
Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

May 3 - 4, 2001

Ottawa, Ontario



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MINUTES

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

Meeting of May 3-4, 2001

Ottawa, Ontario

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Minutes of the meeting of May 3-4, 2001

1. Opening remarks	1
2. Achievements and priorities	1
3. Provincial and territorial reports	4
4. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program	4
5. National Accounts and Analytical Studies	8
6. Business and Trade Statistics	9
7. Communications and Operations	12
8. Indicators and performance measures – role and participation of statistical organizations	13
9. Electronic data management systems – new systems under development.....	14
10. Electronic publications and Depository Services Program – the challenge of keeping statistical libraries current as publications change from print to electronic	15
11. Other business	15
12. Nominations to the Program Committee	16

APPENDICES

1. List of focal points and participants	17
2. Agenda	23
3. Provincial and territorial activity reports	29
Alberta	31
British Columbia	35
Manitoba	41
New Brunswick	43
Newfoundland	45
Northwest Territories	49
Nova Scotia	53
Nunavut	59
Ontario	63
Prince Edward Island	65
Quebec	67
Saskatchewan	75
Yukon	77
4. Federal-provincial territorial committee reports	83
Agriculture Statistics	85
Business Statistics	87
Census of Population	93
Data Dissemination	99
Demography	103
Labour Statistics	105
Mineral Statistics	107
Provincial Economic Accounts	109
Public Sector Statistics	111
Social Statistics	113
Transportation Statistics	117
Vital Statistics Council for Canada	119
5. Follow-up items	121

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 3-4, 2001

1. Opening remarks

The Council Chairperson, Dr. Ivan Fellegi, welcomed the participating focal points. He noted the presence of two new statistical focal points: Ms. Kathy Wyrwas of New Brunswick, and Mr. Paul Harris of the Yukon. With regard to the Statistics Canada (STC) representatives, Dr. Fellegi mentioned the retirement of two Assistant Chief Statisticians, Mr. Stewart Wells and Mr. Yvon Goulet.

2. Achievements and priorities

Dr. Fellegi stated that no significant changes had occurred since the last special edition of *@StatCan* (formerly "Scan Special Issue") was published. At the time that the newsletter was published, there was concern about the threat of foot and mouth disease to rural enumerators for the Census. STC had prepared a contingency plan, and fortunately there were no incidents. Dr. Fellegi then invited questions.

Questions

Q1: The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan requested details concerning the collection of 2001 Census data electronically.

Dr. Fellegi explained that an experiment was being conducted in Crowfoot, Alberta, and in London, Ontario. STC was offering respondents in these municipalities the opportunity to complete their questionnaires electronically. In other parts of Canada, using the Internet was an option if requested, as long as the person had a questionnaire in hand with the reference number to avoid duplication.

For logistical reasons, STC did not encourage Canadians to complete their questionnaires by electronic means in 2001. When the possibility was considered three years earlier, the Agency did not believe that so many people would be willing to transmit personal information over the Internet.

The technology used at STC has been developing over time. Since STC could not ask respondents to buy \$20 data transmission software to submit their Census questionnaires, the Agency had to offer the software for downloading from the Web, which takes more time. Dr. Fellegi offered to include focal points in the live test in which STC staff are participating.

Q2: The statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island asked whether there had been any progress on the 1911 Census issue since last year. He wondered whether it was true that no legislation has been in place for that Census.

Dr. Fellegi explained that a 1906 Order-in-Council had made Census responses confidential under the law. A number of legal arguments questioned the duration of confidentiality. STC had received legal opinions stating that the obligation remained in place regardless of the number of years. There were now doubts on this point.

Nevertheless, during data collection in 1906 and 1911, interviewers were required to tell respondents that the information was confidential. That changed with the *Statistics Act* of

1918, which affected the 1921 Census and all subsequent Censuses. The legislation stated clearly that the data were confidential without a time limit.

The *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* approach the problem from two different directions: on one hand, the right of genealogists, historians and others to access the information, and on the other, respect for privacy and the right to confidentiality, as promised. The full review is still underway.

Q3: *The statistical focal point for Manitoba requested an update on the work of the task force attempting to set up an **environmental database**, and its relationship, if any, to the National Roundtable's work on indicators.*

Dr. Fellegi stated that the work is proceeding on track.

First, the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, established some time ago, has held consultations with environmental and economic stakeholders. Mr. Paul Martin had asked them to develop a set of measurable indicators of sustainable development to assess damage to the environment versus economic development, and to establish indicators for longer-term sustainability. Dr. Fellegi offered to provide copies of documents on the conceptual framework for indicators based on the existing data on various environmental domains – water, air, renewable resources, non-renewable resources, and so on.

Second, Environment Canada had also established the Task Force on the Canadian Information System for the Environment (CISE), which was studying the question of the environment from a health perspective. Dr. Fellegi is among the 20 or so members of the Task Force which had just submitted an interim report, which was currently under review.

Q4: *The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories asked whether **response burden** was becoming more of a problem for business surveys, as a result of the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES).*

Mr. George Andrusiak explained that the response burden has not changed much, but companies are more difficult to contact now, largely because of the increasing use of voice mail and caller ID.

A review of all business questionnaires at STC has resulted in numerous changes to the design and content. Changes are being made to reduce the burden on smaller businesses and increase the use of tax data and sample rotation.

Q5: *The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia wondered whether there was a problem with **household survey response burden**.*

Mr. Michael Wolfson confirmed that a slight decline in response rates has begun to be noticed in the last 18 months. More needed to be done now to convince people that a survey was necessary. While there is no cause for alarm, the Agency certainly has to remain vigilant.

Q6: *The statistical focal point for Quebec asked the other focal points about their experiences in campaigns to raise **awareness of the Census**.*

Dr. Fellegi noted that it was too early for an overview of the results of campaigns but from a subjective point of view, the Census was going well. Mr. Yvon Fortin expressed his appreciation for the support given by his province in promoting the Census.

Q7: *The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia wanted to know how STC sees the role of the offices of statistical focal points in the establishment of Research Data Centres.*

Dr. Fellegi explained that the main reason for establishing such centres was the introduction of longitudinal surveys, which make it more difficult to produce Public Use Microdata Files. It was deemed important to find a way to give researchers access to the complete, confidential microdata records. The Research Data Centres (RDCs) enable researchers to run regressions and sophisticated data analysis using microdata in a secure environment, subject to STC policies and procedures. Researchers have to meet the peer-review requirements of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. As for the role that the statistical focal points can play, it comes down to anything that is permitted by these rules.

Dr. Fellegi described the difference between the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) and the RDCs. The DLI is a consortium program that provides researchers in universities with access to non-confidential data through their respective libraries. It operates under the same rules as all other STC dissemination programs. The costs incurred are defrayed by the community of DLI members through annual financial contributions.

Q8: *The statistical focal point for British Columbia asked if the focal points will be able to find out what proposals have been approved for **Research Data Centres**?*

Dr. Fellegi assured the Council that this information will definitely be in the public domain although the precise mechanism has not yet been determined.

Q9: *The statistical focal point for British Columbia wanted more details on the proposed **Economic Research Institute**, especially on the stakeholders, funding and rationale.*

Dr. Fellegi stated that there was no outside influence behind the establishment of such an institute, though some interest had been expressed. The issue of confidentiality is different in the case of data on businesses. It is easier to determine who is who by looking at the distribution. There is an economic value attached to business data, unlike social data. Additional safeguards are required.

Q10: *Returning to the role of focal points in Research Data Centres, the statistical focal point for Newfoundland asked how STC envisioned the role of a provincial statistical agency if the latter were to join forces with a university in an initiative to develop a Research Data Centre.*

Dr. Fellegi pointed out that the establishment of Research Data Centres was a recent initiative, and that in fact, only one centre had been opened to date. Having the centres established at universities reinforces the research aspect. At present, the Chief Statistician would be reluctant to establish such a centre outside a university or an STC

office because of the inevitability of debate that the research would generate. For the first four years of the program, funding for the six universities selected is being provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Human Resources Development Canada decided to fund three other universities where researchers are working on projects of particular interest to STC. Finally, if the Newfoundland government or its statistical agency wants to fund such a centre at a university, STC would be prepared to give its consent, but if the centre is to be located outside the walls of a university, it will take a few years to explore the feasibility of such a project.

Q11: *The focal point for Ontario asked whether the Government On-Line (GOL) initiative would have repercussions for STC's **cost-recovery policy**.*

Dr. Fellegi indicated that if the data were made available free of charge over the Internet, compensation of about \$11 million would be needed to offset the lost of revenue. A proposal to this effect was rejected in the review process. The cost-recovery policy therefore remains unchanged by GOL.

3. Provincial and territorial reports

The statistical focal points presented the activity reports for their province or territory. The reports are reproduced in Appendix B.

The focal point for Quebec agreed to provide other focal points with the Quebec business plan if not available on the Institute's Internet site¹.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories would like to see some mechanisms for cooperation between STC and the provincial statistical agencies to make a few surveys more concrete and representative of the reality in the regions. The focal point for Quebec mentioned the investment statistics and national accounts as good examples.

4. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program (Mike Sheridan)

Policy Research Initiative (PRI)²

A number of projects submitted to Cabinet for funding includes a statistics-based evaluation framework. An allotment of \$20 million was included in STC's base budget for the current fiscal year, and possibly for the next five years. The Agency will reassess, on a case-by-case basis, the projects for which this funding was provided in order to determine whether they have met their commitments, contributed to policy research in the strict sense, and actually advanced the cause of the four major criteria set by the policy data research group: economic growth, human resource development, globalization and the knowledge-based society.

¹ The Quebec business plan is available in French only at http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/organisa/plan_aff.pdf

² The purpose of the PRI is to help build a stronger knowledge base on the complex issues facing Canada in the future. To do this the PRI pursues three objectives: 1) to advance knowledge; 2) to build policy research capacity; and 3) to strengthen a culture of partnership in the policy research community across Canada.

About 85% of the projects identified as statistical gaps had been prepared and submitted to the Continuing Committee of Deputy Ministers by the Chief Statistician. There were some major success stories among our products, and the most significant change was certainly the return of the General Social Survey to an annual cycle. As part of the Policy Research Initiative, STC released Cycle 13 of the survey, which deals with criminal victimization, and then Cycle 14, on Internet use and the dividing line between users and non-users. Cycle 15 will cover the family, and Cycle 16, population ageing.

Funding of \$20 million was also approved to sustain the ongoing work, that is, A-base research. For example, the Environmental Statistics Program – like a number of surveys on e-commerce, education, and employers and employees – is largely dependent on the Policy Research Initiative.

In the near future, the funding rules for policy research will have to be clarified. There are currently three key players: STC, the Privy Council Office, and the Finance Department. They are funding groups for which accounts must be rendered and transparency must be demonstrated. The process remains nonetheless interesting because it responds to needs that are tabled at some point with multi-year funding.

Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI)

The VSI's basic objectives, as identified in the last Throne Speech and the Red Book, are primarily to model and develop new ties to the voluntary sector, to strengthen the sector's capacity and to improve their regulatory framework. A group of nine deputy ministers, led by Minister Robillard, and supported by their provincial counterparts, are addressing the initiative within the government and Cabinet.

The VSI received funding of \$94.6 million over the next five years, the majority of which will be devoted to 26 concerns. Another part of the funding, about \$18 million, will be spent on the research agenda, especially capacity development, research and information on what the sector does and how it does it.

STC will be involved in this initiative in various ways. Through a contribution of \$6.5 million over the next five years, the Agency will undertake the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, and create a satellite account to assist in understanding the scope of the voluntary sector. In response to a question by the focal point for Saskatchewan, it was explained that the funding covers data dissemination at the provincial level.

Finally, there are a number of concerns about regulatory reform, notably with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, which is looking at improvements, such as shortening income tax forms for charitable donations and preparing guidelines on what types of businesses charities can legally undertake. The Department of Justice is exploring the question of directors' legal liability and risk management

2006 Census

Certain privacy issues that emerged in the 1980s are still with us today. The Privacy Commissioner is concerned about the Census collection method, especially the fact that Census representatives take home Census forms completed by residents of their

neighbourhood and thus have access to personal information. Changes will have to be made in that practice.

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency has been an excellent partner in data entry, from the standpoint of both confidentiality and the business case. However, with the advent of electronic income tax forms, the CCRA's capacity to handle the keying of the Census data is declining to the point where it could cause problems for the 2006 Census. The Government On-Line initiative and Canadians' expectations will fundamentally alter the Agency's relationship with the public between now and 2006.

The problem of recruiting a decentralized workforce in a land mass of 96 million square kilometres for a population of 31 million is also on the table. Despite having one of the best cost per dwelling censuses of any national statistical organization in the world, the rates paid to enumerators have not kept pace with the growing complexities of the work. The timeliness of data dissemination has always been a central concern of the Census. There is considerable room for improvement in this area, and the challenge for the 2006 Census is to be able to publish data in the year in which they were collected. To do so, there are a number of milestones:

- systems for the Census will have to be developed and tested by 2003
- major dress rehearsal in 2004
- refinement to Census in 2006

In addition, the 2006 plans include:

- development of an address register, begun in 2001
- resolution of privacy issues
- development of an optical scan version of the forms
- centralized capture, edit and telephone follow-up
- 25%-30% target for internet filing (tentatively)
- possible integration of the Census of Population with agriculture

Mr. Sheridan concluded by saying that STC has some serious challenges that will shape the social institutional statistics field in years to come. The statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island asked if there was a planning document that focal points could use to comment on the Census 2006 developments. Mr. Sheridan agreed to provide copies of the business plan to focal points.

2001 Census

After noting that the 2001 Census was underway, Mr. Sheridan acknowledged the support of the provinces and territories and invited questions.

The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia commented positively on the fact that an undercoverage study had been conducted and the statistical focal points had been involved at one point. He hoped that the experiment would be repeated, but a little earlier in the process so that better support could be provided.

The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan asked if there would be funding from the Voluntary Sector Initiative for provincial dissemination of the data. Mr. Sheridan replied that funding of information has been taken into account in both the survey and satellite account projects.

The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan asked if STC could predict the number of refusals to complete the 2001 Census by Indian Reserves. Mr. Sheridan replied that it was too early to know. Nevertheless, STC has worked very closely with the Assembly of First Nations, the national Métis organizations and off-reserve groups to obtain all the necessary support. A number of agreements had been signed with First Nations people specifically on this issue. Discussions had been held with Mr. Matthew Coon Come and a number of the Assembly of First Nations chiefs. At the same time of the preliminary contacts on the proposal to establish a First Nations statistical institute, STC also had many exchanges with the First Nations. An early enumeration conducted in Burnt Church, N.B. went well, which can be seen as a vote of confidence for the Census.

Redesign of the Labour Force Survey

Following numerous consultations, a paper is currently in preparation. At the next meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Labour Statistics, there may be discussions on the redesign of the survey.

Questions

Q1: The statistical focal point for British Columbia requested an update on the proposed transition of the Small Area and Administrative Data Program to a subsidized program.

Mr. Sheridan stated that a proposal for funding access to small area data has been submitted to the Government On-Line initiative. It is necessary to await the response.

Q2: The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories requested an update on the third postcensal survey, on ethnic diversity.

Mr. Sheridan explained that the idea of developing such a survey emerged from the inclusion of the ethnic origin question. An advisory group has been set up and a first draft of the questionnaire has been developed with a proposal for five or six modules covering community commitment, the importance of origins, social support for cultural or ethnic groups, contact with roots outside of Canada, etc. More information might be available for discussion at the Committee on Social Statistics meeting in June.

Q3: The statistical focal point for Alberta requested more details on the First Nations Statistical Institute.

Mr. Doug Norris stated that discussions were in progress on the establishment of such an institute, but its exact nature and functions had not yet been determined. The idea was to have a point of contact with the First Nations, which would provide better survey coverage and more accurate data. The institute would also play an important role in disseminating data in those communities.

Dr. Fellegi added that to go forward, STC would consider two major principles: first, all information collected by the new institute would have to be in the public domain, and second, the First Nations would have to recognize STC's mandate to collect the national survey data. Operationally, since the institute would be a not-for-profit organization, the board of directors would be composed of directors and the Chief Statistician. The institute would be established under federal legislation.

The statistical focal point for Quebec asked that provincial governments and statistical agencies be involved as early as possible in the process.

***Q4:** The statistical focal point for Manitoba expressed concern about the proliferation of **statistical institutes** in various areas (labour market, education, justice, health) and the potential loss of access to data as a result of partnership agreements. He cited STC's decision concerning access to **Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)** data as an example.*

Dr. Fellegi pointed out that all of the institutes except the First Nations institute are divisions within STC. The name change reflects STC's response to pressure for more input from various jurisdictions. The level of involvement of the provinces is up to them, and STC is committed to working with all stakeholders by the rules.

Dr. Fellegi explained that the decision to give the CCHS data to the health departments rather than statistical focal points, was taken in order to keep the sign-off list as short as possible to respect privacy concerns. However, if provincial governments wish to name focal points instead, that is their decision. Mr. Sheridan said that a full discussion on the CCHS is planned for the Committee on Social Statistics.

Dr. Fellegi agreed to provide the statistical focal point for Saskatchewan with an explanation of the decision to grant his province's Health Ministry access to health data.

5. National Accounts and Analytical Studies (Karen Wilson)

On May 31, National Accounts planned to adopt the Fisher Chain Volume Index as the measure of gross domestic product (replacing the Laspeyres Index).

The new index should provide a better measure on a provincial basis and in cases where there are changes in price relatives, because it updates the weights used more frequently. That is very important for provinces whose output vector depends more heavily on specific commodities. The index will also provide a better ranking of provincial growth rates. The index is not additive, but it is possible to make additive growth rate versions by combining contribution tables with changes that are additive. It is also possible, with the Fisher formula, to obtain additive growth rates. The formula will be sent to the focal points with an explanation.

For the moment, the conversion schedules are as follows: national estimates since 1981 will be released on May 31, 2001, with the Fisher Chain Volume Index, and estimates for 1961 through 1981 will be released over the next year. In the fall, the base year for the provincial economic accounts will be changed from 1992 to 1997. The old Laspeyres measure rebased to 1997 will be available as long as people need it for the transition and to understand the new measure. The provincial accounts will be converted to the Fisher chain volume measure the following autumn, that is, in 2002. In May 2001, the concept of basic prices will replace that of factor cost in the national income and expenditure accounts estimates. This change will be made in the fall of 2001 for the provincial income and expenditure accounts and the estimates of gross domestic product by industry.

The statistical focal point for Ontario expressed concern that the national component was switching to the Fisher index one year earlier than the provincial component and wondered if that would create inconsistency in the data. Ms. Karen Wilson reassured Mr. Emmet Weatherhead on that point and explained that the main advantage of the Fisher index was that it eliminated the need for revisions because the weighting base was updated automatically. The problem with the provincial accounts and the Fisher index has to do with inventories. It becomes a little more difficult because it is necessary to work from inventories to flows, whereas at the provincial level, the Division has always worked with flows and the separation of flows.

On the issue of inventories, the statistical focal point for Saskatchewan stated that it was a real problem with farmers in his province because there was a huge variation in inventories. He noted, however, that the province would be able to supply the inventories information on a quarterly basis to help solve the problem. Mr. McMahon also wanted National Accounts to give the focal points a little time to examine the data before they were released.

A note concerning this change was to be published in the May 4, 2001, edition of *The Daily*. There is also a Web site on the issue. There will be further information and discussions on the Fisher Chain Volume Index at the November 2001 meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Provincial Economic Accounts. In addition, seminars will be presented in the regions.

The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories requested an update on the status of the employee vector for the provincial input-output tables. Mr. Kishori Lal explained that the vectors had been scheduled for publication in December, but the release had to be postponed. The vectors will be available about a month after the national data are released. This will be discussed at greater length with the statistical focal points.

6. Business and Trade Statistics (George Andrusiak and Philip Smith)

Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES)

The PIPES project is now essentially completed and the program changes it introduced have now been incorporated into the core structure of STC. New surveys have been introduced and existing ones have been upgraded. However, the production time for annual surveys, needs to be improved to meet the target of releasing the data fewer than 15 months after the reference year. Provinces and territories are very interested in access to tax data, and Mr. Richard Barnabé has kept them informed on a regular basis. The Income Tax Amendments Act, 2000 received second reading on April 23 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. If everything goes well, it should be passed sometime between July and September. Readers who require more information on this issue should visit the Bill C-22 Web site (http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/1/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-22/C-22_1/90144b1-47E.html).

Analytical capacity and production

Mr. Philip Smith explained that STC is currently putting a great deal of effort into increasing analytical capacity and production in the business and trade area. There is a

wealth of new business data now available as a result of PIPES and other recent initiatives, including greatly expanded tax data bases, and STC needs to focus more effort on extracting the important information content from these data.

The initial emphasis will be on our in-house capacity, and to develop it, the Field has formed teams to study globalization and rural Canada. The leader of the globalization team, Mr. Yvan Gervais, is currently preparing a framework document which will be available shortly. Among the themes to be covered will be structure, markets and trade. As for rural Canada, a conference was held on the subject last fall in Alfred, Ontario. More than 25 research papers were presented, and a compendium will be published this fall.

There have been major technological advances in the realm of information management in recent years and it is clear that much more can be done now with microdata. RDCs at universities across the country will also give many university researchers an opportunity to work with household microdata. In addition, the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) has greatly assisted academics in accessing new non-confidential data sources.

The Agency would like to do more to facilitate analysis based on business microdata. It had therefore explored the idea of establishing a microeconomic RDC in Ottawa, to provide access to qualified researchers at STC headquarters, potentially working as 'deemed employees'. It must be recognized that the issues involved in establishing such a centre would be different from those involved in a household data centre. For example, concerned businesses might be inclined to stop responding to STC surveys. Large enterprises in particular are continually providing information – they are always in the samples – and STC cannot afford to put at serious risk the cooperative relationships that have been established with them. After careful consideration, the Agency decided not to proceed at this time with the proposed microeconomic RDC.

Nevertheless, STC is still seeking ways to increase collaborate with external researchers. For the moment, the Agency is concentrating on building stronger research cooperation with other federal government departments, but it would be useful to extend the partnership to include provincial ministries and agencies as well.

Under the provisions of the *Statistics Act*, the Agency can request the assistance of researchers who are not regular employees if they are sworn in as STC 'deemed employees'. When a researcher is interested in conducting a study that he or she believes would fall within STC's mandate, a formal proposal is drawn up and reviewed. If it passes the review, an agreement is signed between the parties. The researcher conducts the study under STC supervision and is required to produce a research paper for publication by STC. The paper must avoid policy advocacy just like any other SC paper. He or she may also produce a second report for publication externally, based on the same research results, and this report could include policy advocacy as long as it is not attributed to STC.

Mr. Smith concluded by stating that the issue of funding such research collaborations has to be worked out on a case-by-case basis. STC cannot cover all the costs for researchers, office space, computers, technical support, activity management and database development. However, depending on the particulars of the research project, its role within Statistics Canada's program and other factors, the costs of some projects are shared.

In response to a question by the statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island, Dr. Fellegi said that special arrangements might be made with the provinces to allow certain studies to be conducted remotely under certain conditions, provided the researcher came to Ottawa first to familiarize himself or herself with the database, which is often very complex.

Response burden

Mr. George Andrusiak stated that the Business and Trade Statistics Field is making progress in reducing the response burden. In terms of coverage, a comprehensive review of all business surveys has led to the replacement of some surveys with tax data. With regard to content, the work done makes it possible to shorten and simplify questionnaires.

In that connection, STC had hired a consultant, who made about a dozen recommendations. In particular, he suggested developing closer ties with major companies in addition to the existing Key Provider Manager Program. The consultant suggested that these closer contacts be at the level of senior managers of STC with senior levels in the businesses.

Another suggestion was to mail out questionnaires at the end of the fiscal year, when businesses close their books and have the information at hand.

Confidentiality

Enterprise Statistics Division Director George Beelen had prepared a brief memorandum regarding the confidentiality concerns raised at the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics; the memo had been distributed for comment. Mr. Andrusiak added that Assistant Chief Statistician Ray Ryan had raised the possibility of arranging a meeting to focus exclusively on that issue.

The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories pointed out that data suppression and confidentiality were causing some difficulty, especially with interprovincial trade data from National Accounts. Mr. Stewart proposed that a session be held to explain the criteria applied by the divisions. The suggestion was accepted with the date and length of the session to be determined later.

Capital investment

George Andrusiak stated that certain initiatives were underway concerning the problems experienced in publishing capital investment data for large new ventures. Investment and Capital Stock Division is discussing possible approaches with the statistical focal points.

Global warming and climate change

In response to the Kyoto Protocol on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, over the last two years a great deal of effort had been put into improving the data needed to measure energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The Energy Section had received financial support from the Climate Change Action Fund.

In Action Plan 2000's most recent budget, the federal government announced that \$500 million had been earmarked over the next five years for programs to reduce gas emissions. A small part of that money will be used to improve industry energy use data and energy supply/disposition balance sheets at the national level. It is now recognized that national data are insufficient and that data for the provincial level are needed.

Mr. Wilf Falk, a member of the Analysis and Modelling Working Group, gave a brief update on activities in that area. The Group, composed of federal, provincial and territorial government representatives, was asked to assess the economic and environmental repercussions for Canada if it complied with its Kyoto Protocol commitments. After submitting its report in November 2000, the Group was asked to focus on the policy and analysis issues raised by the potential ratification of the agreement in the next 15 months. They formed seven or eight teams to study various issues, including the trading of emission reductions and the division of effort among the provinces and territories.

Very early in the process, the Group identified problems and gaps in the availability of data at the national level. They reviewed the entire question of capacity creation and highlighted two important aspects: analytical capacity and academic community involvement in the process. The Group also assessed the impact of climate change policy on the mainsprings of provincial and territorial economies.

7. Communications and Operations (Yvon Goulet)

CANSIM II

CANSIM II has been available to the public since April, but strictly on a pay-per-time-series basis, just like CANSIM I. STC is currently considering the access methods and a fee scale more in line with the functionality of the service. A Dissemination Division representative recently contacted the statistical focal points to assess their use of CANSIM II. STC is considering offering unlimited access to the database for a flat fee in the future.

The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories expressed concern about the transition from CANSIM I to CANSIM II and the fact that he might not know which one to query for his data. Martin Podehl stated that the transition was taking place as divisions identified the required resources, and that some divisions could not afford to populate two databases. The statistical focal points were asked to let Dissemination Division know whether they wanted to be informed of the transition dates for specific divisions.

Internet

The STC Web site receives up to 15,000 visits a day, and the number is growing by about 40% a year. Surveys indicate that only about 10% of the visitors are dissatisfied with the site, and in the majority of cases, the source of their dissatisfaction seems to be their failure to find the information they want. Changes were made in the site in an effort to increase the visitor satisfaction rate. For example, links to other government sites were added and the search engine was improved.

Government On-Line

As part of the Government On-Line initiative, STC presented four projects for the second round of negotiations:

- a) development of a portal on the economy
- b) creation of a database that would cover 5,000 communities and provide regional data
- c) transition of our data collection activity to the Internet
- d) establishment of a cooperative effort between jurisdictions to assemble health, justice and education statistics.

8. Indicators and performance measures – role and participation of statistical organizations (Don McRae and Wilf Falk)

The focal point for British Columbia briefly explained the difference between an indicator (which measures whether something is good or bad) and a performance measure (a group of indicators with one target). In British Columbia, there are nearly 70 variables and 80 subprovincial regions, which produced a matrix of almost 5,600 pieces of information. The difficulty is combining and packaging them all together, since many variables are measured with different units. The weighting must also be unbiased, and since a number of indicators overlap, the colinearity factor is also present. In addition, social indicators take time to change, and the causes and effects of this problem are difficult to determine.

The statistical focal point for Manitoba then described his province's experience with the introduction of a number of social indicators and the development of a prototype method of presenting the data. The province's statistical agency has conducted a few studies on progress indicators, and the Manitoba Roundtable is still working on sustainable development indicators. In addition, in the recent Speech from the Throne, the government announced the creation of another set of progress indicators.

The same problems were identified in similar ways in the two provinces. First, there is a lack of coordination in the indicator projects, including the federal-provincial-territorial initiatives. There also seems to be an urgency to develop indicators, but without first defining the framework or context, how they will be updated, and so on. The involvement of statistical agencies seems rather haphazard and there is a tendency to use existing data rather than produce the data that are really needed. Lastly, the statistical agencies are being contacted much too late and asked to solve methodological and other problems that should have been discussed earlier.

Dr. Fellegi summarized the problems raised by the statistical focal point for Manitoba: infrastructure or framework. If the latter is well defined, the other problems are unlikely to arise. On one hand, it is necessary to properly define what is to be measured, the expected results and the levers that can affect them. Ordinarily, governments have little influence over the results. Yet they can influence the levers if they choose them very carefully. The question is what force the lever will exert, and that is where Dr. Fellegi sees the importance of the framework and of understanding the processes that connect the lever to the results, which in turn connect the political influences to the results.

STC certainly wants to have a voice at the table, but not just any voice. Dr. Fellegi said that he was comfortable with the idea of passing judgement on statistical significance and on the identification of significant relationships, but the national agency should not meddle in the relative importance of substantive matters, which must be determined by governments. It is a political judgement in the sense that it expresses a territory's need at a particular time, and that is not the job of any statistical agency. Finding the right weight is inappropriate. Using equivalent weights is not the solution, either. There is nothing neutral about equivalent weights. People think that when you build equivalent indexes, you have not made a judgement, but that is false. You have to judge whether (a) is as important as (b) and also as important as (c).

Dr. Fellegi concluded by expressing a willingness to be involved in those processes, to educate people in some way in favour of an evaluation methodology. STC can help define a framework within which others can make wise choices, but it cannot make those choices. Once the choices have been made, STC can also play the role of monitoring the data that are to be evaluated.

9. Electronic data management systems – new systems under development (Bill Hyshka and Emmet Weatherhead)

The statistical focal points for Alberta and Ontario described the origin and development of their respective systems, the reasons for the choices they made, and the problems they encountered.

In Alberta, the adventure began in 1978 with the introduction of the ASIST database, which subsequently evolved into a server microcomputer. According to estimates, about \$7 million in development went into it over nearly 20 years. Of course, bringing in such a system today would cost only a fraction of that amount. The agency's reason for building the tool was to simplify the work of distributing data to users, that is, to fill the 9,000 orders each year, which represented about 100,000 pieces of information.

Among the problems encountered during development were the following: user needs range from user-friendly systems to sophisticated research aids; decisions must be made about who will have access, since capacity is limited; and the system itself must continue to provide a means of extracting time series.

The statistical focal point for Ontario stated that the situation in his province was completely different. All system users were in the division, which was composed of about 20 people. While there were no plans to serve the whole government at this time, the tool had been designed for such an eventuality. The statistical service had spent six months looking for a software package for time-series data, and the FAME system was

selected for various reasons, including the following: it seemed to provide maximum flexibility; it had proven itself; it had a number of characteristics unavailable in other systems; and maintenance and upgrades were included in the initial contract. Consequently, the province bought a five-year licence for 20 users, with the option of expanding to 80 users.

10. Electronic publications and Depository Services Program – the challenge of keeping statistical libraries current as publications change from print to electronic (Ron McMahon and STC)

The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan described a problem experienced by all statistical offices that serve as depository libraries. STC's print publications are sent to the statistical offices. With the introduction of electronic publications, they could simply print publications from the Internet when there was a request for them. But some electronic publications are also being distributed in print form, and printing them off the Internet becomes a waste of time and money.

Mr. McMahon had two requests. First, he wanted a list of electronic publications that would not be issued in print form. Second, he wanted a guarantee that the electronic versions would remain on the Web site in the future, say for the next 10 or 15 years.

The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia pointed out that it was just as important to know whether the electronic publication was an improved version of the print publication. In response, Dr. Fellegi stated that the publishing process was constantly evolving, and that supplying a list of what was available only in electronic form was one thing, but having to state whether the version was improved or not remained a very difficult distinction to make.

The statistical focal point for Alberta wanted a site where information could easily be obtained about the titles available in specific versions. Mr. Martin Podehl replied that the STC site should be the official site for publications, how to obtain them, how much they cost, whether they could be downloaded, and so on.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories asked how other libraries, the large ones, are dealing with the advent of electronic publishing. Martin Podehl explained that apart from a few isolated complaints, libraries support the idea because they no longer have to shelve large numbers of publications needlessly. STC has developed a site for depository libraries where they can check what has been shipped to them and what is available. As a result, orders are made directly over the Internet now, and it is working very well.

11. Other business

Mr. Fortin noted that there was an outstanding question concerning non-routine contact reports. He stressed that if those reports required a great deal of work, he did not see the need to continue with them. However, STC branches should be made aware that they have to notify the statistical agencies when there are major consultation initiatives.

Following discussion, it was decided that the official reports would no longer be compiled, but that reminders would be sent to Assistant Chief Statisticians and Directors. The focal points were asked to contact Martin Podehl if they felt that their office should have been notified of a contact but was not.

12. Nominations to the Program Committee (David Stewart)

The proposed Members are Ron McMahon (Saskatchewan), Chair; Yvon Fortin (Quebec), Member; John Palmer (Prince Edward Island), Member; Jack Hicks (Nunavut), Member; Martin Podehl (STC), Ex Officio Member.

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	Kathy Wyrwas	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 Finance, Statistics
British Columbia	Don McRae	Director BC STATS Ministry of Management Services
Northwest Territories	David Stewart	Territorial Statistician Bureau of Statistics

Yukon	Paul Harris	Acting Director Yukon Bureau of Statistics Executive Council Office
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Nunavut	Jack Hicks	Director Evaluation and Statistics Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit
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PARTICIPANTS

Statistics Canada	Jacques Morin	Departmental Secretary Chief Statistician of Canada
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Statistics Canada	Philip Smith	Assistant Chief Statistician National Account and Analytical Studies Field
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Statistics Canada	Albert Meguerditchian	Senior Advisor Business and Trade Statistics
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Statistics Canada	Mike Sheridan	Assistant Chief Statistician Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field
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Statistics Canada	Gary Catlin	Director Health Statistics Division
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Statistics Canada	Yvon Goulet	Assistant Chief Statistician Communications and Operations
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Statistics Canada	Michael Wolfson	Assistant Chief Statistician Analysis and Development Field
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Statistics Canada	Marlene Levine	Assistant Chief Statistician Management Services Field
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Statistics Canada	Karen Wilson	Director General System of National Accounts Branch
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Statistics Canada	Laurie Hill	Field Marketing Coordinator Business and Trade Statistics Field
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Statistics Canada	Kishori Lal	Associate Assistant Chief Statistician National Account and Analytical Studies Field
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Statistics Canada	Douglas Norris	Director General Census and Demographic Statistics Branch
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Statistics Canada	Sange de Silva	Director General Labour and Household Survey Branch
Statistics Canada	Louis Rouillard	Senior Officer International and Professional Relations Division
Statistics Canada	Réjean Lachapelle	Director Demography Division
Statistics Canada	Gordon Deecker	Director Geography Division
Statistics Canada	Jean Murray	Director Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Elizabeth Katz	Manager Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Andrée Hébert	Head Federal-Provincial-Territorial Relations Secretariat Communications Division

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA

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

May 3 and 4, 2001
Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2001

- 9:00 a.m. **Opening remarks**—Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Adoption of the agenda
 - Approval of the minutes of the 2000 meeting
- 9:15 a.m. **Achievements and priorities**—Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Dr. Fellegi will respond to questions arising from the contents of the 2001 @StatCan Special Issue
- 9:45 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
- 11:15 a.m. **Program Committee report**—David Stewart
- Follow-up items from 2000 meeting—Martin Podehl
- 11:30 a.m. **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics**—Mike Sheridan
- Cost of Small Area and Administrative Data and update on examination of program in long-term planning process
 - Census update, including enumeration of Aboriginal populations, the early enumeration program, and census outputs for focal points
 - Post-censal survey updates, consultation approach regarding content, sample sizes, etc.
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics (continued)**—Mike Sheridan
- Update on creating a Centre for Labour Market Statistics
 - Stability of preliminary population estimates (interprovincial migration) and implications of revisions
 - Status of access to historical census records
 - Updates on Market Basket Measure and the status of low-income cut-offs methodology developments
 - Canadian Community Health Survey status report
 - Update on Survey of Financial Security
 - Update on Longitudinal Study of Immigrants

- 2:00 p.m. **Business and Trade Statistics**— George Andrusiak and Philip Smith
- Census of Agriculture
 - Confidentiality policy and the suppression of provincial/territorial totals (e.g., recent interprovincial trade data)
 - Progress on access to micro-level tax data following the expected changes to Section 241 of the *Income Tax Act* (including process to access certain Unified Enterprise surveys)
 - Consequence of the U.S. decision to pull out of the Kyoto Agreement
 - Update on STC's plan to increase emphasis on analysis of business and economic statistics
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. **National Accounts and Analytical Studies**—Kishori Lal
- Status of the Environmental Accounts program
 - Update on switch to the chain Fisher index method at the national level and scheduling for conversion of provincial accounts; also, provincial/territorial access to work ahead of time
 - Process for annual release; access to background data on or prior to day of release of provincial economic accounts
- 4:00 p.m. **Communications and Operations**—Yvon Goulet
- Update on CANSIM II, including focal point access and pricing study
 - Update on policy on free distribution to focal points of data necessary to undertake collaborative work with Statistics Canada
 - Discussion on access to data collected by Statistics Canada under Section 11 and 12 agreements (*letter sent to focal points on June 28, 2000*)
 - Non-routine contact reports—Martin Podehl
- 4:45 p.m. Reception

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2001

Discussions:

- 9:00 a.m. **Indicators and performance measures**—role and participation of statistical organizations (British Columbia and Manitoba)
- 9:30 a.m. **Electronic data management systems**—new systems under development (Ontario and Alberta)
- 10:00 a.m. **Electronic publications and the Depository Services Program**—the challenge of keeping statistical libraries current as publications change from print to electronic (Saskatchewan and Statistics Canada)
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **Nominations to the Program Committee**—David Stewart
- 11:00 a.m. **Other business**

Concluding remarks

APPENDIX 3
PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

ALBERTA

2000–01 review

Over the past year Statistics has continued to maintain its operations within the Alberta government, functioning as a central statistical agency for the province within the newly created Finance Ministry. During the 2000–01 operating period, Statistics continued to report to the Treasury department through the Office of Budget and Management. Changes in March 2001 saw Treasury divided into two separate ministries, Finance and Revenue.

As with last year, the move towards an increased role in primary data gathering has continued, serving both public and private sector interests. The general focus of core statistical activities has again remained relatively stable over the past year, continuing the trend toward a greater emphasis on maintaining statistical standards for the production and reporting of provincial government data.

Administration and budget

During the 2000–01 fiscal period, Statistics increased its core staff to seven permanent members, supplemented by four to six additional contract personnel to undertake special projects. Budgetary expenditures for Statistics increased slightly over the past year as a result of additional resources being allocated to core service areas. Cost recovery revenues of approximately \$250,000 provided the basis for undertaking various non-core social and economic projects.

Goals and objectives

Statistics continues to operate under a general guiding principle of providing a co-ordinated and standardized approach to the development, production and reporting of statistical information within the Alberta Government.

This objective continues to be strengthened by the increased use of Statistics' advisory and consultative services, and by movement towards co-ordinating government survey activities through the Agency. Although Statistics has no direct authority to require the implementation of specific statistical methodologies, the consultative services available to all government departments have provided the impetus towards achieving this objective.

Programs and services

Core services

Basic core services offered by Statistics remain unchanged from the previous year, with the following services provided on behalf of the Alberta Government:

- 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/consultation program

Statistical Information System

ASIST (Alberta **S**tatistical **I**nformation **S**ys**T**em) continues to be the Alberta Government's centralized online database, providing government users access to a wide variety of social and economic information. The ASIST system is made available to users on a pay-per-use basis to meet the demands of both internal and external clients for cost-effective, timely data.

In order to meet the growing demand for an easily accessible, modern information retrieval system, Statistics, in conjunction with its information technology partner, CIMS, has embarked on the final stages of the ASIST three-year redevelopment program.

As of spring 2001, ASIST is moving to an Internet-based technology, which should be completed by June 2001. This final stage will enable users to have seamless connectivity through both an Internet and an Intranet solution. In addition to the new platform, it is anticipated that a program to develop enhanced data extraction and manipulation tools will follow in a subsequent stage over the next 6 to 12 months.

Electronic dissemination and publications

The production and distribution of paper copy products has remained stable during 2000–01, after a slight increase from the previous year. Approximately 1,000 publications and 2,500 brochures were distributed during the fiscal period. To meet the challenge of cost-effective management for its paper operations, Statistics continued to streamline its publication management through increased contracting for design, printing, marketing and distribution functions.

Through the departmental Web site, a limited number of high-volume products were made available to the general public with great success. Statistics remains committed to increasing the availability of publications and information through an electronic media solution.

During 2000–01 the following publications were available from Statistics and its secondary distributors:

- Alberta Economic Multipliers
- Alberta Municipal Census Training Manual, 2001
- Alberta Export Services Survey, 2000
- Alberta Economic Accounts, 1999
- Alberta Facts And Figures, 2000
- Alberta Population Projections, 1999–2016
- Alberta Provincial Electoral Division Profiles
- Alberta Advantage

Statistical database access and management

Access to a variety of confidential databases was facilitated through Statistics 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 survey services available to clients included a general methodological consultation service, survey and sample design, and custom analyses, as well as full turnkey survey administration. Major survey activities during 2000–01 included:

Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, 1999

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.

Data from this survey are currently being marketed through Statistics Canada under contract with the survey sponsors. A 2001 cycle of the survey is planned for the fall of this year.

Alberta Export Services Survey, 2000

Planned for the spring of 2000 is a comprehensive survey of Alberta service exporters in seven key industrial sectors. 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 five departmental employee satisfaction surveys and five public and business client satisfaction surveys. These surveys were undertaken in support of 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 provided by Statistics. As a core function, centralized demographic statistics provide departments with uniform data to facilitate consistent program and policy planning within government. Projections and estimates are available for a variety of standard and user-

specified 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 currently 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 2001.

Geographic information services

Statistics provides custom boundary digitizing and data geo-referencing (via the SMARTS System) services to clients on a cost-recovery basis. To assist users with 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 custom 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 standard inputs and algorithms. The model was updated in early 2000 to include the latest I-O data and incorporates 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 continues to co-ordinate 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 who have provided their assistance during the past year.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

High technology statistics

Once again, this year we are able to report on the improvements in our statistical coverage of the high technology sector in British Columbia. This is due, in part, to funding from the provincial government agency responsible for technology. During the year, we continued our annual publication of *Profile of the British Columbia High Technology Sector*, and developed a new publication, *British Columbia High Technology Sector Input Indicators Report* (http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/hi_tech.htm). The *Profile* report examines output measures of the high technology sector such as gross domestic product (GDP), revenues, wages and employment. The *Indicators* report monitors inputs such as education, patents, research and development, venture capital, birth and death of firms, taxation and other indicators that influence the performance of the sector.

In addition, BC STATS and KPMG produce a combined indicators/output report funded through the Science Council of B.C. This report, *State of the B.C. High Technology Sector: Inaugural Benchmark Report*, may be viewed at the BC STATS Web site mentioned above. The report adds several new indicators to the earlier work, as well as comparisons to a selection of U.S. states. In addition, the grouping of input indicators differs from that of the BC STATS report, allowing for a comparison of two different models of the high technology (high-tech) sector.

The conversion to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) has resulted in a need to adjust the industry codes included in our definition of the high-tech sector. NAICS offers some advantages over the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) in defining the sector, but it also offers many problems. We are currently in the process of updating a 1996 report defining the high-tech sector in B.C. The NAICS-based update of this paper should be available by June 2001. This may be followed with surveys by BC STATS of certain NAICS industries to help us further refine our assessment of the role these industries play in the high technology sector.

Small business statistics

Although BC STATS continues to publish and refine both a quarterly and an annual review of the small business sector, development of new statistics has been limited. The focus of the last year was on the characteristics of small business owners, particularly the self-employed. In B.C., the number of self-employed now exceeds the number of small business employees, the culmination of a trend that dominated the 1990s. The other primary area of interest for development of small business statistics is the improvement of small business estimates for the special sectors of tourism, high-tech, and secondary manufacturing.

Fishing sector report and Sport Fishing Survey

Last year saw the development of a new report on the four subsectors of the British Columbia fishery: Commercial Fishing, Aquaculture, Fish Processing, and Sport Fishing. Data presented for the subsectors include GDP, employment, wages and salaries, revenues, numbers of firms, exports and imports, as well as the results of an input-

output (I-O) impact analysis. The report, available on our web site (<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>), is currently being updated to incorporate the 1999 provincial economic accounts released by Statistics Canada last October. Last year, BC STATS also conducted and completed an inaugural survey of the sport fishing industry. This survey provides regional detail on employment, revenues, expenditures, marketing activity and other information for businesses whose primary revenue (i.e., >50%) is from sales directly to anglers.

Trade statistics

Significant advances were made this year in TRIP4, the BC STATS in-house system for tabulating and reporting monthly import and export data. TRIP4 is Foxpro-based, but also makes use of the Beyond 20/20-like 'Dynamicube' for formatting output tables. The new system has made it much easier for us to process the merchandise trade data we receive each month from Statistics Canada. In addition to the increased utility of our TRIP4 system, an increasing number of general enquiries are being directed to the trade package available through the Industry Canada Strategis site (http://www.strategis.gc.ca/sc_mrkti/tdst/engdoc/tr_homep.html). This has helped free up internal resources that are being used to support other activities.

A Guide to the B.C. Economy and Labour Market

Last year, we received funding from the Federal-Provincial Labour Market Information initiative sponsored by our Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and Human Resources Development Canada to develop a publication that would provide an overview of the B.C. economy for non-economists. *A Guide to the B.C. Economy and Labour Market* will be used as reference material for career practitioners in high schools, universities and regional employment centres, as well as students and other job seekers. The guide contains an overview of the structure of the provincial economy and the changes that are likely to take place in that structure over the next 10 years. The purpose of the publication is to give an indication of which industries within the province are expected to grow and which are not, enabling job seekers and students to make more informed decisions about their future career plans. The publication will be available shortly in both official languages in paper format and through our web site.

Economic impact assessment

This last year was a busy one for this function. As well as updating the B.C. Input-Output Model with revised 1996 data provided by Statistics Canada, 22 separate economic impact projects were carried out on a cost-recovery basis. Particularly significant were funded research reports on a sectoral review of the B.C. economy from an I-O perspective, and a detailed analysis of transportation costs by industry.

The sectoral review indicated that, although services directly represent a significant and growing share of the B.C. economy, resource-based manufacturing (such as forestry, mining and agriculture) and the construction industries are still major players. In the case of forestry, the direct contribution to GDP in 1996 was only 8.8%; however, when the spin-off effects are considered, the share almost doubles to 17.1%. This wasn't the case for tourism. The direct contribution was 4.8%; however, because many of these tourism services exist because there is a manufacturing base to support them, the overall

contribution to the economy remains at just under 5%. In short, the results indicate that the B.C. economy is not 'out of the woods' just yet.

Other major I-O applications were conducted for proposed convention centres, industrial plant closures and medical research facilities, as well as for the Working Opportunities Fund, a government-sponsored venture capital corporation.

Special Surveys and Analysis Section

Unlike other parts of BC STATS, this section is 100% cost-recovered and will expand and contract staffing according to project needs. During the year, approximately four PYs were active in this area, working largely on survey projects internal to government. Projects included an evaluation of the use of pen computers by appraisers working for the B.C. Assessment Authority, an evaluation of electronic legal research aids used by the Criminal Justice Branch, and survey advice to a number of branches contemplating their own research.

An increasing proportion of projects undertaken by this section involves some aspect of program evaluation. The section has adopted elements of the Common Measurement Tool (CMT) promoted by the Innovation and Quality Services group within the Federal Treasury Board, and by Service Manitoba, an arm of the Manitoba executive council. A pilot under development by BC STATS could see an extension of the CMT as a method of assessing public satisfaction with some B.C. Ministry of Finance programs, and if successful, other programs throughout the government.

Evaluation of the Youth Agreement Program

Last year, the B.C. government introduced a program to assist youth who are unwilling or unable to live with their families and hence are at high risk of becoming 'street kids'. The intent of the program is to provide meaningful and integrated services to support these youth in meeting their day-to-day needs, and assist them in the transition to independence. In return, the youth are required to participate in the services recommended by their social worker. The direct cost of the program is greater than that of alternative programs, such as group home care or income assistance with partial services. Youth in the program receive more money than those on income assistance, a more comprehensive service program, as well as continuing contact with a social worker.

BC STATS has been contracted by the Ministry of Children and Families to evaluate the program to determine whether the additional support and services of the Youth Agreement Program produce more favorable outcomes. Currently, approximately 200 youth are enrolled in the program. Our intent is to first profile the youth at the start of their participation in the program with an emphasis on identifying risk factors. This will be accomplished through a review of intake files, interviews with the social worker and interviews with the youth. Follow-up interviews will be conducted one year later with both the social worker and the youth to determine the services received and assess progress toward independence. Over the next five years, monitoring of individual progress will be undertaken through administrative file linkages. This will involve possible links to health records, income assistance history, education achievements, criminal records and perhaps some tracking of work history through Revenue Canada employment income records.

For comparison, interviews of high-risk homeless youth who are not involved in the Youth Agreement Program will be conducted to determine a current profile, and then again one year later to explore what services were received and assess how well these youth are fitting into society. We also hope to apply the same record linkage procedure as the target group to this control group over the subsequent five years.

While the full impact of the program will not be evaluated until 2006, a preliminary evaluation of participants in the first year of the program will be undertaken in 2002.

Regional socio-economic indicators

A few years ago, we started the development of a set of indicators summarizing regional socio-economic activity within the province. The aim of this project was to provide policy makers with information that would support fact-based decisions when allocating budgetary resources on a regional basis, as well as promote debate and research into possible causal factors underlying regional disparity.

In the last year, we refined our methodology further and updated the indicators to the year 2000. This work entailed creating a database of some 70 variables across 78 subprovincial regions. The data were 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.

To date, a number of ministries within the B.C. Government are using the information as a resource tool for regional budget allocation and in the identification of communities that are subject to high levels of socio-economic stress.

Regional population estimates

In the last year, we updated our official regional population estimates to 2000 for a number of subprovincial regions, including municipalities, school districts, regional districts, health areas and RCMP detachments.

These population estimates are generated using information obtained from administrative files such as residential hydro connections and Old Age Security recipients. This method has proven to be a cost-effective approach to producing current population estimates for small areas. Past experience has shown that the quality of the resulting population estimates is determined largely by the ability of the selected administrative file to reflect population change. During the past year, we examined the possibility of adding information on residential telephone lines to the estimation model. The initial results were quite promising but would cause some significant revisions to our post-1996 population estimates. We are planning to carry out an in-depth evaluation of the new model using the adjusted 2001 Census-based information before making a final decision on its use.

Regional population projections

Our regional population projections continue to have broad use in planning related to health, education and social service needs at the regional level. In the case of education,

projections of the school-aged population by school district are converted into enrolment projections by grade, and in turn are used for planning the demand for teachers and facilities. Given that the school-aged population, and in particular elementary school ages, is expected to decline in many districts over the next five years, the projections have become an important tool in controlling costs.

Mapping development

BC STATS has been contracted by the Ministry of Children and Families to develop a web-based mapping application using ArcIMS. The system will allow Ministry staff throughout the province to access and display client information at the office and region levels, along with socio-economic data such as regional population projections, welfare rates, crime rates, population health indicators and census information. The system will put information in a readily digestible format into the hands of regional staff, allowing them to assess potential service demands and funding implications.

We are also experiencing a growing demand from within government for a wide variety of thematic maps as well as maps of provincial administrative boundaries and facilities.

Geography for the 2001 Census

We have been working closely with the Geography Division of Statistics Canada, our Ministry of Municipal Affairs and regional governments to finalize changes to 2001 Census geography. These changes include new rural census subdivisions that correspond to provincial regional district electoral areas; more than 200 new designated places; and geographic classification for the Nisga'a treaty lands.

Web site developments

In the last year, the main thrust on the organization of the BC STATS Web site was to rework our search, reports and publications pages, as well as add a description of some of our products in something we call Off the Shelf. On the content side, we developed a set of 1996 Census subdivision profiles—457 in all—that use charts and tables to describe each area.

Web-enabled British Columbia Manufacturers' Directory

BC STATS has produced for some time a manufacturers' directory in print format listing some 5,000 B.C. manufacturers, the products they produce, contact information, employment size ranges, sales, and export orientation. The directory is a useful tool, not only to analysts as a sample frame for further surveys, but also to manufacturers as a means of advertising their products and expanding their supply chain.

Last year, we sought and received funding to bring our *Manufacturers' Directory* to the Web (www.made-in-bc.ca/). This initiative has allowed B.C. manufacturers to reach a wider, international audience with essentially free access. Users of this Oracle-based Web site have three search options, one of which lets them develop and submit a complex Structured Query Language request. Manufacturers can now review their listings and propose changes via e-mail, as well as order the publication or a complete data extract.

MANITOBA

Introduction

The past year was a very active one for the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) and the current year is continuing this trend.

The current core staff complement is 14. During fiscal 2001–02 a new project staffing initiative will commence. The objective is to provide the additional capacity to undertake department-sponsored statistical activities on a fee-for-service basis. A 2.0 staff year group will be added for this initiative.

Fiscal situation

For the last fiscal year, the Bureau's budget increased by approximately 6%. The overall budget for the current fiscal year is up 1%, bringing MBS's total budget to nearly \$1 million. This year's expenditures include \$70,000 for a 2001 Census public awareness campaign.

For the current year, MBS's cost-recovery target remains at the same absolute level, representing 6% of the gross budget. The past year saw MBS recover more than twice the required amount. Total recoveries were in the area of \$165,000 with nearly one-half coming from the National Climate Change Implementation Strategy.

Strategic direction

MBS is in the process of developing its business plan for the 2001–02 to 2003–04 period. Some of the components of this plan have already been incorporated in the 2001–02 budget (e.g., Census public awareness campaign, contract staff conversions and project staff initiative). 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 access to MBS InfoNet, which would contain all public information MBS produces as well as downloadable files);
- implementing an MBS advisory board to provide input to the organization's strategic direction, information gap analysis and project prioritization;
- identifying new or expanded activities such as social and progress indicators development, regional indicators development and information dissemination systems implementation; and
- 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's objective is to submit the business plan to the Minister in June 2001.

Activities 2000–01

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

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. The new input–output tables from Statistics Canada will enhance MBS's assessment activities.

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 (spring and fall), 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 review is currently underway on how to enhance the model so that climate change related policy simulations and analysis could be conducted.

National climate change implementation process

Over the last 27 months, MBS has been Manitoba's representative on the Analysis and Modelling Group (AMG). In November 2000, the AMG released its report on the economic and environmental impacts on the Canadian economy of Canada implementing the Kyoto Protocol. The continuing role of AMG is to address policy and analysis issues relevant to a possible ratification decision on the Kyoto Protocol in 15 months' time.

Information dissemination system

MBS has continued to enhance its desktop accessible information systems (e.g., Brief, InfoNet and Trade). An enhanced InfoNet system is being developed that will contain all of MBS reports, downloadable Excel spreadsheets, additional social data in the area of health, education, justice and social services, and a separate retrieval system for commodity exports and imports. Free InfoNet access to provincial government staff is being considered.

Social data and overall measures of progress

MBS has continued its work on social indicators as well as experimental work on a provincial well-being or GPI-type index. MBS is in discussions with Executive Council staff regarding involvement in a new set of progress indicators. MBS is also involved in discussions that will result in the Manitoba Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, recommending in July 2001 a set of sustainable development indicators. One recommendation may be that MBS be charged with the responsibility of producing these new indicators.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Statistics Agency (NBSA) 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 (TFP). 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 2000-2001, the Agency operated under the direction of James Turgeon, Director of FESP, with a staff complement of six professionals and support staff. As in the previous year there were some staff changes. The staff total for FESP is nine.

The government continued the Public Service Internship Program. As a result, the Division supported two-month work assignments for five 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. The Division will host an intern for a two-year period beginning in May and receive three interns on an assignment basis during the coming year.

Effective April 1, 2001, James Turgeon was appointed Executive Director of TFP with the retirement of Norm Campbell. At the same time, Kathy Wyrwas was appointed Director of NBSA and subsequently Focal Point for New Brunswick. The Director of NBSA reports to the Director of FESP, George Richardson (effective April 16, 2001).

Operations

The Agency continued to provide research, analysis and advice to senior officials, including the Premier's Office. While the Agency maintained its internal data dissemination activities, it also expanded its use of socio-economic data in public policy, decision-making and program delivery. Staff were involved in major initiatives, including the New Brunswick Economic Growth Agenda, Municipal Unconditional Grant analysis, Round Table on Local Governance and Corporate Outcome Measures. The Agency made a presentation on New Brunswick demographics at a "Seminar on Population Growth and Immigration" held at the University of New Brunswick.

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, with a focus on New Brunswick results.

Our annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy 2001*, which provides a snapshot of New Brunswick economic indicators and industry sector reviews, was released in March as a supporting document to the provincial budget. The report was expanded somewhat this year while maintaining the graphical/bullet format implemented the previous year. A copy can be accessed through the Internet at www.gnb.ca/0160/budget/buddoc2001/index.htm.

The Department continued with the development of the Finance Decision Support System (FDSS). Data from personal income tax tapes for 1990 to 1999, corporate income tax tapes for 1987 to 1999 and the property tax system for 1999 to 2001 (by month) are stored in an Oracle 8 database and Oracle Discoverer is used as the front-end query. This is an intermediary step before moving to multi-dimensional analysis. Several staff members of the Agency are able to use this system.

FESP has a contract with the Centre for Spatial Economics to develop a forecasting model of the New Brunswick economy. Staff will be involved in the creation and maintenance of the model under the guidance of Ernie Stokes.

The Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M) continues to be an important analytical tool for the Agency. Two new staff members received training in the past year. The model was used to analyse tax changes, specifically tax on taxable income and a low-income tax reduction. The assistance and guidance of the staff of the Socio-Economic Modeling Group is appreciated.

Mapping software, Microsoft MapPoint, was evaluated over the past year and several copies were purchased to assist in the analysis and presentation of data in future projects.

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. Staff of the Agency participated in the Statistics Canada workshop, "Making Small Area Data Work for You" held in Fredericton. One of our staff, Janine Bringloe, assisted the Halifax office with the 2001 Census communication program for New Brunswick.

Frequent use is made of Statistics Canada's Internal Communications Network (ICN), as it is a valuable information resource for the Focal Points. The Agency welcomed the opportunity to review new data series and provide feedback. We participated in Statistics Canada meetings and consultations as resources allowed. The "Omnibus Agreement to Share Data with Statistics Canada" was finalized during the past year.

Future Activities

For 2001–2002, the Agency will continue with several of the activities mentioned above and develop a central electronic database. The Department of Finance has developed a new Intranet site that the Division would like to build upon. The Agency is reviewing the requirements to obtain 'deemed' employee status for selected employees and has identified future training needs with respect to the provincial economic accounts and input-output analysis. Initial discussions have been conducted with the appropriate Statistics Canada divisions. Another area requiring attention involves making the transition to CANSIM II.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Overview

The year 2000 was a busy and generally successful year for the Newfoundland Statistics Agency (NSA). Our work ranged from carrying out our own surveys to continuing ongoing projects on behalf of federal government departments and non-government departments. We continued to collaborate closely with the academic community in economics, statistics and social policy subject areas. Approximately 15 people worked at the Agency in 2000.

Out- and In-migrant Surveys

NSA has performed an out-migrant survey since 1996. Data are collected by means of a questionnaire sent to people that the MCP system has identified as having left the province. People seeking medical assistance in other provinces are contacted by the Newfoundland MCP Commission to return their health-care cards; our questionnaire is enclosed with the Commission's correspondence. Much useful and informative data are collected via this initiative, and the information gathered is becoming increasingly useful, given the relatively long time series we have accumulated since 1996. We are now adding an in-migrant survey that provides information on people returning to the province. Our databases are the only ones that provide detailed information on people who leave and people who return to Newfoundland and Labrador. Reports in June 2001 will describe what has been learned from the data.

Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Activity Survey (NLLAS)

In July and August 2000, the Agency carried out a survey of provincial labour activity. Agency staff designed the survey; Bristol Communications, a local company specializing in telephone surveying, made the calls. The survey was designed to capture key dynamics of the province's labour market and covered a wide range of subjects. It included questions on consumer confidence and intentions to migrate from the province.

Newfoundland and Labrador Adult and Community Health Survey (NLACHS)

The NLACHS was initiated by the Agency in 2001. Work is nearly complete, and the survey will present information on the self-assessed health status of the public. Data from the survey will also be used in the Community Accounts. NLACHS was initially designed and administered in 1995 by the Division of Community Health at Memorial University (MUN). The update will provide comparable data for 1995 and 2000. Much of the survey subject matter parallels the CCHS at Statistics Canada (STC). Our preference was to oversample via the CCHS rather than administer another large health survey (sample size 8,000). Talks went on for seven months with STC, but an agreement could not be reached. The main obstacles were price and data sharing. Our cost was \$220,000 to survey 8,000 people, compared with \$300,000 to survey 3,000 people via an STC oversample. The cost difference, combined with limitations such as the inability to fully share the data, made arrangements with STC non-viable.

Data dissemination Web site

A new data dissemination Web site was made accessible to clients on December 23, 2000. Our strategy has been to provide the most frequently requested data, and then to expand offerings as time and resources permit. To date, this approach has worked well, as demonstrated by much positive client feedback and usage. The next major additions will be historical series for Newfoundland and Labrador from 1949 to date. As a result of current surveying work and other data development initiatives, NSA holds a wide range of province-specific data, which will be added as soon as possible. Since the site began operation, the number of hits has been in the range of 21,000 with about 55 % unique users. Visits are consistent throughout the week, with only slightly more hits Monday to Friday.

Strategic Social Plan (SSP)

Intensive work continues on the SSP. NSA was delegated to develop a social audit framework and to provide technical support to this government-wide initiative. The work is being carried out jointly by MUN and NSA. The main responsibilities are to develop a system of community accounts and a social audit framework.

Community Accounts

Community Accounts provide data at the level of 400 incorporated communities, 80 STC CCS areas, 20 economic zones, 6 SSP regions and the province as a whole. In response to requests from users, geography will be expanded to include 6 health board and administrative regions and 19 Human Resources Development Canada administrative areas. The site provides access to about 50,000 tables, graphics, and social and economic indicators. The structure of the Accounts follows the determinants-of-health concept. Education and crime data are being developed through efforts with relevant departments and our own surveys and administration data. A major use of the data will be to provide baseline information for the Social Audit in 2003. The reception to the Accounts is extremely positive; usage is growing. The Accounts have been presented and demonstrated within the province and across Canada where response has been consistently enthusiastic. Other provinces have expressed interest in emulating the Accounts and discussions are underway with Nova Scotia.

Community Accounts roll-out

The Minister responsible for the SSP has requested that the Accounts be made accessible to all those covered under our data-sharing agreements with STC. This includes government departments, SSP region steering committees, municipalities and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). An additional component of the strategy is to develop grade-specific course material based on data in the Accounts and to provide it to schools in the province. Talks are underway with STC to do this jointly as a pilot project in Newfoundland and Labrador. The data would be presented in a manner similar to STC's E-STAT program. In developing and implementing the concept, the NSA will benefit greatly from STC's experience in this area. The strategy also calls for NSA to develop awareness of the system outside the province and Canada.

GeoStats Atlantic

In the early 1990s, NSA built the Regional Economic Information System (REDIS), a geographic information system (GIS). To replace REDIS and to enhance NSA's GIS capability, GeoStats Atlantic is now being built in-house, with some support from MUN and the Nova Scotia Statistics Agency. The new system will provide data on all Canadian provinces and can be readily modified to suit many applications. An application has been built for the province's involvement in site-election (information for external companies interested in locating in Newfoundland and Labrador), and another is nearly ready to replace REDIS. The system is Web-based and will be maintained for all users by NSA staff on a partial cost-recovery basis.

Halifax Regional Office

A close working relationship was maintained between NSA and STC in Halifax during the past year, and projects called for much interaction (Paula Thompson facilitated continually). Working together has created many efficiencies and ensured consistency that might otherwise have been difficult to achieve. Halifax is to be congratulated and thanked for its willingness to become involved and for its outward-looking approach. The experiences of the past year show that more can be accomplished through joint efforts, co-ordination and a desire by STC to work with a client. Small Area Data has been exceptionally helpful in developing the Community Accounts. Linda Standish and her staff have built many new avenues for using tax-filer data and getting it into the hands of those who need it. Our working relationship has been very productive and beneficial.

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 STC 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 (BS) has increased by 8% for the 2001–02 fiscal year. No changes in the organizational placement of the Bureau of Statistics are planned.

Data development and dissemination

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

The BS prepared community population estimates for July 1, 2000 based on territorial population information released in 2000. Community population projections were recently revised based on the new estimates. As part of the update of the population projections, we have developed modules to allow the estimation of demographic impacts of major economic change.

A continuing major initiative has been improvements to the NWT Input–Output Model. Significant changes were required because of changes introduced with the release of the 1996 I–O tables by STC. The model uses the 1996 I–O tables and we have now added a fiscal and tax-impacts module as well as a demographic impacts module to the Bureau's economic impact assessment tools.

We are currently working to split the 1997 I–O tables released by STC in order to produce a set of input–output tables for the Northwest Territories separate from Nunavut. The increased amount of data available separate for the two territories has

made this effort somewhat more precise than the splitting of the 1996 tables. We continue to appreciate the co-operation of STC staff on this project.

Impact assessments using the NWT Input-Output Model have been a major draw on resources in the past year. Major studies were completed on cumulative labour demand during the coming decade that formed the analytical basis of a cabinet strategy document. Further major I-O projects were completed to assess economic impacts of possible natural gas pipeline routes in cooperation with the Canadian Energy Research Institute (CERI), assess impacts of a planned third diamond mine with DeBeers, and assess impacts of a major transportation initiative to the resource rich Slave Geological Province.

A related project was the development of a "Job Futures" product for the Northwest Territories that profiled occupations including forecast labour demand.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics continues to publish regular statistical publications such as the *Statistics Quarterly*. 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.

In a related project, the Bureau of Statistics took the quantitative lead in the development of government-wide measures intended to help assess progress towards the government's key goals. A recent third project in the accountability area has been the development of a key 'assumptions' document that is used by government departments in the preparation of annual business plans.

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.

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 was completed with employees of the Ekati diamond mine.

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. This position was recently extended for an additional three years.

Division

The project to produce separate information for the two new territories following division in 1999 has nearly been completed. Some information, like input-output tables, still contain combined information but are expected to be separated for the 1999 reference year.

Overall the separation of the statistical information has been quite successful. However, there continues to be difficulties in the dissemination of separate information, particularly Northwest Territories information. Publications and CANSIM frequently are not changed to reflect the two new territories, or in many cases the NWT data is presented as an on-going series rather than terminating the combined information and releasing two separate new series.

Staff have much too frequently been resistant to change dissemination products, instead wanting to wait for major re-designs to incorporate changes.

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 major joint initiative in the past year has been the extension of 'national' surveys such as the Labour Force Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) to the Northwest Territories. Statistics Canada's regional office in Edmonton began operations in October of 2000 for these two surveys. The NWT Bureau of Statistics has been providing survey support for this effort. All indications to date have been that these surveys are operating very well in the territory and first results from the monthly LFS should be released in the next month or so.

We are very pleased with the extension of the Labour Force Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) to the Northwest Territories. This effort has done a lot to eliminate a major gap in the national statistical program and a chasm in territorial data. Expectations are high within our government for this information, and we look forward to a continued positive relationship with Statistics Canada as we move into the next phase of this critical project.

NOVA SCOTIA

Overview

The Statistics Division within the Department of Finance operates under the authority of the *Statistics Act*. The Division is entrusted to provide leadership in the area of statistical information and related services, such as collection, compilation and analysis. Our primary clients are provincial government departments, with some data made available to the general public.

In 1998–99, a comprehensive review of the Division was completed. The strategic plan, *Putting Statistics in Context*, defined the overall mission and its supporting goals. The mission statement reads as follows:

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

The four main goals in support of the mission statement are to:

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

The past year was a busy one for the Division. We have and will continue to align our products and services with the goals and the mission statement outlined in the strategic plan.

Nova Scotia Statistics Division Budget 2000–01

In spite of government-wide cuts, the Statistics Division's budget has seen a modest increase. Operating efficiencies have allowed the Division some increase in its discretionary expenditures. This increase has been used to purchase additional data and improve technology infrastructure.

	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02
	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Estimate
Statistics Division expenditures	\$337,600	\$375,000	\$384,500	\$391,600

Activities 2000–01

The following are some of the major activities undertaken over the past 12 months.

Statistical Needs and Capacity Survey

The Division is in the process of assessing the statistical needs and capacity of provincial government departments. The purpose of the survey is to determine current statistical capacity and to identify services and resources that would better provide departments with information critical to program and policy development.

The major points being reviewed are:

- how departments collect or acquire data;
- what data are available;
- how data are being used; and
- how to identify immediate and future statistical needs to support policy development.

The survey is being conducted in two stages. The first stage is a questionnaire completed by senior departmental representatives who are involved in program and policy development. These surveys are processed and a summary is given to the department.

In the second stage, the respondents participate in a focus group that expands on the information provided by the questionnaire. The Division expects to release a preliminary report on the results of this focus group in May of this year.

Social perspective paper

The Division has carried out research to better understand of the policy research needs and capacity of the Nova Scotia government. *Nova Scotia—A Social Perspective* is a discussion draft that resulted from the research. Its intention is to demonstrate the value and the application of statistics to inform and support policy development.

The paper draws attention to some of the policy-capacity research and initiatives taking place in Nova Scotia and elsewhere. Drawing on a wide range of statistical indicators, it tries to demonstrate regional, sex and age differences. At best, it shows the need for much more in-depth work on a number of areas to provide a stronger evidenced-based, decision-making capacity. A concluding point emphasized that data and statistics must be policy-relevant and take into account the key issues and priorities of the government and the citizens of Nova Scotia.

Community accounts demonstration model

The Statistics Division is working with the Population Health Research Unit and the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Unit at Dalhousie University, in conjunction with the Newfoundland Statistics Agency and Memorial University, to develop a system of community accounts for Nova Scotia, based on Newfoundland's work and experience. This initial project is intended to be a feasibility study. Its goal is to develop a demonstration model to show decision-makers at the community and provincial level the types of data and mechanisms that can be made available to support policy review and development, program administration and assessment, and community development.

This project has four main objectives:

1. to determine the value and feasibility of developing a set of Community Accounts for Nova Scotia based on the work being done in Newfoundland;
2. to demonstrate the synergies to be gained by effective collaboration and co-operation of academic and government resources;
3. to develop a demonstration model of Nova Scotia Community Accounts; and
4. to prepare a proposal and identify potential funding sources for development and ongoing operation of a Nova Scotia Community Accounts system.

Data access

The Division continues to improve access to data on both public and internal Internet sites.

The public Internet site has now expanded the social statistics pages and greater numbers of our publications are being offered in downloadable PDF format, free of charge. Hits are in the order of 2,000 per month, with a slow but steady increase, while document downloads are greater than 5,000 per month.

The online catalogue available on the Statistics Division's internal site continues to be expanded and refined. The catalogue is used to record all hard-copy and electronic publications that come into the Division. Electronic files are accessed directly from the catalogue and staff members easily update catalogue entries. Now, the internal site has a project page where staff can organize and provide links to all files related to specific projects.

The Division's chief statistical database is undergoing a major revision. The "Blue Book" is currently made up of numerous Lotus spreadsheets with limited historical content and value. The tables are being reduced in number, but have increased in size and content. Tables are being created, combined and deleted in order to provide access to the most relevant and most frequently used information. All variables will have historical data as far back as continuity allows. A university co-op student has been hired to help with the project.

The new database is in Excel format with data access provided through pivot tables and data-filtering functions. A subscription service will be developed for a limited number of government users after licensing issues are resolved with Statistics Canada.

Statistics Division publications are made available to departments and agencies through the Division's Internet and Intranet sites, as well as through departmental libraries. Our publications are continuously being reviewed to ensure delivery of required information in the most cost-effective manner. During the past year, the Division produced the following publications:

- *Stats Daily*
- *Employment Situation Report* (monthly)
- *Nova Scotia Labour Market Analysis* (monthly)
- *Economic Indicators*, including Consumer Price Index (CPI) overview (monthly)
- *Nova Scotia Construction Activity Report* (three issues per year)

- *Nova Scotia Statistical Review 2000*
- *Nova Scotia at a Glance 2000*
- *Business Statistics 2000*
- *Nova Scotia Imports/Exports* (quarterly)
- *Nova Scotia Economic Outlook and Sector Review*
- *Graphically Speaking*
- *Nova Scotia—A Social Perspective*

Population/Census

The Division has been, and is currently, reviewing the data and underlying methodologies that comprise the population estimates and population projections. The focus is on interprovincial migration patterns and out-of-province university students. Staff updated data and reports on the ongoing university issue for federal-provincial meetings.

Population projections were produced for the provinces and territories using the components of growth methodology.

The Division is assisting Statistics Canada's Atlantic Regional Office with Census promotion activities. Staff compiled lists of institutions, shelters and transition houses to assist with the enumeration of this mobile population. A letter of support was drafted for the Premier's signature and arrangements are being made to have him speak to the legislature on the importance of the 2001 Census. Staff have arranged for informational inserts to be included in government mail-outs, posters in government buildings, logos on government Web sites and a government-wide e-mail campaign.

Economic/fiscal

The Division continues to actively monitor Statistics Canada's Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES) and its impact on the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Agreement's Revenue Allocation Formula.

The Economic Policy and Analysis Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Finance is in the process of developing an economic forecasting model of the Nova Scotia economy. This model will forecast a number of key economic variables, including the components of the gross domestic product (GDP) using both the income and expenditure approach, implicit price deflator, labour force characteristics, personal income, retail sales, and CPI over a five-year period. As a part of the project management committee, the Statistics Division has advanced the project through the provision of statistical data and advice.

The Statistics Division is also assisting the Economic Policy and Analysis Division in the development of a Nova Scotia Input-Output Model, which is a static model that estimates the impact on employment and income of project expenditures or sector changes. The Input-Output Model will be compatible with the economic forecasting model and will enhance its capabilities.

The Statistics Division and the Economic Policy and Analysis Division reviewed Finance Canada's economic outlook prior to its release for validation and verification purposes. The outlook was incorporated into Finance Canada's *Green-Brown Book*. The Statistics Division continues to play an important liaison role with Statistics Canada's Public Institutions Division (PID). The Division consults with provincial government departments to assist PID with provincial financial documentation. The Division also consults with PID on equalization tax-base issues.

Partnerships

The Statistics Division participated in a number of federal-provincial meetings, consultations and workshops in the past year:

- Consultative Council on Statistical Policy
- Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committees:
 - Social Statistics
 - Labour Statistics
 - Census of Population
 - Demography
 - Business Statistics
 - Data Dissemination
 - Public Sector Statistics
 - Provincial Economic Accounts
- Provincial Users and Practitioners of Science and Technology Statistics
- External Advisory Panel for Federal Treasury Board, *Managing for Results Report to Parliament*
- Canadian Policy Research Networks Quality of Life Indicators Project
- 2001 Census Dissemination Consultation
- 2001 Census Presentation (Atlantic Regional Office)
- Workshop on Population Estimates/Projections (Demography Division)
- Labour Information Consultation (Labour and Household Survey Division)
- Retail and Wholesale Trade Survey Redesign (Distributive Trades Division)
- Input-Output Model Training Module (Input-Output Division)
- Content Development/Confidentiality Issues (Enterprise Statistics Division)

The Division participated in a number of government-wide committees in the past year:

- Atlantic Canada On-line
- GeoNOVA Advisory Committee
- Target Nova Scotia Advisory Committee
- Outcome Measures
- Labour Market Information
- Canadian Consumer Information Gateway for Nova Scotia
- Provincial Technology and Innovation Working Group

2001-02 priorities

For 2001-02, the Nova Scotia Statistics Division has set the following priorities:

- to complete the Statistics Needs and Capacity Survey of government departments and agencies and initiate appropriate changes to services based on the results of the survey;
- to implement a new Intranet site for internal government use, including access to more electronic data sets, an electronic catalogue and online statistical research tools;
- to establish stronger linkages among departments to consider statistical issues and services;
- to develop, in partnership with Dalhousie University, Newfoundland Statistics Agency and Memorial University, a demonstration model of the Nova Scotia Community Accounts;
- to continue population estimates research, focussing on interprovincial migration and the population of university students, Aboriginal peoples and military families;
- to work with Statistics Canada on the 2001 Census and Reverse Record Check to ensure complete and accurate coverage of Nova Scotia's population;
- to continue participation 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); and
- to continue to monitor Statistics Canada's PIPES project and its HST Revenue Allocation impact.

NUNAVUT

2000–01 was the second year of operation of *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit*, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Highlights of the year included hiring staffing, moving into a permanent office, obtaining an Inuktitut name, developing and beginning to implement an ambitious workplan, and increasing interaction with Statistics Canada as a result of its expanded operations in Nunavut.

The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics is part of the Evaluation and Statistics Division of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Its org chart shows six positions: a Director of Evaluation and Statistics; two Policy Analysts on the Evaluation side; an Economic Statistician and a Social/Demographic Statistician on the Statistics side; and a Survey Manager/Office Manager. Both statistician positions (Laurie-Anne White on the economic side and Claude Beauchamp on the social/demographic side) and the Survey Manager/Office Manager (Rita Anilniliak) were filled during the last year, joining the Director (Jack Hicks) and one of the two policy analysts (Sandra Inutiq). Two of the five positions are filled by Inuit, and three of the five positions are filled by women.

After surviving five temporary offices in less than two years, the Evaluation and Statistics Division finally moved into its 'permanent' office space in January. An apartment one floor above the main Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs office was converted into a modest office which balances proximity to the rest of the department with a degree of autonomy and quiet.

Obtaining an Inuktitut name for the Bureau was important for more than symbolic reasons. Statistics were not part of Inuit culture, but with the creation of Nunavut, the need arose to communicate the importance of having accurate and appropriate statistical data to support the process of making the kinds of decisions inherent in operating a modern government. Having a name which makes sense to the majority of the population was therefore part of the process of 'branding' an organization which is supposed to produce statistics that reflect the realities of the people it serves.

A literal translation of 'Nunavut Bureau of Statistics' really doesn't get the point across, so after much discussion it was decided to use the Inuktitut verb *kiglisi-* in the name. *Kiglisi-* is the verb which was used when an elder showed up at your igloo and said that he or she was going to speak with you until the two of you got to the root of an issue—it has a meaning far more serious than simply 'asking questions.' The name *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit* means 'the people in Nunavut who ask questions that get at the root of issues.'

Before moving on to other issues I would like to acknowledge the contribution made to the creation of *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit* by Laura Udloriaq Gauthier, our Assistant Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, who died suddenly of natural causes last summer at just 30 years of age. She handled our side of the negotiations between the Government of Nunavut, Statistics Canada and the NWT Bureau of Statistics, which resulted in the data sharing and other agreements required to get our Bureau of Statistics up and running. Laura was a truly wonderful person, someone who cared deeply about the future of her people, and someone who believed strongly in the importance of quality information. We miss her very much.

As Nunavut entered its second year of existence, a number of government departments began to give more consideration to the statistical data (and data systems) they would require. This resulted in increased demands on the Bureau to provide advice and assistance. And similar demands came from representative Inuit organisations and the co-management bodies created by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

After much discussion with interested departments and other bodies it was decided to launch an omnibus household survey program. The Nunavut Household Survey (NuHS) will take place every two years for at least the next decade, and will produce community-level employment and education data consistent with those produced by the NWT Bureau of Statistics' Labour Force Surveys that were conducted every five years from 1984 to 1999.

One of our biggest concerns is cumulative respondent burden from household surveys. In addition to the core employment and education sections, the NuHS will serve as a vehicle through which Nunavut's other statistical data needs can be met in a coordinated, cost-effective and statistically sound manner. The 2001 NuHS, which is currently in the field, contains major sections on housing conditions and language use (with an emphasis on Inuktitut, but including English and French), and minor sections on residence and mobility history, Internet usage, and a number of other topics. Had *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit* not taken this initiative, there would certainly have been separate housing and language surveys undertaken this year, and likely others in the future. Instead, we are already being approached with requests for content to be included in the 2003 NuHS.

A Survey of Prices in Nunavut is currently underway, with data being collected from retailers in all 25 communities on the prices of food, personal care items and hunting equipment. A Survey of Nunavut Businesses is in the design stage, as is a Visitors Exit Survey, and a Survey of Government of Nunavut Employees is planned for the fall of this year.

We will also be placing more emphasis on data dissemination this year, including a revamped Web site and our first trilingual statistical profile of Nunavut.

We are also looking forward to continued co-operation with our good friends at Statistics Greenland, beginning with the first of what we hope will be a regular series of staff exchanges this summer and joint projects this fall.

In terms of StatCan's operations, this past year saw the start-up of the demonstration project to extend the Labour Force Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey to Nunavut. While this project has not been without teething problems, data collection is proceeding and we are very much looking forward to obtaining data from these surveys.

As noted previously, one of our biggest concerns is cumulative respondent burden from household surveys. We believe that we have played our part by ensuring that most if not all of the Government of Nunavut's survey needs are met through the NuHS.

Private-sector telephone survey operations have recently discovered Nunavut in a big way, and of course we have no control whatsoever over what they ask or how they go about asking it. They tend to operate in English only, and are rather aggressive. Some

residents of Nunavut can and do distinguish between *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit*, Statistics Canada and private-sector telephone survey operations. Others cannot, and do not, so we receive many complaints about matters that we have no control over.

The bulk of household surveys in Nunavut, however, are and will continue to be conducted by Statistics Canada. We do not regard these as being 'your' surveys, as we are quite aware that the Government of Nunavut is and will always be a major—perhaps the major—user of the data resulting from these surveys. Our input into which data are collected and how they are collected remains less than what we would like it to be—and less than what we feel is in everyone's best interest for it to be.

Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit's relationship with the Quebec and Nunavut Regional Office got off to a rather shaky start. We were disappointed that word of start-up problems with data collection for the LFS and CCHS came to us from methodologists at Tunney's Pasture rather than from the people responsible for data collection. And we were amazed to learn in a casual conversation with a StatCan interviewer that the date for the early Census enumeration in Nunavut had been advanced without anyone bothering to inform us. These issues resulted in what diplomats refer to as a 'full and frank discussion' with Mike Sheridan and Michel Maillette when they came to Iqaluit earlier this year to promote the Census. I'm pleased to report that a regular exchange of pertinent information and assistance has been established between our office and the regional office in Montreal.

There remains, however, the question of our role in helping determine which StatCan surveys are to be conducted in Nunavut and how they will be conducted, based on the needs and priorities of our government and of the various Inuit and co-management bodies we are in close contact with. It is most disappointing, for example, that it appears that Nunavut will be the only part of Canada excluded from the 2003 National Literacy Survey. The part of the country with arguably the most pressing literacy issues is the only part that will be missing from the survey intended to address those very issues!

It is the position of the Government of Nunavut that the data needs resulting from the start-up of a new government, the social and economic challenges we are facing, the commitments made by the Government of Canada in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, and the very real cumulative respondent burden issue all suggest the need for a closer working relationship between Statistics Canada and Nunavut's Bureau of Statistics than may be required or desired elsewhere in the country. Considerable progress was made this year, but much remains to be done.

Having expressed some of my frustrations, I would like to conclude my comments with a number of thank-yous. Mike Sheridan has provided assistance to us on a number of fronts over the last year, and we very much appreciate his continued support. Ray Ryan arranged for our Economic Statistician, Laurie-Anne White, to attend the BEST course last fall, which was an excellent learning opportunity for her. Thanks for that! Deborah Sunter and her LFS team have been very good to work with, and we look forward to working more closely with them in the coming year as LFS data for Nunavut becomes available. The same goes for the CCHS team. Marie Patry and her team at the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) have been of tremendous help to the Survey of Living Conditions in the Circumpolar Arctic (SLiCA) project, which includes the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the four regional Inuit land claims organizations. Without their willingness to adopt the SLiCA project and ensure its implementation in Canada through the APS,

I doubt that this worthwhile project would have enjoyed the level of support it has received elsewhere in the Arctic. Involvement with the APS has also strengthened appreciation within Inuit organizations for the importance of accurate and appropriate statistical data.

Dave Stewart and his staff in Yellowknife have been their usual very helpful selves. I would also like to thank Alton Hollett and Dennis Pilkey for the hospitality they showed me when I visited their operations last year; I learned a great deal from those visits. I also paid a brief visit to Bill Hyska's shop in Edmonton, and hope to spend more time there this year.

I would like to conclude by noting that we've really enjoyed the company of the few visitors we've had over the last year. My staff and I hope that a fed-prov meeting can be held in Iqaluit one day, so that you can all have the opportunity to visit Canada's newest territory—and newest statistical bureau.

ONTARIO

Overview

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

The Unit's major function is to analyse and report on the current state of Ontario's 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, the 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 gross domestic product (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 automobile 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's nominal and real gross domestic product (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 recently purchased a new database system—FAME—to meet the data needs of the division. This system will allow us to automate updates and share data more efficiently. Contacts with Statistics Canada's National Accounts will also be simplified. A full-time position was created for the operation of this new system.

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 is a small group of professionals with responsibility for federal fiscal relations, tax policy, 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 within the provincial government, and the Division relies heavily on the Agency for the majority of its data. Statistical information supplied by Statistics Canada, together with data supplied by provincial government departments, are used in the maintenance of its statistical database.

In 2000, the Division was involved in the following activities:

- Publication of the 26th edition of the *Annual Statistical Review* (1999)
- Publication of the *Quarterly Economic Overview* series supplemented by monthly statistics on key variables
- Construction of a link from the provincial Internet site to the electronic data disseminated on Statistics Canada's site
- Implementation of a departmental Web page on the governmental internal site
- Maintenance of the province's economic forecasting model
- Maintenance of the demographic forecasting model for Prince Edward Island
- Dissemination of statistical/demographic information to:
 - government departments and agencies via Web site;
 - corporate, industrial, and private sectors via Web site; and
 - public inquiries by e-mail, fax and telephone.
- Presentation of projection forecasts from demographic forecasting model to provincial Population Strategy Panel as well as to government departments
- Participation in Federal–Provincial Conferences on diverse statistical issues
- Involvement in staff training through courses offered by Statistics Canada

QUEBEC

Completion of business plan and setting-up of project office

In order to promote itself and to describe the environment in which it is evolving, the *Institut de la statistique du Québec* (ISQ) [Statistics Quebec]¹ completed its business plan—*Plan d'affaires 2000–2004*—in the autumn of 2000. This document spells out the vision and mission of this young agency, recalls the ISQ's management values, describes its business environment, outlines its strategic orientations and defines its business model and action plan. During the winter of 2000–2001, the ISQ reached one of the objectives in its action plan by setting up a *bureau de projets* [projects office] to give special attention to project management, exert tighter control on performance, and evaluate the relevance of ISQ products and services.

Creation of the *Observatoire de la culture et des communications* (OCC) [Culture and Communications Research Institute]

In June 2000, the Quebec Minister of Culture and Communications announced the creation of the OCC. This research institute will meet the specific need of co-ordinating the production and dissemination of statistical data, which up to now were released from various sources. Culture and communications stakeholders, closely associated with the creation of the OCC, agreed that it ought to be connected to the ISQ for several reasons: the role that the ISQ had been playing for several years in producing data and analyses on changes in culture and communications in Quebec, its credibility in these areas, its expertise, its agreements with Statistics Canada, and its relations with universities and statistical agencies around the world. Finally, OCC research and monitoring activities tie in directly with the ISQ's mandate.

Within the ISQ, a specific branch oversees the OCC's objectives, which are (1) to establish and update the list of businesses, agencies and, more generally, key players in the fields of culture and communications; (2) to conduct surveys, gather and integrate statistical data from various sources, and set up consortia that can facilitate the acquisition of data; and (3) to create banks of non-confidential data. Also, a large part of the responsibilities assigned to the same branch of the ISQ includes dissemination of data, transfer of knowledge and leadership.

Setting-up of the *Centre d'accès aux données de recherche de l'ISQ* (CADRISQ) [Gateway to ISQ Research Data]

In September 2000, when CADRISQ was created, the ISQ started promoting research and training in the area of social statistics in Quebec. Housed at the Pavillon Lionel-Groulx at the Université de Montréal, this gateway gives university research centres—especially those in the greater Montreal area—access to specific ISQ statistical data banks. Researchers can now give added value to the social statistics produced by ISQ, further knowledge and enlighten decision-makers and administrators, especially on social policies, with due regard for the confidentiality required by the *Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec*.

¹ Translations of French names and titles are provided in square brackets as a reading aid only.

New activity

Development of new work programs

The ISQ has broadened the labour and remuneration component of its programming by setting up a team to research and analyse this area.

In September 2000, the ISQ set up a work team to design a knowledge-economy statistics program. In addition to fine-tuning the instruments for measuring knowledge-economy investments, one of the objectives of this program is to create a series of indicators for evaluating the impact of these investments on the numbers of new graduates, registered patents, production, exports, etc. These indicators will allow comparisons to be made with the leading industrialized countries and changes to be tracked over time.

The ISQ has also designed a social-accounting matrix used as a basis for a general equilibrium model of the Quebec economy. It completed this work by taking advantage of the close co-operation received from various administrative units within Statistics Canada, most notably the Input–Output Division and the Social and Economic Studies Division.

Legislative changes

For the first time, an amendment has been made to the *Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec*, with the addition of the following article:²

4.1. *Where the government so requests, the Institut shall also inform the public on the comparative state and evolution of the total remuneration of the employees governed by a collective agreement with municipalities and the total remuneration of other Quebec employees of any category it determines.*

In the current context of municipal reorganization in Quebec, this amendment has opened the way for considerable discussion on future key mandates that could be assigned to the ISQ in the area of remuneration and labour costs at the municipal level.

New titles published since the last Council meeting

During the last 12 months, the following titles have been added to the ISQ publications catalogue:

- *Variable Pay, Frequency and Characteristics by Sector—1999 Survey*
- *Commerce international de marchandises au Québec — Bulletin trimestriel* [International trade in goods in Quebec—Quarterly Report]
- *Le secteur de l'exploitation forestière : évolution des conditions de travail de 1983 à 1999* [The logging sector: evolution of working conditions from 1983 to 1999]
- *Les PME au Québec — État de la situation, édition 1999* [Small and medium-sized businesses in Quebec—Status report, 1999 edition]
- *S@voir.stat—Quarterly Report on Knowledge-Based Economy*
- *Bulletin de l'Observatoire de la culture et des communications* [Newsletter of the Culture and Communications Research Institute]

² The translation of this article is provided as a reading aid only.

Special studies

During the last 12 months, the ISQ has also completed several survey-based studies and reports at the request of specific clients, including the following:

Health

- *Étude longitudinale du développement des enfants du Québec* [Longitudinal study of child development in Quebec] (*ELDEQ 1998-2002*), volume 1 (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux).
- *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998* [Social and health survey] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and regional health and social services boards).
- *La violence familiale dans la vie des enfants du Québec 1999* [Family violence in the lives of children in Quebec] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux).
- *Enquête auprès de la clientèle des ressources pour personnes itinérantes des régions de Montréal-Centre et de Québec 1998-1999* [Survey of clients of resources for the homeless in Montreal-Centre and Québec City], vol. 1 (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, regional health and social services boards of Montreal-Centre and Québec City, cities of Montreal and Québec, and Ministère de la Solidarité sociale).

Labour and remuneration

- *Étude sur la rémunération globale de la Société de transport de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal et de différents marchés pour certains emplois professionnels* [Review of total remuneration for selected professional categories within the Société de transport de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal and various markets].
- *Étude de faisabilité de l'analyse de l'évolution sur dix ans des déboursés des régimes complémentaires de retraite* [Feasibility assessment of an analysis of the ten-year evolution of disbursements from supplemental pension plans] (Regroupement des associations de cadres en matière d'assurance et de retraite and Coalition de l'encadrement en matière d'assurance et de retraite).
- Several specific studies conducted as part of services to respondents to the *Enquête sur la rémunération globale* [Survey on total remuneration] (ERG), at the request of, among others, the Communauté urbaine de Montréal and Ville de Montréal.

Economy and sectoral statistics

- *Rapport d'enquête sur l'adoption du commerce électronique par les PME québécoises* [Report of the survey on the adoption of e-commerce by small and medium-sized businesses in Quebec].

Demographics

- Pilot study on human resources planning in the Quebec public service using, in particular, the Persim software package developed by Statistics Canada.
- Development of a method for estimating inter-municipal migration flows. Initial findings are available at the ISQ Web site.

Key survey and related activity

In addition to completing various surveys as part of regular programming and drafting the survey reports noted above, the ISQ carried out collection and analysis activities for the following surveys:

Individual and household surveys

- *Enquête québécoise sur les limitations d'activité* [Quebec survey on activity restrictions] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Office des personnes handicapées du Québec).
- *Enquête sur la violence envers les femmes* [Survey on violence against women] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux).
- *Enquête sur l'activité physique et la santé* [Survey on 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 on the SF-36 composite index for health] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and Régie régionale de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal-Centre).
- *Enquête sociale et de santé cardiovasculaire auprès des enfants et des adolescents* [Cardiovascular health and social 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 ethnocultural communities] (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, regional health and social services boards of Montreal-Centre, Laval and Montérégie, and the 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 québécoise sur le tabagisme chez les élèves du secondaire* [Quebec survey of tobacco use among secondary school students] — take 2.
- *Étude parallèle sur un mode de collecte alternatif* [Parallel study on an alternative collection system].
- *Enquête sur les besoins des familles en matière de services de garde éducatifs* [Survey on the needs of families for education-oriented child-care] (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance).

Business surveys

- The *Enquête sur la rémunération globale (ERG)* [Survey on total remuneration] is essential for preparing the comparative studies (which are required under the ISQ's legal mandate) on remuneration of employees in the Quebec public and private sectors. ERG 2000 focussed on three areas: wages, benefits (public sector) and variable remuneration (disbursements). In 2001, several improvements have been made to this annual survey, including the addition of fields for some employment corps, the selection of jobs targeted by the activity-sector survey, splitting of the maintenance and service category into two separate categories (workers and service employees), and adjustment of the levels of some job categories. In addition, attention was given to the method of collecting benefits.

- *Enquête sur les entreprises assujetties à la Loi favorisant le développement de la main-d'œuvre* [Survey of businesses subject to the Act to foster the development of manpower] (Ministère de la Solidarité sociale).
- *Enquête sur les besoins des entreprises en matière de services financiers* [Survey on the financial service requirements of businesses] (Investissement Québec).
- *Enquête sur le programme de démarrage de petites entreprises — 2000* [Survey on the small-business start-up program—2000] (Investissement Québec).
- *Enquête sur les besoins des entreprises en main-d'œuvre hautement qualifiée* [Survey on the needs of businesses for highly qualified labour force] (Centre d'études sur l'emploi et la technologie, Emploi Québec).
- *Enquête sur les dépenses de l'Administration publique québécoise dans les domaines de la recherche et du développement, de l'innovation et de la culture scientifique* [Survey of Quebec government spending on research and development, innovation and scientific culture] (Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie).

During the 2000–2001 fiscal year, a decentralized network of interviewers was set up to conduct individual interviews in all of Quebec's administrative regions. The ISQ completed the first survey of this type across Quebec, and it can now offer its clients a new, direct method of data collection in addition to the methods already offered (telephone and postal). Exploratory studies were also undertaken for the purpose of setting up electronic data collection mechanisms.

In addition, the ISQ integrated a new, automated coding software package for causes of death into its demographic occurrences register system. This software, called Styx, is a French-language adaptation of another package called Micar (Mortality, Indexing, Classification and Retrieval), which the ISQ and the *Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale* are jointly trying to improve.

With regard to human resources management, the ISQ conducted an internal survey on its organizational climate, the purpose of which was to 'take the pulse' of ISQ staff after one year of operations. It is expected that this will become an annual survey.

Electronic dissemination

***La Banque de données statistiques officielles sur le Québec* [Quebec's statistical data bank] (BDSO)**

As this project is part of its mandate, the ISQ finished the administrative design of the BDSO during the last fiscal year. As it is part of the foundation of the government's information highway, this centralized data bank, to which 13 partners contribute their data, will be able to offer citizens and businesses one-stop access to officially released Quebec statistics. This means Internet surfers will be able to obtain official, complete, current, standardized, comparable and reliable statistical data on Quebec, even without being familiar with the Quebec government structure or where it is located on the government's Web site.

The ISQ Web site

Complete versions of all ISQ publications are downloadable in PDF format from the ISQ Web site. New sections on areas of interest have also been added to the site: *Gender-*

based analysis and *Knowledge-based economy*. The regional data section has been completely overhauled to facilitate consultation. At present, the new *News Centre* at the site not only offers ISQ press releases but also lets journalists sign up to receive all ISQ press releases automatically. A CADRISQ section has also been added to the ISQ site. The English version of the site is making headway, and all press releases and highlights disseminated by the ISQ are already available in English.

Statistical co-ordination

In addition to continuing to carry out consultation activities with standing advisory committees, the ISQ conducted various consultations with the Quebec government. Universities and researchers are currently being consulted on the relevance and feasibility of an integrated Quebec social survey with a focus on social development. To date, the preference tends to be for longitudinal surveys. In addition, the ISQ has consulted Quebec ministries and agencies on releasing data from the 2001 Census, and its report on this has been forwarded to Statistics Canada.

The ISQ is currently in the process of renewing its information-sharing arrangement with Statistics Canada in the area of business statistics. Also, in the context of Statistics Canada's current overhaul of business surveys, the ISQ and the Canadian statistics organization are currently defining the terms and conditions for close co-operation. The ISQ has also been invited to sit on the *Comité des coordonnateurs ministériels d'affaires internationales* [Committee of Ministerial Coordinators of International Affairs] under the co-presidencies of the *Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce* and the *Ministère des Relations internationales*. By being on this interministerial committee, the ISQ will be able to stay abreast of the government's orientations and actions in the area of international relations and have input in the development of joint products, such as the design of a catalogue of expertise within the Quebec public service.

Influence outside Quebec

At the conference held by the Statistical Society of Canada in Ottawa, May 2000, the ISQ held its annual session on statistical methods and applications. An ISQ representative also participated at a round-table discussion on training statisticians.

At the CADRISQ, various talks were given to university researchers. During the *Journées annuelles de la santé publique 2000* [2000 Annual Public Health Days], the ISQ held a colloquium to present the results of the 1998 *Enquête sociale et de santé* [Health and Social Survey] to public health research specialists and practitioners.

In co-operation with the Université de Montréal, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the Kosovo Statistics Office, the ISQ participated in the project to reactivate the Kosovo vital statistics system.

At a conference on Internet-based government services organized by the *Institut canadien à Québec* in early April 2001, the ISQ gave a talk entitled *La réingénierie des processus d'affaires pour mieux satisfaire le client — Une étude de cas : BDSO* [Re-engineering business procedures to improve customer satisfaction—A case study: BDSO].

At the conference called *Le service à la clientèle : virage client dans le secteur public* held in Québec in January 2001 under the auspices of the International Research Institute, the ISQ presented a talk entitled *Comment utiliser les sondages pour évaluer les attentes et la satisfaction de votre clientèle* [How to use surveys to evaluate customer expectations and satisfaction].

An ISQ representative presided over the interministerial subcommittee responsible for organizing science and technology statistics. The ISQ handled the logistical organization of the meeting attended by users and provincial statistics suppliers on science and technology, held in Quebec City in November 2000, at the initiative of Statistics Canada. An ISQ representative also presented a paper entitled *Indicateurs sur l'économie du savoir : le commerce international du Québec par niveau technologique* [Knowledge-based economy indicators: international trade in Quebec by technological level].

The ISQ also contributed its expertise and participated in many governmental committees in the areas of social development, reducing poverty, demographic ageing, gender-based analysis, active work force, social economy, etc. As is the case each year, many presentations were given on the intersectoral model to the university and private sectors and to the Quebec government. The ISQ also helped to organize international colloquia and conventions (*Rencontres Sauvy* [Sauvy meetings], *Association internationale des démographes de langue française* [International Association of French-language demographers] and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population). Finally, the ISQ participated in many fairs and conventions, which gave it an opportunity to increase its public exposure and to meet clients.

Technological achievements

Having begun to overhaul the mathematical modelization system of the intersectoral model early in the fiscal year, the ISQ encountered several technological challenges linked to this project. Thanks to advanced information-processing technology, especially data encryption and user authentication, the ISQ was able to make this application available on the Web, while guaranteeing the highest possible levels of security.

The last 12 months have been marked by major technological acquisitions. For example, the ISQ installed four new servers (mini-computers) and a security gateway that will allow it to set up the technological infrastructure needed to complete its projects. This new infrastructure should be up and running by autumn 2001.

SASKATCHEWAN

During the past year the Bureau has consolidated much of its dissemination activity by increasing the amount of material available via the internet. The annual *Saskatchewan Economic Review* for the first time in more than fifty years is only available from our web site. There were no copies of the 2000 edition printed. The *Monthly Statistical Review* has also been loaded on our web site resulting in a 50 percent reduction in the number of hard copies required for distribution. The web site also contains other data relating to the province including population data, labour force data and price data.

Staff turnover has put much of our economic accounts developmental work on hold as new staff were hired and trained. However, we were able to update and produce the economic accounts for Saskatchewan for 1999. The accounts currently cover the period 1951 to 1999.

YUKON

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is a branch of the Yukon Government's Executive Council Office. The Premier of the Yukon 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. The director of the Bureau, Dr. Gerry Ewert, took extended leave in August 2000 to work for the Government of Indonesia in Jakarta. And the Bureau's operations manager, Geoff Abbott, began a year-long secondment to Statistics Canada (from August 2000 to August 2001) to be the Yukon manager for the 2001 Census. Their positions are being filled by existing Bureau staff (Paul Harris as acting director and Sally Stitt as acting operations manager). The Bureau's librarian relocated to her home state of North Carolina and her replacement, Murray Munn, began work in July 2000.

A significant development this past year was negotiating the secondment of Jim Tousignant, the Bureau's long-time senior methodologist, to the newly established Yukon Government Office of Strategic Management (OSM). This office is located within the Executive Council Office department, of which the Bureau of Statistics is a part. The OSM will be responsible for evaluating Yukon Government programs. Jim officially began work at the OSM on April 1, 2001, and a search was started to find a temporary replacement for him at the Bureau. The OSM will operate as a client of the Bureau, which will provide operational support to the OSM's survey and data-gathering activities.

As an official Statistics Canada depository, the Bureau receives all of Statistics Canada's 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 Centre is open to the public.

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 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 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 training

In 2000–01, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics had four major goals:

1. Providing better service to our clients: data warehouse

The Bureau began developing an electronic data warehouse last year with the objective of storing all publicly available statistical information on the Yukon in it. A prototype interface was developed and will be piloted in the coming months.

2. Building working relationships with Yukon First Nations

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Census

In 1999 the Bureau entered into an agreement with the largest First Nation in the Yukon, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) of Whitehorse, to develop and administer a three-phase census of all of its members:

- Phase 1, a survey of all 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 February 2000 and was completed in March.

A report on phases 1 and 2 was prepared over the summer and presented to the KDFN leadership and at the negotiation table in the fall of 2000.

- Phase 3, KDFN is undertaking a major initiative in 2001 called the Governance Project. This initiative employs the services of a consultant from the University of Victoria who is presenting option papers on model governments, model constitutions, model ratification procedures and model government-to-government relations. It is proposed that each segment of the Governance Project be followed by a survey to determine which of the options presented best suits the needs of KDFN. People surveyed would be limited to adults living in the Yukon, either beneficiaries or

members of KDFN. The Bureau of Statistics developed a budget and time frame, presented to KDFN for discussion.

First Nation home and community care program—needs assessments

The Bureau provided assistance in developing and implementing community needs assessments and an evaluation framework for those Yukon communities planning to deliver a home and community care program. The Bureau provided technical advice and guidance to each co-ordinator of the program, met with First Nation community health representatives and became a member of the program steering committee. This project operated from January 2000 to March 31, 2001.

3. Working with Yukon government departments

1999 Visitor Exit Survey

The Bureau continued to analyse and report results of the 1999 Visitor Exit Survey to the client department, the Department of Tourism.

Travel Survey 2000

The Bureau administered and analysed a survey of potential Yukon visitors who had requested travel information from the Yukon Government. The survey was administered in the winter of 1999–2000 and involved a mailout survey form and 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.

Border-crossing statistics

On contract to the Yukon Government's Department of Tourism, the Bureau provides a monthly analysis of border crossings based on data provided by the Yukon's Federal Customs office.

Business Reply Card (BRC)

On contract to the Yukon Government's Department of Tourism, the Bureau provides data input into an SAS database of BRCs received by the Department of Tourism.

Health care update

To keep files of health care registrants current, the Bureau semi-annually surveys all registrants who have not been billed in the previous 12 months. 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 2010, using high, medium and low growth scenarios.

Weekly Fuel Price Survey

The Bureau 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.

Hunter Effort Survey

We collaborated with the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources to produce a hunter effort survey to document the previous hunting season. Four thousand copies were mailed to holders of hunting permits. The survey gathered 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. Reports will be made later this spring.

Marsh Lake School Survey

This was a small mailout survey to the local residents of Marsh Lake, an area near Whitehorse. The survey sought the number of students, 13 years old and younger, at each residence. This information was being collected on behalf of the Yukon Department of Education to develop enrolment projections for the public school system. The survey was administered in late March 2001 and a final report is expected in early May 2001.

Education Act review (EAR)

The public consultation process for the review of the Yukon's *Education Act* took place in the fall and winter of 2000. It generated a significant amount of input to the EAR Steering Committee. The Bureau provided technical assistance to the EAR Secretariat and helped with the management and organization of the EAR public input. A text analysis software package called NUDIST (Non-numerical Unstructured Data Indexing Searching Theorizing) was utilized. A report of all the public input received will be posted on the Bureau's web site early in April 2001.

Yukon Government Property Management Agency (PMA) review: Employee-Client Survey

The Bureau provided technical, methodological, operational and analytical assistance to the PMA Review Steering Committee in the design, implementation, analysis and reporting of a program of research to gather information from staff and clients. The objective was to improve the work environment and the PMA's delivery of services. The PMA is the main agency that manages the Yukon Government's buildings, both existing and under construction. This project will continue into the new budget year (2001-02), with a final report expected in early summer 2001.

Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board Research Program

The Bureau provided technical, methodological, operational and analytical assistance to the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board in the design, implementation, analysis and reporting of a program of research to gather information from stakeholders. Operational considerations warranted splitting the research program into two phases: Phase 1 (January to March 31, 2001) gathered information from injured workers and internal WCHSB staff by means of a mailout survey and personal interviews. Phase 2 (April to July 2001) will collect information from employers.

4. Ongoing liaison and assistance to Statistics Canada

The Bureau assisted Statistics Canada in its promotional activities to ensure the best results possible for the 2001 Census.

Listing projects were undertaken in several high growth areas near Whitehorse, with the updated community maps to be provided to the local Census Office before May 15, 2001.

APPENDIX 4

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 16–17, 2000
Next meeting: October 11–12, 2001
Members: Representatives of the provincial/territorial departments of agriculture or provincial and territorial statistical focal points (or their representatives)

Highlights

The reports received from the committee members were distributed in advance of the meeting. The provincial/territorial reports summarized the program activities and new initiatives, organizational changes, and new data dissemination practices adopted since the last meeting. Many provincial and territorial members highlighted again the importance of the statistical data produced by Statistics Canada to their own statistical programs.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) informed the committee of the organizational changes that had occurred in the past year. They also briefed the committee on work carried out with Statistics Canada in a number of data areas to ensure that it can meet the data requirements of its large clientele. These included work on the 2001 Census of Agriculture, the 2000 Farm Financial Survey, the booklet "Understanding Measurement of Farm Income," and participating in an Interdepartmental Working Group to Improve Trade Statistics.

Agriculture Division reviewed the major developments in its programs. The discussion with provincial/territorial representatives covered the following program areas:

- Crops and Horticulture
- Livestock and Aquaculture
- Farm Income and Prices
- Whole Farm Data Project
- Census of Agriculture
- Research and Analysis

In addition to the above-noted areas of interest, Agriculture Division highlighted new developments related to the following activities:

- the 2002 survey redesign
- data analysis

The meeting also allowed special presentations on the following agricultural and rural topics by committee members and invited guests:

Presentation topics	Presenters
Life Sciences Economy	Jack Bamford
Surveying of Organic Fruit and Vegetable Farms	William Parsons
Surveying Genetically Modified Corn and Soybean Seeds	Bernard Hategekimana
2001 Census of Agriculture—New Farm Coverage Strategy	Claude Julien
2001 Census of Agriculture—Data Dissemination Strategy	Gary Davidson
Farm Income and Prices Section—Update on Farm Input Price Index	Paul Murray
Redesign of the Farm Product Price Index	Gail-Anne Breese
Report by the Interdepartmental Working Group to Improve Trade Statistics	Jackie Leblanc
Changes in Alberta Agriculture and its Implication on the Statistical Program	Robert Prather
Resurrecting the Livestock Feed Study	Barb McLaughlin
Intensification of Livestock Production: Threats And Opportunities for Rural Communities (Preliminary Results)	Martin Beaulieu
Rural Demography and Migration	Ray Bollman

The members were pleased with the content and format of the committee meetings. They also appreciated the opportunity to meet with subject-matter personnel in Agriculture Division.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 12–13, 2000
Next meeting: October 23–24, 2001
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Ray Ryan welcomed the members. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Mr. Ryan's opening remarks stressed the workload pressures facing the Field in the coming year, and the difficulties in attracting and retaining skilled people in the highly competitive labour market facing everyone today. He also noted that response burden and respondent relations pressures were becoming increasingly hotter issues.

Mr. Ryan said the Business and Trade Statistics Field will put additional emphasis on analysis during the next few years. One idea being considered is the formation of an Institute for Analysis at Statistics Canada where academics and economists would be invited to test their hypotheses. He invited members to submit their suggestions on how they might work with Statistics Canada to expand analytical activity using economic data.

Referring to the discussion at the confidentiality training session held immediately before this meeting, Mr. Ryan invited provinces and territories to suggest ways we can work together to minimize duplication in confidentiality analysis and development of suppression patterns.

There was extensive discussion on the use of tax data. Proposed revisions to tax legislation (which would give provincial and territorial statistical agencies more access to tax data) died on the Order Paper when the election was called. Indications are that these changes will be reintroduced in the new parliamentary session.

Climate change and data issues (Wilf Falk)

Mr. Falk presented the latest thinking on climate change, what Canada will have to do to meet Kyoto commitments, and the kind of information that will be needed to monitor the environmental situation in general and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in particular. During discussion, the following points were agreed upon:

- Science is much closer to saying unequivocally that there is a major problem, and GHG emissions are the cause.
- GHG emissions will have to be monitored, and it will likely take a neutral agency like Statistics Canada to collect the data; otherwise Canadian industries may not buy in.
- Data will be needed by industry to answer questions such as *Which industries are using energy? How much?* and *How is consumption changing over time?*
- Statistics Canada's energy balance tables provide some answers, but only at the Canada level. Demands are increasing for data at the province/territory by industry level.

- GHG 'sinks,' like forest reserves, could give Canada a competitive advantage, but we don't have a good inventory of forest reserves by province/territory.
- Other countries like Australia are well ahead of us in developing the information base and models required to monitor GHG emissions and their effects.
- The major issue in the coming year will be what happens in the United States. If it decides to develop a monitoring program, other countries will follow. However, at the moment ratification of the Kyoto agreements by the U.S. Congress does not look promising.

The Exporters Register—an update (David Dodds)

Mr. Dodds reminded members that the objective of this program is to produce data on Canadian exporters' performance by linking export trade records to establishments listed on the Business Register. Data are published by industry, province of residence and geography of destination, subject to normal confidentiality constraints. Results for reference years 1993 to 1997 were released in March 2000, and 1998 and 1999 data will be available later this year.

Several members raised questions about estimates of exports from specific provinces, such as the growth in grain exports from Manitoba from 1993 to 1997. Mr. Dodds said that he could not give immediate answers, but that International Trade Division (ITD) welcomes this kind of feedback because it helps his division focus on areas where further analysis is required. The provinces said they could provide better feedback if they could get the names of exporting establishments, but Mr. Dodds explained that the names were confidential.

In response to another question, Mr. Dodds said that ITD's capacity to do special tabulations for provinces was limited, primarily because of the confidentiality screening required for each table. Mr. Ryan suggested that provinces get together and specify five or six 'generic' tables they would like to see at the provincial level. That would limit the amount of confidentiality screening ITD has to do to produce provincial tabulations. Dave Stewart (N.W.T.) nominated Steve Miller (B.C.) and Wilf Falk (Manitoba) to lead this effort. The Alberta delegate asked if the Exporter Register could be used as a survey frame. Mr. Dodds agreed to pursue this issue.

Small Business Program (Robert Lussier and Jamie Brunet)

This item was added to the agenda at the request of several members. Mr. Ryan explained that over the last three years, the priority for Small Business and Special Surveys Division has been the Special Surveys work. These surveys produced important results in areas like readiness for Y2K. However, other parts of the division's program suffered, including the Small Business Program. Now the Field wants to raise the profile of the Small Business Program, and to that end Jamie Brunet was recently appointed as full-time Program Manager for the Small Business Program. Consultations with a number of potential users have led to some concrete suggestions for small business indicators that would be of use. Mr. Ryan said the Division will identify concrete current indicators, determine how these could be produced and circulate these proposals to provinces, territories and other users for comments. Quebec and B.C. will be among the first provinces consulted because they have already developed products for their own jurisdictions.

Business Register—population of large vs. small business by province (André Monty)

Mr. Monty presented slides providing the numbers of large and small businesses in each province/territory, based on the definitions of large and small business used by the Business Register. The large/small business boundaries are significant factors in the sampling rates used in Statistics Canada surveys. Members were satisfied with the explanation of how large/small boundaries are determined, and with the resulting representation of large and small businesses in their jurisdictions.

E-commerce—update and plans (Fred Gault)

Mr. Gault chairs an OECD Working Group on concepts, definitions and classifications for data collection for the Information–Communications Technology Sector. He noted that OECD has recently produced a definition of the Information–Communications Technology (ICT) Sector, for use in data collection efforts by member countries. They have also produced the first international publication on the ICT Sector.

A UN Working Group is revising the International Standard Industrial Classification, Revision 3 (ISIC3), an international standard maintained by the United Nations Statistical Agency, in 2002, and the OECD is proposing a minor revision to the wholesale industries in the classification structure to improve relevance and usefulness of the ICT sector definition. They are also trying to get the ICT Sector definition accepted as a 'Special Aggregation' Appendix to the 2002 revision of ISIC3. Tourism and Energy are already recognized as special aggregations in ISIC3.

At the OECD meeting on e-commerce held in Ottawa last year, Mr. Gault's group was charged with producing a definition for electronic commerce. In late September 2000, two definitions, one narrow, one broad, were circulated for comment:

- E-commerce (narrow): commerce conducted over the Internet using Internet protocols (not essential that payment be made via the Internet)
- E-commerce (broad): includes commerce conducted over the Internet and over proprietary networks, via EDI and other protocols.

Mr. Gault noted that the United States wanted the broad definition because they have well-developed and extensive EDI-based commercial applications. U.S. delegates are concerned that under the narrow definition, there could be misleading growth in measured e-commerce as businesses shift from EDI to Internet-based commerce.

International agreements are important to standardize data collection activities across countries to give us a common basis for evaluating the growth and impact of electronic commerce.

Here in Canada, Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division (SIEID) recently released results of the first cross-industry Business E-commerce Survey, based on the CAPEX sample frame. The survey results showed that roughly 0.2% of economic activity in the business sector in 1999 was conducted using electronic commerce. We don't yet have a survey to cover direct household purchases of goods and services using the Internet. The Business E-commerce Survey will be repeated with changes to

get better information on business-to-business (B2B) versus business-to-consumers (B2C) sales.

The e-commerce team will be proposing a number of questions that should be included in all annual industry surveys to improve the coverage and amount of detailed benchmark data available on e-commerce in Canada.

Difficulties caused by embedding data in non-generic software programs (Ron McMahon)

Mr. McMahon began with a historical review of some of the changes in the census and international trade data distribution programs over the last 15 years. All of these different distribution packages have been made available to provinces and territories. However, Mr. McMahon pointed out how these changes in software and packaging over the years have forced provinces and territories to retain old data files and software products as the only way to produce data for earlier time periods. This is awkward and wasteful of scarce provincial/territorial resources. Mr. McMahon recommended that Statistics Canada do something to divorce data dissemination from the software and packaging used.

Members agreed that STC needs to keep up with technology but requested that it not be at the expense of historical data.

Mr. Ryan asked if one solution might be production of 'flat files' of earlier data that could be read by any of the later software programs. Members agreed that this was a partial solution. Questions remain regarding the amount of historical data to include with new programs or in flat files. For programs like Census and International Trade, the volumes of data involved are so large that choices must be made. In these circumstances it's difficult to please all users. Mr. McMahon and other members also expressed concern at having to pay again for historical data they already have in an older format. ITD staff agreed to work with Mr. McMahon and other members to try and resolve specific difficulties with respect to ITD data.

However, it was agreed that since this issue covers more than business and trade statistics, it should be included on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination. Mr. Palmer (P.E.I.) is on the Agenda Committee for that Committee, and agreed to ensure that the item will be included on the agenda for the November 2000 Meeting.

Redesign of the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Surveys— an update (François Maranda)

First, Mr. Maranda explained that the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Surveys (MWRTS) are really two separate surveys with separate questionnaires, separate processing systems and separate releases each month in *The Daily*. A sample of about 7,000 units covers the roughly 90,000 establishments in the wholesale merchants population, and a larger sample of about 14,000 units covers the roughly 180,000 retail stores.

Then Mr. Maranda explained why a redesign is necessary. Introduced in 1988, the two surveys were modified a number of times over the past decade to address several external changes. As a result they now rely on an outdated patchwork of methods and systems. In addition, many of the survey procedures applicable in the 1980s are no longer very effective today because the wholesale and retail sectors have become much

more dynamic. Also, the Bureau has changed from the 1980 SIC to the 1997 NAICS industrial classification, and the sample must reflect this change to be able to produce monthly NAICS estimates with the degree of quality demanded for wholesale and retail trade data. On the processing side, the survey processes are largely mainframe-based, and it's getting harder and harder to maintain these systems.

The redesign was started this year (2000–2001) and will continue for two more years. The work this year has been primarily focussed on consultation with users and on development of the sample design. Provinces and territories were invited to a meeting in May 2000 to discuss their data requirements. The main messages from that meeting were

- an interest in expanding coverage of the wholesale sector to cover agents and brokers, and of the retail sector to include non-store retailing. The possibility of extending the coverage is being investigated, but at this stage it can't be guaranteed because of costs.
- a strong interest in sub-provincial data. The new survey design will take this requirement into account as much as possible.
- a need for backcasting, to link the new estimates to those from the old survey. This is definitely included in the plans.

Sample design work this year has focussed on the changes to the industrial classification structure, and their impact on the kind of sample needed for the survey. Next year, while programs are being developed for sample selection, we will be making use of tax files to improve the accuracy of measures of sales. We will also determine how GST files may be used in edit and imputation processes for partial and full non-response, and we will look into the possibility of using GST files as a 'calibration estimator' to take advantage of the relationship between GST revenues and total sales. Finally, we plan to use the GST files to develop aggregate estimates of retail sales for small businesses, so we can relieve them from the burden of responding to this survey.

As part of the redesign, we want to establish a much stronger link between the monthly and annual surveys, with a view to benchmarking one with the other.

Finally, in parallel with the MWRTS redesign, we will have to make a number of adjustments to the recently introduced Retail Commodity Survey, as both surveys are intimately linked. For example, half of the respondents to the monthly retail sales survey are also respondents to the commodity survey.

Agenda Subcommittee

The Agenda Subcommittee was formed to provide for greater provincial/territorial input in preparation for the meetings. The following members were nominated to this subcommittee: Camille Courchesne, Steve Miller, Jack Hicks, Neil MacDonald, Laurie Hill (Secretary).

The subcommittee should meet (not necessarily in Ottawa) in the spring of 2001 to propose items and issues that need to be considered at the fall meeting. The subcommittee was also invited to identify any urgent issues that can't wait for discussion/resolution at the next Business Statistics Committee Meeting.

CENSUS OF POPULATION

Last meeting: June 14, 2000
Next meeting: September 19, 2001
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Mr. Benoit Laroche welcomed all participants and mentioned that he would be seeking the membership's advice on a number of topics that would be presented throughout the course of the meeting.

Major changes to content

The content of the 2001 Census has now been approved and the questionnaires are in the process of being finalized. One of the major changes to content in relation to the 1996 Census is the addition of three questions concerning religion, parents' place of birth, and language at work. Also, two changes have been made to questions on the long form (2B) questionnaire. The question on the language used at home has been expanded to include other languages spoken at home in addition to the language spoken most often. Finally, the question regarding *Relationship to Person 1*, which appears in both the long and short form (2A) questionnaires, now offers the categories *Common-law partner (opposite sex) of Person 1* and *Common-law partner (same sex) of Person 1*. In this question, the definition of common-law has been expanded to include both opposite-sex and same-sex partners.

The homeless

Various possibilities for collecting information on the homeless for the 2001 Census were looked at. Statistics Canada did not recommend adding a specific question on the homeless, but instead suggested working on improving our classification procedures for the 2001 Census. This will enable us to better identify shelters where the homeless would be likely to spend the night from May 14 to 15. With these improved procedures, we will be able to enumerate all persons who are staying in shelters or similar facilities and who represent a sizeable share of the homeless population. Statistics Canada is also looking at the possibility of conducting evaluation studies in selected Canadian cities to verify the extent of non-coverage of the homeless as a result of not enumerating on the street.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

The *industry* variable will be coded using NAICS. Statistics Canada's plans are to re-code this variable according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification offline, to allow comparison with previous censuses.

Place of Work

The *place of work* variable will be coded at the sub-census subdivision (CSD) level as we obtain commitments from the various jurisdictions. To date we have received

commitments from some provinces and territories while others have declined. Discussions with Ontario, Winnipeg and Manitoba are ongoing.

Other innovations in the 2001 Census

As the census will be collected in the same manner as in 1996, a number of experiments and changes have been introduced to palliate several problems observed last time. One of these experiments is the Internet test, which was addressed later in the meeting. In response to the lack of privacy issues, Statistics Canada will be more proactive at offering respondents the option to provide the information by telephone or to mail it directly to the regional offices, bypassing the field staff. However, if this offer is extended too openly, we will lose control over the questionnaires. Wherever possible, enumerators located outside the immediate area will be used to partially address the local enumerator issue.

We will again use Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to capture the census data and to code the *industry* and *occupation* variables. One major change in processing the census data is the scanning of the documents in head office. As well as serving an archival purpose, in subsequent operations the scanned images will be used instead of the paper questionnaires. This will be a good test prior to 2006, where optical character recognition will be used to capture the information from the census.

Census dissemination

Although the timing is premature to inform the focal points about the product line, the planning schedule—including when the focal points would receive this information—was reviewed. It was noted that the review of the 1996 Census evaluation and the consultation strategy for 2001 feed into what the products and services line would be. A report is expected for the end of June 2000.

Statistics Canada will address the products and services in the first round of consultations. This consultation has already been initiated with some census market sectors. Most of the consultation activities will be undertaken in September when visits will be made to the regional offices and to major census data users. This first consultation will feed into the development of the framework for the products and services lines planned for November 2000. In the spring of 2001, once the framework has been established, a second round of consultations to discuss the pricing and licensing conditions will be carried out.

The Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee delegates were invited to participate in the consultation on the dissemination of the 2001 Census. They will receive a letter of invitation during the summer, as well as copies of the consultation guide.

Geography

An update on the standard geographic areas (block program, dissemination areas, the Statistical Area Classification, census tracts, CSDs, designated places and metropolitan areas) for the 2001 Census was provided. The challenges and opportunities driving Geography's activities as 2001 products and process are being developed were reviewed in detail. The following are the highlights of these challenges and opportunities:

- improving timeliness and quality of Geography census products
- re-engineering the Geography census product line to take advantage of the National Geographic Base
- increasing client access to Geography census products and services
- redeveloping the pricing and licensing policies for Geography census products and services
- enhancing Geography's partnership with regional offices
- increasing the availability of geography metadata, tools and training in support of products and services.

The 2001 Geography census products were reviewed. It was noted that in the past four types of products were created—data products, reference maps/products, digital geographic files, and postal code products. Most of the products developed in 1996 would again be produced in 2001 but not necessarily in the same format. Research themes associated with product lines have been identified and work is underway. Geography is hoping to be in a position to define the final product line by the fall of 2000. At that time Geography will ask the regional offices and the provincial/territorial focal points to review some of Geography's plans.

Internet test

The 2001 Census Internet test was an initiative that came out of the 2006 Census Research and Testing Program. As part of the federal government plans, a broad initiative—*Connecting Canadians*—will enable the government to conduct business electronically, wherever possible, with other governments, within government, with the private sector and with Canadians. There are also sub-objectives, one of which is to put the government and communities on-line. The intention of having federal government services available online by 2004 needs to be looked at in relation to the 2006 Census.

Two particular test sites have been selected for the 2001 Internet test. One is the federal electoral district of Crowfoot near Edmonton, and the other is the census metropolitan area of London. Holding a test in 2001 is the only real opportunity to conduct a test prior to the 2006 Census. The Internet test will provide valuable information as input to the development of the National Census Test and will enable a head start on the development of that test. The Internet option will be available to persons with visual disabilities across Canada. It will also be used as an alternative for direct response (i.e., in cases where non-response follow-up is difficult).

The Internet option will be available from May 1, 2001 to June 8, 2001. A Census Internet Help Line will also be provided for respondents who may have difficulty with the application. An evaluation study will then be conducted to compare the results with the original objectives.

2001 Census communications

Statistics Canada staff has already begun to contact the provinces and territories for their support. The program sends a consistent message to respondents that the information provided on the questionnaires will remain confidential and that Statistics Canada is a responsible organization. An internal communications program is in place to

train ambassadors within the department to promote the census through speaking engagements, interviews, etc.

The single message for the 2001 Census is collection oriented: *Count yourself in, complete your census form and mail it in today*. Focus group testing was conducted to review various messages; overall feedback was that people expect the government to act like the government and the message should reflect this.

The communications program will be similar to the program used in 1996: it will consist of five components, all of which work together to promote awareness of the census. The components (third-party support, media, education, paid advertising, and special target groups) were reviewed in detail. New for the 2001 Census are the Complete Count Committees that will help obtain support from the municipalities. Seven such committees have been set up in Ontario and three in Alberta.

The 2001 Census challenges were reviewed and it was noted that the issues would be handled on a national basis because they are not region-specific. They are, however, weighted differently in various regions.

Update on postcensal surveys

In addition to the Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) and the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS), a third postcensal survey will be conducted in the spring of 2002. The Ethnic Diversity Survey, sponsored by Canadian Heritage, will focus on the cultural identification of Canadians. It is in the earliest stages of development. Statistics Canada is in the process of forming a survey team and discussing what the content of such a survey should be.

Health and Activity Limitation Survey¹ (HALS)

In 2001, Statistics Canada will conduct HALS for the third time. HALS was conducted in both 1986 and 1991. The survey is sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada, which has always been the key player behind HALS.

There have been a number of changes to the survey since 1991. Over the past year and a half, extensive research and development activities were undertaken to improve the two census filter questions. As a result of this research, the new census filter questions will yield significantly better information. The other major change is that the disability rates will come directly from the census, while HALS will provide information about the nature and severity of disabilities, barriers, etc. In 2001, there will not be an institutional component to HALS.

The deadline for the finalization of questionnaires is July 1, 2000. Qualitative testing for the new questions developed for HALS 2001 is presently underway in Montréal and Ottawa. A pilot test is also being prepared and will be conducted in the fall of 2000. The main survey will be administered between September and December 2001.

1. Now called Participation and Activity Limitations Survey (PALS).

Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS)

Three building blocks have been put in place for the 2001 approach to the APS. The first is the involvement and endorsement by Aboriginal people of the survey process. The second is the building capacity. The mandate, obtained through *Gathering Strength* to undertake the APS, was twofold: we had to carry out a survey and also train Aboriginal people in statistics. Because of the seriousness of this mandate, training programs for Aboriginal people have since been developed. The third building block is a long-term vision for an Aboriginal Statistical Program, which has had an impact on the structure of the 2001 APS.

The APS has created an Implementation Committee comprising representatives from the six national Aboriginal organizations, two representatives each from the federal government and Statistics Canada, and a provincial/territorial representative. The Aboriginal Affairs Forum was approached to nominate someone for the Implementation Committee. Their representative for the committee is from Saskatchewan.

The approach that the project has embarked on has also led to the development of partnerships with Aboriginal people and with Aboriginal organizations. These partnerships are key to what Statistics Canada is trying to do in terms of building the long-term vision.

In order to be able to better reflect the various situations of Aboriginal people in Canada, a number of 25-minute-long questionnaires were developed using a model made up of core APS material. This core questionnaire will be administered across the country, regardless whether the respondents are Inuit, living off/on reserves, etc. There are 'add-ons' for the Métis, the Inuit and the reserves. The mixed communities will receive the core questionnaires and, where applicable, the Métis supplement. The questionnaires will be tested in the field in September 2000.

Indian reserves from a collection perspective

Enumeration will be done by canvasser methodology using the Form 2D, which will improve data quality, provide accurate long form data and information on band housing, and improve the coverage of Aboriginal people. Census representatives will complete a questionnaire at the time of contact. The sampling ratio for all Indian CSD-type enumeration areas (EAs) will be 100%. All Indian reserves, Indian government districts, Indian settlements and *terres réservées* will be listed on the 2001 Census geography if identified by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and if there was a population enumerated there in the 1991 and/or 1996 Censuses. In addition, all reserves that refused the 1996 Census will also be listed. Each Indian CSD type will be identified as one or more separate enumeration area(s).

2006 Census

Although we are still a year away from the 2001 Census, the planning for the 2006 Census has been underway for some time. At previous meetings, Statistics Canada mentioned that it has been exploring the possibility of changing the collection methodology from the traditional decentralized and largely manual process to one that is somewhat more automated and centralized. This is something that is referred to as a

centralized edit. Research and development of a centralized edit option for 2006 is continuing.

As discussed earlier, Statistics Canada is considering providing respondents with some options to send us their information by electronic means. The Internet test that will be conducted in 2001 will help determine whether or not this would be a useful tool. There are also plans to make such an option available to all respondents in 2006. For those people who do not have Internet or choose not to use it, Statistics Canada is also considering some kind of telefile option using a combination of voice recognition and touch-tone responses, at least for the short form (2A).

The whole approach, including both the Internet option and the centralized edit, depends heavily on having a comprehensive control file. This will be based on an extended address register, which we hope would cover everywhere in the country that has civic-type addressing by 2005. Statistics Canada is working in partnership with Elections Canada and others to develop the digital geographic infrastructure needed to support such an address register.

This is the approach that is being worked on and in the summer, we are planning to go to Policy Committee to get approval in principle to go ahead and develop this methodology. A dress rehearsal will be conducted for a number of test sites in May 2004. It will be a real dress rehearsal containing all of the procedures to be used for the 2006 Census.

DATA DISSEMINATION

Last meeting: November 15, 2000
Next meeting: November 15, 2001
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Highlights

Mr. Podehl mentioned two major developments in dissemination, marketing and communications at Statistics Canada: CANSIM II and the growing importance of the STC web site.

The Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) produced many publications and CD-ROMs this year, covering a wide range of topics. The web site has acquired new tools for making the Internet, more than ever, the main medium for disseminating ISQ products. Among some additions,

- journalists have been offered an online subscription enabling them to receive all ISQ press releases automatically;
- online purchase orders for publications and online requests for statistical information have been introduced; and
- all publications are now available at no charge on the site in PDF format.

The ISQ has also undertaken two collaborations: one with France to develop a prototype CD-ROM, and the other with the Université de Montréal to establish a research data centre.

Over the past year, the Department of Finance of **Ontario** has achieved the transition to PDF documents and has maintained and organized three levels of Internet web sites. The web sites have been revamped to adopt new Ontario government standards. A large-scale time-series database project is underway. The Ministry as a whole now has a Chief Information Officer with responsibilities for data dissemination.

Despite major staff changes in the past year, the **New Brunswick** Statistics Agency worked to maintain the same level of service. However, the Internet project is somewhat behind schedule. The province is now offering the provincial electoral districts and population projections.

Three staff members in the Statistics Division of the Department of Finance of **Nova Scotia** have become 'deemed employees' and have been sworn in under the *Statistics Act*. Within the Department of Finance, electronic publication and data dissemination have become the norm. An electronic index was created to provide a common listing of STC documents free only to focal points or free to the public.

British Columbia published a profile of provincial electoral districts based on 1996 Census characteristics. Four student programmers web-enabled the *British Columbia Manufacturers' Directory*.

Manitoba's agency produced an 'area profile' for each riding. The redevelopment of the electronic dissemination system, called InfoNet, is underway. This project is to make available the data free of charge within the provincial government.

In **Saskatchewan**, a government-wide format for the web site has been adopted without content changes to the site. *Economic Review* is now produced in-house and available on the web only.

Prince Edward Island was involved in many publication and dissemination activities. P.E.I. is focussing on e-government, a move towards a common platform to all government services.

In **Newfoundland**, an internal data warehouse, called EcoStats, has been developed. The system downloads data from CANSIM on an automated schedule. Eventually, data from other government departments could be included. GeoStats Atlantic, a joint project between the governments of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, will provide socio-economic information through an Internet web page, including the geographic information system.

Data dissemination activities in **Alberta** continue to focus primarily on electronic media releases. The ASIST database and other electronic tools have helped to maintain an effective data dissemination service, while limiting work force resource requirements.

There were a few areas of improvement in electronic dissemination systems in the **Northwest Territories**, notably the evolution of their time-series retrieval system.

The **Nunavut** statistical web site has now been integrated with the main government site and updated. Labour Force Survey data is available in print and electronic format in English, French, Inuktitut and even Danish for Greenlanders who have shown an interest in it.

The development of a web-based data warehouse will be done within the next year in the **Yukon**. The site has also been revamped and recent print publications are in PDF format on the site.

Presentations made at the 2000 meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination

CANSIM II

Mr. Anil Arora introduced CANSIM II, part of an overall strategy to enable electronic publishing, including dynamic updating of information, putting it in multidimensional formats, supporting time series and "laying the foundation for a comprehensive output database for the future."

CANSIM II has been up and running internally since April 2000. All active matrices are available in multidimensional format. The International Trade Division disseminates data via its own Canadian international trade database on the web now. That is why it was not included in the development of CANSIM II at this time. The same applies for Census. Both databases are huge. Integration will occur over time as resources allow. Current effort is focussed on getting CANSIM II up and running.

Marketing, pricing and distribution issues are being addressed. Questions arose on the impact of CANSIM II on secondary distributors and on pricing. It was agreed that the focal points would be kept informed of transition issues affecting CANSIM II and be included in the consultation on pricing.

Reasonable use guidelines for Statistics Canada data on provincial and territorial statistical focal point web sites

Mr. Jerry Stinson reviewed the background that led to the development of the guidelines, summarized the issues, and provided examples of reasonable use, taken from focal point web sites. It was agreed that the overall principles in the guidelines were acceptable, that is, that substantial portion of the information should not be reproduced so as to have a negative impact on the business case.

Mr. Podehl suggested that committee members provide specific comments or review the draft document with Mr. Stinson. A final document will then be distributed to the focal points.

Update on the STC web site

Market research on the migration of STC publications to the Internet

Mr. Roy presented data from a client survey that showed that for non-flagship products the number of clients has increased while revenue has decreased. Sales for the flagship products are stable and there has been an increase in sales for publications that are only available in print.

Redesign of the STC web site

Ms. Jeannine Bustros described the project to redesign the STC web site in order to adopt the federal government's 'common look and feel' and to improve the navigation, content and appearance of the site.

Government On-Line

Mr. David Roy presented information on the federal Government On-Line (GOL) project, outlining the scope and purpose. The project is part of the government's commitment to make Canada the most 'connected country' in the world and is one of six pillars in the Connecting Canadians agenda.

Embedded proprietary software

Mr. Podehl introduced Marie Desnoyers, responsible for the marketing of the 2001 Census, and Jacqueline LeBlanc from International Trade, responsible for marketing in that division.

Census

Ms. Desnoyers explained that Statistics Canada wants to provide users with the most powerful software, which changes from one year to the other. However, they recognize the importance of enabling users to compare data from one year to the other. Long-term access and preservation of data is essential. Converting historical census data sets, such as the Basic Summary Tabulations and the profiles, to a generic ASCII format seems to be the most suitable solution.

The committee requested a work plan on the preparation of the files, the options, the time frame, priority setting as to which ASCII files are most desirable, and costs. The compilation of the list of available ASCII files is underway now and will be sent to the committee when it is available.

Trade

Ms. Jacqueline LeBlanc explained that the International Trade Division already has ASCII files and some people buy them and put them into SAS format. Ms. LeBlanc said that no one type of software would be suitable indefinitely, but that ASCII files seem to be meeting the needs of their clients.

Status report on consultation on dissemination of products from 2001 Census

Ms. Desnoyers explained that the consultation is still ongoing, although the project team has begun to analyse the results. She reviewed the major findings that are emerging.

DEMOGRAPHY

Last meeting: June 15–16, 2000
Next meeting: September 20–21, 2001
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

During its meeting in June 2000, the Federal–Provincial Committee on Demography focussed on three areas of research and development:

- dwelling classification, enumeration of out-of-province students, and the Reverse Record Check (sample design, questionnaire and collection) in the 2001 Census;
- methodological developments, especially those dealing with the quality of the components data at the census subdivision (CSD) level; and
- research on Canadians temporarily abroad (based on the DFAIT database), flows of non-permanent residents (based on CIC FOSS), and estimation of internal migration (based on medicare data).

Focal points from Quebec, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories made presentations on the preparation of CSD-level population estimates, focussing primarily on their methodologies.

Professor Ross Finnie of Queen's University presented findings of an empirical investigation of interprovincial migration. His study is based on the newly available Canadian Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD), which is derived from individual tax files.

New ways to estimate emigrants, returning emigrants and Canadians temporarily abroad have been implemented. The estimates for Canadians temporarily abroad are based on an extrapolation of the 1991 and 1996 Reverse Record Check figures. Developmental research continues on this topic. Modified procedures for estimating returning Canadians and emigrants have been developed, as have programs to produce estimates of flows of non-permanent residents (in and out). A system of programs was developed to extract from the DFAIT database estimates of Canadians living temporarily in developing countries. And new population projections for Canada, the provinces and territories were released for 2000 to 2026.

LABOUR STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 19, 2000
Next meeting: June 14–15, 2001
Members: Departments concerned with human resources,
education or job training, and provincial and territorial
statistical focal points (or their representatives)

The 35th meeting of the Labour Statistics Committee was held in Ottawa on June 19, 2000 at the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Centre, Statistics Canada.

Presentations on the following topics were made:

- Alberta Survey of Wages and Salaries (Kurt Schreiner)
- LFS Hirings and Separation Data (Geoff Bowlby)
- Harmonizing LFS and Census Occupation Series (Geoff Neideck)
- Update on Plans for Implementing the Revised SEPH (Jean Leduc)
- Small Area Data from SEPH (Justin Lacroix)
- SLID Indicators on Gender Earning Gaps (Maryanne Webber)
- Update on the Workplace and Employee Survey (Nathalie Caron)
- The WES Labour Cost Index (Howard Krebs)
- Survey of Self-Employment (Elizabeth Majewski)
- Holiday Adjustments to LFS Actual Hours Worked Data (Geoff Bowlby)
- Expansion of the LFS to the Northwest Territories and to Nunavut (Geoff Neideck)

MINERAL STATISTICS

Last meeting:	September 20–22, 1999
Next meeting:	May 14–16, 2001
Members:	Delegates from Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Statistics Canada, provincial and territorial mining departments or agencies, the Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories Bureaux of Statistics and l'Institut de la Statistique du Québec
Observers:	The Mining Association of Canada

This Committee provides a working forum in which the provincial and territorial ministries and federal government departments can exchange information and formulate joint courses of action to deal effectively with areas of common interest in Canadian mining and mineral statistics. Although the annual meeting provides a milestone for Committee activities, contacts between member organizations occur throughout the year, as the need arises.

No annual meeting of the Federal–Provincial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPCMS) was held in the fiscal year of 2000–01. The meeting that was tentatively scheduled in September 2000 has been rescheduled for May 14–16, 2001. Many members feel that a spring meeting would prove more convenient for them than a fall meeting. Spring is a more appropriate time to provide and discuss survey schedule issues. We expect that all future annual Committee meetings will take place in the spring of each year.

Structural changes to the Committee

The following changes to the Committee structure are under consideration:

- The Committee's Terms of Reference will be revised for final approval for the annual meeting in May 14–16, 2001.
- Membership in the Committee has been extended to include representatives of Nunavut and of l'Institut de la Statistique du Québec.
- It has also been proposed that the venues of the meeting alternate between its Ottawa location and a provincial or territorial site (probably the home city of the provincial or territorial co-chair). The implications of this proposal are being examined, leading to a recommendation for action at the next annual meeting.

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

- A ruling on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) categorization of Magnolia Metallurgy in Quebec has been received and implemented. We anticipate that a review of this ruling and any implications that it has on the surveys being conducted by the Federal–Provincial survey partners will be the subjects of discussion at the next meeting.

- Initiatives carried out under the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES/UESP) will continue to be the subject of discussions between National Resources Canada (NRCan), Statistics Canada and the respective provinces and territories.
- Although progress has been made, use of available administrative data from the provinces to reduce response burden and operational costs remains a priority for the federal-provincial partnership. Work on the reduction of response burden and the elimination of duplicate responses will continue.
- The memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing Nunavut to become a full participant in federal-provincial data-sharing arrangements is in the process of being finalized.
- Preparation of an MOU with Statistics Canada to cover the use of mineral development expenditures data, including exploration data in the System of National Accounts, remains an outstanding action.
- Needs for information concerning recycling, energy efficiency, use of e-commerce, diffusion of technology, and participation by Aboriginal peoples in natural resource industries must be addressed as they arise.
- Data reporting arrangements with Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., including possible data waivers, need to be completed.

Important events and activities for the FPCMS during 2001-02

- Continuing work of the Working Group on Response Burden Management will lead to a progress report to be presented at the annual meeting in May, as well as the continuation of working group activities, thereafter.
- Increased development of the Mapping Federal-Provincial Mining Knowledge site.
- Visits to the provinces and territories by members of NRCan, promoting co-operative statistical activities.
- The annual meeting scheduled for May 14-16, 2001 will include discussions on the following:
 - a) an update on the progress of the PIPES/UESP and the implications of that program to the provinces and territories;
 - b) 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;
 - c) a review of options for restructuring the survey;
 - d) the further development of the mining and mapping site; and
 - e) a review of NAICS rulings and their implications to the Joint survey program.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Last meeting: November 17, 2000
Next meeting: November 14, 2001
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 (SNA) Branch and within each province and territory. The main items presented by the SNA Branch included

- a report on the integration of the provincial accounts;
- a report on the conversion of input–output (I–O) and gross domestic product (GDP) by industry estimates from SIC to NAICS;
- a report on the impact of changing the official estimate of real GDP to a chain Fisher volume index and rebasing to 1997 prices; and
- a report on satellite accounting in the Canadian SNA.

During the round table, the issue of the timing of data availability to provinces prior to the release was brought up by a number of provinces. Also, in compliance with the terms of the Agreement Concerning Off-premises Access to Unsuppressed Input–Output Accounts and other System of National Accounts Information, signed by nine provinces/territories, a number of site inspections were conducted by the SNA Provincial Analyst program. The remaining site inspections will occur over the next few months.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for November 14, 2001 in the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room of the R.H. Coats building. Items on the agenda will likely include a discussion of the 1998 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 impact of moving to Fisher on national and provincial growth estimates. In addition, there will likely be a discussion on the timing of data availability at detailed level for the provinces.

Release schedule

<i>Data</i>	<i>Release date</i>
Provincial Economic Accounts, preliminary release of the sources and disposition of personal income	April 6, 2001
Provincial Economic Accounts, reference period 1997–2000	Fall 2001
Provincial GDP by Industry, reference period 1997–2000	Fall 2001
Interprovincial Input–Output Accounts, 1998	Fall 2001

Quarterly National Income and Expenditure Accounts:

First Quarter 2001 (including revisions from the First Quarter 1997 to the Fourth Quarter 2000)	May 31, 2001
Second Quarter 2001	August 31, 2001
Third Quarter 2001	November 30, 2001
Fourth Quarter 2001	February 28, 2002

National estimates of GDP by industry at constant prices, revisions to reference period 1997 to 2000	September 28, 2001
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Note: The Provincial Economic Accounts and Provincial GDP by Industry are presented in separate products, but by a single integrated write-up in *The Daily* for the two sets of data.

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

Last meeting: November 16, 2000
Next meeting: November 13, 2001
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical Focal Points
(or their representatives)

The Committee met on November 16, 2000, in Ottawa. All provinces and territories were represented.

The director of the Public Institutions Division (PID), Michel Girard, welcomed participants. During the initial round table discussion, many representatives expressed satisfaction with the measures put in place to improve communications with the statistical Focal Points representatives.

The following information relates to points discussed at last year's meeting and the actions taken by PID:

Accrual accounting

The System of National Accounts (SNA) committee on government accrual accounting will present a review of the provincial and territorial method of accounting in use and the effects of the transition to accrual on the statistics.

Consolidation of the Financial Management System (FMS) current government estimates

At last year's Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Public Sector Statistics, PID presented a plan to develop consolidated figures for the two most current periods of estimates.

In early July 2001, PID will release its FMS electronic publication covering the public sector and provide expanded provincial analysis with current consolidated government data.

Electronic data

During the year, emphasis was placed on the use of electronic data provided by the provincial and territorial governments, as well as the development of data-capture electronic tools. A progress report will be presented at the next Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Public Sector Statistics.

Fiscal arrangements

The Federal Finance Department will modify fiscal arrangements. The changes and the 2001-2002 schedule will be presented at the next Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Public Sector Statistics.

Health register

Work is being done on the classification of the health and social services institutions. The National Accounts branch, in collaboration with a working group on health regrouping, is piloting this work. Provincial and territorial representatives have been invited to contribute in this matter.

Cancer foundation entities, Ontario community access centres, British Columbia health boards and other organizations will be reviewed.

Improvements to the PID Web site

In addition to making the Web site more user friendly, PID will offer the release schedule dates on site, as well as direct access to data to the Focal Points.

Improving the functionalization of health and social services expenditures

The information to distinguish between health and social services expenditures is not always clearly stated in the public accounts.

The project to develop detailed statistics on health and social services institutions is well advanced in PID. The division now publishes information that can be compared to the public accounts to validate and improve the functionalization of the provincial and territorial general government transfers to the health sector.

Synchronizing the FMS and the SNA government estimates

At last year's Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Public Sector Statistics, PID presented a plan to improve the comparability of the current annual FMS estimates with the SNA quarterly government estimates.

In early July 2001, PID will release its most current FMS estimates. The underlying data will be the same that are used for SNA's income and expenditures release in June 2001.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: May 2, 2000
Next meeting: June 13, 2001
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Mr. Sheridan welcomed the members and the members accepted the agenda he had planned. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without discussion.

Income Statistics

Maryanne Webber briefed the group on the major activities of the Income Statistics Division (ISD).

SCF/SLID transition

Members were reminded that the Survey of Consumer Finance (SCF) and the Survey of Labour Income Dynamics (SLID) had once run in a parallel line for a period of five years. The income estimates from the two sources lined up very well and told essentially the same story. In 1998, SCF was conducted for the last time. The information was collected for the reference year 1997. Cross-sectional income data as of 1998 will come from SLID.

Another round of revisions was implemented in the 1999 reference year. The first revision needed was to move from population estimates based on the 1991 Census to estimates based on the 1996 Census. The impact of this transition on the product line was also addressed.

LICO re-basing

Ms. Webber mentioned that consideration is being given to re-basing Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs (LICOs). The discussion paper outlining the three options being weighed—status quo; status quo re-based using 1997 data; and status quo with new series based on current year spending patterns—was presented and discussed at length. A document, summarizing the feedback and explanations received will be distributed to the focal points once completed.

Market basket measure (MBM)

A quick update on the MBM, with a review of the data sources needed to produce this measure, was provided. Producing the MBM requires many data sources; while the end result may be intuitively easy to understand, there will be a lot of behind-the-scenes work in calculating it. Statistics Canada is now reviewing the methodology of the MBM, to make sure that we understand it and that there are no ambiguities. Income Statistics and Prices Divisions are planning to collect the missing data. Currently, Statistics Canada hopes to produce the MBM rates and publish them in a compendium with other

measures, including LICOs and low income measures (LIM). Assuming that there are no insurmountable barriers, Ms. Webber estimated that the MBM rates could be produced at the beginning of 2002.

Survey of Financial Security (SFS)

The delegates were provided with an update on SFS. Ms. Webber specified that the data were collected during May and June 1999, with a first release planned for September 2000. Three studies are being considered on the following themes: changes in the distribution of wealth since the last survey in 1984; how wealth and income differ; and the debt load of Canadian families, including attitudes towards debts. A publication with tables will follow later in the fall and the microdata file will be available in January 2001. Information on the value of pensions will be released in March 2001. Finally, a compendium publication with a range of studies will be available during the summer of 2001. Ms. Webber concluded her presentation on SFS by stating that Statistics Canada is very interested in trying to include this survey in a permanent cycle (every four or five years).

Education Statistics

Scott Murray presented the strategic direction that the Education Program will be taking in the coming years. First, he introduced the ideal characteristics of the education system by which education programs are evaluated. An efficient data system should be wide, deep, individual-based, longitudinal, repeated and rooted; it should also include direct measures. A diagnosis of an established education program was provided. The following were highlighted as the most important issues. Almost all of the programs are overly reliant on educational inputs measured at the aggregate level. There is limited value-added analysis (the whole education statistics program has traditionally focussed on doing surveys) and there are limited data on educational processes as an outcome.

A recipe book was invented to fix the weaknesses of the system and to achieve something that is closer to the ideal system. There are five ingredients for improvements: new data sources; new management structures and institutional linkages; new funding; new product (particularly the value-added analysis); and patience. Out of all these ingredients, Mr. Murray focussed his presentation on new data sources. The following data sources were introduced: National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY); Youth in Transition Survey (YITS) and OECD International Student Assessment (PISA); International Life Skills Survey (ILSS); National Graduates Surveys (NGS); Post-Secondary Transition Survey (PTS); and Enhanced Students Information Survey (ESIS). For each of these data sources, a description of the survey was provided with an analysis of its key strengths and limitations when compared with the ideal characteristics of an education statistics system. Together, these pieces will allow the users to look at key life stages, the transition from one to another, the key policy issues related to the level of outcomes, and how equitably those outcomes are distributed across provinces and across demographic groups in the population. Statistics Canada will be releasing the first results from YITS and PISA by fall 2001; ESIS and NGS results will be released the following year.

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

Lorna Bailie presented the work in progress regarding the CCHS. She opened her presentation by stating that this new survey will focus on regional data needs by providing estimates at the community health region level and by allowing flexibility in its content to meet unique regional and provincial data needs. The survey development has been funded as part of Health Information Roadmap, a joint initiative of Health Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada to enhance health information.

The survey will have continual monthly collection, with cycle 1.1 starting in September 2000. This first cycle has used standard content largely taken from the National Population Health Survey. However, there are plans in future cycles to develop areas for nutrition, mental health, social support, child health, and physical measure components.

The sample frame of CCHS has been designed around the Labour Force Survey (LFS) structure. The LFS will now be carried out in the territories and because of this, a decision has recently been made to conduct CCHS within these areas. The sample allocation was prepared according to the number of health regions in a province and the population distribution. This will ensure proper representation within the health regions and the provinces/territories.

CCHS will be carried out under the Section 12 Agreement of the *Statistics Act*, allowing Statistics Canada to share with provincial ministries of health unscreened data for respondents who have agreed to allow this. Provincial and territorial focal points can obtain access to microdata through the third-party sharing clause with their ministry of health. A public-use microdata file will also be produced.

General Social Survey (GSS) 2001

Pierre Turcotte described the work being done to develop the content for the GSS for 2001, whose content will be focussed on the family. GSS 2001 will be the third retrospective survey on the family; the previous ones were conducted in 1990 and 1995. The GSS sample was recently expanded from 10,000 to 25,000 households, which will enable us to produce better provincial estimates. The main objectives of GSS 2001 are to cover phenomena of interest, preserve historical comparability, track the major trends in the second demographic transition, and collect retrospective information about the factors that influence domestic and family behaviours.

Between December 1999 and February 2000, consultations were held with the main users of GSS, including the academic community, interested federal and provincial government departments, and Statistics Canada advisory committees. As a result of the consultations, a number of improvements were made regarding the survey. To recreate respondents' work histories more accurately, the questions on work interruptions (asked in GSS 1995) will be replaced with questions on work episodes. These questions will measure the relationship people have with employment. In addition, for the first time, GSS 2001 will collect information about respondents' educational history. GSS 2001 will also attempt to improve the measurement of father-child relationships, to collect better information about children leaving home, and to provide a more complete record of a childhood events.

GSS 2001 on the family will endeavour to reconstruct various tracks or histories: marital history; fertility history; occupational history; educational history; history of departures from the family home; family origin; and childhood events. Some subjects will be dropped, including selected family values and attitudes, effects of smoking, and work interruptions.

An overview of the schedule of GSS 2001 activities was discussed. It is expected that the data will be collected between January and December 2001, and that the results will be published in the fall of 2002.

Other Social Statistics

Description and update of the major statistical programs conducted by Special Surveys Division, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and the Small Area and Administrative Data Division were provided by various staff members of these divisions.

Closing Remarks (Chair)

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

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 18–19, 2000, Ottawa
Next meeting: October 25–26, 2001, 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 17–19, 2000, Ottawa
Next meeting: May 2001, Mexico
Members: Transportation staff from Canadian, American and Mexican statistical, regulatory and policy departments

Activities and progress

Updates and a consultative workshop on the Trucking Traffic Survey Development project were held.

- Updates were provided for the Bus Survey Redesign project; aviation, marine, private trucking, and rail data; and the Statistics Canada initiatives of the Government On-line project and the Census travel-to-work data. The first national data for Q4 RY1999 was presented by the Canadian Vehicle Survey.
- Transport Canada provided updates on the need for a transportation satellite account, climate change initiatives, and the Annual Report to Parliament by the Minister of Transportation.
- Consultations took place regarding provincial and territorial data needs and concerns for the development of a strategic plan for the Transportation Statistics program.
- An announcement was made that the *North American Transportation Statistics* publication was released in three languages on October 12, 2000.

The Interchange meeting also took a strategic focus, reviewing lessons learned from the project to develop the statistical compendium, *North American Transportation in Figures*. The delegates made decisions on other future co-operative priorities. These include the need for working groups to address the harmonization and integration of marine, surface, safety, energy and the environment. Work should begin on designing, building and maintaining a web-based version of the statistical compendium. This web-based version would contain more timely data from the three countries and could be updated as more data are made available.

Plenary meetings and workshops of the Interchange covered

- e-commerce surveys;
- measurement issues;

- implementation of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and (SCTG) classification systems;
- developments of the G-7 and carrier re-engineering by Customs;
- development of an export travel and tourism index and other transportation indicators by the United States; and
- an innovative new marine data product from Mexico.

VITAL STATISTICS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

Last meeting: May 29–June 1, 2000
Next meeting: June 4–7, 2001
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 and territorial registries continues to require 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 certification 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 is conducting a study on the impact of the changes and has provided a course on *Cause-of-death classification, coding, and analysis, ICD-10 for statisticians*. The National Center 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 are plans to develop a course using Canadian data and instructors.
- There is ongoing work with the Advisory Council of Population Health (ACPH) on the quality of Vital Statistics data.
- Statistics Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Health Canada, the provincial and territorial registries, and the coroners are developing a business plan for the collection of coroners' data. The comparability of these data with data from the vital registries is to be addressed.
- The Vital Statistics Council and its committees continue to work on projects of a concern to all registrars, such as the reduction of fraud, standards for the paper used in certificates, and the availability of data to other organizations such as Elections Canada.

APPENDIX 5
FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS
FROM THE 2001 MEETING OF THE
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
ON STATISTICAL POLICY

	ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTIONS
1.0	Opening remarks		
	No action required		
2.0	Achievements and priorities		
2.1 (Question 3, page 2)	The statistical focal point for Manitoba requested an update on the work of the task force attempting to set up an environmental database and its relationship, if any, to the National Roundtable's work on indicators.	Chief Statistician	Dr. Ivan Fellegi offered to provide copies of documents on the conceptual framework for indicators based on the existing data.
3.0	Provincial and territorial reports		
	No action required		
4.0	Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Program		
4.1 (Page 6)	The statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island asked if there was a planning document that the focal points could use to comment on the Census 2006 developments.	Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics	Mr. Mike Sheridan agreed to provide copies of the business plan to the focal points.
4.2 (Page 7)	Redesign of the Labour Force Survey	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Labour Statistics	At the next meeting of the Committee, there may be discussions on the survey's redesign.

	ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTIONS
4.3 (Question 2, page 7)	The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories requested an update on the third postcensal survey, on ethnic diversity.	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Social Statistics	More information might be available for discussion at the next Committee meeting.
4.4 (Question 4, page 8)	Concerns were expressed regarding access to the Canadian Community Health Survey data.	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Social Statistics	A full discussion on the CCHS is planned for the next Committee meeting.
4.5 (Question 4, page 8)	The statistical focal point from Manitoba would like to know about the decision to grant his province's Health Ministry access to health data.	Chief Statistician	Dr. Fellegi agreed to provide the statistical focal point for Saskatchewan with the explanation of this decision.
5.0	National Accounts and Analytical Studies		
5.1 (Page 8)	National Accounts planned to adopt the Fisher Chain Volume Index. With the Fisher formula, it is possible to obtain additive growth rates.	Director General, National Accounts and Analytical Studies	Ms. Karen Wilson will send the formula to the focal points with an explanation.
5.2 (Page 9)	The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan wanted National Accounts to give the focal points a little time to examine the data before they were released.	Director General, National Accounts and Analytical Studies	

	ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTIONS
5.3 (Page 9)	Concerns were expressed regarding the adoption of the Fisher Chain Volume Index.	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Provincial Economics Accounts	There will be further information and discussions on the Fisher Chain Volume Index at the next Committee meeting. In addition, seminars will be presented in the regions.
5.4 (Page 9)	The statistical focal point for Northwest Territories requested an update on the status of the employee vector for the provincial inputoutput tables.	National Accounts and Analytical Studies	The release scheduled for December had to be postponed. The vectors will be available about a month after the national data are released. This will be discussed at greater length with the statistical focal points.
6.0	Business and Trade Statistics		
6.1 (Page 11)	Confidentiality concerns raised at the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics.	Director General, Economy-wide Statistics	Assistant Chief Statistician, Mr. Ray Ryan had raised the possibility of arranging a meeting to focus exclusively on that issue.
6.2 (Page 11)	The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories pointed out that data suppression and confidentiality were causing some difficulty.	Director General, Economy-wide Statistics	Mr. George Andrusiak to arrange for sessions to explain the data suppression criteria applied by the divisions.
6.3 (Page 11)	Problems were experienced in publishing capital investment data for large new ventures.	Investment and Capital Stock Division	Investment and Capital Stock Division is discussing possible approaches with the focal points.

	ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	ACTIONS
7.0	Communications and Operations		
7.1 (Page 12)	CANSIM II has been available to the public since April, but strictly on a pay-per-time-series basis.	Dissemination Division	STC is currently considering offering the focal points unlimited access to the database for a flat fee.
8.0	Indicators and performance measures – role and participation of statistical organizations		
	No action required		
9.0	Electronic data management systems: new systems under development		
	No action required		
10.0	Electronic publications and Depository Services Program: the challenge of keeping statistical libraries current as publications change from print to electronic formats		
	No action required		
11.0	Other business		
11.1 (Page 15)	It was decided that the official reports on non-routine contacts would no longer be compiled.	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Secretariat	Reminders would be sent to the Assistant Chief Statisticians and Directors to notify the statistical agencies when there are major consultation initiatives.

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