Stewart (NWT); Members: Alton Hollett, (Nfld.), Emmet Weatherhead (Ont.), Ron MacMahon (Sask.), and Martin Podehl (ex officio member).

12. Other Business

Mr. Falk, Focal Point for Manitoba, presented a draft resolution on the issue of access to historical census data for the Council's consideration. After discussion, agreement was reached that this did not have to be a formal council resolution, but rather that provincial and territorial focal points write a letter to the Chief Statistician.

Dr. Fellegi noted that the terms of reference of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council needed to be changed to include Nunavut. It was agreed that the wording be made more general—for example, "the government of each province and territory"—instead of mentioning each province and territory specifically.

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF FOCAL POINTS AND PARTICIPANTS

FOCAL POINTS

Chairperson	Ivan Fellegi	Chief Statistician of Canada Statistics Canada
Secretary	Martin Podehl	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	James Turgeon Absent	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 Absent	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	Mike Sheridan	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	Douglas Norris	Director General Census and Demographic Statistics Branch
Statistics Canada	Yvon Goulet	Assistant Chief Statistician Communications and Operations Field
Statistics Canada	Jean Murray	Director Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Lyne Bélanger	Head Federal Provincial Relations Secretariat Communications Division

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

May 4 and 5, 2000
Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2000

- 9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
— Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Adoption of the agenda
 - Approval of the minutes of the 1999 meeting
- 9:15 a.m. **Achievements and Priorities**
— Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
(Dr. Fellegi will respond to questions arising from the contents of the 2000 special issue of *SCAN*)
- 10:00 a.m. **Provincial and Territorial Reports**
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **Provincial and Territorial Reports (continued)**
— Provincial and territorial focal points
- 11:30 a.m. **Program Committee Report**
— Yvon Fortin
- Teleconference report
 - Program Committee's mandate
- Martin Podehl
- Follow-up items from 1999 meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics**
— Mike Sheridan
Follow-up items:
- Focal Points' access to health care records
 - Update on the Health Statistics Program
- Updates requested:
- Availability of historical employment insurance benefit payments and quality of current series
 - Status of the Canadian Community Health Survey and access by the Focal Points
 - Status of post-censal survey programs, specially HALS
 - 2001 Census output program for DPLs (Designated Places)
 - Update on the Market Basket Measure initiative

- Review of the LICO initiative
 - APS 2 and GSS consultation
 - Update on 2001 Census questionnaire
 - Update on the Tourism Program, including the Tourism Satellite Accounts
 - Update on the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants
 - Bilateral agreement with First Nations
 - Research Data Centres
- (Only the topics not covered at the May 2 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Social Statistics will be discussed.)

2:30 p.m.

Societal Indicators – roles and progress

- Doug Norris
 - Statistics Canada's role
- Dennis Pilkey, Nova Scotia
 - Managing for results - Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's perspective
- Bill Hyshka, Alberta
 - Provincial-Territorial perspective

3:00 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m.

National Accounts and Analytical Studies

- Stewart Wells
- Follow-up items:
- Discrepancy between estimates of GDP at factor cost and GDP by industry
 - Update on definition of personal savings
 - Impact of loss of traffic flow information to PEI on the National Accounts
 - Accuracy of personal expenditures data for PEI
- Updates requested:
- Impact of the 2000 Federal Budget on the Environmental Accounts and the Sustainable Development Indicators
 - Historical revisions of provincial accounts back to 1961
 - Historical revision of public sector revenue and expenditure data
 - Release schedule of the Industry Accounts

4:15 p.m.

Geographic Information Systems

- Alton Hollett, Newfoundland

4:45 p.m.

Reception

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2000

- 9:00 a.m. **Business and Trade Statistics**
— Ray Ryan
Follow-up items:
• Training offered to Focal Points and staff
• Business Register
Updates requested:
• Access to most current export data
• Implementation of new Federal Income Tax Act
• Long-term solutions for access to provincial data through Section 11
- 10:00 a.m. **Communications and Operations**
— Yvon Goulet
• Role of Statistics Canada Regional Offices and role of Focal Points
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **Nominations to the Program Committee**
• Yvon Fortin
- 11:00 a.m. **Other Business**
• Approval of revisions to the Terms of reference of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

Concluding Remarks

APPENDIX 3
PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

ALBERTA

Overview

During the 1999–2000 operating period, Statistics continued to report to the Treasury department through the Office of Budget and Management.

The past year has seen Statistics increase the amount of primary data it gathers for both public and private sector clients. While the general focus of core statistical activities has remained relatively stable, a greater emphasis has been placed on maintaining statistical standards for the production and reporting of provincial government data. To increase efficiency in core areas, Statistics has endeavoured to update the methodologies and technologies used to deliver these services to clients.

At the request of the Alberta Auditor General, a statistical advisory service was implemented to assist clients in developing their own research capabilities. Overall, the informal program has been well received, and has reduced the number of Statistics staff needed to undertake or monitor specific department projects. It has helped raise awareness and it has helped external departments determine appropriate standards for statistical analysis and reporting.

Administration and Budget

During the 1999–2000 fiscal period, Statistics maintained a core staff of six, supplemented by up to six contract personnel for special projects. With the successful completion of the Treasury Y2K project, resources devoted to this area have been returned to core functions within Statistics.

Expenditures increased slightly over the past year as a result of additional resources being allocated to core services. Cost-recovery revenues of approximately \$300,000 provided the basis for undertaking various non-core social and economic projects.

Goals and Objectives

Statistics has aimed to provide a co-ordinated and standardized approach to the development, production and reporting of statistical information within the Alberta Government. This objective was reinforced by the increased use of Statistics' advisory and consultative services, and a directive from the Alberta Auditor General on statistical reporting standards.

While Statistics has no direct authority to require the implementation of specific statistical methodologies, the consultative services available to all government departments has provided the impetus towards achieving this objective.

Programs and Services

Core Services

The core services offered by Statistics 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 systems (GIS) services
- municipal census training and consultation program

Statistical Information System

Alberta Statistical Information SysTem (ASIST) is the centralized online database that provides government departments with access to a variety of social and economic information. ASIST is available to users on a pay-per-use basis and aims to meet the demands of both internal and external clients for timely, cost-effective data.

To meet the growing demand for this service and to enhance functionality, Statistics and its information technology partner, CIMS, have embarked on a staged redevelopment program for the ASIST information system.

The first phase of the project has been completed with new hardware and software installed. The second phase, which will give users seamless connectivity through an Internet–Intranet solution, is currently in the planning stage. We hope to complete the second phase of the project by late 2000. The development of enhanced data extraction and manipulation tools will follow in a third stage over the next 12 to 18 months.

Publications

The production and distribution of paper copy products has remained stable during 1999–2000, after a slight increase from the previous year. Approximately 5000 publications and brochures were distributed during the 1999–2000 fiscal period.

With the redevelopment of ASIST underway, Statistics remains committed to making more information available through electronic media. However, to meet the challenge of cost-effective management for its paper publications, Statistics increased contracting for design, printing and distribution. In addition, contractors and vendors are now providing general marketing, promotion and subscriptions services to Statistics.

For the 1999–2000 fiscal year, the following publications were available from Statistics and its secondary distributors:

- *Alberta Economic Multipliers*
- *Alberta Municipal Census Training Manual, 2000*
- *Alberta Export Services Survey*
- *Alberta Economic Accounts, 1998*

- *Alberta Facts And Figures, 1999*
- *Alberta Population Projections, 1999–2016*
- *Alberta Provincial Electoral Division Profiles*
- *Alberta Advantage*

Statistical Database Access and Management

A variety of confidential databases were made available to provide input into various core and custom data development projects:

- Alberta Health Care Registration Statistics System
- Alberta Business Register
- Employment Insurance Statistics System
- Alberta Vital Statistics System
- Birth Registration System
- Death Registration System
- Marriage Registration System
- Alberta Motor Vehicle Registration System
- Alberta Tax and Revenue Administration System

Survey Operations

The wide range of custom services available to clients included a general methodological consultation, survey and sample design, and custom analyses, as well as full turnkey survey administration. Major survey activities included:

- **1999 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey**
The 1999 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey was completed in early 2000 with the production of both electronic and publication media. The survey produced data for 24 major industrial sectors covering nearly 600 occupations, and directly captured information on 260,000 employees in the provinces.
- **Alberta Export Services Survey, 2000**
A comprehensive survey of Alberta service exporters in seven key industrial sectors is planned for the spring of 2000. The survey will cover nearly 15,000 businesses with data available for the fall of 2000. Data from the survey will be used to target trade initiatives and provide provincial input to GATT discussions.
- **Client and Employee Satisfaction Surveys**
During the past year, Statistics conducted seven departmental employee satisfaction surveys and three public and business client satisfaction surveys. These surveys were undertaken to support the Alberta Government's accountability initiative and provide the basis for strategic measurement of departmental performance.

Demographic Program

Custom population estimates and projections are now part of the in-house core services Statistics provides. As a core service, centralized demographic statistics provide departments with uniform data to facilitate government program and policy planning. Projections and estimates are available for a variety of standard and user-specific custom geographies. Current annual standard output is at the Census Division and provincial levels of detail for single years of age and sex.

Planning is underway to automate the Alberta Population Projection Model to provide a timely turnaround on standard and custom projection requests. Work on the model is expected to be completed by the fall of 2000.

Geographic Information Services (GIS)

Statistics provides custom boundary digitizing and data geo-referencing (using the SMARTS System) services to clients on a cost-recovery basis. To help users conduct in-house analyses and research, a GIS translation product is available to clients on a monthly, quarterly or annual subscription basis. The GIS file allows the translation of administrative data into over 40 standard and custom sets of Alberta geographic boundaries.

Economic Modelling Program

- **Economic Multipliers**
Statistics provides both standard series and user-specific industry aggregations of Alberta economic multipliers and intensity–supply ratios to meet a wide range of client modelling applications.
- **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. The model was updated in early 2000 to include the latest Input–Output data and incorporate a new provincial corporate tax component.

Alberta statistical focal point

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

Acknowledgement

Once again, Statistics would like to thank the many divisions and branches of Statistics Canada that have provided their help during the past year.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Overview

The past year was another very active one for the Agency. In addition to maintaining, or in some cases expanding, our existing set of activities, a number of new projects were initiated.

Last year we conducted a client survey to assess satisfaction with our products and services. The survey was divided into two separate questionnaires: one addressed to 120 senior executives within the BC public service; and the other to approximately 1,200 BC STATS' clients both inside and outside government. The survey results indicated that the vast majority of BC STATS' clients (over 85%) are satisfied with our products, services and staff. In addition, 90% of our clients had no concerns regarding the quality or accuracy of our information. However, some survey findings identify room for improvement as well as future opportunities for the Branch.

Fiscal Situation

Last year we received a 10% increase in our budget, which helped to partially offset some of the budget cuts of previous years. Despite the increase in funding, we were still required to maintain an extremely high proportion of cost-recovery activities. We initially set our cost-recovery target at 36% of our gross expenditures. At the end of the year, we had not only achieved our target but surpassed it, reaching 42%.

As has been the case over the past few years, the current provincial economy has resulted in another year of tight fiscal controls. Hence, our 2000–2001 budget is again assessed at 100% of the 1999–2000 level.

1999–2000 Activities

Regional Population Estimates

One of the core functions of BC STATS is our small-area population estimates and projections program. We updated our official regional population estimates to include 1999 for a number of sub-provincial regions including municipalities, school districts, regional districts, health areas and RCMP detachments.

These population estimates are generated using information from administrative files such as residential hydro hook-ups and Old Age Security recipients. This method has proven to be a cost-effective approach to producing population estimates for small areas. Experience has shown that the quality of the estimates is determined largely by the ability of the selected administrative file to reflect population change. Hence, we have examined additional sources of administrative data that may enhance the accuracy of our model. To this end, we recently acquired access to micro-data on residential telephone lines, and we are continuing to evaluate school enrolment data as a replacement for the information lost following the termination of the Family Allowance program in 1992.

Our 1999 population estimates indicated that growth continued to slow in most regions of the province. In the past when the provincial economy stalled, generally the communities outside metropolitan regions saw low population growth or even declines. However, this slowdown seems to have affected most areas of the province with many of the resource-dependent communities as well as the Greater Victoria area recording population declines.

Regional Population Projections

During the past year, new regional population projections to 2026 were developed for the 59 provincial school districts. Previously, school districts and health areas shared a similar geography. However, in many parts of the province this is no longer the case. These school district based projections of school-aged population are converted into enrolment projections by grade, which are used to predict the demand for teachers and facilities. Given that the school-aged population, particularly elementary school ages, is expected to decline over the next five years, the projections have become an important tool in controlling costs.

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 with a BC focus that accompany the data.

We have focussed on developing our provincial and regional projections, and on analysing characteristics of interprovincial migrants, such as income, using information from the Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD).

We have written a number of articles based on data from the Immigration Database (IMDB), which links information from immigration landing records to income tax data. Interprovincial mobility and income characteristics of recent immigrants have been analysed.

Geography for the 2001 Census

We have been working closely with the Geography Division, Municipal Affairs and regional governments to define new rural census sub-divisions and designated places for the 2001 Census. In preparation for the 2001 Census, we have encouraged Municipal Affairs to contact all municipalities and regional districts in the province to advise them of the timeframe to submit changes to administrative boundaries if they are to be included in the upcoming census.

Regional Socio-Economic Indicators

Last year, we mentioned that we had been working on the development of a set of indicators summarizing regional socio-economic activity. This entailed creating a database of some 70 variables across 26 regions. The data was grouped into six dimensions covering outcomes in health, education, personal safety, economic hardship, children and youth. Twenty-four of these 70 variables were then selected and converted

into an index for each of the six dimensions. Finally, the six dimensions were collapsed into one overall index describing regional socio-economic conditions.

The goal was to provide policy makers with information to support fact-based decision-making when allocating regional budgetary resources. The initial results, though still confidential, have been well received by deputies' committee. In the last year we have updated our index and increased the geographic resolution to cover 78 regions.

To supplement our work on the Socio-Economic Index we also prepared estimates of provincial government operating expenditures on a regional basis. By examining the relationship between public expenditure at the regional level (inputs) and socio-economic conditions (outcomes), an indication of expenditure performance, albeit crude, may be obtained. The ultimate goal of such an exercise is to help improve the efficiency of programs implemented to close the prosperity gap between regions.

Local Area Dependencies and Impact Ratios

Last year we released the *British Columbia Local Area Economic Dependencies and Impact Ratios•1996*, which was based on a major regional study using data from the 1996 Census. This report was simultaneously published on our Web site. It was intended to provide policy makers with a quantitative understanding of the regional economies and to help estimate the economic impacts of changes in those local economies. The information in the report is being used in a number of policy areas such as land use planning, timber supply reviews, and the above-mentioned regional socio-economic indicator project.

Land Selection Impact Model

In 1998, BC STATS was contracted to provide economic impact expertise in the development of a "Land Selection Impact Model" for use by treaty negotiators working for the provincial Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. A "proof of concept" application for the Cariboo region of the province was completed in the spring of 1999.

In fiscal 1990–2000 the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs contracted BC STATS to modify our community dependency model and database to automatically generate regional economic information needed by the Land Selection Impact Model. This included paying special attention to Indian Reserves, modelling of the impacts of land selection on government revenues, and developing the capability to focus on areas even smaller than the local areas identified in the original report.

It remains to be seen how soon an operational version of the Land Selection Impact Model will be developed because the main component of the project, a GIS interface, is currently on hold.

1996 BC Input–Output Model

British Columbia is developing its own provincial Input–Output model using 1996 data provided by Statistics Canada. The project was delayed because of problems we experienced in getting the appropriate people sworn in as deemed Statistics Canada employees.

Like some other provinces, we are disappointed that Statistics Canada has not provided provincial employment estimates for the Input-Output industry set. Otherwise, the data looks good and we are confident that we will have a reliable tool for provincial economic impact assessment within a few months. We are trying to construct our model so that it will be relatively easy to update on an annual basis.

Succession Planning in the BC Government

The BC government anticipates difficulties in the area of human resource management. Succession planning policies are now being put in place to deal with the large number of personnel due to retire, within the next two years and continuing until at least 2015. This problem will primarily impact management and professional occupations.

BC STATS has played a major role in providing the statistics that identify the extent of the problem and in which occupations, ministries and regions of the province where shortages are most likely. We have built a longitudinal file of all employees who have worked in government over the last six years. We have been able to derive quit-and-retirement patterns by age and years of service, and we have built a model that estimates the probability of employees leaving government in each of the next 15 years.

It is important for human resource planners to be able to identify candidates to fill vacancies created by retirees. In order to do this, hiring and internal recruitment patterns were assembled by occupation grouping. It was discovered that 73% of all recruitment is done through internal promotion or between ministries. That number increases to more than 90% for senior managers.

The numbers showed that for every employee who left government, four vacancies opened as a result of the domino affect of promoting in-service personnel to fill positions. This finding has alerted human resource planners to the inevitable large increases in staffing actions that will be required because of increased retirements. The results of our research were summarized in a paper entitled, *Succession Planning in the BC Government•Background Report*.

High Technology Statistics

Our program supporting the development of high technology statistics has produced increasingly refined estimates of the high technology sector 'outputs.' These outputs are measured in terms of GDP by sub-sector, revenues, wages, employment, number of establishments and balance of trade. The publication of these measures significantly affected both policy makers and dialogue between government and industry.

The output measures do not tell a complete story. They measure only the final result of the industry's dynamic system. In 1998, BC STATS began collaborating with other agencies to devise a more complete model of the BC high technology sector. This involved developing an associated set of indicators, which resulted in two working papers. The first paper reviewed definitions of the high technology sector and models of the innovation economy in other jurisdictions, while the second proposed a model for use in British Columbia, together with a large number of potential indicators for that

model.¹ We have subsequently simplified the model and prepared a corresponding shorter list of indicators that will form the basis of a publication. The report tracks the evolution of 40 "input" indicators. In most cases the indicators have been collected for all provinces, allowing the publication to present extensive interprovincial comparisons, which show a varied pattern with no one jurisdiction dominant in all areas.

Small Business Statistics

Despite the release last spring of an excellent review of available small business data sources, Statistics Canada has made little progress in expanding the catalogue of small business data products. However, we have continued our own program to use sources such as the Labour Force Survey, the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Business Register, and have again produced quarterly and annual publications highlighting the small business sector in British Columbia. We have purchased a wider variety of national data this time, allowing our annual small business profile report to feature more interprovincial comparisons. Another development was the preparation of small business GDP estimates by province. A copy of our *1999 Small Business Profile* report can be found on the BC STATS Web site.

Fishing Sector Report

Defining and quantifying "special" industrial sectors has been a growth activity for BC STATS. New this year is the completion of an analysis of the fishing sector. This includes creating definitions for the four sub-sectors: Commercial Fishing, Aquaculture, Fish Processing and Sports Fishing. Data presented for the sectors include GDP, employment, wages and salaries, revenues, numbers of firms, exports and imports, as well as the results of Input-Output impact analysis. The report is likely to continue on an annual basis, and we are currently updating the existing 1997 and 1998 data.

Sport Fishing Survey

This survey extends the fishing sector report to the census division level through direct surveying. About half of sport fishing businesses were covered in a pilot survey conducted last spring. We will cover the remaining businesses by June of this year.

Special Surveys and Analysis

This section was initiated to support special surveys related to the Crown Corporation, Forest Renewal BC. While this work continues, the scope of projects has expanded to include other ministries and agencies. Last year, we completed a survey of municipal police officers' attitudes on enforcement priorities; an evaluation of administrative procedures in the Ministry of Transportation and Highways; an enquiry into staff mobility in the BC Assessment Authority; and we worked on both the sport fishing survey and the high technology indicators publication, mentioned earlier.

¹ See Koeberling, Uschi and Veneranda Dettmers. "A Model of the BC High Technology Sector: Description of Factors and Linkages Affecting the Growth of the High Technology Sector in the Context of an Innovation Economy," Science Council of BC, April 1999.

The section has had five of its positions classified and staffed on a semi-permanent basis. Unlike other sections, Special Surveys and Analysis is 100% cost-recovered and will expand and contract its staff complement according to the project needs.

Web Site Developments

The story of the BC STATS Internet site is one of evolution and growth. There have been some significant changes in the past year with more challenges and changes yet to come.

The first challenge is to alter our habit of presenting the pages as the Agency is organized, or as the statistical fraternity categorizes the data. Classifications and nomenclature that allow statisticians to communicate are not necessarily an appropriate basis for sorting and grouping the information if we want to reach a wider audience. Typical questions still require the intervention of a dissemination specialist to thread together the appropriate data sets in order to respond effectively to user needs. While we have barely begun to make progress, we have managed to take some steps in improving Web site presentation and will continue to work towards this goal.

Software permits us to easily publish duplicates of pages created for printing. Unfortunately, it is too easy and we have been slow to realize that the Web allows us to abandon the printed page format. This freedom most noticeable on "upper level" pages with links and hot areas can lead to a more complete presentation of the information behind the data. We are starting to make progress by indexing our PDF documents. In many ways, this is a far easier task than a full Web-based integration of data sets, but the goal can be tackled incrementally. For example, new or revised documents for electronic publication must have PDF indexing.

The imposition of a government standard for government Web pages has forced changes that should benefit users, as there is only one interface. We have sometimes avoided conformity, but the adoption of a standard has brought us one step closer to our goal of providing more user-friendly access.

Provincial Electoral District Profiles

As with the two previous census cycles, we have completed a new profile of British Columbia Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) based on the results of the 1996 Census and a recent redefinition of the BC provincial electoral boundaries. Our Census system, CenSys, can easily organize FED-EA level data into a number of pre-coded geographies. The output may be browsed, printed or exported. The new system was used to generate tabular data for the PED Profile that was printed and exported to an extensive Excel spreadsheet. The graphical presentation contains nine charts, most with summary tables. While it might sound like information overload, we are confident that the presentation is both accessible and highly informative. The PED Profile is available on our Web site.

MANITOBA

Introduction

The past year was a very active one for the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) and the current year is starting out to be even more active as a number of new activities are being added to our products and services.

The Bureau's current core staff is 12, supplemented by two full-time contract positions. Between May and September 2000, an additional three people will be hired to investigate social indicators for public policy, social welfare statistical accounting and regional indicators.

Fiscal Situation

For the last fiscal year, the Bureau's budget increased by approximately 15%. The budget for the current fiscal year has not yet been announced but should increase in the area by approximately 6%, bringing the agency's total budget to over \$900,000. The majority of the increase relates to a two-year commitment to support a public awareness campaign for the 2001 Census.

For the current year, the agency's cost-recovery targets remains at the same absolute level, which represents 6% of the gross budget. The past year saw the agency recover approximately twice the required amount. Total recoveries were in the area of \$155,000 with approximately one-third coming from the National Climate Change Implementation Strategy.

Strategic Direction

MBS is in the process of finalizing its business plan for the 2000–2003 period. Some of the components of this plan, such as the Census Public Awareness Campaign, have already been incorporated in the 2000–2001 budget. The business plan will include discussion and recommendation on items such as:

- converting cost-recovery services to core services by obtaining additional central funding (e.g., providing free government access to MBS InfoNet, which would contain all public MBS information as well as downloadable files)
- converting two existing contract staff years into the agency's core staff complement
- creating a project staffing capability • initially 2.0 staff years • to enable the undertaking of ongoing departmental projects on a cost-recovery basis
- implementing an MBS advisory board to provide input to the organization's strategic direction, information gap analysis and project prioritization
- implementing a new information technology strategy to preserve the security of our existing systems and enabling access to various new capabilities such as other technology products and an Intranet; this is to be achieved at a reasonable cost

- identifying new or expanded activities such as social indicators development, regional indicators development and information dissemination systems implementation
- implementing a regular series of client satisfaction and needs surveys to provide input to the ongoing operational planning activities• some results from these surveys may be incorporated in a new series of organizational performance measures

MBS will proceed to obtain Ministerial and Treasury Board approval in the fall of 2000.

Activities 1999–2000

Some of the major activities undertaken over the last 12 months are:

- **Economic Impact Assessments**
MBS has continued to undertake economic and tax revenue impact assessments of various economic development projects and activities for governmental departments and agencies. Over the last six months, MBS has assessed four major public policy issues faced by the new provincial government. MBS is in the process of incorporating the 1996 Input-Output tables into a redesigned I–O model. A limiting factor has been the unavailability of provincial employment by industry estimates from Statistics Canada.
- **Manitoba Policy Impact Simulation Model**
MBS has implemented a macro-econometric model of the Manitoba economy, as well as a provincial public accounts model. These models are used to provide baseline economic and fiscal projections, as well as individual simulation of possible changes in economic and fiscal variables (e.g., increase in interest rates, decrease in provincial income tax rates). A memorandum of understanding has been recently signed with Manitoba Hydro to provide short-term and long-term economic forecasts.
- **National Climate Change Implementation Process**
Over the last 15 months, the agency has been Manitoba's representative on the Analysis and Modelling Group (AMG). Comprised of federal–provincial representatives, the AMG has been charged with the responsibility of determining the economic impacts on the Canadian economy of implementing the Kyoto Protocol (i.e., to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions by 6% of the 1990 level between 2008 and 2012). Since April 2000, MBS has taken on an increased role as part of the new AMG Management Board.
- **Demographic Projections**
One of our core products is the development of provincial and regional level population projections. At the Manitoba level, projections to 2026 and labour force projections were disseminated. Custom population projections for regional health districts were prepared for the Manitoba Department of Health and the regional hospital authorities.

- **Provincial Electoral District Profiles**

As has been done with the previous three census data releases, we have provided new detailed profiles of Manitoba's 57 provincial constituencies. All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba received a copy of their riding's profile. For the first time, we also produced sub-constituency profiles whereby each riding was divided into four individual areas and profiles for each area were produced and compared.

- **Information Dissemination System**

MBS has continued to enhance its desktop accessible information systems (e.g., Brief, InfoNet, Online, and Trade). We are developing an enhanced InfoNet system that will contain MBS reports, downloadable Excel spreadsheets, additional social data in the areas of health, education, justice and social services, and a separate retrieval system for commodity exports and imports. We are also considering free InfoNet access to provincial government staff.

- **Economic Accounts**

MBS has expanded its annual and quarterly economic accounts releases and production systems. In late January 2000, preliminary 1999 and fourth quarter 1999 economic accounts data was disseminated. MBS is currently reviewing the possibility of developing satellite accounts for various sectors such as Mining, Tourism and Agriculture as well as for the Natural Resource Account.

- **Social Indicators for Public Policy**

MBS has initiated a consultation process to identify departmental indicator requirements in the area of health, education, justice, social services, environment and aboriginal issues. This is a pre-requisite to the development of a social indicators compendium for the fall of 2000. We are also looking at the regional dimension for these indicators and the feasibility of creating a Manitoba genuine progress indicator.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Statistics Agency operates within the Fiscal, Economic and Statistical Policy Branch (FESP) of the Department of Finance. FESP is part of the Taxation and Fiscal Policy Division. The Agency monitors and reports to the government on provincial socio-economic trends; it prepares the five-year economic forecast used for budget planning and revenue forecasting, and it maintains provincial core statistics.

Organizational Structure

During 1999–2000, there were changes in the Agency's organizational structure. The Director, Mr. George Richardson, resigned and duties were delegated to the remaining five Agency professionals and support staff, and to the three other members of the branch. Mr. James Turgeon, Director of FESP, was appointed the focal point.

The government implemented the Public Service Internship Program under which up to 20 recent university graduates can be recruited for two-year terms. The division supported two-month work assignments for six interns over the past year. Their assignments were designed to give them valuable experience in research and analysis of a broad spectrum of taxation and fiscal policy issues. A similar number of interns are expected in the coming year.

As a result of the latest provincial budget, eight new departments were formed based on new mandates and a consolidation and merging of existing structures (nine previous departments had their responsibilities adjusted to match the new alignments); another seven departments remained (some with adjusted mandates).

A Voluntary Early Retirement Window (VERW) was offered to 1,700 eligible employees aged 53 years and older, and about 1,300 employees will retire with no reduction in pension between April 1, 2000 and March 31, 2002. We believe there will be minimal change to the Agency.

Operations

The Agency continued to provide research, analysis and advice to senior officials, including the Premier's Office and a presentation on New Brunswick's demographics was made to the recently appointed Premier's Health Quality Council. While the Agency maintained its internal data dissemination activities, it also broadened its use of socio-economic data in public policy, decision-making and program delivery. Staff also analysed the "Delivered Public Services" of other provinces.

The Agency produces regular internal reports on economic, demographic and social indicators, including *New Brunswick Economic Statistics* (quarterly), *New Brunswick Economic Indicators* (monthly) and *New Brunswick Forestry Statistics* (monthly). A weekly briefing document for our Deputy and the Premier's Office provides information on Statistics Canada's latest data releases, focussing on New Brunswick results whenever possible. We appreciate the efforts of Statistics Canada in making provincial information available quickly to the focal point; *The Daily* does not always include specific provincial detail in its write-ups and tables.

Our annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy 2000*, which provides a snapshot of indicators and industrial reviews, was released in March as a supporting document to the provincial budget. The report has taken on a new look that included graphics and bullets. A copy can be obtained at www.gov.nb.ca/finance/pubs/buddoc2000/index.htm.

The department has committed resources to develop the Finance Decision Support System (FDSS). Data from personal income tax tapes for 1990–1997 and from the property tax system for 1999 (by month) are stored in an Oracle 8 database and Oracle Discover is used as the front-end query. This is an intermediary step before moving to multi-dimensional analysis. Several staff members of the Agency have received training to use this system.

The Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M) continues to be used to analyse tax changes, specifically for the New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit and New Brunswick surtax. A special executable file was developed by Statistics Canada to enable analysis of “tax on taxable income.” The assistance and guidance of the staff at Statistics Canada is appreciated.

The Agency investigated the issue of cost-recovery. Several focal points were contacted to obtain information on their experiences including benefits, challenges and legal implications. It was concluded the Agency would not implement a cost-recovery structure for its services.

Statistics Canada

The Agency continues to have a good working relationship with Statistics Canada’s Halifax regional office; our requests for assistance are dealt with promptly and efficiently. We participated in Statistics Canada consultations, specifically the Community Health Survey, and meetings as resources allowed.

Future Plans

For 2000–2001 the division will conduct major research regarding on “tax on taxable income,” the formula for the unconditional grant for municipalities, and property tax structure, as well as a comprehensive review of the tax system. It is expected that Agency resources will be used to conduct this research and analysis. Another project of the Agency will involve the development of a Web page of value-added socio-economic information on New Brunswick.

Concerns and Issues

New Brunswick is still concerned about the reach of its historical time series for the Provincial Economic Accounts; data are required back to 1961. Another series that needs to be extended further is public sector revenue and expenditures; prior to the February 1998 revision, estimates were available back to 1965–1966.

It is important that the work to reclassify the four-lane highway investment project from private to public be completed as quickly as possible.

NEWFOUNDLAND

GeoStats Atlantic

In 1994, we released the Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS). Last year we released a system upgrade, and this year we are working to replace the GIS with what we call GeoStats Atlantic. GeoStats will have upgraded and expanded functionality and will contain data for the four Atlantic Provinces and the region. A demonstration version of the "first tier" is planned for release in May or June. The system is designed to accommodate specific client applications. When completed, GeoStats will be available under licence agreement. We plan to further develop the software (other tiers) so that it will be able to carry out a range of higher level analytical functions. Nova Scotia Statistics Agency has been a partner in this project and the joint exercise has been enjoyable and rewarding.

Strategic Social Plan

Our work continues on the province's Strategic Social Plan (SSP). We were delegated the task of developing a measurement framework for a Social Audit, to provide technical support, and to assist government to move to an evidence-based approach for decision making. Currently the project has five full-time staff and Dr. Doug May of Memorial University is working virtually full time on the project. Major aspects of the work for the SSP are the development of a Community Accounts System and a measurement framework for the Social Audit.

Community Accounts

Our response to the "evidence based" aspect has been the Community Accounts. A system of accounts has been developed that provide data to those involved in the SSP at the level of 400 incorporated communities, 80 local areas (according to Statistics Canada geography), 20 Economic Zones, 6 SSP regions and the province as a whole. Currently the system contains more than 15,000 data tables as well as a range of indicators and graphics to help use and interpret the data. The Accounts are provided via a password-protected Web site. Use is growing and acceptance is high. We have made a submission on the system to IPAC (Institute of Public Administration of Canada) for their annual award for innovation in government.

Social Audit

The work on developing the measurement framework for the Audit is progressing well. A 110- page report has been written jointly with Cabinet Secretariat and will soon be circulated throughout government. In September, we will take the proposal to Cabinet. The Minister responsible for the SSP initiative has approved a major pilot project and we plan to "road test" our measurement methods during the pilot. The government Audit is planned for 2003 and we will have to approve and fine-tune our methods to be ready for use and public reporting.

Community Profiles and Site selection data

Two other data development initiatives have been integrated with work on the Community Accounts project. The first initiative is to develop data to provide Community Profiles for the Department of Development and Rural Renewal; the second is to develop data for site selection databases at the Department of Industry Trade and Technology. The Profiles differ from the Accounts in many ways, but most notably, the Profiles focus on business and economic development, while the Accounts focus on social policy. We have pooled our resources to develop the data and we are working closely and co-operatively to build and share the data we all need.

Victimization survey

Last year we arranged to have over-sampling carried out in Newfoundland in the General Social Survey's (GSS) Victimization Survey. Consequently, we hope to have much improved data for the province as a whole, as well as tables for large urban areas, small urban areas and rural parts of the province. We are co-ordinating our release of the data with GSS staff and will be releasing the data around the same time that the general Statistics Canada results are released. We believe that these data will greatly improve the range and quality of data that are available on crime-related topics for Newfoundland and Labrador. We have found the Statistics Canada staff we have worked with on this exercise to be exceptionally professional and client-oriented. Interaction has been very beneficial and rewarding.

Government employee database

Work begun last year on a government employment database will continue into the future. We will likely be in a position to release the data this year. It will contain information on the number of employees by place of residence and work. This is a spin-off of work we are doing with Treasury Board where we have launched a major initiative to improve human resource information throughout government.

Fishing industry data

Information-sharing agreements are being negotiated with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that will see the transfer of a large amount of current and historical fisheries-related data to the NSA (Newfoundland Statistics Agency). Data will include volume and value of landings by species, fleet sector, region and community. The series will extend back to 1969. We will manage the data and provide it to both government and public clients. This exercise represents a major step in making fisheries-related data available in the province.

Other fisheries data

We have also continued work on building a set of tables relating to the incomes of fishers throughout the province. Templates have been developed which, when realized as data, will provide a wealth of information on the incomes of those involved in the harvesting and processing sectors. The data will allow us to monitor the incomes of both individuals and regions. Given the continuing problems in the industry, this work is of vital importance.

New data centre

Our new Data Centre is now accessible to clients. It contains a library and workstations, and staff are ready to assist clients in getting the data they need. We plan to have a grand opening in the near future. The walk-in centre is designed to facilitate self-help and to separate clients from areas where confidential work is underway. We believe that the Centre also raises the general profile of data and statistics across government.

NOVA SCOTIA

Introduction

In 1998–1999, the Division underwent a comprehensive review. The strategic plan, *Putting Statistics in Context*, recommended a re-orientation of the client base to focus almost exclusively on provincial government clients, and it contained recommendations to improve service delivery. The Division's past year's activities are presented in the context of the Strategic Plan.

Mission Statement

In 1998–1999, the Division adopted the following mission statement:

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

In order for the Division to fulfil this mission, four goals and 15 objectives have been developed. They are achieved through projects and services that are aligned with the Division's goals.

Goals and Activities

Plan, develop and promote an integrated social and economic statistics system to meet the statistical needs of the provincial governments.

The Division's Web site has been redesigned to provide selected provincial statistical information that is easily accessible to government employees, public interest groups, business and individuals. The Web site is now the Division's primary mechanism for service delivery to the public.

The Intranet site has also been redesigned to allow departments and agencies access to Statistics Division's online database (The Blue Book), our publications, the online library and research and analytical tools. The Intranet and Internet sites were both demonstrated at the federal–provincial meeting on data dissemination.

The Statistics Division receives over 2,000 paper, microfiche and electronic publications each year. An electronic catalogue has been created to record all Statistics Canada publications, Statistics Division publications, and miscellaneous publications. The catalogue, which includes an easy-to-use update feature, is now in the testing phase.

The Nova Scotia Statistics Division worked with the Newfoundland Statistics Agency to redevelop Newfoundland's Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS). Over 30 departments and agencies in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland were consulted to develop a proposal for an integrated socio-economic system for the province. The project, known as GeoStats Atlantic, generated the following materials during the planning phase of development:

- draft project charter
- system vision statement
- project plan
- communications plan
- user needs and capacity survey
- demonstration model proposal
- summary of client and vendor consultations
- human resource requirements

In Nova Scotia, the GeoStats project is on hold because of the Province's financial situation and restructuring efforts. However, Nova Scotia is proceeding with the user needs and capacity survey aspect of the project (see Goal No. 3) while Newfoundland develops a demonstration model.

In addition, the Statistics Division is working with Statistics Canada, the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre and the Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development on a site selection project known as Target Nova Scotia. The project will use Web-based software to promote Nova Scotia to business recruitment site selectors. The pilot phase of the project will be complete by June of 2000.

Ensure that statistics affecting Nova Scotia's social, economic and fiscal interests are fairly and accurately represented through data provided by Statistics Canada.

The Division has developed a population projection model based on growth components. Population estimates for all provinces and territories have been developed and used by the department's Fiscal Policy Division for revenue forecasting purposes.

The Statistics Division has researched interprovincial migration estimates and identified issues related to net emigration. Statistics Canada is examining the current estimates as well as researching new methodology and data sources for future estimates.

The Division continues to actively monitor Statistics Canada's Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES) and its impact on the Harmonized Sales Tax Agreement's Revenue Allocation Formula. Divisional staff participate in meetings of the HST Revenue Allocation Committee consisting of finance officials from Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and Finance Canada, Statistics Canada, and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

Finance Canada's economic outlook was reviewed by the Statistics Division and the Economic Policy and Analysis Division for verification purposes before to its release. The report was incorporated into Finance Canada's Brown Green Book.

In 1999–2000, a revenue forecasting committee was struck within the Department of Finance consisting of staff from the Statistics Division, Fiscal Policy Division and the Economic Policy and Analysis Division. The objective is to research methods to accurately forecast the province's revenue from equalization. The Division's role is to focus on the Statistics Canada variables contained in the tax bases used by federal Finance.

The Statistics Division purchased detailed import–export data and after reconciling the data to that on the Strategis Web site determined a number of weaknesses in the data coding. Historical import–exports were completed and re-issued.

Statistics Division staff have participated in the following Federal–Provincial Committees:

- Consultative Council on Statistical Policy
- Business Statistics (two meetings)
- Social Statistics
- Census of Population
- Demography (two meetings)
- Labour Statistics
- Data Dissemination
- Public Sector Statistics
- Provincial Economic Accounts
- Transportation

The Division periodically completes research papers on selected topics. In the past year, the Division has completed three papers—*University Student Costing*, *Population Estimates; A Research Agenda* and *Universities: Economic Development Potential*—that focus on how out-of-province university students are counted in the census and their impact on fiscal transfers.

Advise and assist departments on statistical matters, projects and programs.

The Division fields numerous requests for data from provincial departments and agencies. Divisional staff provide additional value by consulting with provincial government clients to determine information requirements and, if necessary, recommend alternative data sources.

The Statistics Division participates in a number of government-wide committees as part of its efforts to achieve this goal, including:

- Atlantic Canada On-line
- GeoNOVA Advisory Committee
- Nova Scotia Business Registry Advisory Committee
- Outcome Measures
- Labour Market Information
- Culture Statistics

The Division provides leadership on the provincial government's Outcome Measures Initiative, and represents the Province on Treasury Board's External Advisory Panel for their *Managing for Results* report which goes to Parliament.

The Division is prepared to conduct a needs and capacity survey of all governmental departments and selected agencies. The survey will concentrate on what data departments and agencies have, how they collect it, data use, and current and future data requirements. The first focus group session is scheduled for April 2000 with the Department of Community Services.

The Statistics Division has brought together Statistics Canada representatives together and government user departments and agencies to discuss concerns, ideas, problems and issues. In 1999–2000, we discussed:

- the General Social Survey Consultation
- Science and Technology Statistics
- the 2001 Census: Geography Consultations
- Natural Resource Satellite Accounts

During the past year, the Division produced the following publications:

- *Stats Daily*
- *Employment Situation Report* (monthly)
- *Economic Indicators*, including CPI overview (monthly)
- *Nova Scotia Construction Activity Report* (three issues per year)
- *Nova Scotia Statistical Review 1999*
- *Nova Scotia-at-a-Glance*
- *Business Statistics 1998*

Statistics Division publications have been made available to departments and agencies through the Division's Internet and Intranet sites as well as through departmental libraries.

Avoid duplication and promote cost-effective acquisition of statistical information.

The Division participated in an information trade show (sponsored by the Economic Development Department) designed to showcase the information resources of participating federal and provincial departments and to promote information-sharing between them. Statistics Division presented a demonstration model of its electronic products and services.

Statistics Division also made a presentation to the Province's Library Council that showcased the Division's products and services.

As part of its communications strategy, the Division has developed a brochure to describe its functions, responsibilities, publications, products and services. We also prepared a 1999 Annual Report summarizing our activities and accomplishments.

The Statistics Division entered into an Omnibus Data Sharing Agreement with Statistics Canada and signed a sub-agreement for access to detailed and confidential Input–Output data.

Because of budget limitations, the Division's data purchases have been minimal and were of strategic importance. The largest purchases were detailed import–export data and Small Area and Administrative Data.

2000–2001 Priorities

For 2000–2001, the Nova Scotia Statistics Division has set the following priorities:

- carry out a user needs and capacity survey of statistical information sources and services of all government departments and agencies;
- make better use of technology to disseminate statistical information;
- research population estimates focussing on interprovincial migration and the enumeration of university students, Aboriginal people and military families;
- participate in the development of national indicators that track Canada's progress in quality of life (Canadian Policy Research Network's Quality of Life Indicators Project);
- monitor PIPES and its HST Revenue Allocation impact; and,
- publish the 2000 edition of the *Nova Scotia Statistical Review*

External Factors Influencing the Division

Two major external pressures will influence the Statistics Division and its ability to carry out activities:

- a major reorganization of the Nova Scotia Government including the reduction of the number of departments from 21 to 14, the privatization of non-core services, and program review and elimination; and,
- overall government expenditure reductions as a part of the government's fiscal plan to eliminate the budget deficit over three years.

Nova Scotia Statistics Division Budget 2000–2001

1998–1999	1999–2000	2000–2001
Actual	Forecast	Estimate
\$337,600	\$375,000	\$384,500

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 three 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 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 about 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 8% for the 2000–01 fiscal year as the funding for analytical work related to the 1999 Community Labour Force Survey has expired.

No changes in the organizational placement of the Bureau of Statistics are planned.

Data development and dissemination

The NWT Bureau of Statistics has completed a number of major initiatives related to data development and dissemination.

As noted in last year's report, operations for a community labour force survey were completed in January to March 1999 involving some 13,000 residents of Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Processing of the statistical file, including edit and imputation, weighting and industry and occupation coding were completed early in the fiscal year. A summary report was prepared and distributed in August 1999, and some 130 tabulations were made available on the Bureau of Statistics Web site.

Additional reports related to characteristics of the employed, the unemployed, and education and the labour market have been prepared and will be disseminated during the current fiscal year.

During the fall of 1999, the planning and operations were completed for the NWT Housing Needs Survey. About 5,200 households were surveyed and the response rate was 85%. Data processing and preparation of a joint summary report with the NWT Housing Corporation was completed early in 2000 and the report was released in March.

The Bureau of Statistics prepared community population estimates for July 1, 1999 based on territorial population information released in 1999. Community population projections were recently revised based on the new estimates.

A major initiative was the update of the NWT Input–Output Model that was developed in the early 1990s. Significant changes were required because of changes introduced with the release of the 1996 I–O tables by Statistics Canada. The model is now operational and working with the 1996 tables. In the coming year, we plan to add a fiscal and tax-impacts module as well as a demographic impacts module to the Bureau's economic impact assessment tools.

There was also a project to produce a set of Input–Output tables for the Northwest Territories based on the NWT–Nunavut tables released by Statistics Canada. In co-operation with Statistics Canada, the Bureau of Statistics has completed an initial set of tables specific to the Northwest Territories.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics continues to publish regular statistical publications such as the *Statistics Quarterly*. Major revisions were undertaken to this flagship publication to focus information on the Northwest Territories rather than on Nunavut. It is expected that as additional information becomes available for the two territories, the content of *Statistics Quarterly* will be expanded.

The year also saw periodic releases that were designed to complement Statistics Canada data releases. This included releases for gross domestic product, public and private investment, retail trade, consumer price index and population estimates.

A continued focus for the NWT Bureau of Statistics has been to improve access to and awareness of territorial statistics. T-Stat, the Bureau's electronic dissemination system, has been an important element of this initiative.

As part of the initiative to improve awareness in territorial statistics and promote evidence-based decision-making, the Bureau of Statistics has assumed responsibility for the NWT *Socio-Economic Scan*. This annual document provides context for government business planning and takes into account population, housing, economic and social well-being, health, education, the labour market and business activity.

Assistance to departments

As in the past, the Bureau provides a significant amount of advice and assistance to government departments on statistical aspects of their work. The most important of these projects is the pay equity issue. 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 traditionally male and female positions.

Within the current environment of significant non-renewable resource development, the Bureau has played a lead role in developing a more consistent approach to the GNWT's assessment of potential developments. An interdepartmental committee has been formed to establish a mutually agreed upon set of assumptions related to each potential project. The I-O model will then be used to assess potential economic impacts and the results will be provided to all departments.

The Bureau of Statistics is working with our Economic Development Department to help prepare materials required for the Socio-Economic Agreements signed with diamond mining companies. As part of these agreements, an employee survey will be completed in the coming months for the Ekati diamond mine.

A major project was undertaken to assist the Department of Health and Social Services with the release of the first NWT Health Status Report. This report makes extensive use of population health data from the NPHS and demographic and vital statistics information from the Bureau of Statistics. A similar project was also completed with our Department of Education for performance measures.

As part of our expanding work with departments, the Bureau of Statistics continued the 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.

Division

As a result of the creation of Nunavut, the Bureau has focussed on two major aspects of division:

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. A key activity was ensuring access to information as well as providing assistance to Statistics Canada in data development.
2. While the Government of Nunavut develops its capacity, some statistical services are being contracted back to the NWT Bureau of Statistics.

There has been considerable success with Statistics Canada's efforts to produce separate statistical information for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. When we compare expectations coming into the past year with the results achieved, we can see that a lot has been accomplished.

However, it continues to be difficult to disseminate information, particularly Northwest Territories information.

Work with Statistics Canada

The NWT Bureau of Statistics has provided input on a variety of Statistics Canada programs, including participation in federal–provincial committee meetings on statistics. Working with Statistics Canada to improve the scope and quality of statistical information for the Northwest Territories is an important part of the Bureau of Statistics' mandate.

A primary focus for the NWT Bureau of Statistics has been working with Statistics Canada to develop and distribute separate statistics for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Another focus has been the completion of household surveys. Information from household surveys—the 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 has not been included in any of these "national" surveys.

However, we are very pleased with the recent decision to extend the Labour Force Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) to the Northwest Territories. This effort will do a lot to eliminate a major gap in the national statistical program and a chasm in territorial data.

We have been working closely with Statistics Canada to ensure that the survey design yields effective results and to provide advice and assistance about sampling and operational issues. Finally, we believe the Bureau of Statistics will play a critical role in the effective dissemination and analysis of the survey results within the Northwest Territories.

ONTARIO

Overview

The Ontario Current Analysis Unit is part of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch, Office of Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance. It consists of seven economists and a secretary.

The Unit's major function is to analyse and report on the current state of the Ontario economy; it does so by producing 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 other government ministries. Other units within the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch carry out economic and revenue forecasting functions.

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

Major reports

The Unit produces a number of internal bulletins as well as the quarterly *Ontario Economic Accounts*, which is distributed to libraries and various economic research institutions outside the government.

- **Government-wide circulation**
 - *Ontario Key Economic Indicators* covers major economic news released the previous week, plus monthly and quarterly tables (weekly).
 - *Ontario Labour Markets* (monthly)
 - *Consumer Prices* traces consumer price movements in Ontario, Canada and the United States (monthly).
 - *Canadian Economic Conditions* tracks Canada's GDP (quarterly).
- **Ministry-wide circulation**
 - *Ontario International Trade Update* follows Ontario and Canadian trade trends (monthly).
 - *Ontario Auto Production* tracks production, sales and other activity in the auto sector (monthly).
 - *Housing Markets* follows Ontario housing conditions (monthly).
 - *Retail and Wholesale Sales* (monthly)
 - *Manufacturing Shipments* (monthly)
 - *Ontario Economic Chronology* covers domestic and international events in financial and labour markets and public finance (quarterly).
 - Various Fact sheets present related Ontario economic data including bankruptcies, wage settlements, financial statistics and building permits (monthly).

- **External circulation**

Ontario Economic Accounts reports on Ontario 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 (quarterly).

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.

Database Development

We are in the process of purchasing a database system to meet the data needs of the Division.

Library Services

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

Co-ordination Services

The Unit is involved in the co-ordination of ministerial data needs from Statistics Canada and other data sources. It also helps ministries access economic and statistical data.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division operates within the P.E.I. Department of 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 continues to serve as a valuable source of information for the provincial government, and the Division relies heavily on the Agency for the majority of its data. To maintain the statistical database, we use information supplied by Statistics Canada as well as data supplied by provincial government departments.

In 1999, the Division was involved in the following activities:

- publication of the 25th edition of the *Annual Statistical Review* (1998)
- publication of the *Quarterly Economic Overview* series supplemented by monthly statistics on key variables
- maintenance of statistical information on the government Web site
- implementation of a departmental page on the government's internal Web site
- maintenance of the province's economic forecasting model
- development of a demographic forecasting model for Prince Edward Island that is capable of providing age- and gender-specific projections
- dissemination of statistical and demographic information to
 - government departments and agencies via our Intranet Web site
 - corporate, industrial, and private sectors via our Internet Web site
 - the public in response to e-mail, fax, and telephone inquiries
- presentation of projections from demographic forecasting model to provincial population strategy panel as well as to government departments
- participation in federal-provincial conferences on diverse statistical issues
- staff training through courses offered by Statistics Canada, such as The System of National Accounts and the seminar on P.E.I. Social Trends

QUEBEC

Creation of the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ)

Although this new body was established by *the Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec* (RSQ, c. I-13.011), enacted in June 1998, it actually came into being on April 1, 1999, when the last sections of the *Act* came into force. The ISQ resulted from the merging of the Bureau de la statistique du Québec, the Institut de recherche et d'information sur la rémunération, Santé Québec and staff of the Ministère du Travail who were responsible for conducting the survey of total remuneration.

Subsequently, a vision exercise on the mission of the new body was held, along with a consultation on its management values. On the basis of these activities, the ISQ is now completing its strategic, business and management plans. The administrative structure of the new body has also been developed. A committee on the protection of personal information and other confidential information has been created. Its purpose is to review, consolidate, supplement and disseminate to staff the new body's policies, directives and practices on information confidentiality and security.

Main publications released since the last meeting of the Council

Apart from the publications that the Bureau de la statistique du Québec was formerly producing on a regular basis and that the new body is continuing to produce, the following are new publications that the ISQ made available to its clientele in 1999–2000:

- *Impact économique des exportations québécoises, années 1990, 1995, 1997* [economic impact of Quebec exports, 1990, 1995, 1997]¹ (publication produced jointly with the Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce).
- *Rémunération des salariés : état et évolution comparée, 1999* [employees' remuneration: current situation and comparison over time, 1999] (publication enabling the ISQ to fulfil its mandate under section 4 of its incorporating act).
- *La rémunération dans le secteur municipal : portrait et comparaison de la situation des villes de 10 000 habitants et plus de population en 1998* [remuneration in the municipal sector: profile and comparison of the situation of cities with a population of 10,000 or more in 1998].
- *Flash-Info Travail et rémunération* (a quarterly bulletin providing the many stakeholders in the labour field with information on various topics related to labour and remuneration).
- the second and third issues in the series entitled *Recensement de la population — 1996, 1991, 1986 — Données comparatives et faits saillants* [Population Census— 1996, 1991, 1986: comparative data and highlights]. One issue deals with statistics on age, sex, marital status and families (available both in print and on the Institut's Web site), while the other deals with immigration, language and ethnic origin (available on the Web site only). The last two issues planned in this collection—one of which will deal with labour, education and mobility and the other with family and household income and the characteristics of households and dwellings—will be made available on the Web site in the Spring of 2000.

¹ Translations of French survey or study titles are provided in square brackets as a reading aid only.

- *La situation démographique au Québec — Bilan 1999* [the demographic situation in Quebec, 1999] (annual publication of the former Bureau de la statistique du Québec, this has become the population record that the ISQ is required to keep up to date under section 3 of its incorporating act; in this edition, a special chapter is devoted to a history of demographic change in Quebec in the 20th century).

Special studies

In addition to these works and many others published in 1999–2000, which are listed in its catalogue of publications, the Institut prepared a number of studies and survey reports in the past 12 months at the request of specific clients. These include the following:

In the health field:

- *Enquête québécoise sur le tabagisme chez les élèves du secondaire, 1998* [Quebec survey of smoking among high school students] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux).
- *Étude sur la perception des adhérents à l'égard du régime d'assurance-médicaments administré par la Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec* [study on subscribers' perceptions of the drug insurance plan administered by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec).

In the field of new technologies:

- *Enquête sur les transactions et l'identification dans un contexte d'information : analyse descriptive* [survey of transactions and identification in the context of the information highway: descriptive analysis] (Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor).
- *Enquête sur l'appropriation des technologies de l'information et de la communication — Volume 1 : L'informatisation des entreprises, Volume 2 : Le commerce électronique* [survey of the appropriation of information and communications technologies—volume 1: computerization in businesses, volume 2: e-commerce] (in co-operation with Francophone centre for research on computerization in organizations (CEFRIO)).

In the field of labour and remuneration:

- *Comparaison de la rémunération entre les policiers de la Sûreté du Québec et ceux de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal* [comparison of remuneration received by police officers of the Sûreté du Québec and those of the Communauté urbaine de Montréal] (Sûreté du Québec and Syndicat des policiers de la S.Q.).
- *Étude de la tâche, de la rémunération et du statut des chargés de cours de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières* [study on the work, remuneration and status of lecturers at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières] (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières and Syndicat des chargés de cours de l'UQTR).
- *Comparaison de la rémunération et étude du bassin de main-d'œuvre pour la profession de vérification comptable* [comparison of remuneration and study on the labour pool for the financial auditing profession] (Vérificateur général du Québec).

- *Analyse comparative des échelles salariales des professeurs de l'Université de Montréal* [comparative analysis of pay scales of teaching staff at the Université de Montréal] (Syndicat général des professeurs de l'Université de Montréal).
- *Comparaison de la rémunération globale entre l'administration québécoise et la Ville de Sainte-Foy* [comparison of total remuneration between the Quebec government and the Ville de Sainte-Foy] (Ville de Sainte-Foy).

Economic statistics:

- *Commerce extérieur du Québec — Étude spéciale : Les effets de l'ALE et de l'ALENA sur les économies québécoise, canadienne et américaine* [Quebec's external trade—special study: the effects of the FTA and NAFTA on the economies of Quebec, Canada and the United States] (accompanies the CD-ROM referred to below).
- *Enquête sur le Programme de démarrage de petites entreprises — La situation des entreprises toujours actives en 1999* [survey of the small business start-up program—the situation of firms still operating in 1999] (Investissement Québec).

Main survey activities and related actions

In addition to conducting various surveys as part of its regular program as well as the surveys described in the reports listed above, the ISQ carried out data collection and/or analysis for the following surveys:

Surveys of individuals and households:

- *Enquête sociale et de santé, 1998 (Enquête générale)* [social and health survey, 1998 (general survey)] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Régies régionales de la santé et des services sociaux).
- *Enquête québécoise sur les limitations d'activité* [Quebec activity limitation survey] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Office des personnes handicapées du Québec).
- *Enquête sur la violence envers les femmes* [survey of violence against women] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux).
- *Enquête sur la violence envers les enfants* [survey of violence against children] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux).
- *Enquête sur l'activité physique et la santé* [survey of physical activity and health] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Kino-Québec).
- *Enquête sur l'indice synthétique de santé SF-36* [survey of composite health index SF-36] (ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Régie régionale de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal-Centre).
- *Enquête sociale et cardiovasculaire auprès des enfants et des adolescents* [social and cardiovascular survey of children and adolescents] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Health Canada).
- *Enquête sur la santé auprès des membres de communautés ethnoculturelles* [health survey of members of ethno-cultural communities] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Régies régionales de la santé et des services sociaux of Montréal-Centre, Laval and Montérégie and Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration).

- *Enquête de nutrition auprès des 6 à 16 ans* [nutrition survey of children aged 6 to 16] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Health Canada).
- *Enquête auprès des sans-abri* [survey of the homeless] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Régies régionales de la santé et des services sociaux of Montréal-Centre and Québec, and the cities of Québec and Montréal).
- *Enquête auprès d'une cohorte de nouveau-nés* [survey of a cohort of newborns] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux).

Business surveys:

- *Enquête sur la rémunération globale* [survey of total remuneration] (essential for conducting the study comparing the remuneration of public sector employees and other Québec employees, a study included in the ISQ's mandate under its act).
- *Enquête sur les entreprises assujetties à la loi favorisant le développement de la main-d'œuvre* [survey of firms subject to the act to foster the development of manpower training] (Ministère de la Solidarité sociale).
- *Enquête sur la sécurité de l'information dans les grandes entreprises* [survey of information security in large firms] (CEFRIO).
- *Enquête sur les besoins des entreprises en matière de services financiers* [survey of firms' needs with respect to financial services] (Investissement Québec)

In addition, for purposes of analysis, the Institut produces databases derived from its health surveys for which data collection has been completed. These databases have been made available to the members of the analysis groups that the ISQ turns to for producing thematic or regional reports on the results of these surveys.

Many activities were also carried out to improve data collection processes: assessment of collection processes; preparation of a questionnaire for evaluating the quality of the services provided; creation of a pool of interviewers available on call to respond adequately and promptly to demand; and development of work manuals and a training course for those interviewers.

With regard to the *Registre des événements démographiques* [register of demographic events], the ISQ undertook in 1999–2000 to develop an automated system for codifying the causes of death (STYX), in co-operation with the Institut national de la recherche médicale and Statistics Canada.

Electronic dissemination

- ***Banque de données statistiques officielles sur le Québec (BDSO)* [bank of official statistical data on Québec]**

During the 1999–2000 fiscal year, the Institut conducted a preliminary analysis for the purpose of creating a bank of official statistical data on Québec. These activities were carried out in partnership with some 12 departments and agencies of the Québec government.

Additionally, three representatives of the ISQ met in France with experts from the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development regarding processes for the dissemination of official statistical information and the management of business databases.

- ***Banque de données sur les entreprises (BDE)* [business database]**

To facilitate the application of section 28 of its incorporating act, which authorizes the director general to allow lists of firms to be transmitted, the Institut de la statistique du Québec has begun developing a business database. The ISQ wants to carry out this project in close co-operation with the managers of Statistics Canada's BSRD in order to ensure consistency in the information and the classifications used in the two databases.

- **The Internet**

Most publications produced by the ISQ are now available in full in downloadable PDF format on the Web site of the Institut. The statistical data content of the site has been enhanced by the addition of several headings: *Family–Children, Labour Market, Health, Education, Individuals and Households, Personal Safety and International Statistical Comparisons*. A direct link to the last heading has been inserted in the Quebec government's home page. Since the end of April 2000, the Web site of the Institut has had new graphics, new functional capabilities and a separate English version.

New CD-ROMs

Two new CD-ROMs were produced in 1999–2000:

- *Commerce international du Québec — Échanges de marchandises 1981-1998* [Quebec's international trade—trade in goods, 1981–1998], 1999 edition.
- *Perspectives démographiques du Québec 1996-2041 : Régions administratives et régions métropolitaines* [Quebec demographic outlook, 1996–2041: administrative regions and metropolitan areas].

Statistical co-ordination

The Institut created four advisory committees in 1999–2000 in order to better ascertain the needs and concerns of its clientele and to enable various partners to participate in developing the major policy thrusts of the ISQ:

- the standing management committee of the Santé Québec branch;
- the advisory committee on socio-demographic statistics;
- the advisory committee on labour and remuneration statistics; and
- the advisory committee on economic and sectoral statistics.

In addition, the ISQ is co-ordinating an interdepartmental task force on the development of social indicators, and it has organized a consultation of Quebec government departments and agencies on their needs with respect to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey focusing on the family.

It also set up an interdepartmental task force on international trade statistics, and it co-ordinated the provision of statistical information for the Quebec youth summit held in February.

Influence outside Quebec

The Institut de la statistique du Québec sits on the advisory committees for Statistics Canada's National Population Health Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey. It also co-operates very closely with Statistics Canada in the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey. In addition, with the financial support of the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec, the Institut oversees the work of researchers who are

engaged in research based on its health surveys or are developing new measurement tools in preparation for its upcoming surveys in the health field. Furthermore, through a financial contribution of the Conseil québécois de la recherche sociale, the ISQ provides professional support to researchers who use data from its health surveys.

In 1999–2000, the ISQ participated in an interdepartmental task force on demographic change and aging, and it contributed to the drafting of an issue paper prepared for the Quebec forum on aging, organized by the Association québécoise de gérontologie. It also drafted various analytical documents used in the discussions that took place during the youth summit.

The ISQ also participated in the public hearings on the aging of the Quebec labour force, which were held by the Quebec bureau for the International Year of Older Person. It provided the secretarial services for the event and participated in the drafting of the report.

In co-operation with Statistics Canada and the Association des statisticiennes et des statisticiens du Québec (ASSQ), the ISQ held a colloquium on statistical methods and applications at the congress of the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement de la science (ACFAS), held in Ottawa in May 1999. Four ISQ representatives made presentations, and the director general chaired a round table discussion on the theme of "the growing difficulty of obtaining good response rates in statistical surveys: what does the future hold, and how are we going to deal with it?"

Lastly, several ISQ representatives gave lectures or participated in various events for researchers both in government and in the academic sphere to inform them about the activities of the ISQ and the data that it collects, especially in the fields of health and labour and remuneration.

Technological achievements

The year 1999–2000 was also marked by major technological achievements. Noteworthy among them are the development of a telecommunications network linking the headquarters of the ISQ in Québec City and its two Montréal branches; the management of all operations for ensuring a smooth transition of computer systems to the year 2000 (including a simulation); and the establishment of a Web site enabling all employees to quickly access common management information essential to their work.

SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics operates under the *Saskatchewan Statistics Act 1972* and is part of the Department of Finance. The Bureau is the designated focal point for communications with Statistics Canada and dissemination of its information. The current staff 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 present the most-asked-for Saskatchewan monthly, quarterly and annual data. In addition, the Bureau produces a set of economic accounts twice yearly, which are reproduced in *Saskatchewan Economic Statistics*. The *Saskatchewan Fact Sheet* provides a snapshot of important economic and social statistics for the past two years.

During the past year, the Bureau has been involved in numerous activities including the rebasing of the provincial economic accounts to 1992. The accounts have been updated and rebased from 1951 onward. We have also made a concerted effort to move away from paper publications by making these documents available on our Web site. This is the first year that the *Saskatchewan Economic Review* was available only via our Web site.

We would like to thank those at Statistics Canada who have helped us over the past year. We find that constructive co-operation is beneficial to both agencies and in the end benefits the entire statistical system.

YUKON

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is a branch of the Yukon Government's Executive Council Office. The Yukon's Government Leader is the minister responsible for the department.

Our budget has remained unchanged for the past several years, but we generate significant revenue through cost-recoverable projects for clients from within and outside the Yukon.

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, the Bureau receives all Statistics Canada public releases. The Bureau's Resource Centre houses our own statistical products as well as all of the Statistics Canada information in print and electronic format. The Resource Centre is open to the public during normal business hours and 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.

Over the course of a year, the Bureau releases approximately 75 publications, ranging from pocket-sized pamphlets to 100-page reports. All Bureau publications are available on our Web site, which received approximately 2,000 hits over the past year.

The Bureau is organized into four basic units—Management and Administrative Services, Methodological and Analytical Services, Operational Services and Information Services.

Management and Administrative Services

- provides internal management, administration and financial services
- acts as statistical liaison to the Yukon government and the federal government
- advocates management research and promotes research as an integral part of management

Methodological and Analytical Services

- provides methodological and analytical support
- develops government administrative records for statistical purposes
- provides statistical and methodological services and advice for Yukon Territorial Government initiatives

Operational Services

- provides internal operational, control and staffing support for research projects

Information Services

- prepares, prints and distributes all Bureau publications and research support materials
- handles all information requests, prepares statistical briefing notes and manages on-site user training

In 1999–2000, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics had five major goals and projects:

1. Providing better service to our clients

- *Yukon Statistics Act*

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is seeking approval for a *Yukon Statistics Act* for tabling in the fall 2000 session of the Yukon Legislature. A draft has been prepared which will provide the legal basis for improvements in data sharing with Yukon First Nations and for increased support of Yukon Government departments' research activities. The next stage in the development of the *Statistics Act* was to be consultations that were to occur from April 1 to June 30; however, the recent territorial election call has placed this activity on hold.

- Strategic Planning

In December and January, the Bureau undertook an extensive review of its operation and drafted vision, mission and values statements.

- Publication Review

A review of all aspects of the Bureau's public information program has begun and will continue through the spring of 2000 by means of structured consultations with clients. These consultations will lead to proposals to change the content and format of the Bureau's print and electronic publications.

- Data Warehouse

An electronic data warehouse was under development throughout 1999 and will be piloted in 2000–2001. We will seek client feedback and make changes as necessary to improve the relevance and timeliness of the warehouse.

2. Building Working Relationships with Yukon First Nations

We are building working relationships with First Nation governments in the areas of information gathering and analysis. As Aboriginal peoples move from negotiation to 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. For our First Nations users, the credibility of census products is very low.

- We provided statistical support and ongoing analytical consultation services to the Carcross/Tagish First Nation in its review of the results of its 1998 Membership Survey.

- We entered into an agreement with the largest First Nation in the Yukon, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) of Whitehorse, to develop and administer a three-phase census of all of its members. Phase 1, a survey of all those individuals living in the McIntyre subdivision of Whitehorse and on lands set aside (LSAs) for the KDFN, was administered in the fall of 1999. Phase 2, a survey of all KDFN members and beneficiaries not found in Phase 1, began in early February 2000. Phase 3 is slated for the fall of 2000 and will likely be a sample survey of KDFN members on particular constitutional issues. In addition to this project, the Bureau also reviewed the client base of the First Nation's health centre to determine who the health centre was serving (a significant portion of the health centre's clientele proved to be non-KDFN members). This information has been a critical factor in the First Nation's negotiations with the federal government on funding levels for the health centre.
- In March 1999, the Bureau of Statistics was approached by the Teslin Renewable Resources Council to administer a survey to determine the values local residents held regarding renewable resources (i.e., land, water and wildlife). An agreement was negotiated which saw several funding partners participating, including Parks Canada, the local village council and First Nation, and the Yukon Government's Department of Renewable Resources. The survey used a methodology never before used in the Yukon • the Galileo™•a multivariate technique for developing mathematical and graphical representations of social consensus about group attitudes on a specified topic of interest (in this case renewable resources). The survey was administered in two phases (Phase 1 included approximately 35 personal interviews of local residents; Phase 2 involved a door-to-door survey of every resident 18 years of age or older). Analysis of the data from the survey concluded during the winter with a report currently being prepared for a community meeting likely to be held in early summer 2000.
- The Bureau is also currently working with the Federal Department of Health, Medical Services Branch, to assist Yukon First Nations in the establishment of a First Nation Home and Community Care Program. Work is underway to present a workshop to the health representatives of the 14 Yukon First Nations on how to do a "community needs assessment." The workshop is scheduled to take place in Whitehorse, April 11 to 13.

3. Work with Yukon Government Departments

- **1999 Visitor Exit Survey**

During the summer of 1999 the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, on behalf of its client, the Yukon Government's Department of Tourism, administered a major survey of tourists upon their departure from the Yukon. Preparation for the survey began early in the year with revision of the forms from the previous edition of the survey (last done in 1994). Hiring and training of staff proceeded with field operations beginning in early summer and continuing (in part) until the end of September. Data editing and input occurred during the winter months, and preliminary results were provided to the client in the early spring of 2000. Additional analysis and report writing will continue through the spring and summer of 2000.

- 1999 Yukon Travel Survey

The Bureau administered and analysed a survey of potential visitors to the Yukon who requested travel information from the Yukon Government. The survey was administered in the winter of 1999–2000 and involved a mailout survey form with a follow up telephone call to non-respondents. We used an incentive to encourage response, a technique that was generally well-received: respondents were included in a draw for a piece of original Yukon artwork.

- 1999 Yukon Business Survey

This survey was re-instituted last fall on behalf of the Yukon Government Departments of Economic Development, Education and Tourism. Interviewers working out of the offices of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics contacted businesses by telephone. Interviewing started October 1, 1999 and was completed by the end of November. An interim report on the survey results concerning the impact of government grants and loans was prepared by the end of October. The final report(s) on the overall results of the survey will be ready in the coming months.

- Yukon RCMP data

Analysis of statistics gathered by the RCMP resulted in a draft report on crime in each Yukon community. The report is scheduled for release in May and covers the 1995 to 1999 time period. Plans call for a quarterly release of the report.

- Poverty and Health

We conducted extensive research and analysed the relationship between poverty and health.

- 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 2009, using high, medium and low growth scenarios.

- Whitehorse Seniors' Housing Survey

Whitehorse seniors were surveyed to estimate future housing needs. Analysis of the survey results was undertaken for the client, Yukon Housing Corporation.

- 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.

- **Survey of Household Spending**

We prepared a detailed report which outlined the Yukon and Whitehorse results from the 1998 Survey of Household Spending conducted from January through March 1999.

- **Hunter Effort Survey**

We collaborated with the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources to draft, finalize and print a hunter effort survey in order to reference the previous hunting season. Four thousand copies were printed and are to be mailed to holders of hunting permits. The survey was to gather information on the past hunting season including the type of animals killed, the location of the kill and the amount and type of expenditures made by the hunter. The recent territorial election call has placed this activity on hold.

- **Teen Parent Profile**

The purpose of this research project was to better understand the risks of teen pregnancy, with the goal of reducing the number of teenage pregnancies and their negative consequences. A statistical summary of findings and a profile of risk factors were completed. The report was prepared for public release and dissemination.

4. Ongoing Liaison and Assistance to Statistics Canada

The Bureau has been involved in discussions about the proposed Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and the Northern Omnibus Survey (NOS). As a census is being planned for the spring of 2001, the Bureau will continue to assist Statistics Canada to ensure the best results possible. Listing projects have been undertaken in several high growth areas near Whitehorse.

5. 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 associations working with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcoholic Effects.

APPENDIX 4
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Last Meeting:	October 4–5, 1999
Next meeting:	October 16–17, 2000
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 were distributed before the meeting. The provincial and territorial reports summarized program activities, new initiatives, organizational changes and new data dissemination practices adopted since the last meeting.

Many members again noted the importance of Statistics Canada data. Data from the Census of Agriculture, the Fall Fruit and Vegetable Survey, and the Whole Farm Database Project (WFDP) were specifically mentioned.

New Brunswick appreciates the services of Statistics Canada's Truro staff. The province would like to see more emphasis on updating the frame for Statistics Canada regular annual surveys in order to maintain high quality estimates in inter-censal periods, and it would like to reduce its heavy reliance on the Census of Agriculture as a benchmark. It was noted that the Agriculture Division is conducting research on the Farm Update Survey to address this issue.

Saskatchewan's automation program is progressing well. The Geographic Information System that was developed proved valuable in assessing the impact of excessive moisture in southeast Saskatchewan last spring. A Farm Input Price Survey will be re-introduced to compensate for the discontinuation of the collection of provincial farm input prices data by Prices Division.

Newfoundland has undertaken a major survey initiative to carry out the Processor Production and Labour Survey. The objective is to provide accurate information on the contribution of the Agri-food industry to the provincial economy.

The Northwest Territories (NWT) Bureau of Statistics focussed its attention this last year on the division of the territory into NWT and Nunavut. The Statistics Canada Truro office was very helpful in splitting the fur industry between the two territories.

The Agriculture Branch of the Yukon Government is still relying on the Census of Agriculture for information on farming operations. The Branch plans to hire a consultant to undertake an impact study, which will be used by a newly-formed working group to prepare a multi-year development plan for the agriculture industry.

The Alberta Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has undergone a major reorganization both in terms of management and structure. A new division, Statistics and Data Development, was established along with a new Market and Economics Division to deal with the agriculture statistics. The Department has emphasized the establishment of

new sectors managed at the Assistant Deputy Minister level: they include Market Access and Competitiveness, Industry Development, and Sustainable Agriculture.

The Quebec Government adopted legislation creating l'Institut de la Statistique du Québec. The organizational changes are now complete. Mr. Camille Courchesne has taken over from Serge Bernier as director, Direction de la statistique sur les industries. He observed that for Quebec, the statistical work in support of the near- and medium-term Farm Income Forecasts of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) were very useful.

Ontario maintained its survey program in 1999. The Ministry's Web site has experienced a surge in traffic in the past year. Considerable emphasis has been placed on building statistical content on the recently established Intranet site. There has been a strong demand for Farm Income and Prices Section (FIPS) data on farm prices and economic data for input into the short-term farm income forecasts. It is important that FIPS continue to provide support for the farm income forecasts of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. These forecasts are done in conjunction with the provinces.

The Market Analysis and Statistics Section of Manitoba Agriculture and Food has experienced an increase in Internet service requests this year. The Section completed the Cattle on Feed Survey. It is difficult to obtain accurate price information on crops—resources do not permit Statistics Canada to reinstate a monthly survey of commodity prices for items such as special crops and hay.

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's report highlighted that they are heavily dependent on the Statistics Canada's Truro Office for Agricultural Statistics. Because of strong interest in provincial farm machinery statistics, Census of Agriculture statistics were used to prepare an overview report called "Farm Machinery and Equipment Inventories, Purchases and Operating Expenses in Nova Scotia." The report was distributed to farm machinery businesses.

British Columbia thanks Statistics Canada for its support during the past year. The province is moving towards more automated data dissemination. A sample survey unit has been established.

This year, because of the farm income situation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) experienced a strong demand for reliable information. AAFC has been working closely with Statistics Canada to provide information to senior AAFC managers. One of the main accomplishments this year has been the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Statistics Canada to maintain the joint agriculture and agri-food statistical program. This five-year agreement provides stable funding for essential projects.

Another major activity between AAFC and Statistics Canada was a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis exercise, which led to a Data Gaps Analysis Report. The data gap analysis has identified a number of areas where AAFC and Statistics Canada can work more closely to address areas of common concern.

AAFC sees an increasing need for data on biotechnology and aboriginal farms. AAFC has also been working closely with Statistics Canada to improve environmental data.

This included adding questions to the Census of Agriculture and the Farm Financial Survey. The five-year provincial income forecast represents one of two key outputs to be produced under the new market and performance analysis system being implemented in Policy Branch. The system integrated information from commodity analysts, the farm model, farm income analysts, Statistics Canada and provincial analysts, as well as information at the farm level.

General program updates and discussion

This year again, 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 on special agricultural topics by committee members and other invited guests. At the end of the meeting, visitors from the USDA gave presentations on the U.S. Agricultural Statistical Program and the U.S. experience with the recent U.S. Census of Agriculture.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 28–29, 1999
Next meeting: October 12–13, 2000
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Ray Ryan welcomed the members. The agenda was modified, moving Confidentiality Issues ahead of the PIPES Update to ensure a full discussion by all participants. This change was accepted, as were the minutes of the previous meetings.

Confidentiality Issues: Provincial–Territorial Access to Input–Output Tables (P. Smith)

Mr. Smith started with a brief résumé of the issues. The first annual edition of the provincial–territorial *Input–Output (I–O) Tables* will be released in November 1999 with 1996 as a reference year. Focal points wish to have access to these tables because they are an invaluable source of structural information about the provincial economies.

Each focal point office has particular expertise and understanding of the economy of its province or territory, and is therefore well-suited to assess the reasonableness of statistics relating to their province or territory. The National Statistical System would benefit from feedback from the focal points as they review and use these estimates. Statistics Canada therefore wishes to provide provincial and territorial focal points with access to the most detailed working level I–O tables. However, because the working level tables contain confidential data, they can be shared with the focal point offices only under strict legal conditions as outlined in the *Statistics Act*.

Mr. Smith then outlined a proposal under which focal point offices can be given access to unsuppressed I–O accounts and other System of National Accounts (SNA) data as "deemed" Statistics Canada employees. Such access would be provided at the focal point office, with the understanding that the data would be retained and used on an ongoing basis subject to stringent security measures and enhanced confidentiality protection.

He proposed that the terms and conditions for access to the data should be outlined in Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the focal points. The specific "conditions of access" suggested were:

1. Only those persons from the focal point office requiring access to the detailed accounts will be sworn-in as "deemed" employees of Statistics Canada. One person, who must be a direct employee of the focal point office, will be identified in Appendix A as having special responsibility to see that these data are kept secure at all times, both during and after their use.
2. The "deemed" employees will fully meet their obligations as required by the *Statistics Act*. They will take responsibility for ensuring that the information received from Statistics Canada is held in a secure setting so that only "deemed" employees will

have access to the information (e.g., no placing of information on internal computer networks accessible by other than "deemed" employees).

3. Statistics Canada staff will be able to inspect the security and control procedures at any time to verify that access to the information is appropriately controlled and fully meets Statistics Canada's security requirements.

After extensive discussions on the proposed content and implementation process for the MOUs, most provincial and territorial representatives agreed with the approach, subject to changes in detail, which were noted.

A separate arrangement will be worked out with the Institut de la statistique du Québec. Because of the large number of businesses in Québec, there will be fewer confidential cells than in most provinces. In addition, Statistics Canada and the Institut de la statistique du Québec have already signed a substantial number of joint collection and data sharing agreements under which the Institut has legitimate access to confidential data for a significant number of industries. However, some cells in the Québec working level I-O table will still be confidential, and these will have to be suppressed or combined with other industry or commodity values to produce non-confidential aggregates for the tables.

Before moving on to other matters, Mr. Smith mentioned three items related to the discussion on confidentiality.

1. A pilot course—dealing with Statistics Canada's automated procedures for confidentiality checking and selection of cells for suppression—has been developed and was conducted at Statistics Canada earlier this year. After critical review and updating, the course will be made available to staff of the provincial and territorial focal points. The course will be scheduled to coincide with other federal-provincial-territorial activities, at a time when focal point representatives are likely to be in the National Capital Region.
2. There has been significant progress on the preparation of Omnibus Data Sharing Agreements. Five Section 11 agreements and three Section 12 agreements have been signed.
3. The Task Force on Disclosure Avoidance for Business Data has completed its study and is working on recommendations regarding "best practices." The Task Force report is currently under review by Statistics Canada senior management, and will be made available to focal points in the near future.

Status Report on PIPES Outputs (P. Smith)

Mr. Smith provided a brief report on some of the accomplishments from the first three years of PIPES. He itemized challenges that remain for the fourth and final year of the project:

- The System of National Accounts is working toward the release of the first NAICS-based provincial I-O tables for reference year 1997—the first year of operation for the Harmonized Sales Tax.

- Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field will work to improve the timeliness of release of the Survey of Household Spending results and will continue with the other two household surveys that support SNA estimates of consumer expenditures.
- The Unified Enterprise Survey (UES) will expand for the 1999 reference year to include the retail trade sector and more service industries.
- The 1998 General Index of Financial Information (GIFI) database is now being set up and will be loaded with more than 800,000 records.
- Controlling response burden is an ever-present problem and a growing concern.

Strategic Plan for the Consumer Price Index (L.-M. Ducharme)

Mr. Ducharme presented the major issues and challenges facing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program, and the proposed solutions that have recently been endorsed by the Statistics Canada Policy Committee. The strategic plan covers a five-year period, with five major components:

- review and update concepts, methodology and classification
- review and diversify price sampling
- establish coherent quality adjustment methods
- develop new sources of information for weights
- review and update the computer systems to process the CPI

A Profile of Canadian Exporters (D. Dodds)

Mr. Dodds gave an overview of the Exporters' Register Project which is now underway in the International Trade Division. The objective is to produce a profile of Canadian exporters' performance by linking export trade records to establishments listed on the Business Register. Data by industry, province of residence and geography of destination will be published, subject to normal confidentiality constraints. First results for reference years 1993 to 1997 were released in March 2000; 1998 and 1999 data will be available later this year.

Update on the Business Register (A. Monty)

Mr. Monty demonstrated the role of the Business Register (BR) in the Business and Trade Statistics Program. He also outlined improvements in the BR under the PIPES Project such as how the BR tracks roughly 2.5 million businesses, up from roughly 1.0 million in 1996, when PIPES got underway. All records are now coded to the new North American Industrial Classification system.

Most BR resources are devoted to tracking the changes in larger business enterprises. One of the underlying principles of the design and operation of the BR is the assumption that a relatively small number of large enterprises are statistically much more significant than the millions of smaller businesses tracked by the Register. The roughly 120,000 large enterprises on the Register account for more than 50% of employment and more than 68% of gross economic output. The Register content for these large enterprises is much more extensive and detailed than it is for the 2.3 million smaller businesses, and the updating process for the large enterprises is substantially more complicated and time-consuming.

Mr. Monty went on to outline measures to increase coverage and reliability of the BR, and he described the services that are available to provincial and territorial focal points.

E-Commerce and the Information Society (F. Gault and G. Sciadas)

Mr. Gault reviewed recent changes in the program of the Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division (SIEID), with particular emphasis on electronic commerce. Mr. Gault explained how the Division has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Industry Canada, documenting a close working relationship and identifying specific statistical products that will be produced through these co-operative efforts. He also mentioned a new working group, chaired by Albert Meguerditchian, that will co-ordinate Statistics Canada's efforts to measure e-commerce and related computer and communications activities.

Mr. Sciadas provided details on projects that measure the ability of Canadians to utilize information and communication technologies both at home and at work. These projects include a new economy-wide business survey on e-commerce (piggybacking on the Capital Expenditures Survey) and a household survey on Internet use. In addition, a number of core Information and Communication Industry Surveys have been modified to elicit more information on the growing interaction of computers and communications networks.

CENSUS OF POPULATION

Last meeting: June 9, 1999
Next meeting: June 14, 2000
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Benoît Laroche welcomed all participants and mentioned that this was the first meeting where Nunavut would be represented. He noted that an update on the National Census Test would be provided. The remainder of the morning would be devoted to the 2001 Census content options. Statistics Canada is at a crucial stage for determining the content and this would be one of the last opportunities for provincial/territorial feedback as we are aiming at preparing the final recommendations at the end of June. Benoît Laroche brought the membership up to date on post-censal activities and on the 2001 Census collection methodology.

Post-censal Surveys

Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS)

The first phase of consultation has been finalized and a copy of the report on the consultation process was handed out to all members. The next step will be to analyse the results of this consultation with our partners and to develop a set of questions for further consultation and testing throughout the summer and into the fall.

Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS)

Human Resources Development Canada has provided the funding for HALS this year—to plan the survey and the consultation process. We expect to secure funding for the complete survey in the fall.

2001 Census Collection Methodology

After a thorough review of the National Census Test (NCT) operational activities and taking into account our internal capacity to locate specialized resources for the 2001 Census, it was decided not to implement a centralized collection approach but rather to revert to the traditional collection methodology. Statistics Canada is presently looking into modifications to alleviate privacy concerns. The 2001 Census collection will look very much like the 1996 Census collection.

To date, Statistics Canada has not done a great deal to involve Indian Reserves in the 2001 Census. We are, however, planning to develop a strategy over the next six months, and to look into specific procedures that were not tried in 1991 or 1996. We will be working closely with the staff of the post-censal surveys and Aboriginal Peoples Survey to ensure a common approach.

National Census Test (NCT)

The NCT, which took place last October, covered 77,000 households in 13 sites across Canada. The sites were representative of operational and content needs, e.g., some of the sites had higher concentrations of ethnic communities, gay and lesbian communities (which allowed us to measure the same-sex question) and agricultural communities.

When considering the more sensitive questions, it is important to keep in mind that the NCT was conducted on a voluntary basis. The total response rate was 73%, which was good enough to allow us to draw valuable data. One-third of the households received the short form (2A) questionnaire as opposed to 80% in a real census. This allowed for more testing of questions included on the long form (2B) questionnaire. The 2B sample was divided in half • one half received the 2B1 and the other half the 2B2. This was done to test the two versions of questions and to increase the content testing.

Options for the 2001 Census Content

The results have been analysed, extensive qualitative testing has been undertaken and the consultation is almost complete. Within the next month, it is hoped that a final set of recommendations will be sent to Statistics Canada senior management for review; our recommendations will then go to Cabinet this fall.

Seven variables—Same-sex Partners, Ethnic Origin, Unpaid Work, Fertility, Religion, Language and Place of Highest Degree—were given particular attention and were reviewed in detail. Many other changes were tested, affecting the wording of the questions, the order of the questions, the response categories and the examples. Almost every module of the census questionnaire is affected (i.e., coverage, demographic, language, socio-cultural, activity limitations, mobility, education and labour market activities).

The two modules that are not included are income and housing. With regard to income, Statistics Canada is looking at making some changes in the short and long term. One of the changes being examined for 2001 is related to dissemination rather than questionnaire content, as we consider deriving after-tax income from models. For 2006, we are looking at the possibility of asking respondents to allow us to access their tax records in lieu of answering all the questions on income. This is in the early stages and there is much to consider, especially in terms of privacy and confidentiality, and other legal aspects.

Coverage Concepts

At last year's meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee, a few questions were raised relating to the conceptual coverage of the census and Statistics Canada was asked if a review of the conceptual coverage rules would be done for 2001. A background document was prepared on this topic and distributed to participants for discussion.

The following items from the document were reviewed and discussed in detail—the definition of the target population, the definition of the usual place of residence, and some aspects of how the Reverse Record Check (RRC) applies to those definitions. Also highlighted was how Statistics Canada's rules compare with the UN recommendations on defining the target population. There are areas where the rules need to be clarified and there must be consistency between the RRC and the census itself. On the issue of people who have no Census Day address—that is, the homeless, or people who are not staying in any dwelling on Census Day—Statistics Canada's current position is as it was in 1996. We are not planning a repeat of the soup kitchen enumeration that was conducted in 1991. There is, however, a group that is looking into this and into what should be done for 2001, but at present, Statistics Canada does not have specific plans to enumerate individuals with no fixed address.

Additional Studies

The additional studies reviewed were the Survey of Persons Enumerable but Temporarily Outside Canada, the Province of Residence Study and the Survey of Persons Studying Outside their Home Province.

Detailed information on “enumerable but temporarily outside Canada” cases was provided, which included a validation of the classification rules adopted and identifying the difficulties in applying census coverage concepts. It was concluded that Statistics Canada needs to collect more information about all people living outside Canada on Census Day, (their reason for absence, for example).

The characteristics of the Province of Residence Study were reviewed, as were those of the comparison of gross coverage for methods and for the comparison of net undercoverage and of precision. It was concluded that if the study concepts were applied, there would be a significant impact on precision. Modifications would have to be made to the RRC questionnaire, and follow-up for reconciliation would be needed.

A survey of people studying outside their home province would require a sample size of approximately 5,000; if possible, they should be out-of-province students. The collaboration of postsecondary institutions would be needed to obtain recent information, such as addresses. Funding would be required, and it is estimated that Statistics Canada would need approximately \$700,000 to conduct this survey; it would then have to compete for funding with other projects.

Communications Program

The design used in the 1996 Census will be kept for 2001; by using the same design the program saves money and can produce materials earlier. To date, the lapel pins, the countdown boards, kit folders with new stickers as well as the masthead have been produced.

The communications program will be similar to the 1996 program. It will consist of five components—third party support, media, education, paid advertising and special target groups—all of which work together to promote awareness of the census. Each of these components was reviewed in detail.

All the communication for the Census of Agriculture will take place along the same lines as for the Census of Population. The process will involve the same components and activities will be handled in the same manner.

Census Dissemination Update—1996 and 2001

1996 Census Dissemination Update

In 1996 a number objectives were identified as part of the business case, which was presented at the corporate level and approved. The prime objective was to improve service to clients, and five activities were planned. We reviewed these activities as well as our accomplishments in 1996. The project reached the goals that had initially been outlined; close to 30 CD-ROMs for the standard data products were released; there were 50 publications, including metadata publications; the project has an Internet Community Profile; there are “day of release” tables on the Internet; and thousands of diskettes were distributed by the regional offices. This was all done on time and within budget.

One product that the Update had difficulty with was the Public Use Micro-data Files (PUMFs); the release of the PUMFs was delayed several times for a variety of reasons. This product is now scheduled for release soon.

2001 Census Dissemination Update

There are two major areas where the Project will seek to make improvements for 2001 Census products and services:

- **Client-driven activities**

These activities include content, usefulness, product organization and release strategy. The different market sectors will be approached to find out what they think about the content. What are the ideas for simplifying product organization? Given that the release strategy will definitely be a high priority, are there things that Statistics Canada can do to improve the timeliness of the release of census data?

- **Product structure review activities**

Internally, the Project will look at usability, formatting, and standardization of product interfaces. Users suggest that the product structure could be improved. With the transition from paper to electronic publishing, we must now think about things such as naming conventions. At present, it is very difficult for users to find exactly what they are looking for because how particular tables have been named. A review of the product structure will be initiated to improve the way things are set up.

For 2001, Statistics Canada will continue to emphasize the "public good" of the census. We will continue to increase accessibility to standard products and customized products for all market sectors. We will develop a strategy to increase Internet dissemination. We will also be looking at more flexible ways of delivering the data that people need—which does not necessarily have to be pre-canned tables—and how to achieve the capacity to create what the client needs. Statistics Canada is also looking at de-coupling geographic units from collection units (Enumeration Areas) and a working group is in place to review this issue.

DATA DISSEMINATION

Last meeting: October 29, 1999
Next meeting: November 15, 2000
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Highlights of data dissemination activities

The **Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ)** has improved its data dissemination operations by expanding the statistical content available to customers and upgrading data dissemination tools. The ISQ has established a standards and information directorate to centralize all activities associated with statistical standards, classifications, dissemination and production of summary publications. Standards for manuscript submission and publication have been adopted and applied to all ISQ products.

The **New Brunswick Statistics Agency** is developing an electronic data dissemination service. The initial stage will provide information to government departments and agencies via an Intranet service, and the second stage will be to permit public access to a variety of information.

A noteworthy change in **Saskatchewan's** dissemination activities is the elimination of enumeration-area maps, which were produced every year. The main reason for this change is increasing user familiarity with the Geographic Information Systems and thus there is a declining need for printed maps.

A new Data Dissemination Unit was opened at the **Newfoundland Statistics Agency (NSA)**. This Unit contains a library of Statistics Canada publications, as well as a large collection of statistical information specific to Newfoundland and Canada. The NSA continues to develop its Internet site and is updating its Regional Economic Development Information System (REDIS).

The Information Services Unit of the **Yukon Bureau of Statistics** has developed a new data warehouse, which will evolve into a resource accessible at no cost to anyone with Internet access. The Unit has also maintained the Bureau's Web site and Resource Centre.

The **Alberta Statistical Information System (ASIST)** database is undergoing a major redevelopment to prevent Y2K problems. The redevelopment of the interface will increase its functionality and ease of use, and will enable Internet access. Through its Geographic Information Systems data dissemination services, Alberta Statistics also maintains over 40 series of geo-administrative regions in the province and provides users with custom data translation capabilities.

The delegate from **Prince Edward Island** reported that plans are well underway to publish key information on an interdepartmental Intranet site accessible by senior government officials.

In an effort to reduce the number of staff hours required to handle direct queries, **Nova Scotia's** Department of Finance has revamped its Web site and is now posting new data within 24 hours of release. Publications and daily public briefings are also made available to the public via the Web site. In addition, the Statistics Division maintains two Intranet sites—one restricted to staff and a second restricted to provincial government employees.

Hard copy publication remains the primary method of data dissemination of the **Ontario** Ministry of Finance. It also maintains a Web site dedicated to providing current information on the province's fiscal and economic performance, and provides a daily e-mail service to senior government officials explaining recent economic data releases.

Presentations made at the 1999 meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Dissemination

Electronic publishing

Denis Desjardins presented an outline of the policy governing sales of CD-ROM products to focal points and their subsequent redistribution of these products. He indicated that the focal points would receive the policy information once it has been circulated internally.

Jerry Stinson mentioned that he would begin developing a policy on what the provinces and territories could reproduce on their Web sites. He invited the focal points to send him their comments or ideas.

The role of the IPS (Information on Products and Services) catalogue was described to the focal points and the various phases of Statistics Canada's electronic publishing strategy were presented. There was a demonstration of an HTML publication and Phase 4 of the strategy, dynamic publishing, was explained in detail.

CANSIM II

The various activities involved in the development of CANSIM II were reviewed, and Dennis Pilkey, the focal point for Nova Scotia, volunteered to test the new database before it is launched. It was reported that the new approach to pricing would be defined this year and that stakeholders would be invited to join the discussion.

The possibility of having the statistical focal points act as secondary distributors was discussed, and it was pointed out that the Alberta statistics office was currently serving as a secondary distributor. Some of the advantages that statistical focal points could derive from becoming secondary distributors were described and a number of focal points expressed interest.

Remote access to micro-data files

Ms. Bustros explained that Statistics Canada was reviewing its methods of disseminating social survey data because, as a result of technological change, public use micro-data files no longer met clients' needs. She described the structure of the files

that had to be created to allow remote access and provided an overview of the current access process. David Stewart, focal point for the Northwest Territories, expressed interest in the project and described it as a good way of providing people with data they could obtain by custom order.

Meta-data project—Update

Ernie Boyko gave a status report on the meta-data project. He explained that visitors to the site will have access to definitions, concepts and even questionnaires. For the moment, they would be able to obtain general information about selected products and services. The information was being updated periodically; this would eventually be done automatically for all Statistics Canada surveys and products.

Naming conventions—Update

Jerry Stinson noted that at the Consultative Council's last meeting, the statistical focal points had requested that the issue of file naming be examined. A consultation process was started, and the problems were explained to Demography Division staff members, who subsequently presented the focal points with various options. Since some focal points were still dissatisfied with the options presented, François Nault, from the Geography Division, suggested repeating the consultation process to gain a better understanding of the scope of the issue. New suggestions will be put forward following this second consultation.

Geographic Information Systems—Overview

Phil Fong explained that his team had started designing new tools to help users access Statistics Canada's wide range of geographic information with a Web browser and to combine the information with other data (such as census data). Applications were developed for internal use and for other federal organizations, such as Canadian Heritage and Elections Canada. Mr. Fong gave a demonstration of various applications.

Electronic mail

Dave Venables explained that two situations in particular can result in delays in the transmission of electronic messages. First, e-mail sent to Statistics Canada employees is being held up for a period of time before being delivered to provide additional protection against viruses. This measure will be replaced and e-mail will be held up only if there is a virus alert. Second, e-mail sent by Statistics Canada employees is put on hold; the e-mails are taking about 40 minutes to get to the Internet. This step enables the originator to cancel a message containing confidential information sent to an external address by mistake. Mr. Venables stated that this measure would be replaced and that the holding period would be eliminated.

Provincial and Territorial spotlight: Nova Scotia's Internet site

Dennis Pilkey provided an overview of the Nova Scotia Finance Ministry's Web site. The site was described as being user-friendly and containing the most frequently requested statistics.

Round table discussion—Provincial and Territorial Internet sites

Most provinces submitted written descriptions of their respective Internet sites. The following information is in addition to those reports:

- Serge Bernier, from **Quebec**, spoke of the challenges presented by the growing number of tables on the Web site and updating them.
- **New Brunswick** stressed that they intend to implement an Intranet site within the next year and that a variety of information will subsequently be available on the Internet.
- David Stewart described the three primary components of the **Northwest Territories'** Bureau of Statistics Web site. One of these components is an online retrieval system similar to CANSIM to which only the Territories' government employees will have access.
- Bill Hyshka noted that **Alberta's** Statistics has hired a consultant to implement a site for both internal and external use. Updating will be automatic and will contain hot links.
- John Palmer from **Prince Edward Island** added that his office intends to add data to its Web site and wondered about the extent of the data that should be included. He asked the other delegates to share their experiences with him.

DEMOGRAPHY

Last meeting: June 10–11, 1999 and October 14–15, 1999
Next meeting: June 15–16, 2000
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Last year, there were two meetings of the Federal–Provincial Committee on Demography (June and October). They focussed on the evaluation of the Reverse Record Check (RRC) in estimating census coverage and on the composite estimator. Also discussed were plans for 2001 coverage studies and the estimation procedures for international migrants, especially temporary and permanent emigrants and returning Canadians.

The June meeting included discussions on recent developments in the population estimates program, specifically those dealing with provincial–territorial issues and population projections and a five-year action plan for Demography Division was presented.

In October, the ongoing research on interprovincial migration was examined. One presentation reviewed the research on estimating interprovincial migration using alternative sources, such as Medicare files. The Small Area and Administrative Data Division summarized its methodology for deriving migration estimates—information about taxfilers' dependants is taken from the T1 family file (T1FF) and the Child Tax Benefit file.

Since the October meeting, plans have been developed for the 2001 Census coverage studies. They include population estimates at the Census sub-division level, interprovincial migration, Canadians abroad and non-permanent residents. These topics will be discussed at the next meeting of the Federal–Provincial Committee on Demography, to be held on June 15–16, 2000.

LABOUR STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 16, 1999
Next meeting: June 19, 2000
Members: Departments concerned with human resources, education or job training, and provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The 34th meeting of the Labour Statistics Committee was held in Ottawa on June 16, 1999 at the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Centre, Statistics Canada.

Presentations on the following topics were made:

- update on the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) and the Workplace and Employee Survey (WES), including a description of the SEPH-NAICS conversion plans (Peter Demmons and Serge Lavallée)
- the Employment Insurance Statistics Program and the Employment Insurance Coverage Survey (Justin Lacroix and Stephan Roller)
- comparison of Census estimates and Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates (Michel Côté)
- update on LFS including composite estimation and alternative measures of unemployment (Deborah Sunter and Brian Kennedy)
- re-engineering of *Perspectives on Labour and Income* (Ian Macredie)
- sources of immigration data (Doug Norris)
- update on special surveys related to the labour market (Wayne Smith)
- update on income surveys (Maryanne Webber)

MINERAL STATISTICS

Last meeting:	September 20–22, 1999
Next meeting:	September 18–20, 2000 (tentative)
Members:	Delegates from Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Statistics Canada, provincial and territorial mining departments or agencies and the Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories bureaus of statistics.
Observers:	The Mining Association of Canada, Institut de la statistique du Québec

This committee provides a forum for provincial and territorial ministries and federal departments to exchange information and formulate joint courses of action to deal with areas of common interest in Canadian mining and mineral statistics. The annual meeting is the key event for Committee activities, but contacts between member organizations occur throughout the year.

The annual meeting of the Federal–Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPCMS) was held September 20–22, 1999. As has been recent custom, the first day included informal meetings of the FPCMS working groups in the morning—this year, meetings were held on diamond statistics, on Nunavut and on data confidentiality. In the afternoon, a workshop on systems development initiatives was held, focussing on the new and rapidly-evolving Mapping Federal–Provincial Mining Knowledge site. Originally conceived as a joint project between British Columbia and Natural Resources Canada, the development of this site is attracting more provinces as contributing partners.

Plenary sessions were held on the second and third days of the meeting. On the second day, key events that have occurred in the respective jurisdictions were presented in a roundtable format and reviewed by all attending members. Decisions about the joint activities of the Committee, including the acceptance of joint survey schedules, followed. On the third day, plenary sessions featured a series of presentations and discussions of issues. Attendance was virtually complete: only Manitoba (their representative had just retired) and the Yukon were not represented. A new Manitoba representative has since been named.

Presentations made during the meeting included:

- an update on PIPES and the implications of the program to the provinces and territories
- a review of climate changes issues (presented by Natural Resources Canada) and an overview of energy consumption in the mining industry (presented by the Canadian Industrial Energy End-use Data and Analysis Centre)
- a review of information collected by, and definitional adjustments proposed for, the joint exploration expenditures survey, as well as a provincial perspective on related survey issues

- a presentation on advances in the collection of information on innovation and advanced technology in the natural resource industries (presented by Statistics Canada)
- an update on the resolution of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban issue—a controversial topic at the 1998 meeting

In addition to the continuing interest among members to reduce response burden, concern was expressed about the industrial classification under NAICS of certain mineral processing activities, most particularly the processing of mine tailings. 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.

Visits to the provinces and territories

In order to promulgate the advantages of federal–provincial co-operation in statistical activities, the Director of Minerals and Mining Statistics Division and the Natural Resources Canada Chair of the FPCMS travelled to British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories. Their visits provided an opportunity for federal representatives to make presentations to a wide range of provincial and territorial officials. Future visits are planned for all member jurisdictions within two years. These visits will permit frank, bilateral discussions of common issues and promote federal–provincial co-operation. Visits will often involve two or more ministries (e.g., the provincial Mines ministry and the Statistical office).

Structural changes to the Committee

Changes to the committee structure are under consideration.

- Several minor updates and modifications to the Committee's Terms of Reference have been proposed and it is expected that a new draft will receive final approval at the next annual meeting. Committee membership will be extended to Nunavut and l'Institut de la Statistique du Québec.
- It has been proposed that each annual meeting be co-chaired by a representative of a province or territory, on a rotating basis, and the chair from Natural Resources Canada. This proposal has general support and will likely be implemented for the next meeting.
- It has also been proposed that the meeting alternate between Ottawa and a provincial or territorial site, such as the home city of the provincial or territorial co-chair. The implications are being examined and a recommendation will be presented at the next annual meeting.

Summary of issues facing the Federal–Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics and its member organizations

- With the upcoming commencement of tailings production at Magnola Metallurgy in Quebec, concern had been expressed about the classification of this and similar

activities within the NAICS standard. Other provinces have voiced similar concerns, as the extraction of minerals from tailings becomes increasingly important in the production of minerals. To address these concerns, meetings have been held between Standards Division, Natural Resources Canada and representatives of the Province of Quebec.

- The PIPES initiative will continue to be a co-operative effort by Natural Resources Canada, Statistics Canada and the respective provinces and territories.
- Nunavut will become a fully participating member of this federal–provincial committee.
- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Statistics Canada will be prepared to cover the use of mineral development expenditures data, including exploration data in the System of National Accounts.
- We intend to respond to emerging needs for data on energy efficiency, recycling, innovation, diffusion of advanced technology, productivity and e-commerce.

Important activities for the FPCMS during 2000–2001

- We will continue the work of the Working Group on Response Burden Management—a progress report will be presented at the annual meeting.
- We will increase participation in the development of the Mapping Federal–Provincial Mining Knowledge site.
- We hope to conclude further MOUs between Natural Resources and the provinces and territories.
- The program of visits to the provinces and territories by members of Natural Resources Canada will continue, promoting co-operative statistical activities.
- The annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 18–20, 2000.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Last meeting: November 19, 1999
Next meeting: November 17, 2000
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 SNA branch presented reports on the following:

- Integration of the Provincial Accounts
- 1996 Interprovincial Input–Output tables
- proposed enhancements to the Provincial Economic Accounts
- incorporation of Input–Output benchmarks into the Provincial GDP at Factor Cost by Industry

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for November 2000 in the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room of the R.H. Coats building. Discussions on the agenda will likely include the 1997 integrated set of provincial data, Interprovincial I–O Tables, Provincial Economic Accounts and Provincial GDP at Factor Cost by Industry. Another potential discussion issue is the historical revisions prior to 1992 for the Provincial Economic Accounts. In addition, the arrangement to share confidential W level Input–Output data with the provincial focal points and their staff will be discussed.

Release schedule

	<i>Release date</i>
<i>Provincial Economic Accounts</i> , reference period 1996–1999	October 25, 2000
<i>Provincial GDP by Industry</i> , reference period 1996–1999	October 25, 2000
<i>Interprovincial Input–Output Accounts</i> , 1997	October 25, 2000
 <i>Quarterly National Income and Expenditure Accounts:</i>	
First Quarter, 2000 (including revisions from the First Quarter 1996 to the Fourth Quarter 1999)	May 31, 2000
Second Quarter, 2000	August 31, 2000
Third Quarter, 2000	November 30, 2000
Fourth Quarter, 2000	February 28, 2001
 <i>National estimates of GDP by industry at constant prices, revisions to reference period 1996 to 1999</i>	 September 30, 2000

Please note that the *Provincial Economic Accounts* and *Provincial GDP by Industry* are separate products, but the two sets of data are written up together for release in *The Daily*.

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

Last Meeting: November 18, 1999
Next Meeting: November 16, 2000
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Lucie Laliberté, Associate Director General of the System of National Accounts Branch, greeted everyone and introduced Michel Girard, Director of Public Institutions Division (PID). During the round table, several representatives noted the usefulness of employment statistics and the visits to the provinces and territories by Public Institutions Division staff. Delegates requested information on:

- fiscal equalization
- Harmonized Sales Tax
- capital expenditures
- treatment of Canada Health and Social Transfer payments
- reconciliation between Financial Management System (FMS) and System of National Accounts (SNA) statistics
- FMS consolidation
- interprovincial comparability of the Public Sector Universe
- First Nations and Inuit government
- automated release of PID information

Michel Girard mentioned that PID is emphasizing issues concerning First Nations and Inuit, equalization and health care. The Division is also looking into postsecondary education issues and the production of balance sheets for the health and education sub-sectors. Michel Girard reinforced the alignment between Statistics Canada's Public Sector Universe (PSU) and the recommendations of the 1993 System of National Accounts.

Public Institutions' staff summarized the visits to the provinces, discussed the reconciliation statements between provincial public accounts and FMS statistics, and noted the development of a local government database and commodity survey. Accrual accounting issues and the functionalization of SNA data were also discussed.

There were presentations and discussion of the following topics:

- alcohol, gaming statistics and public debt (Consolidated statistics for recent years can only be produced when PID obtains detailed information on intergovernmental transactions.)
- health and education sub-component estimates
- reconciliation of post-secondary education expenditures between PID and the Centre of Education of Statistics Canada

- reconciliation work with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
- trends in public sector employment
- labour data reconciliation with Labour Division

M. Girard distributed the PID release schedule for the coming year as well as a revised version of the Financial Management System Manual.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: April 28, 1999
Next meeting: May 2, 2000
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.

Update on Health Statistics (Chair)

Bruce Petrie informed members of the most recent development in the Road Map Initiative. This initiative (a three-year plan at a cost of \$95 million) will look at health information needs in Canada and will translate these requirements into new initiatives at both Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health. Six themes have been identified: national consultation, data standard, health services data gaps, population health, health reports and indicators and the Canadian population health initiative.

Data Gaps 2, PIPES and the Social Statistics Programs (Mike Sheridan)

Mike Sheridan briefed the Committee on the activity in the household survey area with respect to PIPES (Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics) and on the GAPS II projects. He began by indicating that the household surveys that will feed into PIPES are the Survey of Household Spending (SHS, formerly FAMEX) and the Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey. The SHS has already contributed to PIPES. The challenge now is to ensure that the competing demands of PIPES, the CPI and the SNA are met. Another challenge for the SHS is the further development of its respondent relations material.

Mike Sheridan then outlined the history and nature of the GAPS II projects. Work on GAPS II began with the formation of a policy research initiative and subsequently, a policy research data group (PRDG). The role of the PRDG was to identify policy challenges and the data required to meet these challenges. The challenges can be grouped into four areas: economic growth, social cohesion, human development and the knowledge-based economy. The projects stemming from these issues were briefly described.

Income Statistics Division (Maryanne Webber)

Maryanne Webber informed the group about the activities of the Income Statistics Division (ISD). The focus of her presentation was on the transition from the Survey of Consumer Finance (SCF) to the Survey of Labour Income Dynamics (SLID). She mentioned that income data would be produced by SCF for the last time for the reference year 1997. As of 1998, cross-sectional income data will come from SLID. Some of the SLID/SCF comparisons were highlighted; the results show that the differences are quite small.

Ms. Webber then described the work being done on low-income and poverty

measurement. In December 1998, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) published a short paper describing a new Market Basket Measure (MBM) of poverty. There was considerable reaction to this proposal, including a paper by the National Council of Welfare. There was strong feeling that the production of low-income cut-offs (LICOs) should continue and that the MBM should be more detailed than the one originally proposed. The MBM is to be presented to the Ministers of Human Resources or Social Services in May 1999.

Ms. Webber mentioned that consideration is being given to re-basing Statistics Canada's LICOs. A re-basing exercise was last done in 1994, using 1992 data. Updating has since been done using the CPI but as 1996 FAMEX and 1997 SHS data are available, re-basing could now be done every year. The current plan is, as of June 1999, to put out the 1998 LICOs on the 1992 base, updated using the consumer price index (CPI). Accompanying this would be a discussion paper outlining some of the issues just described. The session ended with an update on the current SHS cycle.

Special Surveys Division (Wayne Smith)

Wayne Smith and his staff gave an update on the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSI) and the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY).

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) (Julie McAuley)

The LSIC has recently received funding through the Data Gaps initiative for the next four fiscal years. Planning for the survey is very much underway. A pilot test for the survey was conducted in March 1997. The content touched on many different aspects of life and was well received by the respondents. There are two major objectives to the survey. The first is to study the process by which immigrants adapt to and integrate into Canadian society, including the timing of the stages in the integration process, the factors which influence integration and the impacts of various services on immigrant integration policies. The second is to study how the socio-economic characteristics of immigrants influence the process by which they integrate into Canadian society. The survey will help government understand the factors that help and hinder the settlement of immigrants into Canadian society. The main survey will be longitudinal in design. The selected immigrants will be interviewed at three points in time: six months, two years and four years after arrival in Canada. Our work plan predicts that the first series of interviews will begin in October 2000, if not earlier.

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) (Sylvie Michaud)

Delegates were reminded that this survey focuses on the child, the family, the school and the community; another feature of this survey is its global approach to child development. An overview of the first three cycles of the NLSCY, as well as the research done with this survey, was provided. Cycle 4 will be collected this year. This cycle will focus on two research areas: the 16–17 year age group because this age represents an important transition for youth, and measuring improvements for the younger cohorts, such as going beyond the vocabulary measure. Finally, a description of the North York Pilot Project was given.

Education Statistics (Scott Murray)

Scott Murray addressed three different projects: the International Life Skill Study, the Youth and Transition Survey and the Provincial Tourism Satellite Accounts.

International Life Skill Survey (ILSS)

The ILSS has two basic objectives. The first is to repeat measures from the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey, specifically prose literacy and document literacy. The second is to add several new skills domains to see how they relate to the originally measured skills domains or if they actually perform differently in terms of their economic and social impacts. The new skills domains are numeracy, problem solving, information in communication technology, teamwork and practical cognition. The international component of the project is well advanced. The plan is to go into the field with a large-scale pilot • 1,500 cases in the fall of 2001. The main survey will involve a minimum of 7,000 completed cases by the fall of 2002. As before, there will be an international comparative report in late 2002 or early 2003, followed by a Canadian report and a number of research papers.

The Youth and Transition Survey

Mr. Murray specified that this survey is a longitudinal survey of children 15 years of age (30,000 children selected from within schools) that will be followed every two years to find out what factors determine participation in post-secondary education or transition into the labour market, including school related factors and non-school related factors. To make maximum use of this vehicle, the youth will be followed until they are 30 years old, at two-year intervals.

Provincial/Territorial Tourism Satellite Accounts (PTSA)

Last September, a proposal was tabled at the Research Committee of the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC), to provide an "updateable" database for provincial tourism satellite accounts. However, there wasn't enough money from the CTC to fund this proposal and the provinces were asked to contribute financially. We are very optimistic that the money will be there; negotiations with the CTC and the provinces are underway. Delegates suggested that more information on this proposal is required before it can be accepted. In response to this concern, a detailed note on the PTSA was sent to the Focal Points in early May 1999.

Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division (Doug Norris)

Mr. Norris specified that he and his staff will be covering three main topics under this item: the General Social Survey (GSS), the Aboriginal People Survey and the Gender Quality Indicators.

General Social Survey (Lorna Bailie)

Ms. Bailie provided an update on the status of the GSS; more funding has been received through the Data Gaps initiative, which will translate into an annual frequency and a larger sample (at least 10,000). She then provided an account of the recent consultation with the provinces. The main objective of our consultation was to look at the social

issues in the provinces and territories and to see what kind of sampling designs would be most appropriate. The consultation gave Statistics Canada a platform to explain the GSS for 2000 that will address the topic of access and use of information and communication technology.

Aboriginal People Survey (APS) (Marie Patry)

Marie Patry gave an account of the preliminary results of the consultation process that was completed in March 1999. On the content side, six main issues were voiced by the provinces and territories, federal departments and aboriginal associations: increasing numbers of Aboriginal people living in urban areas, seasonal migration, aboriginal entrepreneurship, access to services, victimization and the justice system, and health. Other elements resulted from the consultation process, such as the burden of response—especially in the North where there are three data collection initiatives that bear on the APS—and the production of data that are perceived as credible by the aboriginal peoples themselves.

Gender Equality Indicators (Doug Norris)

Doug Norris reminded delegates that the Gender Equality Indicators Initiative was a Federal–Provincial/Territorial project lead by Status of Women Canada (SWC). The idea was to update these indicators periodically. Statistics Canada and SWC (who is again co-ordinating this effort) have agreed to update the data sometime over the next year. The output that will be produced from this initiative will be limited to a summary report published in *Canadian Social Trends* and in a working paper that will present all the provincial and territorial data.

Small Area and Administrative Data Division (SAADD) (Linda Standish)

Ms. Standish mentioned that her division works primarily with the individual tax file (T1) to produce data not only for individuals but also for families. One of the division's challenges is to create census families out of individual tax filers. In her presentation, she addressed the following products and services: the low-income tables, the longitudinal administrative file, the brain drain and migration issues.

The low-income tables

The measure that SAADD uses for low-income is the LIM (low-income measure). Data are produced for husband–wife families, lone parent families, non-family persons and the total population group. The geographic areas for these tables are from national level down to postal walk. Ms. Standish concluded her presentation by saying that her group would like to produce after-tax income estimates as well as a depth measure (how far below the measure people are).

Longitudinal administrative file

The longitudinal administrative file is a sample file in which individuals who appear on the tax file and who have a social insurance number are selected at a rate of 1% or 10%. These individuals are tracked over time and the file is used to examine such items as income and migration dynamics. Many research papers have been written based on the longitudinal file and can be accessed through SAADD.

Brain drain

SAADD is now looking at the T1 file to see if there is any information, such as age and level of income, that provides insights on who is leaving the country. There is a question on the T1 file about whether a person left or entered Canada during the particular year. This research project is done in collaboration with Education Statistics Division and is at an early stage.

Migration

Few proposals on how to treat international migration of people in the Armed Forces and embassy staff were presented to the delegates. Provinces and territories had different opinions on how to treat this rare but important sub-population, but they were unanimous in their request to have an approach that is consistent with Demography Division or the Census.

Closing Remarks (Chair)

Mr. Petrie assured members that Statistics Canada will follow-up on the issues that were raised during the deliberations. He thanked all delegates for their very valuable contribution and is looking 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 17–18, 1999, Ottawa
Next meeting: October 18–19, 2000, 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 25–27, 1999, Washington
Next meeting: May 17–19, 2000, Ottawa
Members: Transportation staff from Canadian, U.S. and Mexican statistical, regulatory and policy departments

Activities and Progress

Topics covered included:

- updates on trucking, aviation, marine, rail and multi-modal data
- the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)
- the North American transportation statistics publication

Progress was also reported on the implementation of Year 2000 Conversion.

Presentations and discussions took place on the taxi and courier industries, the Canadian Vehicle Survey and the preparedness of Statistics Canada surveys for Nunavut. Presentations on Transport Canada's "Impetus Project" and Statistics Canada's Annual Program Review (Transportation Division) also took place.

Plenary meetings and workshops of the Interchange focussed on freight transportation, passenger transportation and energy, environment and safety.

U.S. delegates reported on the need to develop a joint vision on transportation in North America and to identify the issues that need to be addressed by the data. Mexico reported on its need to implement the North American Industrial Classification System.

VITAL STATISTICS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

Last Meeting: June 22–25 1999
Next Meeting: May 29–June 1, 2000
Members: Provincial and Territorial Registrars/Directors
of Vital Statistics

- The implementation of the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision (ICD-10) for mortality at Statistics Canada and in each of the provincial registries required the close partnership that is fostered by the Vital Statistics Council.
- As part of the *Roadmap for Health Information*, several projects have been initiated to support our business plan, such as the development of educational material for mortality classification and the development of a plan for electronic routing of the information collected from birth and death registration. Another example is the provision of technical assistance to improve the timeliness of data.
- To assist the transition to ICD-10, Statistics Canada will conduct a study on the impact of the changes and will provide a course on “Cause-of-death classification, coding, and analysis, ICD-10 for statisticians.” The National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS) in the United States developed this course for health statisticians and epidemiologists, and the instructors are from the Division of Vital Statistics of the NCHS.
- There is ongoing work with the Advisory Council of Population Health (ACPH) on the quality of Vital Statistics data.
- Statistics Canada’s Health Statistics Division will make changes to their data collection processes and publications to include same-sex parents where registrations indicate.

APPENDIX 5
PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Teleconference of April 7, 2000

Committee members:

Denis Baribeau (Quebec) - Chairperson
George Richardson (New Brunswick)
Wilf Falk (Manitoba)
Gerry Ewert (Yukon)
Denis Desjardins (ex-officio)

Note: Denis Baribeau could not attend the meeting. George Richardson was replaced by Kathy Wyrwas - James Turgeon could not attend. Martin Podehl replaced Denis Desjardins.

Secretariat:

Lyne Bélanger

SUMMARY

Program Committee members from the provinces and territories requested presentations on the following topics:

- Various roles in relation to societal indicators and progress report
- Newfoundland's work with Geographic Information Systems

They also asked for updates on several follow-up items from the 1999 Council meeting, and on other specific topics:

(The respective ACSs have been advised accordingly)

Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics

- Focal Points' access to health care records
- Update on the Health Statistics Program
- Availability of historical employment insurance benefit payments and quality of current series
- Status of the Canadian Community Health Survey and access by the Focal Points
- Status of post-censal survey programs, specially HALS
- 2001 Census output program for DPLs (Designated Places)
- Update on the Market Basket Measure initiative
- Review of the LICO initiative
- APS 2 and GSS consultation
- Update on 2001 Census questionnaire
- Update on the Tourism Program, including the Tourism Satellite Accounts
- Update on the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants
- Bilateral agreement with First Nations
- Research Data Centres

National Accounts and Analytical Studies

- Discrepancy between estimates of GDP at factor cost and GDP by industry
- Update on definition of personal savings
- Impact of loss of traffic flow information to PEI on the National Accounts
- Accuracy of personal expenditures data for PEI
- Impact of the 2000 Federal Budget on the Environmental Accounts and the Sustainable Development Indicators
- Historical revisions of provincial accounts back to 1961
- Historical revision of public sector revenue and expenditure data
- Release schedule of the Industry Accounts

Business and Trade Statistics

- Training offered to Focal Points and staff
- Business Register
- Access to most current export data
- Implementation of new Federal Income Tax Act
- Long-term solutions for access to provincial data through Section 11

Communications and Operations

- Role of Statistics Canada Regional Offices and role of Focal Points

APPENDIX 6
FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Item	Assigned to
2. Accomplishments and priorities	
2.1 Page 1 Provide status report on sustainability indicators to the committees	National Accounts
5. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program	
5.1 Page 3 Verify data in EI benefit payment series, Part 2 and advise focal points on any required changes	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics
5.2 Page 5 Aboriginal Peoples Survey: Provide focal points with copies of MOUs between STC and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Métis National Council - Assembly of First Nations - Inuit 	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics
5.3 Page 5 Health and Activity Limitation Survey: Provide a copy of the draft of the Health and and Activity Limitation Survey to focal points after having been reviewed by the Advisory group	ACS, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics
8. Geographic Information Systems/ Community Accounts	
8.1 Page 8 The Newfoundland focal point offered to present the Newfoundland Community Accounts system at the next Council meeting	Newfoundland focal point
9. Business and Trade Statistics Program	
9.1 Page 10 The Northwest Territories focal point expressed concern that the Canadian Travel Survey did not include the North	Distributive Trades Division to contact the Northwest Territories focal point to discuss the item

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|------------|---|---|
| 9.2 | Page 10
The Manitoba focal point requested clarification as to whether the tourism data could be revised after publication | Director, Business and Trade Statistics, PIPES |
| 9.3 | Page 10
Consultation on Small Business Statistics Program | ACS, Business and Trade Statistics and Focal Points |
| 9.4 | Page 10
The Québec focal point asked for more information on the Export Business Register and the Business Register | ACS, Business and Trade Statistics. |
| 9.5 | Page 11
The P.E.I focal point expressed concern about the loss of traffic flow information between P.E.I. and N.B. and the impact on National Accounts | Director, Business and Trade Statistics, PIPES |
| 9.6 | Page 11
The Nunavut focal point asked about including Nunavut in the Consumer Price Index | Price Division |
| 10. | Communications and Operations | |
| | Page 11
Provide the focal points with a monthly list of contacts between Statistics Canada and provincial-territorial departments | Federal-Provincial-Territorial Secretariat |
| 12. | Terms of Reference of the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council | |
| | Page 12
Change the Terms of Reference for the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy to include Nunavut | Federal-Provincial-Territorial Secretariat |

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