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# Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

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May 2 - 3, 2002  
Ottawa, Ontario



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**MINUTES**

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

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Meeting of May 2-3, 2002

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**Ottawa, Ontario**

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

**Minutes of the meeting held May 2 and 3, 2002**

**Ottawa, Ontario**



## **1. Opening remarks (Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi)**

Dr. Fellegi welcomed the participants to the 29th meeting of the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. He mentioned that two assistant chief statisticians had been appointed since the last meeting, Mr. Richard Barnabé and Mr. Philip Smith.

The agenda was read and approved.

## **2. Achievements and priorities (Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi)**

### **2.1 Historical census data**

Local public consultations on the issue of historical data, as well as discussion groups organized by Environics, were held throughout the country. Dr. Fellegi thanked the statistical focal point for Nova Scotia, Mr. Dennis Pilkey, for attending one of the local public consultation meetings.

Even if these consultations reflected mostly the opinions of genealogists, a wide range of opinions was expressed during the 22 discussion groups, allowing Environics to get a fairly precise idea of the issues involved.

The statistical focal point for British Columbia, Mr. Don McRae, wanted to know what the next step would be. Dr. Fellegi explained that while Statistics Canada is completely independent in matters of priorities, professional issues and program content, a political decision must be made when a balance must be sought between two conflicting public goods.

### **2.2 Role of the housing stock in transfer payments to provinces**

Statistics Canada has traditionally compiled estimates of the housing stock to be used in the national accounts, whether in the balance sheet or in the income and expenditure accounts. These housing figures represent the value of buildings and were adopted—following discussions with the Department of Finance—as one of the components used to calculate transfer payments. The estimates were chosen by that department's representatives as an important element of their formula. The Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES) led to a broad review of statistical methodologies used in preparing the provincial economic accounts and one of the many improvements that emerged from the review was a decision to deflate provincial housing stock estimates with separate provincial deflators, instead of the national deflator. This was the only change made to the housing stock estimation method. Statistics Canada informed the Department of Finance approximately three months before the change, but did not consult its other stakeholders, since this seemed to be a natural improvement. Statistics Canada did not have access to the model that would allow experts to evaluate the effect of the changes on the amounts of the transfer payments. These effects proved to be considerable and, of course, the provinces that stood to lose from these effects expressed their concerns. In the end, the Department of Finance shelved the introduction of the new data. Statistics Canada will consult with provinces and explore whether there are cost-effective ways of improving the estimates.

The statistical focal point for British Columbia, Mr. Don McRae, wondered if—given the amount of media coverage that this matter had attracted—Statistics Canada had not committed to much more than just improving the national and provincial accounts. Dr. Fellegi added that Statistics Canada is always open to discussion and suggestions, but that formal consultations before each change were out of the question, as this would paralyze normal operations.

Statistics Canada nevertheless agreed to foster a closer relationship with its Department of Finance contacts so that they may be on the lookout for changes to methodology with repercussions on transfer payments.

### **2.3 Research data centres**

Dr. Fellegi expressed pleasure the interest generated by the opening of the research data centres in nine university campuses. He was pleased to see that more than 150 research projects have been approved to date.

The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan, Mr. Ron McMahon, asked if it was possible to see the list of projects. After checking this out, Mr. Mike Sheridan mentioned that this list would eventually be posted on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)<sup>1</sup> website and probably on Statistics Canada's website.<sup>2</sup> In the interim, for those who are interested, the registration forms are available online at the SSHRC website.

The statistical focal point for Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Alton Hollett, asked if it was possible for a focal point to propose opening a research data centre in co-operation with a university, but off campus. Mr. Mike Sheridan, answered that this should not be a problem as long as the criteria established by the SSHRC, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, and Statistics Canada are met.

Dr. Fellegi also added that the location matters little, since in any plan to open a research data centre outside Statistics Canada, the criteria apply both to the facilities and to other arrangements.

Dr. Fellegi then invited the participants to ask questions on the content of the *@StatCan Special Issue*.

### **2.4 Redevelopment of wholesale and retail trade surveys**

The statistical focal point for Manitoba, Mr. Wilf Falk, asked the Assistant Chief Statistician of the Business and Trade Statistics Field, Mr. Ray Ryan, if each individual province would have a meeting on the redevelopment of wholesale and retail trade surveys during the meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics to be held in the fall or at another point in time. Mr. Ryan replied that this was part of the plan, but that the structure of the committee activities had yet to be finalized.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sshrc.ca>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.statcan.ca/english/rdc/index.htm>

## **2.5 General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE)<sup>3</sup>**

The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia, Mr. Dennis Pilkey, wanted some information on the discussions with EuroStat on the harmonization of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) with the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE) by 2007, and asked if these changes would be as significant as they had been during the transition from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), 1980 to the NAICS.

Dr. Fellegi replied that it was too soon to tell, but that the European Community version of the classification was very similar to the one introduced by the United Nations as an industrial classification. For a long time, the North American nations had different classification systems and the NAICS was a major step in harmonizing these systems. The repercussions would not likely be as serious on the NAICS as they would be on the NACE. The Assistant Chief Statistician of the National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field, Mr. Philip Smith, added that a working group has studied the issue and prepared a report available on the United Nations website.<sup>4</sup> For additional information, it was suggested that the Director of the Standards Division, Mr. Paul Johanis, be contacted.

## **2.6 Technology**

The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia, Mr. Dennis Pilkey, pointed out that even if technology was a subject featured in everyone's discussions, it appeared nowhere in the agenda of the meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. The Assistant Chief Statistician of the Informatics and Methodology Field did not attend this meeting and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Dissemination Committee did not cover the topic. Dr. Fellegi agreed to add this item to the agenda of the next meeting.

## **2.7 Alumni program**

In answer to questions by the statistical focal point for British Columbia, Mr. Don McRae, on the Alumni Program, Dr. Fellegi explained that there were different formulas available, subject to some restrictions. The Alumni Program is a Statistics Canada program and is entirely voluntary. An information document is available from Mr. Paul Brunet of the Human Resources Operations Division.

## **2.8 Cities project**

The statistical focal point for Manitoba, Mr. Wilf Falk, wanted to know more about the cities project. A document detailing the pilot study in Winnipeg and Toronto will be sent to the focal points. Dr. Fellegi explained that this program is an initiative of the Deputy Secretary of Intergovernmental Relations (Mr. George Anderson). Statistics Canada met with him, as well as the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, Ms. Janice Cochrane, to identify their needs. At this point, only the nature of the indicators to be developed is known.

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<sup>3</sup> NACE: Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques de la communauté européenne.

<sup>4</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/convergence/default.htm>



## **2.9 Operational infrastructure**

The statistical focal point for Quebec, Mr. Yvon Fortin, asked Dr. Fellegi for an update on the review of the operational infrastructure involving the regional offices, electronic data collection, etc. Dr. Fellegi mentioned the opening of a new computer-assisted data collection telephone centre in Sherbrooke (Quebec) and the expansion of the Sturgeon Falls (Ontario) centre. With regard to electronic collection, there are three main components. The first is the intensive development of a 2006 Census project with the objective to reach a 20% to 25% response rate by the Internet. The second involves the development of a module on Statistics Canada's website making electronic co-operation with large businesses possible. Finally, the last component deals with monthly surveys.

## **2.10 Software standardization**

The statistical focal point for Manitoba, Mr. Wilf Falk, wanted to know if there were plans to standardize dissemination software. The Director General of the Marketing and Information Services Branch, Mr. Martin Podehl, explained that, as it stands now, the agency's standard of dissemination is the Internet. Otherwise, with regard to software, author divisions must adapt to their clients' needs.

# **3. Program Committee report (Mr. Ron McMahon)**

## **3.1 2002 Program Committee**

The Chairperson of the Program Committee for 2002, Mr. Ron McMahon, thanked the Council Secretary, Mr. Martin Podehl, as well as his committee members—Mr. Yvon Fortin, Mr. John Palmer and Mr. Jack Hicks—for the work involved in setting up the agenda.

## **3.2 Location of meetings**

The statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island, Mr. John Palmer, suggested that the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Council on Statistical Policy meet in various Canadian cities, as in the past. On this subject, Dr. Fellegi pointed out that, unfortunately, holding meetings in other cities involves overly high additional expenditures.

## **3.3 Minutes of the meeting held in 2001**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Council on Statistical Policy were approved without change.

# **4. Provincial and territorial reports (round table)**

See the appendix for the activity reports.

## **4.1 Ontario**

The statistical delegate for Ontario, Mr. Harvey Bradley, thanked Mr. Roger Jullion from Statistics Canada for his work in the estimation of the provincial economic accounts.

#### **4.2 Nova Scotia**

Mr. Dennis Pilkey stated that his province had unsuccessfully tried to obtain the 2001 Census digital boundary file before the official release of the population counts. He pointed out that an increasing number of provinces and territories use the Geographic Information System (GIS). Since the geographical areas are always determined some time in advance, he wondered why it was impossible to get files before the release. The Director of the Geography Division, Mr. Gordon Deecker, explained that the enumeration areas or the census blocks could be changed after the census, when the results of the data collection in the field are processed. For the 2001 Census, these changes to geography and administrative boundaries were entered into the database in October, November and December of 2001. The date of release of geography files is pre-set and was announced to be the same date as the population and dwelling data. This is a significantly reduced timeframe than the files released for the 1996 Census. In 2006, the boundary files are scheduled for release before the census, allowing the provinces and territories additional time to prepare for the release of the data. However, there may still be minor changes made to the boundaries when the final version is released.

#### **4.3 Quebec**

The statistical focal point for Quebec, Mr. Yvon Fortin, asked a few questions about the swearing-in of employees from provincial statistical agencies. Dr. Fellegi answered that this practice is not widespread since it is only done for a specific purpose and that the prohibition against divulging information is for life. Mr. Fortin said he hoped that swearing-in would not be used as a substitute for data-sharing agreements under sections 11 and 12. Dr. Fellegi reassured the participants on this issue and added that these are two different things and that the administration of oaths is necessary only when there is no data-sharing agreement under Section 11.

#### **4.4 Nunavut**

The statistical focal point for Nunavut, Mr. Jack Hicks, expressed displeasure with two situations that affect Nunavut. The first is the lack of consultation before surveys, and the second is the exclusion of his territory in national surveys such as the literacy survey and the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey.

#### **4.5 Northwest Territories**

The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories, Mr. David Stewart, said that he would like to be involved earlier in the survey processes, not only a few days before the release of the data. In addition, he found it shocking that even though there are now 1,000 men working in a diamond mine in the middle of the territories, the employment counts in the construction industry have been the same for five years according to the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours. Because this problem has repercussions on other data, he said that he would like a solution to be found.

## **5. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics (Mr. Mike Sheridan)**

### **5.1 Labour Force Survey redevelopment**

With regard to updating the Labour Force Survey sample based on 2001 results, Mr. Mike Sheridan specified that there is no doubt that this will be an important task in the next 12 to 18 months. He added that discussions with central agencies will begin in the very near future with respect to funding. The statistical focal point for Quebec, Mr. Yvon Fortin, asked if in the context of this review, it would be possible to hold a discussion on the regional rates and their significance. Mr. Fortin also noted that since the municipal amalgamations in January 2002, the information has changed completely and that it is necessary to find a way to adjust the counts. Mr. Sheridan suggested that these subjects be discussed during the next meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Labour Statistics.

The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan, Mr. Ron McMahon, indicated that he would like to see the sample distribution before the field work phase. Mr. Sheridan maintained that the scenario would be the same as it had been for the last survey redevelopment project (i.e., two years before implementation).

### **5.2 2001 Census**

For the 2001 Census, the reverse record check will be conducted using the same basic methodology as the 1996 Census. For the time being, the response rate seems very close to that of 1996. However, this time it was necessary to work harder to get similar results, mainly because of the privacy issue. Overall, everything is going well, except for Nunavut, where the difficulty in obtaining a sample file caused some delays. Workshops on the collection and processing of coverage studies will take two days. An evaluation plan of the 2001 Census estimates will be developed for the meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Demography on September 12 and 13. The results of the coverage studies will be released in March 2003.

The statistical focal point for British Columbia asked if the rate of 92% to 93% was consistent across the country or if it excluded Nunavut. Mr. Sheridan answered that there were two regions where the rates were lower, Alberta (88.2%) and British Columbia (86.0%), but that these rates were not final.

## **6. National Accounts and Analytical Studies (Mr. Philip Smith)**

### **6.1 Provincial tourism satellite accounts**

The Assistant Chief Statistician for the National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field, Mr. Philip Smith, pointed out that the first series of provincial and territorial tourism satellite accounts had been released a few days before for the 1996 reference year. This release was financed by the Canadian Tourism Commission. He hoped to obtain additional financing to do the updates. The release of the data for the 1998 reference year is planned for next year. The project will be continued if funds are available.



## **6.2 Employment vectors** (regarding the development of provincial input–output data tables)

At the time of the release of the input–output data tables for 1997, two years ago, employment estimates were not released, to the disappointment of some clients.

Employment estimates by industry are usually produced by Statistical Canada at the same time as its annual release of input–output tables. These are quite useful in interpreting shifts in labour income and output. The estimates for 1997 were finally produced, but were very late. With regard to 1998 estimates, these were produced more quickly than the ones for 1997, and were released on April 5, but were still six or seven months behind the release of the input–output tables.

As was mentioned in an e-mail two months ago, a plan was developed to produce timely employment estimates. Statistics Canada is hoping to have the employment estimates for 1998 to 2001 ready for the summer or early fall.

It must be understood that by doing this, the employment estimates will not have been completely reconciled with the input–output estimates. There is an advantage in producing the input–output estimates before the employment estimates. In fact, when discrepancies appear between shifts in employment and shifts in production or in labour income, it is possible to backtrack and examine the employment counts. It will be impossible to do this for preliminary estimates, and some discrepancies will be evident between shifts in employment and shifts in national or provincial production that are found in the input–output tables. This issue will be addressed in subsequent reviews of employment estimates.

## **6.3 Sustainable development and environmental indicators**

The file remains active. This file is under study by two working groups, the Canadian Information system for the Environment (CISE)<sup>5</sup> and the Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators (ESDI) Initiative.<sup>6</sup>

## **6.4 Provincial Economic Accounts**

On April 22, 2001, a new extranet site on provincial accounts was launched. This major improvement was made possible with the assistance of the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Provincial Economic Accounts. The site contains—among other information—non-confidential datasets, information on the chain Fisher volume index, minutes of meetings and information on contacts. Other information, on data sources and methodology, will be added in the future.

## **6.5 Chain Fisher volume index**

The provincial economic accounts will be converted to the chain Fisher volume index method in the fall. Workshops are now being held in western Canada and will also take place in central and eastern Canada in the near future. Estimates for 1981 to 2001 may be released in October. Production estimates by industry will still be based on the old Laspeyres method. It will take another year before changes can be made.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cise>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/Current\\_Programs/SDIndicators/index.html](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/Current_Programs/SDIndicators/index.html)

In answer to a question from the statistical focal point for Saskatchewan, Mr. Ron McMahon, Mr. Smith replied that the contribution to growth will be calculated. Mr. McMahon added that obtaining the data on trade flows around one week after the publication of the rest of the documentation is problematic and that a way must be found to release these data at the same time as the accounts. Mr. Smith assured him that he would look into the matter.

## **6.6 The Industrial Monitor**

*The Industrial Monitor* has not been produced for two years, partly because of the conversion to the NAICS. After the conversion, it was decided that the money would be better used elsewhere and because of that, the publication was terminated.

## **6.7 Confidentiality regarding the input-output tables**

The issue of suppressing information for reasons of confidentiality in the input-output data tables is always a sensitive one. Because the information produced is now much more detailed, the likelihood of it being suppressed for confidentiality reasons is higher. Non-confidential data in some cells must also be suppressed since their publication might lead to the identification of the source of information in other cells. However, alternative algorithms are being explored to find a better resolution of this problem.

The statistical focal point for Quebec, Mr. Yvon Fortin, mentioned that the methodology branch of the Institut de la statistique du Québec has developed, for microdata files, the random break technology, which has been found to be the one that users prefer to bypass the confidentiality issue.

# **7. Business and Trade Statistics (Mr. Ray Ryan)**

## **7.1 Access to tax data (Mr. François Maranda)**

The Director General of the Classification Systems Branch and responsible for the Tax Data Program, Mr. François Maranda, reminded the participants that a discussion on business tax-data sharing, arising from the new provision in the *Income Tax Act*, had already been held at the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics.

The new provision on business tax-data sharing with provinces contains three important elements:

- a) Which information is in-scope for data sharing?  
All data concerning business activities carried on in the province and collected by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency under the authority of the *Income Tax Act*. In particular, this covers all the information that is included in the Corporation Tax Return and the business-related items that are included in the Individual Income Tax Return.
- b) With whom can Statistics Canada share this information?  
The provincial statistical agencies whose legislation (*Statistics Act*) allows for a data-sharing agreement with Statistics Canada under Section 11 of the *Statistics Act*. Even if



the word 'territories' is not mentioned in the new provision of the *Income Tax Act*, the territorial agencies are included, but they must have a statistics act.

c) What can this information be used for?

Statistical research and analysis, the same kind of statistical activity that Statistics Canada does with business tax data.

The process to request access to tax data has been streamlined: there are now two ways to proceed. For the addition of administrative variables, such as telephone numbers, to the provincial-territorial copy of the Business Register, a letter explaining the reason for the request must be sent to the Business Register Division. The request will then follow the normal procedure for the release of the provincial-territorial copy of the Business Register.

For all other requests—for example, to share data from a specific survey—the first step is to send a written request to the director of the Tax Data Division, even if the survey involves data obtained from a combination of questionnaires and tax records. Upon receipt of the request, a memorandum of understanding with the province will be drawn up, outlining the data-sharing terms and conditions. In particular, the provinces will have to offer a handling and storage environment for tax data that is as confidential and secure as of Statistics Canada.

The statistical focal point for Quebec, Mr. Yvon Fortin, mentioned that the Quebec National Assembly had adopted the new provisions regulating Revenu Québec and confidentiality, among other subjects. The Institut de la statistique du Québec has gained greater access to Revenu Québec's data and is in a position to consider exchanges—in particular, of data on the goods and services tax (GST).

The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia, Mr. Dennis Pilkey, indicated that he would like to obtain the record layout of the variables available on the Business Register along with a description of these variables.

The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan, Mr. Ron McMahon, mentioned that he would like to get a copy of the letter prepared by Quebec to initiate the process of developing their memorandum of understanding with Statistics Canada for tax data-sharing. He also wanted details on the mandatory security criteria. Mr. Maranda explained that all documentation concerning the memorandum had been sent the previous fall but that he would resend everything. However, security conditions must be equivalent to those at Statistics Canada.

In response to a question put forth by Mr. McMahon, Mr. Maranda mentioned the importance of not being too general when submitting a data-sharing request. The request must refer to a particular survey or a specific list of variables for a particular industry.

Mr. McMahon indicated that he would be interested in getting general tax-data.

Mr. Maranda felt this type of sharing request would be insufficient. He pointed out that provincial requests to access business tax-data are similar to Section 11 requests: these are discretionary releases and must be used in a very specific way with proper justification.

Mr. Maranda also said that the criteria for acceptable request needed more in-depth

discussion. Mr. McMahon suggested that a memorandum of understanding could be developed with provinces interested in tax data-sharing, before they make requests. Mr. Maranda agreed.

## **7.2 Business and trade statistics**

The Assistant Chief Statistician of the Business and Trade Statistics Field, Mr. Ray Ryan, mentioned many changes in the area of human resources within his field. Three new directors general were appointed as a result of a competition early last winter. They are now in their respective positions with well-defined mandates. A copy of the organizational chart will be available shortly.

He added that the field wanted to focus on current indicator programs—especially end-of-process ones—and to do more in the area of dissemination, by putting the emphasis on content, by building themes—such as Canada–United States comparisons—and by providing more information. Because these indicators have a provincial–territorial dimension, resources will be added that can be more useful.

Mr. Ryan brought up the subject of training. A few courses are available free of charge to statistical focal points, participants needing to cover only travel expenses and accommodation in Ottawa. There is the Business and Economics Statistics Training Course lasting 10 weeks. The Enterprise Survey Skills Training Course is of four-weeks duration. The statistical focal point for Alberta, Mr. Bill Hyshka, indicated that he would like to get the course outlines. The statistical focal point for Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Alton Hollett, asked the participants if there was a course on economic variables or on macroeconomy. Mr. Ryan suggested he visit Statistics Canada's site *Power from Data*,<sup>7</sup> accessible under *Educational Resources*, which is designed to serve as a learning tool for economic concepts. The statistical focal point for Ontario, Mr. Emmet Weatherhead, mentioned two documents on this subject, one from Goldman Sachs<sup>8</sup> in the United States and a second by John Grant in Toronto.<sup>9</sup>

The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories, Mr. David Stewart, asked if Mr. McMahon's idea of creating a committee on energy had led to a decision. Mr. Ryan assured him that it was possible to appoint a committee temporarily under the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Business Statistics, and that Mr. Laurie Hill would be looking into this.

## **8. Communications and operations**

### **8.1 CANSIM II**

The statistical focal point for Ontario, Mr. Emmet Weatherhead, wanted to know if the

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.statecan.ca/english/edu/power/toe/contents.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Goldman Sachs Economic Research, *Economic Research—Understanding US Economic Statistics*, One New York Plaza, N.Y. (212-902-100).

<sup>9</sup> Grant, John. *Handbook of Economic Indicators*, University of Toronto Press. For copies, contact CIBC World Markets at 416-594-7000.

CANSIM consortium grants user rights only to members of the office of the statistical focal point. The Director General of the Marketing and Information Services Branch, Mr. Martin Podehl, answered yes, mainly because CANSIM is a commercial activity and this involves secondary distributors.

The statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island, Mr. John Palmer, inquired as to whether the financial contribution would be reviewed from time to time and, if so, on what basis. Mr. Podehl informed him that, currently, this contribution is an annual one and that there are no plans to increase it next year or the year after. However, the area of dissemination is in flux and, given all the current pressures to provide products and services free of charge, it is impossible to predict what will happen over the next 10 years.

## **8.2 Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination**

The statistical focal point for Alberta, Mr. Bill Hyshka, expressed his belief that the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination should be given a little more power to co-ordinate data dissemination at Statistics Canada. While it is true that there is much consistency in publications, the information disseminated to the provinces is more disparate, especially in the case of electronic products. Mr. Podehl mentioned that the method of dissemination is left to the discretion of the author divisions.

Mr. Hyshka added that the external communications network (ECN) is a very efficient vehicle for exchanging information and that it would be a good idea to encourage divisions to make greater use of this network. As it stands, some divisions provide the same information to all focal points, others use the ECN and others have another external network. For this reason, the statistical focal points believe that it would be appropriate to use a more co-ordinated approach. That way, negotiations with author divisions would be easier.

Mr. Podehl reminded the participants that the answer to the questions asked earlier on corporate standards and corporate products was the same: the products must first meet the needs of users. Author divisions are completely free to choose the format they consider appropriate. Until now, agreements between author divisions and statistical focal points have not been subject to the committee's scrutiny. If focal points collectively choose to no longer negotiate individually and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination agreed, then it would be necessary to develop a mechanism providing for collective agreements, rather than individual ones, with the ensuing consequences. Mr. Podehl added that there was only one official ECN.

According to Mr. Hyshka, there are many sites, as one hears of FTP services being created to transmit such and such data only. These, however, are not easy to find and all co-ordinators do not have the same information. The idea of co-ordinating these services would not impose limits on dissemination, rather, it would make things easier.

Dr. Fellegi said that he had no objections to exploring this possibility. He suggested bringing this idea to the attention of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination in November and going ahead with the proposal, barring major obstacles.



## 9. Analysis and development

The Assistant Chief Statistician for the Analysis and Development Field, Mr. Michael Wolfson, gave a presentation on the health statistics survey program:

The initial results of the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) would be released on Wednesday, May 8. The third issue of *Health Reports* was scheduled for release in June, followed by a partial release of the Health Care Accessibility Survey data, which would be completed in September.

The CCHS was initially developed as part of the Health Information Roadmap initiative. The mandate was very clear: the \$40 million received in one lump sum from the Government of Canada was to be earmarked by Statistics Canada for projects, among which was the CCHS.

In December, the second Health Information Roadmap was developed, with the intention of requesting another lump sum payment from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)<sup>10</sup> to cover their work on health information and a permanent amount to the base budget for the CCHS. Unfortunately, because of the events of September 11, the funds had to be allocated elsewhere, except for the lump sum for the CIHI work.

Mr. Wolfson explained that it would not be possible to use regional information in the public use microdata file created from Cycle 1 data. It would be necessary to greatly compromise between the regional data and the details on individual records. Since it is difficult to publish a lot of information in a public use microdata file, there is heavy reliance on research data centres.

## 10. Discussion on the focal points' role

The statistical focal point for Nova Scotia, Mr. Dennis Pilkey, gave a presentation on *Our changing role-A discussion*.

The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories, Mr. David Stewart, mentioned that he would like everyone to share more of their experience and expertise. The federal-provincial-territorial meetings are a useful tool to learn more about Statistics Canada, as well as the other statistical agencies. The need to find and create such a forum is a very real one. How can the partnership with Statistics Canada be strengthened? Improvements must be made to Statistics Canada make more use of the focal points' offices. As well, improvements to data verification and quality are a must. In the process, data are usually sent to focal points' offices too late for them to do anything about the aspects they wish to examine.

Dr. Fellegi wanted to know what the mechanisms and the next step were. He put forth a few suggestions: for example, if the participants received the provincial reports a little

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<sup>10</sup> <http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/sptnck.html>

earlier before the meeting, they could choose the items that warrant discussion. With regard to quality assurance, this seemed to be a general suggestion. More precisely, this would be difficult to accomplish in the case of monthly and quarterly data because of time constraints, but it would be possible for annual data. It was proposed that committees identify the annual data for which it would be very important to ensure quality in a structured manner.

The statistical focal point for Prince Edward Island, Mr. John Palmer, admitted that their relationship with Statistics Canada was not always viewed in a positive light. To summarily describe the statistical focal points' role, it would be useful to implement a more official correspondence between the central office and the minister or the deputy minister.

Dr. Fellegi proposed that a document be prepared on the role of the statistical focal points. A consensus was not necessary to go ahead with this, as it could be done on an individual basis. Dr. Fellegi also offered to write the letter that would be sent to all new deputy ministers or assistant deputy ministers. He added that he did not wish to define or even underline the role of a provincial agency, as this could be interpreted as inappropriate intervention. However, he could highlight the role within the national system, as well as the associated privileges and obligations.

The statistical focal point for Manitoba, Mr. Wilf Falk, suggested that the memorandum of understanding on access to tax data be used as a vehicle. It would also be easy to integrate the permitted uses of the data and the focal points' role in the area of security. The statistical focal points for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Manitoba indicated that they would like to get a letter.

The statistical focal point for Nunavut, Mr. Jack Hicks, mentioned that in the territories, the problems are different. First, when Statistics Canada conducts surveys on a cost-recovery basis, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are usually not included because the employees responsible for the surveys feel that their exclusion has little impact on the results at the national level. They do not realize that the territorial governments need data to help them make informed decisions. Second, a few surveys are not at all appropriate for the territories. If questions were asked, the territorial statistical focal points might suggest that Statistics Canada save its money and not conduct some surveys there. If Statistics Canada decided to conduct all social surveys in the territories, this would create a big problem as the population would become rude to interviewers. For Mr. Hicks, the question that needs to be asked was: Will Statistics Canada base its decisions concerning Nunavut only on the people in Ottawa or will it consult the territorial government?

To make the meetings more useful, the statistical focal point for the Yukon, Mr. Paul Harris, proposed to choose a project or subject that could be discussed at some length during the first round table. Dr. Fellegi approved this suggestion, but said that to be able to do this it would be necessary to submit the activity reports earlier. The program committee for next year's meeting will add this item to the agenda on a trial basis.

## **11. Nomination to the next Program Committee**

The Chairperson of the 2002 Program Committee, Mr. Ron McMahon, proposed Mr. Yvon Fortin as president and representative of the central provinces, Mr. Wilf Falk as representative of the western provinces, Ms. Kathy Wyrwas as representative of the eastern provinces and Mr. David Stewart as representative for the territories.

## **12. Other business**

The statistical focal point for Saskatchewan, Mr. Ron McMahon, indicated that he would like to obtain a list of items for follow-up before the next meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Approved in Ottawa on February 11, 2003 by Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi.

## FOLLOW-UP

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL  
ON STATISTICAL POLICY  
MAY 2 – 3, 2002  
FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

**ITEM 2.3: Research data centres**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Saskatchewan would like to see a list of the 150 research projects approved. Mike Sheridan mentioned that there will be an announcement when the proposed research projects are available on the SSHRC and Statistics Canada websites.

**FOLLOW-UP:** An e-mail along with the SSHRC website address has been sent to the focal points

**ITEM 2.4: Redesign of retail and wholesale surveys**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Manitoba proposed a face-to-face meeting as part of the fall meeting of the Committee on Business Statistics. Ray Ryan mentioned that they would consult on whether it would involve a separate event taking place on an extra day, a half-day or something completely different.

**FOLLOW-UP:**

**ITEM 2.5: NAICS /NACE**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Nova Scotia wanted some information on the harmonization of the NAICS with the NACE. Philip Smith suggested that the Director of the Standards Division, Mr. Paul Johannis, be contacted.

**FOLLOW-UP:** An e-mail along with all the relevant documents has been sent to the focal points.

**ITEM 2.6: Technology**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Nova Scotia proposed that the ACS on technology should present at the next Council meeting. Ivan Fellegi has agreed that this item should be added to the agenda of the next Council meeting.

**FOLLOW-UP:**

**ITEM 2.7: Alumni Program**

**ACTION:** The focal point for British Columbia expressed some interest in the Alumni Program. An information document is available from the Human Resources Operations Division.

**FOLLOW-UP:** An e-mail along with all the relevant documents has been sent to the focal points.



**ITEM 2.8: Cities Project**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Manitoba inquired about the Cities Project. A document detailing the pilot study in Winnipeg and Toronto is available.

**FOLLOW-UP:** An e-mail along with all the relevant documents has been sent to the focal points.

**ITEM 5.2: 2001 Census**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Saskatchewan would like to get the confirmed dates for the workshops on Collection and Processing of Coverage Studies. Mike Sheridan will ask Réjean Lachapelle to confirm the dates for the set of workshops.

**FOLLOW-UP:** The dates were confirmed: September 9 and 10.

**ITEM 6.3: Sustainable development and environmental indicators**

**ACTION:** Focal Points should be aware of the taskforce report available on the Environment Canada website.

**FOLLOW-UP:** An e-mail along with the website address has been sent to the focal points.

**ITEM 7.1: Access to tax data**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Nova Scotia requested the file layout and description.

**FOLLOW-UP:** Business Register Division has contacted the focal point after the meeting.

**ITEM 7.1: Access to tax data**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Saskatchewan asked to be sent information on the memo of understanding between the provinces and Statistics Canada for tax-data sharing.

**FOLLOW-UP:** The requested material was sent in July 2002. In addition, the sharing of tax data was the subject of an extensive discussion at the October 2002 meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics. As part of this meeting all the most up-to-date material on the subject was distributed.

**ITEM 7.2: Economics Statistics Course**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Alberta requested the synopsis of the Enterprise Survey Skills Training course.

**FOLLOW-UP:** An e-mail along with the relevant documents has been sent to the focal points.

**ITEM 7.2: Economics Statistics Course**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Newfoundland-and-Labrador asked for basic information on the economics field. Ray Ryan suggested a visit to the educational module on our

website. Emmet Weatherhead proposed two books.

**FOLLOW-UP:** An e-mail along with the relevant information has been sent to the focal points.

#### **ITEM 8.2: External Communication Network**

**ACTION:** The focal points would like to see a better co-ordination of the ECN content and would like to combine all the information on this module instead of having FTP sites and other arrangements. Dr. Fellegi proposed that there be a report made to the Committee on Data Dissemination in November. The intention of this report should be that, unless there are solid reasons not to, we should proceed.

**FOLLOW-UP:** A working group has been created at the meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination.

#### **ITEM 10: Role of the focal points**

**ACTION:** The focal point for Prince Edward Island suggested that it would be most useful if Statistics Canada sent some formal correspondence describing the role of a focal point to occur to his deputy or minister. Dr. Fellegi agreed to send an individualized letter to those who feel it is needed. He proposed that the Program Committee draft a prototype.

**FOLLOW-UP:** A first draft has been sent for review to the focal points.

#### **ITEM 10: Role of the focal points**

**ACTION:** The focal point for the Northwest Territories suggested that focal points share more of their expertise and experience. Dr. Fellegi suggested that the Program Committee discuss the feasibility and the modalities of reviewing the provincial reports ahead of time, and identify one or two topics for in-depth discussion.

**FOLLOW-UP:** The focal points have been asked to provide their activity report ahead of time.

## APPENDIX I

### 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
Nunavut	Jack Hicks	Director Evaluation and Statistics Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Statistics Canada	Jacques Morin	Departmental Secretary Chief Statistician of Canada
Statistics Canada	Philip Smith	Assistant Chief Statistician National Account and Analytical Studies Field
Statistics Canada	Albert Meguerditchian	Senior Advisor Business and Trade Statistics
Statistics Canada	Mike Sheridan	Assistant Chief Statistician Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Michael Wolfson	Assistant Chief Statistician Analysis and Development Field
Statistics Canada	Karen Wilson	Director General System of National Accounts Branch
Statistics Canada	Laurie Hill	Field Marketing Coordinator Business and Trade Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Kishori Lal	Associate Assistant Chief Statistician National Account and Analytical Studies Field
Statistics Canada	Douglas Norris	Director General Census and Demographic Statistics Branch

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
Statistiques Canada	Vicki Crompton	Director Communications Division
Statistics Canada	Andrée Hébert	Head Federal-Provincial-Territorial Relations Secretariat Communications Division

## APPENDIX II

### AGENDA

# FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY

May 2 and 3, 2002

Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

## AGENDA

Thursday, May 2, 2002

**9:00 a.m. Opening remarks — Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi**

- Adoption of the agenda
- Approval of the minutes of the 2001 meeting

**9:15 a.m. Achievements and priorities — Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi**

- Dr. Fellegi will respond to questions arising from the contents of the 2002 @StatCan Special Issue

**10:15 a.m. Program Committee report — Ron McMahon**

- Future meetings rotating through the provincial capitals
- Follow-up items from 2001 meeting — Martin Podehl

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. Provincial and territorial reports — focal points**

**12:00 p.m. Luncheon**

**1:00 p.m. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics — Mike Sheridan**

- 1906 and 1911 Censuses
  - status report on access to census records
- 2001 Census
  - undercount: update on plan, methodology and progress
- 2006 Census
  - update
- LFS redesign
  - policy issue: Aboriginal component
- Research Data Centres
  - update



- 1:45 p.m. National Accounts and Analytical Studies — Philip Smith**
- PIPES
    - status
  - Tourism satellite accounts
    - provincial and territorial level data
  - Employment vectors
  - Environment and sustainable development indicators
- 2:30 p.m. Break**
- 2:45 p.m. Business and Trade Statistics — Ray Ryan**
- Housing stock measurements
    - update on the consultative process
  - Tax data access
    - changes in legislation: What can STC and FPs access?
- 3:30 p.m. Communications and Operations — Richard Barnabé**
- CANSIM
    - consortium
    - implications for the future
    - role of CANSIM
  - Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination
    - role of the committee vis-à-vis the subject matter divisions at STC
- 4:15 p.m. Reception**

Friday, May 3, 2002

**9:00 a.m.      Analysis and Development — Michael Wolfson**

- CCHS
  - funding after 2003
  - publication of indicators planned for the fall

**9:45 a.m.      Break**

**10:00 a.m.      “Role of the Focal Points – A Discussion” — Dennis Pilkey**

**11:00 a.m.      Nominations to the next Program Committee — Ron McMahon**

**11:15 a.m.      Other business**

**Concluding remarks**

**APPENDIX III**

**PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS**

## **ALBERTA**

During 2001–02, Alberta Statistics continued to maintain its operations as the province's central statistical agency. It reports to the finance department through the Office of Budget and Management.

To increase its role in primary data gathering, the Agency has established a number of human resources, social and economic survey programs. The general focus of core statistical activities has again remained relatively consistent over the past year, continuing the trend toward a greater emphasis on developing and maintaining statistical standards.

### **Administration and budget**

In 2001–02, core-staffing levels have remained constant, although supplemented by contract and wage personnel for special projects. Budgetary allocations were unchanged, with cost recovery revenues providing the source for ad hoc social and economic projects.

### **Goals and objectives**

The Agency continues to operate under the general guiding principle of providing a co-ordinated and standardized approach to the development, production and reporting of provincial statistical information.

The Agency co-ordinates government survey activities through increased use of its advisory and consultative services. The consultative services made available to all government departments have helped in the implementation of specific statistical methodologies.

### **Programs and services**

#### **Core services**

Basic core services have remained unchanged from the previous year. The following services were provided on behalf of the provincial 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 and consultation program

## **Statistical information system**

The Alberta Statistical Information System (ASIST) continues as the government's centralized online database, allowing government users access to a variety of social and economic information. The ASIST system is made available on a pay-per-use basis to meet the demands of both internal and external clients for cost effective, timely data.

ASIST moved to an Internet-based technology in December 2001. A further stage, moving the system to a full CANSIM II base, is currently underway, with completion scheduled for May 2002. The new system will enable users to have seamless connectivity through both Internet and intranet. It will also provide enhanced data extraction and manipulation tools.

## **Electronic dissemination and publications**

In 2001–02, the Agency and its secondary distributors made the following publications available:

- *Alberta Economic Multipliers*, 1998
- *Alberta Municipal Census Training Manual*
- *Alberta Export Services Survey*, 2000
- *Alberta Economic Accounts*, 2000
- *Alberta Facts And Figures*, 2001
- *Alberta Population Projections*, 2016
- *Alberta Provincial Electoral Division Profiles*

## **Demographic program**

Alberta Statistics now maintains custom population estimates and projections as part of its in-house core services. Centralized demographic statistics provide departments with uniform data to help in provincial program and policy planning.

The development of a custom projections and estimates program has been completed, it is currently being tested and will soon be available for a variety of both standard and user specified custom geographies. Current annual standard output is at the census division level. There are also provincial levels of detail for age and sex for single years.

Planning is currently underway to automate the population projection model in order to provide prompt replies to standard and custom projection requests. Basic work on the model has been completed and a user GUI front-end will be incorporated in 2002–03.

## **Geographic information services**

Using SMARTS system, the Agency provides custom boundary digitizing and data geo-referencing services to clients on a cost recovery basis. A GIS translation product is available on a monthly, quarterly or annual subscription to assist users with in-house analyses and research. The GIS file allows the translation of administrative data into over 40 standard and custom sets of Alberta geographic boundaries.

## **Economic modelling program**

The Agency offers a wide range of economic analysis services, including the development and operation of an Alberta economic impact model and an economic multipliers program.

The Agency's economic impact model provides a basis for public and private users to measure the impact of various changes in the provincial economy using standard inputs and algorithms. It was updated in early 2002 to include the latest I/O data and recent provincial tax revisions. The economic multipliers program provides both a standard series and user-specified custom industry aggregations of Alberta economic multipliers, as well as intensity and supply ratios to meet a wide range of client modelling applications.

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



## **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

### **Surveys**

This year, BC STATS launched a web survey capability with positive results. Web surveys have the advantage of rapid turnaround, built-in error checking and the data entry step is removed. They normally provide greater ease and convenience for the respondent. However, a disadvantage is that all respondents must have Internet access.

Web surveys have proven a perfect fit for studies within the British Columbia public service. Coincidentally, the recently elected government has chosen to focus on the development of performance measures. This includes performance of internal government services, and has led to numerous internal web surveys being performed by the Agency.

### **High technology statistics**

Conversion to NAICS has resulted in a need to adjust the industry codes included in the definition of the high tech sector underlying BC STATS publications. NAICS offers some advantages over the SIC in defining the sector, but it also poses many problems.

Since any SIC to NAICS concordance is inexact, the NAICS definition of high technology needed to be developed from first principles. The result may be viewed at [http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus\\_stat/hi\\_tech/NAICSdef.pdf](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/hi_tech/NAICSdef.pdf).

### **Trade articles**

The events surrounding the termination of the softwood lumber agreement have had a large impact in British Columbia. Consequently, there has been an increased interest in trade issues generally. The articles that are part of the BC STATS monthly trade statistics release have addressed this interest. They feature reports on various trade disputes with the United States, including softwood lumber, film and greenhouse tomatoes.

### **Sector studies**

For a number of years, we have developed releases or publications on special industrial sectors, such as small business, high technology and tourism. We are currently responding to requests for further studies on the following requests: oil and gas in the northeast portion of the province, manufacturing—including sub-sectors such as secondary manufacturing and small manufacturers, exporters, and development of regional economic indicators—possibly including regional GDP.

### **Economic impact assessment**

During the year, some 17 separate economic impact projects were carried out using the BC STATS Input-Output Model. This model was developed using the unsuppressed

Statistics Canada provincial Input–Output tables made available via the off-premises access agreement between Statistics Canada and BC STATS.

A series of research reports examining the province's economy from an Input–Output perspective had particular significance. This analysis included the allocations of the impacts of downstream margins to producing industries, of capital spending by industries to those industries, and of government spending to the industries that contribute the funds in the form of tax revenues. The results indicated that, although services directly represent a significant and growing share of the provincial economy, resource-based manufacturing—forestry, mining, agriculture—and the construction industries are still major players.

### **Regional population estimates**

Last year, we updated our official regional population estimates to 2001 for a number of sub-provincial regions including municipalities, school districts, regional districts, health areas and RCMP detachments. These population estimates are generated using information obtained from administrative files, such as residential hydro connections and Old Age Security recipients.

We are planning to carry out an in-depth evaluation of a new model, which adds information on residential telephone lines, using the adjusted 2001 Census-based information. We expect that this telephone information will improve the accuracy of our estimates in areas where outflows of population have occurred. It may also provide better coverage of secondary suites.

### **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, as well as in regional government planning to manage population growth in urban areas. An overview of the applications that use the regional projections was presented at the 2000–01 federal–provincial demography meeting.

### **Mapping development**

BC STATS is experiencing a growing demand from within government for a wide variety of thematic maps, as well as for maps of provincial administrative boundaries and facilities. These mapping projects are playing an important role in the decision-making process related to the recent restructuring of regional services provided by the provincial government.

### **2001 Census communications**

In the past year, we have worked closely with the Pacific regional office in promoting the 2001 Census within the provincial government, as well as in providing support for media



coverage following the March 12 population and dwelling count release.

### **Website developments**

We are in the process of modifying the BC STATS website to accept VISA and MasterCard payments over the Internet for a range of statistical products. This service should be in place by May 2002.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Statistics Agency (NBSA) is part of the Economic and Fiscal Policy Division of the Department of Finance. The Agency monitors and reports to the government on provincial socio-economic trends, prepares the five-year economic forecast used for budget planning and revenue forecasting, and maintains a provincial core statistics program.

### Staffing

In 2001–02, the NBSA had a staff of eight. Kathy Wyrwas continued as focal point for the province and director of NBSA. With the passing of George Coy, Senior Economist, Susan Rodgers was subsequently appointed Senior Economist.

The division continued to participate in the Public Service Internship Program. Two interns worked the first half of a two-year term and two other interns joined NBSA on two-month assignments.

### Operations

The Agency continued to provide research, analysis and advice to senior government officials, including the Premier's Office. While NBSA maintained its internal data dissemination activities, it also expanded its use of socio-economic data in public policy, decision-making and program delivery. Staff became involved in major initiatives, including New Brunswick's Prosperity Plan, Corporate Outcome Measures and Environmental Scan of New Brunswick. A copy of the Prosperity Plan can be accessed through the Internet at [http://www.gnb.ca/OP\\_CPM/speeches-discours/2002-2012/documenten.pdf](http://www.gnb.ca/OP_CPM/speeches-discours/2002-2012/documenten.pdf)

The Agency produces regular internal reports on economic, demographic and social indicators, including the quarterly *New Brunswick Economic Statistics* and the monthly *New Brunswick Economic Indicators* and *New Brunswick Forestry Statistics*. A weekly briefing document for our deputy, finance senior executives and the Premier's Office provides information on Statistics Canada's latest data releases, with a focus on New Brunswick results.

During the past year, progress was made on the Department of Finance Internet site. The economics and statistics component of this website will be launched early in the new fiscal year. The address is <http://www.gnb.ca/0024/index-e.asp>

Our annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy 2002*, 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. All budget documents can be accessed through the Internet at <http://www.gnb.ca/0160/budget/buddoc2002/index.html>

## **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. The efforts made by this regional office to hold a presentation on the 2001 Census population and dwelling counts in Fredericton on March 12 were appreciated. There were some challenges in accessing the data through Statistics Canada's website. It is hoped that improvements can be made for focal point access before the next round of data releases.

Frequent use is made of Statistics Canada's ICN, as it is a valuable information resource for the focal points. NBSA has welcomed the opportunity to review new data series and provide feedback. We participated in Statistics Canada meetings and consultations throughout the year, as resources allowed.

The Agency was pleased to gain access to E-STAT in December 2001. This is a valuable educational and research tool and Statistics Canada is to be commended for broadening its access to include the focal points.

New Brunswick acted as the contact for the Atlantic provinces in discussions regarding a consortium agreement to access CANSIM II. We look forward to the continuation of these discussions over the coming year.

Two of our employees received training on input-output analysis in Ottawa. Requirements for deemed employee status for selected employees are still being worked out with the delay being at our end.

## **Future activities**

For 2002-03, the Agency will continue with several of the activities mentioned above. Significant effort is anticipated with the release of the 2001 Census variables and our subsequent dissemination activities to provincial government departments. There are also plans to participate in the 2001 Census coverage studies analysis and the future implications for the population estimates program.

## **NEWFOUNDLAND**

### **Overview**

The year 2001 has been an exceptionally busy time. This results from an increase in the general volume of work load as well as the progress of major projects, such as our work on the province's Strategic Social Plan (SSP). There has been an increase in the volume of requests received both through personal contact and on our website. The Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency (NSA) is receiving an increased number of requests for data from both within and outside government. This is partially due to the emphasis placed on using data more extensively in policy development and monitoring. The SSP will begin to report to the public in 2002 and this will result in a significant increase in the demands on the NSA. Approximately 18 people worked at the Agency and close collaboration has continued with the academic community in a number of social and economic policy areas.

### **Data dissemination**

Last year, NSA's data dissemination site was made available to the public. About 40,000 hits have been recorded this fiscal year: it is a much higher level of exposure than had been anticipated. Some 1,500 requests have been received directly by staff. Together, these represent a notable increase in the volume of work. They are in addition to major projects underway and other tasks, such as interacting with STC subject matter areas and technical work carried out internally and on behalf of clients.

### **Survey services**

The survey services unit has handled a large volume of work this year. Work ranged from providing clients with technical support to undertaking large surveys. The unit assists clients in developing and carrying out small surveys, usually within Government but increasingly outside government. Most of the latter have been mail-outs. This fits in well with NSA's preferred approach to survey work, since we have no interest in developing a respondent contact capacity. In 2001-02, the two largest initiatives were the province's Adult and Community Health Survey and a labour activity survey. A survey of employers and a social capital survey are planned for the near future.

### **Newfoundland and Labrador Adult and Community Health Survey (NLACHS)**

This survey updated an adult health survey that was carried out by the Division of Community Health at Memorial University in 1995. The main purpose of the survey was to create a base-line health data set for the SSP. The sample size was 8,500. The data have been posted to the Community Accounts and have generated considerable interest among users. The data were also used extensively by the Department of Health and Community Services for a consultation on the province's health system. The data serve the needs of those who need data at the subprovincial level. We are now working co-operatively with STC to ensure that data from CCHS, soon to be released, will not be seen as conflicting with the available NLACHS data.



## **Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Activity Survey (NLLAS)**

This survey was first carried out in 2000. It is designed to capture key dynamics of the province's labour market. New modules were added this year and the survey was completed in March. Questions were included regarding non-formal work activities such as volunteerism and other non-market work activities. We also included questions to determine the extent to which persons have found work in occupations for which they were trained. Also, information was collected regarding student loans. The survey provides data for up to 20 subprovincial areas and will be a considerable asset in preparing the community accounts for use in the social audit. These are levels of geography that are of greatest interest to local analysts and policy makers in Newfoundland and Labrador.

## **Survey of Employers (SOE)**

This survey is a large undertaking for NSA. Local organizations require data for some 160 occupations. This necessitates a sample size in the range of 10,000 and thus provides a significant opportunity to secure key data subprovincially. Such data have been demanded by many key clients—our Treasury Board, the SSP, Workers Compensation Commission, economic development departments, the Premier's Strategic Partnership with Business and Labour, etc. A funding consortium is being arranged to pay for the survey. Statistics Canada was first consulted on doing the survey but ultimately NSA became involved because of the high price of the large sample that would be involved if STC were to carry out the survey. STC is being kept informed on what is being done and opportunities for collaboration that might benefit NSA and STC will be considered and pursued to the extent beneficial to both parties.

## **Strategic Social Plan (SSP)**

Work on the SSP is accelerating. Government is taking a phased approach to reporting back to the public. In May the community accounts (CAs) will be released to the general public. In mid-fall, a social and economic landscape document will be released. It will draw upon the CAs and other sources to describe the social status of the province. Toward the end of the fiscal year, the social audit will be carried out. These activities are creating much work for NSA.

## **Community accounts (CAs)**

NSA has been working on developing a system of CAs since 1999 to support the development of the social audit, which is a main aspect of the SSP policy. Work has progressed well this year. Geography has been expanded to provide data for 400 incorporated communities, 80 CCS areas, 20 economic zones, 6 SSP regions, 6 education administrative regions and 19 HRDC regions. New data based on in-house surveys and from STC and administrative sources have been added. This year, data will be developed for urban neighborhoods in the province. The CAs are expected to be released to the general public at the end of May. A press conference is planned and the release has the potential to significantly increase the profile of using data in decision making.



## **Social and Economic Landscape Report**

A document is being developed to provide a data overview of the status of health, education and other social policy areas in the province. The document is currently referred to as the Social and Economic Landscape and Progress Report. It will draw on CA data and provide an overview of the status of these topical areas, based on data and indicators. Interpretations of data will not be included. While NSA is organizing the work and providing data, the SSP staff are handling the political and public exposure sides of the exercise.

## **GEOStats Atlantic**

GEOStats Atlantic is a geographic information system (GIS) that has been under development within NSA, with support from Memorial University and involvement of the Nova Scotia government. The system is designed to provide data for all Canadian provinces as well as to perform a range of analytical functions. The system has also been designed so that it can be modified for a variety of applications. One has been developed for site-selection. The system can provide information to companies prospecting for optimal locations to establish a company. GEOStats has been designed to use multicriterion selection techniques for site selection. An application is also under development to provide data for officials involved in economic development initiatives in the province's 20 economic zones.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

### Overview

The N.W.T. Bureau of Statistics, located in the Department of Finance, is the central statistics agency for the Government of the Northwest Territories. It comprises five permanent positions and three term positions.

Our base budget remains the same for the 2002–03 fiscal year. No changes in the organizational placement of the Bureau of Statistics are planned.

### Data development and dissemination

We have completed a number of major projects related to data development and dissemination.

A continuing initiative has been improvements to the N.W.T. input-output (I–O) model. Significant changes are required with each release of the I–O tables by Statistics Canada. The model currently uses I–O tables from 1997 and we have now added a fiscal and tax-impacts module, as well as a demographic impacts module, to our economic impact assessment tools. For 1998, changes will be required to reflect NAICS, while we will also be required to split the tables for N.W.T. and Nunavut. We expect separate tables for the two territories for the 1999 reference year.

Impact assessments using the I–O model continued to be a major draw on resources in the past year. The most significant project continues to be impacts related to the DeBeers diamond project as it makes its way through the permitting process.

In 2001–02, we developed and implemented the 2002 N.W.T. Alcohol and Drug Survey. This survey involved some 1,200 territorial residents. It was completed in early 2002 and survey results are expected to be available in late spring.

Another major price collection effort was a community food price survey. This survey, which collects prices on some 160 items, produces spatial price indexes for N.W.T. communities. For the first time, this survey includes some non-food items. It is expected the indexes will be published early in the new fiscal year.

We continue to publish regular statistical publications such as the *Statistics Quarterly*. The year also saw periodic releases that were designed to complement STC data releases. These included releases for gross domestic product, public and private investment, retail trade, the monthly Labour Force Survey, Consumer Price Index and population estimates.

A major new publication developed in the past year is *N.W.T. Labour Market Trends*. It provides statistical analysis of labour market information for specific subpopulations, by such characteristics as by sex, ethnic group, level of education and community type.

The data used are from a variety of sources that include our own Community Labour Force Survey and census information. It is expected that, as annual information becomes available from STC's monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS), this document will be updated on an annual basis.

A continued focus for the N.W.T. Bureau of Statistics has been to improve access to and awareness of territorial statistics. T-Stat, our 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, we have assumed responsibility for the N.W.T. *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 a quantitative lead in the development of government-wide measures intended to help assess progress toward 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, we have provided 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.

We are 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, we 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.

## **Work with Statistics Canada**

We have provided input on a variety of STC 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 our mandate.

We continue our working relationship with the regional office to help complete the monthly LFS and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) in the Northwest Territories. The results of these efforts are now starting to be felt with more than one year of LFS results and the upcoming release of the CCHS.

A major area of concern is the recent release of the population counts from the 2001 Census. It is apparent that there were considerable problems with the 2001 Census in the Northwest Territories. We are currently working with the regional office to try to better understand some of the more troubling aspects of the results.

The results of this review may have significant implications for the coverage studies and the eventual preparation of population estimates for the Northwest Territories. There is significant interest in the results with the general population and with the Government of the Northwest Territories.



## **NOVA SCOTIA**

The division continues to review and align its products and services to the goals and the mission statement outlined in our 1998 Strategic Plan. In addition, we have set priorities based on the Statistical Needs and Capacity Survey carried out in the 2000-01 fiscal year.

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

### **Statistical Needs and Capacity Survey**

The division has completed this survey of provincial government departments. Its purpose 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 draft overview of the survey results has been completed. Some of the requests for easier access to more information are being acted on.

### **Community Accounts Demonstration Model**

We continue to work with the Population Health Research Unit and Atlantic Health Promotion Research Unit at Dalhousie University, in conjunction with the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency and Memorial University, to develop a system of community accounts for Nova Scotia based on Newfoundland's work and experience. A prototype of the accounts has been developed. Work to develop the planned demonstration model has been hampered by a lack of resources, although funding for other projects is providing a number of building blocks that will allow this project to move forward more quickly.

### **Data Dissemination**

We continue to improve access to data on both public and internal websites. Traffic on our public Internet site has almost tripled in the last year, averaging over 12,000 page accesses in the first three months of 2002, plus almost 15,000 .PDF downloads in March 2002.

The Internet site, with a new look and expanded capability, was implemented in April 2002. A limited beta test version of the new Intranet site was implemented in March 2002. Access to the Intranet site is by free subscription to qualified users.

During the past year, the division continued to produce the same publications as listed in last year's report. Promotional efforts for some publications, such as a provincial construction activity report, were undertaken. In addition, a review of publication distribution policy to determine the best way to inform users has resulted in greater use of Internet access and a decrease in number of hard copies printed.



## **Census 2001 Population Figures**

The first Nova Scotia 2001 Census publication was issued on March 12. The reduced census count for Nova Scotia was quite a surprise and seems counter to economic and other data, such as increased numbers of taxfilers. Arrangements are being made to compare the July release of the age and sex data with our September 2001 school enrolment data.

## **Economic**

We are assisting the Economic Policy and Analysis Division in the development of a Nova Scotia input-output (I-O) model. This is a static model that estimates the impact on employment and income of project expenditures or sector changes. The I-O model will be compatible with the economic forecasting model and will enhance its capabilities.

Statistics Canada staff audited our procedures and practices for the security of I-O tables and found this simple, effective approach to be exemplary.

## **Statistical Profiles**

With support of special funding from the Premier's Office, we have developed a statistical profile of each of the provincial electoral districts using census and SAAD data, supplemented with internal survey and other information. This project has been a major part of divisional work over the past year. It has resulted in increased capacity and will provide the basis for offering more data to our provincial government users.

## **Labour**

The Nova Scotia federal-provincial LMI committee has been actively involved in developing an inventory of labour market information products and resources in the province; inviting proposals to undertake an assessment of the labour market information needs of Nova Scotians; and identifying gaps in labour market information products and services.

We also participated in a review of the meeting format and mandate of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Labour Statistics. Labour statistics have also been the area of pioneering for our new approach to offering statistics on the Internet and Intranet sites.

## NUNAVUT

2001-02 was the third year of operation of *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit*, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Highlights of the year included implementing the first Nunavut Household Survey, working closely with government departments and both the representative Inuit organizations and the institutions of public government arising out of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and assisting the evaluation side of our division in completing our first major evaluation of government operations.

*Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit* is part of the Evaluation and Statistics division of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The org chart now shows seven positions -- a Director of Evaluation and Statistics; a Manager of Evaluation and two Policy Analysts on the Evaluation side; and an Economic Statistician, a Social/Demographic Statistician and a Survey Manager on the Statistics side. Five of these seven positions are currently filled, including all of the stats positions -- but we hope to add a Labour Market Analyst position by the end the current fiscal year.

The 2001 Nunavut Household Survey required more of our limited resources than we had expected it would, but we learned a great deal from the experience and we believe that if we obtain the funding required to conduct a second iteration of the survey it will go considerably more smoothly the second time around. There was particular pressure to get results from the questions on housing and language to our departments which needed them to support their work with their federal counterparts, and having accomplished that we will be releasing the results of the survey to the public this month. We will also begin the process of critiquing the questions we employed in 2001, soliciting comment on possible changes to the content for the 2003 Nunavut Household Survey and seeking the funding required to implement a second such survey.

*Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit* is developing a good working relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), the Nunavut-wide Inuit representative organization. We are very open to NTI having input into what we do and how we do it, and it seems that we both agree that it would be a very good thing if in ten years from now we get together to discuss what the data that has been collected tells us rather than getting together to disagree about what data should have been collected.

We continue to provide significant support to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), primarily with respect to the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Survey they were required to conduct by the land claim. 5 years of data collection -- 60 monthly interviews of more than 5,000 harvesters -- wrapped up last summer; the final month's interview being a cut-down version of our Household Survey designed to provide socio-economic context to the harvest data that had already been collected. Without this initiative on our part this \$7 million survey would have produced a wealth of data on what was being harvested, and where, but nothing on the question of *\_who\_* was doing the harvesting. With these additional data we will be able to explore and document the relationships between wage labour, wildlife harvesting and other forms of productive activity within

extended families in Nunavut. Having taken care of the data entry for them under contract, we will be working closely with the NWMB on the analysis of the data from this historic survey.

With data collection for the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Survey now wrapped up, with the Nunavut land claim silent on the question of harvest data from this point on, and with many organizations in Nunavut wondering how they're going to obtain the harvest data they need on an on-going basis (be it for stock management purposes or for economic modelling), we also collaborated with the NWMB on a project that pulled together everyone with a interest in harvest statistics to see what kinds of data are required on an on-going basis and how best to obtain them. We, they, NTI, DIAND, DFO, the Canadian Wildlife Service and our government's Dep't of Sustainable Development all kicked in, terms of reference for the required studies were developed, the most knowledgeable people in the field were contracted, and what we all thought was a most excellent product resulted. A .pdf file of the final report was sent to all Focal Points.

Finally, and on a happier note, we continued to develop our working relationship with our counterparts in neighbouring Inuit jurisdictions. Several of our staff spent time in Statistics Greenland's offices in Nuuk last spring, and we will be doing so again this year. In addition we hope to host our first visitor – or visitors – from Greenland in the fall; their labour market specialist may be with us for several months. And just last month we hosted a delegation from the Kativik Regional Government, based in Kuujuaq, northern Québec. The KRG has hired its first statistician, and there is considerable interest in co-ordinating his activities with ours.

## ONTARIO

### Overview

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

The unit's major function is to analyse and report on the current state of the Ontario economy. It does this 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 and Cabinet, to other divisions within the Ministry of Finance, as well as to 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 the quarterly *Ontario Economic Accounts*, which is distributed to libraries and various economic research institutions outside the government. This publication reports on Ontario nominal and real GDP, by major income and expenditure components, as well as estimates of Ontario's real GDP at factor cost by major industry.

In addition, the unit publishes the following for government-wide distribution:

- the weekly *Ontario Key Economic Indicators* covers major economic news released the previous week, plus monthly and quarterly tables;
- *Ontario Labour Markets* appears monthly;
- each month *Consumer Prices* traces consumer price movements in Ontario, Canada and the United States; and
- the quarterly *Canadian Economic Conditions* tracks Canada's GDP.

The unit produces the following publications for ministry-wide circulation on a monthly basis unless otherwise stated:

- *Ontario International Trade Update* follows Ontario and Canadian trade trends;
- *Ontario Auto Production* tracks production, sales and other activity in the auto sector;
- *Housing Markets* follows Ontario housing conditions;
- *Retail and Wholesale Sales*;
- *Manufacturing Shipments*;
- the quarterly *Ontario Economic Chronology* covers domestic and international events in financial and labour markets and public finance; and



- various fact sheets present related Ontario economic data, including bankruptcies, wage settlements, financial statistics and building permits.

### **Electronic services**

The *Economic Monitoring Overview* is a daily electronic report. It provides an update and synopsis of major economic releases to senior government staff.

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*, as well as a bulletin describing recent economic developments in Ontario, are also available on the Internet.

Since January 2002, we have been using a new database system—FAME—to meet the divisional data needs. Most of our data are now centrally stored in FAME and automatically updated daily. Currently, we have 1,700 such automated series, of which half are monthly and one third are quarterly. All these series have full, searchable descriptions and standardized names.

Upcoming developments include getting data from Statistics Canada's National Accounts in their original FAME format, as well as automation of our publishing process.

### **Library services**

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

### **Co-ordination services**

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



## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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

The division maintains a close working relationship on statistical matters with Statistics Canada. The latter continues to serve as a valuable source of information for the provincial government, while the Division relies heavily on this agency for the majority of its data. Statistical information supplied by Statistics Canada, together with data supplied by provincial government departments, are used in the maintenance of the divisional statistical database. We disseminate this statistical information to the public via the government website at [www.gov.pe.ca/infopei/Statistics/index.php3](http://www.gov.pe.ca/infopei/Statistics/index.php3) as well as internally on the government's intranet site.

In addition to the dissemination of statistical data, the Division publishes data from its demographic model. This model describes and projects the population of Prince Edward Island. Projection results are consistent with Statistic Canada's official historical estimates by single year of age and gender and cover the period from 2001 to 2030. It is an interactive model that allows users to specify a number of forecast scenarios and obtain detailed projected results. Extended capabilities of this demographic model include population projections for Prince, Queens and Kings counties, as well as projections at the level of the five health regions.

In 2002, mapping software was introduced to produce maps based on census subdivision data from the 2001 Census and from population estimates.

We have prepared responses to the numerous requests for population data and projections by census subdivision, county and health region. The *Annual Statistical Review*, published in May of each year, has been revised to include this information.

Research is underway to develop systems to analyze S-level input-output data for the province. The outcome will serve to improve the knowledge and accuracy of the structure of the provincial economy. Furthermore, the Division has had access in 2002 to confidential W-level input-output data for the purpose of verification.

Other activities have included the publication of the *Quarterly Economic Overview* series, supplemented by monthly statistics on key variables, and the maintenance of the province's economic forecasting model.

## QUEBEC

### Changes to the administrative structure

The administrative structure of the Institute has undergone some changes since the Council's last meeting. In May 2001, a new service, the *Service de l'évaluation des programmes* (Program Evaluation Service), was implemented to advise the Director General on the correspondence of his administrative and financial practices with government policies and directives and on the efficiency of his programs. The *Service des normes et de l'information* (Standards and Information Service) also has become the *Direction de l'édition et des communications* (Writing and Communications Directorate). In August 2001, the *Service des statistiques sectorielles* (Sectoral Statistics Service) was merged with the *Direction des comptes et des études économiques* (Accounts and Economic Studies Directorate). The *Service des activités de collecte* (Collection Activities Service)—until then a part of the *Direction des technologies et des activités de collecte* (Technologies and Collection Activities Directorate)—has become the *Direction des activités de collecte* (Collection Activities Directorate). The *Direction des technologies et des activités de collecte* (Technologies and Collection Activities Directorate) has been named the *Direction des technologies de l'information* (Information Technologies Directorate). The *Direction des affaires corporatives* (Corporate Affairs Directorate) has been abolished and has been replaced by a position of councillor for corporate affairs.

Finally, in February of last year, the *Direction des statistiques sociodémographiques* (Socio-demographic Statistics Directorate) was abolished. Part of this directorate's staff, namely the social statistics group, together with the former *Direction des comptes et des études économiques* (Accounts and Economic Studies Directorate), was integrated with the new *Direction des statistiques économiques et sociales* (Economic and Social Statistics Directorate). The other staff, the demographic statistics group, together with the former *Direction de la méthodologie et des enquêtes spéciales* (Methodology and Special Surveys Directorate), was integrated into the new *Direction de la méthodologie, de la démographie et des enquêtes spéciales* (Methodology, Demography and Special Surveys Directorate).

### Some corporate matters

With the passing of the *Public Administration Act* in May 2000, the Government of Quebec announced its intention to emphasize turning public administration towards results management. In this spirit, like the ministries and most other government agencies, the Institute has been preparing its first Strategic Plan in the last few months. This document presents the essence of the vision that will guide the activities of the Institute with the ministries and agencies, partners, citizens, researchers and other users of its products and services from 2002 to 2005.

The Institute has kept three strategic goals:

- to bring its mission up to date;

- to renew its business relations with Statistics Canada; and
- to benefit its business partners.
- Each of these goals has corresponding orientations, lines of intervention and indicators that will allow the Institute to monitor its success in accomplishing them.
- The Institute conducted its action plan using the corporate development approach undertaken during 2000–01. Several activities were implemented in the following areas:
  - the development of a corporate spirit;
  - the composition and modes of operation of the Board of Directors;
  - the profile, role and development of managerial staff;
  - the organizational climate;
  - project management;
  - the management of support and operational services—in other words, the management of human, financial and material resources, methodology, communications, collection activities and information technologies; and
  - the management of relations with partners, clients and users.

The Program Evaluation Service has a mandate to evaluate each of the Institute's statistical programs over a period of five years. It began its work by starting the evaluation of the information service conducted by the *Centre d'information et de documentation* (Information and Documentation Centre), as well as the Institute's communications program.

In June 2001, the Institute instituted a policy on the use of microdata files from its surveys. The *Comité d'examen des demandes d'exploitation* (Committee for studying requests for use) implemented the various ways of applying this policy, as well as the agreement or contract regarding the use of a file of survey microdata for analytical and research purposes. The Institute's aim is to ensure that the data that it possesses are used to their maximum, by extracting all possible scientific knowledge while at the same time ensuring the confidentiality of its information. The Institute's approach is to use the collaboration of outside analysts and researchers from public agencies and universities to assist in analysis and research. Several agreements or contracts have thus been signed over the last few months.

In 2000–01, the *Centre d'accès aux données de recherche de l'Institut de la statistique du Québec* (CADRISQ) (Gateway to ISQ Research Data) moved from the Université de Montréal campus to a permanent location on the fourth floor at 3535 Queen Mary Road. This is adjacent to the Quebec Inter-university Centre for Social Statistics—one of the STC research data centres. Apart from using microdata files from Institute surveys,



this centre offers the following services: customized statistical compilation, conferences and seminars, teaching support, information on the Institute, and access to its publications. Over the last few months, the Institute has also opened a second *Centre d'accès aux données de recherche* (Centre for Access to Research Data) at its secretariat in Québec.

In 2001–02, the *Institut de Statistique du Québec* (ISQ) (Quebec Statistics Institute) implemented and updated the setting of standards for the protection of personal and confidential information. Various policies and procedures were updated or implemented; sensitization and information activities were held for employees. The Institute conducted and heightened its work on developing methodology for controlling the risk of disclosing confidential information. In this area, a methodology was implemented to ensure the confidentiality of microdata, a methodology that underlies the Institute policy that was referred to before. Moreover, work is being conducted to provide the Institute with guidelines aimed at guaranteeing the confidentiality of statistical tables.

### New publications and studies

More than 30 publications were disseminated in 2001–02. Two new titles joined the Institute's publications catalogue in the fall of 2001. *Portrait social du Québec : données et analyses, édition 2001* (*A Social Portrait of Quebec: Data and Analyses, 2001 edition*) describes the major social changes that occurred in living conditions of the Quebec population over the last few decades. Its 25 chapters are grouped under nine major themes: the general demographic and economic context; the standard of living; households and families; people's security; health; the use of time; education; participation in the labour force; and participation in social life.

A second addition is the CD-ROM, *Investissements privés et publics, Québec et ses régions, données réelles 1976-1997* (*Private and Public Investments, Quebec and its Regions, Actual Data 1976-1997*). This is the first interactive CD-ROM published by the Institute. It primarily provides chronological series on expenses for fixed assets and repairs performed in Quebec administrative regions. It also allows the user to manipulate the tables at will (permutation of columns and rows, sorting, etc.), to use the data by different functions (rates, proportions, indices, differences, trends, etc.), to create personalized graphics (histograms, curves, pie charts, etc.) and to research by key word. Moreover, over the last 12 months, the Institute has prepared several studies and reports from surveys conducted for specific clients. Among these studies and reports are the following:

### In the field of health

- *Enquête québécoise sur le tabagisme chez les élèves du secondaire 2000, volume 1* (*Quebec Survey of Tobacco Use in High School Students 2000, volume 1*)
- *Enquête québécoise sur les limitations d'activités 1998* (*Quebec Survey on Limitations to Activity 1998*)
- *Étude longitudinale du développement des enfants du Québec, vol. 1, n<sup>os</sup> 3, 8 et 12*

(Longitudinal Study of Child Development in Quebec, vol. 1, nos. 3, 8 and 12)

### **In the field of labour and earnings**

- *Étude sur la rémunération globale et la charge de travail des procureurs de la couronne au Canada* (Study on the Total Remuneration and Work Load of Crown Counsel in Canada)
- *Étude sur la rémunération globale dans l'administration municipale* (Study on Total Remuneration in Municipal Administration)
- *Étude et comparaison de la rémunération globale pour la Ville de Montréal* (Study and Comparison of Total Remuneration for the City of Montréal)
- *Enquête sur la rémunération et certaines conditions de travail des employés de l'industrie du vêtement au Québec* (Study on Remuneration and Some Working Conditions of Employees in the Garment Industry in Quebec)

### **In the field of the knowledge economy**

- *Rapport d'enquête sur l'industrie québécoise des services électroniques et du multimédia 1999* (Report on the Survey of Quebec's Electronic and Multimedia Services Industry 1999)
- *Rapport sur l'utilisation d'Internet par les ménages québécois en 2000* (Report on Internet Use by Quebec Households in 2000)
- *Classification par niveau technologique du secteur manufacturier : adaptation de la méthode pour les données du commerce international au Québec* (Classification by Technological Level for the Manufacturing Sector: Adaptation of the Method for the Production of International Trade Indicators in Quebec)

Moreover, in its various bulletins, the Institute disseminated several substantive articles that had resulted from its research or its analyses. Thus, in its quarterly bulletin *Flash-Info Travail et rémunération* (Flash-Info Labour and Remuneration), an article dealt with the processes of matching and selecting benchmark jobs for the survey on total remuneration and the survey on remuneration in municipal administration. Another dealt with the relative importance of disbursements for social benefits and paid unemployment time for various categories of employment. Other articles dealt with average weekly remuneration, length of the work week (conceptual elements), job availability in Quebec as well as real hours of work as opposed to conjecture.

In the bulletin *Données sociodémographiques en bref* (Summary of Socio-demographic Data), published three times a year, the Institute has also disseminated various articles dealing with, for example, spousal violence in 1999, the effect of income on household consumption, financial accessibility to shelter, aging and retirement in the Quebec public service between now and 2015, sterilization, and Quebec demographic weight within Canada from 1976 to 2025.



The bulletin *S@voir.stat* has also served as a channel of disseminating various substantive articles on the knowledge-based economy. Among the subjects were innovation in the manufacturing industry and patents held in Canada and abroad. In its quarterly bulletin *Commerce international des marchandises au Québec* (*International Trade of Goods in Quebec*), the Institute published various case files, including “*Les échanges de biens entre le Québec et la France, de 1988 à 2001*” (“The Exchange of Goods Between Quebec and France, from 1988 to 2001”) and “*La Chine, un marché méconnu*” (“China, the Unrecognized Market”). Finally, *L'Écostat* has also given rise to the publication of several case files, including “*Regard sur la compétitivité de l'économie québécoise*” (“A Look at the Competitiveness of the Quebec Economy”) and “*Intensité technologique des entreprises manufacturières du Québec : une analyse régionale*” (“Technological Intensity of the Manufacturing Industry in Quebec: a Regional Analysis”).

### **Main surveys and related activities**

Apart from conducting various surveys within the framework of its regular programs and over and above the reports mentioned, the Institute conducted collections and/or analyses for the following surveys:

#### **Surveys on individuals and households**

- *Enquête québécoise sur les limitations d'activité* (Quebec Survey on Limitations to Activity)
- *Enquête sur la violence envers les femmes* (Survey on Violence Against Women)
- *Enquête sur l'activité physique et la santé* (Survey on Physical Activity and Health)
- *Enquête sur l'indice synthétique de santé SF-36* (Survey on the SF-36 Composite Index of Health)
- *Enquête sociale et de santé cardiovasculaire auprès des enfants et des adolescents* (Cardiovascular Health and Social Survey of Children and Adolescents)
- *Enquête sur la santé auprès des membres de communautés ethnoculturelles* (Health Survey of Members of Ethnocultural Communities)
- *Enquête de nutrition auprès des 6 à 16 ans* (Nutrition Survey of Children Age 6 to 16)
- *Enquête de nutrition auprès des enfants québécois de 4 ans* (Nutrition Survey of Four-year-old Quebec Children)
- *Enquête québécoise sur le tabagisme chez les élèves du secondaire – Prise 2* (Quebec Survey of Tobacco Use among Secondary School Students—2<sup>nd</sup> round)

- *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)
- *Enquête "Grandir en qualité" sur la qualité des services de garde éducatifs* ('To Grow in Quality' on the Quality of Education-oriented Child-care Survey)

### **Business surveys**

- *Enquête sur la rémunération globale (ERG) 2001* (Survey on Total Remuneration [STR] 2001). This study is essential for implementing the study on the comparison between public-sector wage earners and other Quebec wage earners. The study is required under the ISQ's legal mandate. There were two segments to the survey within ERG 2001: wages and social benefits (private sector).
- *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) and a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of the 'employees' segment
- *Enquête sur le programme de démarrage de petites entreprises – 2001* (Survey on the Small-business Start-up Program, 2001)
- *Enquête sur les besoins des entreprises en main-d'œuvre hautement qualifiée* (Survey on the Needs of Businesses for Highly Qualified Labour)
- *Enquête sur les dépenses de l'Administration publique québécoise dans les domaines de la R&D, de l'innovation et de la culture scientifique* (Survey of Quebec Government Spending on Research and Development, Innovation and Scientific Culture)
- *Enquête sur l'adoption du commerce électronique par les entreprises québécoises* (Survey on the Adoption of E-commerce by Quebec Businesses)

### **Surveys of municipalities**

The Institute was given a new mandate by the *ministère des Affaires Municipales et de la Métropole* (MAMM) (Department of Municipal and Metropolitan Affairs) to conduct a survey of remuneration on the totality of local municipalities of 10,000 inhabitants or more in Quebec. This survey focused on two new categories of employment, namely public safety—police and firemen—as well as management. The results of these new employment categories are a first. As yet, there had been no other survey on this subject conducted on this scale in Quebec. Discussions were held with MAMM to enter into a partnership agreement for the next four years to conduct this survey again. Moreover, the municipal council of the City of Montréal retained the services of the Institute to conduct various surveys and various comparative studies on the total

remuneration of its employees. A new segment has been added to this mandate of measuring total remuneration, namely the measure of the cost of labour as well as outsourcing costs. This new segment has required specific conceptual and methodological developments.

In 2001, the Institute started considering and analysing its needs for overhauling the integrated system of survey management. Feasibility scenarios are being developed. This integrated management system of multimodal collection—by telephone, by mail, by fax or in person—provides an instant feedback on the status of the collection—rate of response, number of call-backs, etc.

Internally, the Institute has implemented a second survey among its personnel on organizational climate to 'take the pulse' of the Institute. The Institute now conducts this survey on an annual basis.

### **Electronic dissemination**

In partnership with 12 departments and agencies of the Quebec government, the Institute is finalizing the implementation of a *Banque de données des statistiques officielles sur le Québec* (BDSO) (Data Bank on Official Quebec Statistics). This centralized bank, which is accessible on partners' Internet sites, will group all official statistics on Quebec at a single window with multiple access. Each agency has agreed to pool the official statistical information that it produces or redisseminates with added value. This bank is to be available at the end of June of next year. During the coming year, other departments and agencies will join the partnership so as to ensure exhaustive coverage of official statistics when this project is complete.

The Institute website, which has seen a slightly more than 48% increase in hits in the last year, has acquired two new interactive applications. The *Répertoire électronique sur la R-D industrielle au Québec* (Electronic Repertory of Industrial R&D in Quebec) contains information on 1,677 active businesses in the science and technology sector in Quebec. Apart from providing the street and web addresses of each business, a descriptive file provides the name of the person responsible for R&D at the business, the primary area of R&D, the primary sector of economic activity for the business, and a brief description of its research and development activities. As for the *Banque de données sur les films* (Data Bank on Films), conducted in collaboration with the *Régie du cinéma* (Film Bureau), it provides, online, information (admissions, receipts, number of projections) for each film that had been shown on a Quebec screen since 1985.

Moreover, the 2001–02 budget year has also seen the launch of the *Observatoire de la culture et des communications* (Culture and Communications Research Institute) website. For the first time, statistics have been disseminated on the sale of new books in Quebec. It must be said, finally, that the Institute website now offers Internet surfers some 150 publications that can be downloaded free in PDF format.

### **Statistics coordination and external activities**

Over the last year, the Institute has had consultations with stakeholders in labour statistics at *Emploi Québec* (Employment Quebec) and the ministère de Travail (Department of Labour) to get to know their work and their data needs.



The Institute met some 120 municipal stakeholders during various consultations within the framework of the study on remuneration in municipal administration, primarily to make itself known and to select benchmark jobs. A presentation was also made to the *Groupe de rémunération de Montréal* (Montréal Remuneration Group) on the measurement of total remuneration.

At the Statistics Canada Symposium, in October 2001, whose theme was "Achieving Data Quality in a Statistical Agency: a Methodological Perspective," the Institute made a presentation called "Impact of the Collection Mode on the Results of a Quebec Health Survey."

In October 2001, at a conference organized by the *Institut canadien à Québec* (Canadian Institute in Quebec), the Institute presented a communication to a round table on "*Éliminer les craintes des citoyens concernant la sécurité de leurs renseignements personnels sur Internet*" (Eliminating Citizens' Fears on the Safety of Their Personal Information on the Internet). Moreover, in 2005, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, Université Laval and the *Société française de statistique* (French Statistical Corporation), the Institute is preparing to hold, in Québec, the *Colloque francophone sur les sondages* (Francophone Colloquium on Surveys), a European event that is usually held in Europe. Together with UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, the Institute is also organizing the international colloquium on cultural statistics, which will be held in Montréal in October 2002.

Representatives of the Institute have participated at various other congresses or conferences. Among these are the Vital Statistics Council for Canada, the symposium of the Federation of Canadian Demographers and the congress of the *Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences* (French-Canadian Association for the Advancement of Sciences). Representatives of the Institute helped prepare the session on demographic aging, held by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, in Brazil in August 2001. Others also participated in the *Comité interministériel de la stratégie de lutte contre la pauvreté* (Interdepartmental Committee on the Strategy to Fight Poverty) as well as the *Chantier sur la mesure de la pauvreté et les indicateurs de résultats* (Work on Measuring Poverty and Result Indicators). Results of the *Enquête sociale et de santé auprès des enfants et des adolescents* (Social Survey on the Health of Children and Adolescents) were presented at the *ISQ Journées annuelles de santé publique 2001* (Annual Days of Public Health 2001).

In May 2001, at the *Congrès de l'Association des économistes québécois* (ASDEQ) (Conference of the Association of Quebec Economists), the Institute was invited to organize a development day called *Atelier de formation: Mesurer l'économie du savoir* (Training Workshop: Measuring the Knowledge-based Economy), which gave rise to seven presentations grouped under five themes covering all aspects of a knowledge-based economy. Also in May 2001, at the Conference of the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Institute presented a communication called: *La représentation spatiale des données socio-économiques: une étude de cas* (Spatial Representation of Socio-Economic Data: a case study).

Moreover, the Institute received a mandate from the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* (Department of Health and Social Services) to take part in developing performance indicators of the Quebec health system. All this work was done in collaboration with representatives of Canadian provinces, Statistics Canada

and Health Canada.

### **Improvement or development activities**

In the field of demography, the methodology for estimating the population of municipalities was adapted to the new concept of '*arrondissements*' as a result of the major municipal reforms that were completed in Québec in January 2002. The methodology for estimating the population of census divisions was extended for age while ensuring concordance with provincial estimates produced by Statistics Canada. The Institute's new model for demographic prediction, MPDISQ, first developed on minicomputer in 1999, is currently moving to be entirely compatible with a PC station and Windows 2000. This 'version 2' of the model can be commercialized.

In terms of labour and remuneration statistics, the Institute has conducted a preliminary analysis to revise a basket of benchmark jobs for the *Enquête sur la rémunération globale* (Survey on Total Remuneration), given the new *Directive concernant la classification des emplois de la fonction publique et sa gestion* (Directive on Public Service Job Classification and Management) put out by the Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor (Treasury Board Secretariat) and has also acquired an action plan. Moreover, a specific analysis on remuneration differences, including variable remuneration, has been added to its report called *Rémunération des salariés : état et évolution comparés 2001* (Remuneration for Wage Earners: Comparison of the Actual Situation and its Development 2001).

As part of a research consortium made up of the Institute, the *ministère des Finances du Québec* (Quebec Department of Finance) and Université Laval, the Institute has produced the 1996 version of a biregional accounting matrix (*Québec - Reste du Canada* [Quebec-Rest of Canada]) which is the basis for a general equilibrium model for evaluating fiscal policies in Quebec. Work is underway to produce the 1997 version of this matrix after receiving final entry and exit tables for this reference year.

Finally, we must mention putting into operation a new *Modèle intersectoriel du Québec* (Inter-sectorial model of Quebec) that allows government users to conduct economic impact studies at a distance on the Web and using highly secure applications.

### **Technical undertakings**

Over the last year, the Institute has met major challenges in information security and electronic dissemination. This work led to acquiring the proficiency and the infrastructures required to accept other similar projects. This is an asset in terms of electronic delivery of service to the public. Moreover, the installation of a new telephone system at the Institute, both in Québec and in Montréal, improves the quality of the service provided to clients.



## SASKATCHEWAN

During the past year, the Bureau has consolidated much of its dissemination activity by increasing the amount of material available on the Internet. For the first time, the annual *Saskatchewan Economic Review* is available only from our website: there are no printed copies of the 2000 edition. The *Monthly Statistical Review* has also been loaded on our website, resulting in half the number of hard copies required for distribution. The site also contains other information relating to the province, including population data, labour force data and price data. Following the release of the 2001 Census, these data have been augmented with historical and current census data about the population of Saskatchewan.

Over the past year, the Bureau, Statistics Canada and Saskatchewan Energy and Mines, have participated in an exercise to reconcile production and export data as they relate to Saskatchewan crude oil and natural gas. This is an ongoing program and we look forward to the resolution of our differences in the near future.

The provincial economic accounts have now been rebased to 1997=100 in anticipation of introducing Chain Fisher methodology to our accounts. Staff from the Bureau attended a most informative Statistics Canada workshop on Chain Fisher in Victoria in January 2002. This was a well-planned workshop and Statistics Canada is to be commended on the calibre of the presenters and their presentations. We look forward to future workshops of this nature.

It is disturbing to learn that the 2001 Census electronic output, used to attach data to 2001 boundary files, are incompatible with data and boundary files from previous censuses. We were not informed about these changes in advance nor have we been contacted about this matter. It is my understanding that our mapping program from previous censuses is unusable with 2001 data as the files now stand. This problem should have been rectified long before the release of the 2001 Census. We look forward to an early resolution of this matter.

## **YUKON**

### **Background**

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is a branch of the territory's Executive Council office. The premier is the minister responsible for the department.

The Bureau's budget has remained unchanged for the past several years. Some revenue is generated through cost-recoverable projects for clients from within and outside the government.

As an official Statistics Canada depository, the Bureau receives all Statistics Canada public releases. Our resource centre houses our own statistical products in addition to all the Statistics Canada information in print and electronic format. This centre is open to the public during normal business hours and can be reached by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.

We respond to approximately 800 requests for information every year. Most requests take only a few minutes, but some require more than an hour's attention.

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

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

### **Government renewal**

In spring 2001, the Yukon government announced the Renewal Initiative, a major restructuring of its organization. The Bureau of Statistics has remained part of the Executive Council Office—where it has been for the last 15 years—but with a reporting relationship to an assistant deputy minister instead of to a deputy minister. Budget and staffing for the Bureau remain unchanged.

### **Staffing**

The core staff consists of nine permanent positions, supplemented by over 20 casual and auxiliary personnel hired for specific projects. The director of the Bureau, Dr. Gerry Ewert, began a period of extended leave in August 2000. He is expected to return to the Bureau in October, 2002. Paul Harris has been the acting director in the interim.

A significant development this past year was the recruitment of Kurt Schreiner from the Alberta Bureau of Statistics on a secondment to temporarily replace Dr. Jim Tousignant, the long time senior methodologist for the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, who moved to the newly established Yukon Office of Strategic Management. An extension to Kurt's secondment of six months has been negotiated, after which he will return to the Alberta Bureau of Statistics and Jim will return to his position at the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

By fall 2002, the Bureau should have its original staffing component of Gerry Ewert as Director, Jim Tousignant as senior methodologist and Paul Harris as senior information officer back in place. I would like to express our gratitude to Bill Hyshka, director of the Alberta Bureau of Statistics, for his support and cooperation in arranging the secondment of Kurt to Whitehorse.

### **Statistics Canada regional office in Vancouver**

The Bureau continues to have regular contact with the Vancouver regional office, in particular with Dennis Wong, who is always very helpful in handling our requests.

A new development this year involved work with this regional office on the Census Reverse Record Check. The Bureau assisted by locating contact information—address and telephone number—for approximately 300 names provided by the regional office. Below are some of the more significant Bureau projects that took place in 2001–02.

### **Yukon workers compensation health and safety board evaluation**

Employee, client and employer surveys—this project was completed over the summer and fall with reports prepared and presented to the client.

### **Yukon Business Survey, 2001**

A major survey of approximately 2,000 businesses jointly funded by three departments. Field operations were conducted in the winter with data entry occurring early in the new year and analysis in March and April.

### **Government renewal**

Employee and public input—analysis and publication of several reports outlining employee and public comments on the government's renewal initiative.

Client satisfaction surveys were done in eight different public service areas of the government using the Common Measurement Tool.

### **Yukon Statistics Act**

A draft *Statistics Act* was prepared for consideration during the Spring 2002 sitting of the Yukon Legislature.

## **Mapping project**

An interdepartmental proposal to use the latest GIS and GPS equipment and software to map out the location of every dwelling in a pilot enumeration area.

## **Aboriginal Language Services Survey**

A survey by interview of individuals knowledgeable about the Yukon government's Aboriginal Language Services Unit.

## **Health and social services**

A survey of social assistance clients was run in regard to the service received at the social assistance office.

Focus groups were organized and run, and the results analyzed, regarding the issue of social assistance within the Yukon.

## **Renewable resources**

Hunter Effort Survey—development, administration and analysis of a survey to estimate the level of hunter effort in a particular hunting season and the expenditures hunters made.

Non-reporting Hunter Survey—a survey of hunters who had purchased a hunting tag but not reported a kill.

## **Yukon Energy Corporation**

Energy Use Survey—this telephone survey dealing with residential energy use was conducted in June and July.

## **Women's Directorate**

Attitudinal Survey on Family Violence—a telephone survey of a representative sample of Yukoners dealing with their attitudes to family violence.

## **Education Act review**

Assistance was provided to the *Education Act* Review Secretariat to input comments received on the review of the Yukon's *Education Act* into a database and to produce a report of all comments received.

## **APPENDIX IV**

### **FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**



## AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

**Last Meeting:** October 11–12, 2001  
**Next Meeting:** October 7–8, 2002  
**Members:** Representatives of the provincial and territorial departments of agriculture and provincial and territorial statistical focal points or their representatives.

### Highlights:

The minutes of the last meeting and the reports received from the committee members were distributed in advance of the meeting. The provincial and territorial reports summarized the program activities, organizational changes and new initiatives adopted since the last meeting. This year Agriculture Division requested that the reports include a brief summary of any provincial agricultural data collection initiatives related to the environment. Many provincial and territorial members provided information of their environmental survey activities. They also highlighted again the importance of and their reliance on Statistics Canada data to maintain their respective provincial statistical programs.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) summarized some of the important issues driving policy development. Reference was made to some of the policy issues related to potato exports and to the drought in the West. The importance of information and the quick turnaround time has been very useful in dealing with some of the pressing issues. Statistics Canada and AAFC have set up a sub-committee to deal with trade issues. This sub-committee has been meeting on a monthly basis and several of the trade data discrepancies are being sorted out. Another area of high profile has been the agriculture employment numbers reported by the Labour Statistics Division. AAFC has been working with both Agriculture Division and Labour Statistics Division to clarify the issue. This has led to the preparation of a paper on the issue titled "Farmers Leaving the Field", published in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 3, no. 2, February 2002.

AAFC has again highlighted its close cooperation with Statistics Canada and it was especially true last year. The upcoming Farm Financial Survey (FFS) was noted. This survey will involve the participation of Alberta Agriculture with an increase in sample size for Alberta. Some emerging priority areas for AAFC are related to environmental data. The AAFC Environmental Bureau would like to update the environmental indicators developed a few years ago, using the 2001 Census of Agriculture data. They would also like to collect additional information, where there are data gaps. The importance of dealing with life sciences and non-food uses of agricultural products was noted as well as the funding for the online Farm Safety Net Electronic Service Delivery project. Staff of the NISA administration, located in Winnipeg, manage this project.

Agriculture Division reviewed 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 program review, Agriculture Division highlighted some of the Agency's and the division's initiatives. These included:

- CANSIM II and the related meta database that were released on the Internet in Summer 2001
- The expanded Education Outreach Program
- Reorganization of the Business and Trade Statistics Field
- The creation of a Research and Analysis Program at field level
- Planning activities for the 2006 Census of Agriculture
- The 2002 survey redesign project

The meeting again allowed for the presentation of special topics or issues related to agriculture by committee members and invited guests. The topics presented were:

Safety nets and pressure for change—Margaret Zafiriou

Statistics for Canadian system of environmental and resource accounts—Robert Smith

The use of agri-environmental indicators to meet new policy needs—Terry McRae

Rural and small town Canada—Roland Beshiri

Profitability of the food industry—Deborah Harper and Dave Smith

Ownership and use of technology in rural Canada—Louise McLaren

In the concluding remarks, members were pleased with the content and format of the agriculture committee meetings. They also appreciated the opportunity to meet with subject-matter specialists at Statistics Canada.

## **Business Statistics**

**Last meeting:** October 23–24, 2001  
**Next meeting:** October 24–25, 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points  
or their representatives

George Andrusiak welcomed the members and explained that he would be chairing the meeting in place of Mr. Ryan, who could not attend because of other commitments. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Andrusiak drew attention to the significant number of management changes in the Business and Trade Statistics (BTS) Field, and circulated copies of the latest STC organization chart. He then mentioned some of the major initiatives the Field is pursuing, including the full integration of the Project to Improve Provincial Economic Statistics (PIPES) program and the Unified Enterprise Survey (UES) into field operations, improved timeliness for annual surveys, electronic collection initiatives, and increased attention to current surveys. He noted that the workload pressures facing the Field have not decreased, and difficulties remain in attracting and retaining skilled people in the highly competitive labour market facing everyone today.

Mr. Andrusiak noted the difficulties encountered in preparing the agenda for the meeting, and suggested that some time should be devoted to discussing alternate arrangements to ensure more provincial participation in this process for future years.

### **Climate change and data issues (Bob Pagnutti)**

Bob Pagnutti, Assistant Director of the Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division (MCED), provided an update on Climate Change Initiatives with a specific focus on data requirements and steps to satisfy those data needs. Under Canada's First National Climate Change Business Plan, funding has been provided to MCED over a three year period (2001–02 through 2003–04) to support a number of specific initiatives, including Energy Section system renewal; expansion of Energy Balances tables, more data on industrial consumption of energy (ICE), NAICS conversion of the ICE Survey, more energy use data for upstream oil and gas, and expanded financial data by industry. Other Statistics Canada initiatives include the Climate Change Technology Survey, more work on the Canadian Vehicle Survey, conducting the Commercial and Institutional Energy Use Survey, more work on the Apartment Energy Use Survey, and feasibility studies on satellite accounts for Natural Resources and Transportation.

During 2002, discussions will commence on the Second National Climate Change Business Plan. Proposals for expansion of activities to assess regional aspects of climate change will likely be covered in these discussions and plans.



## **Small business program and Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Survey (MWRTS) redesign (Robert Lussier and Jamie Brunet)**

These items were added to the agenda at the request of several members. Small Business and Special Surveys (SBSS) received some funding to modify the small business program to produce new indicators for small business activity. Steve Miller provided valuable advice on needs and possible sources of information. Beginning early in 2002, the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) will produce quarterly employment counts by region, by size, and by NAICS two-digit industries. The unit of observation will be the business enterprise. The data will be available on CANSIM II. SBSS is working with the BR to produce quarterly counts of enterprises, by region, size and industry. The Division will produce a series of research papers on methods to produce GDP by size of business. *Small Business Profiles* for 1999 will be delivered to Industry Canada and posted on Strategis early in 2002. The results of the latest Small Business Financing Survey should be released before year-end.

Mr. Lussier reported on discussions and negotiations for a national Wages and Benefits Survey. This was one of the possible initiatives that was shelved as a result of changing priorities following the September 11 attack on the World Trade Centre.

Mr. Lussier also reported on recent activities on the MWRTS Redesign. The redesign covers three surveys: the Monthly Wholesale Survey, the Monthly Retail Survey and the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey. Under the redesign, these surveys will move to NAICS, resulting in some shifting of industries from the wholesale to the retail sector, and some movement of industries to services. The new surveys will have a minimum revenue threshold to avoid burdening very small businesses. Data for these businesses will be derived from tax sources. The main stages of the redesign are

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Systems development and testing | Until March 2003        |
| • Parallel run                    | April to September 2003 |
| • Assess results and publish      | Fall 2003               |

Results from the parallel run will be used to bridge from old to new series, and results will be backcasted to 1993 for wholesale and 1991 for retail.

## **Provincial access to industry data from tax files (Gordon Deecker)**

Under changes to Section 241 of the *Income Tax Act*, which received royal assent in June 2001, the Chief Statistician can now authorize the release of business tax records that have been used for statistical purposes to provincial statistical agencies which have statistics acts with confidentiality protection provisions similar to those in the federal *Statistics Act*. Gordon Deecker's advice to provinces and territories that do not have a statistics act is that they should get one as soon as possible. He felt that both the Chief Statistician and the Privacy Commissioner would consider this to be a minimum condition before a sharing agreement could be signed.

Mr. Deecker reported on the proposed procedures to put these new changes into practice, with thanks to Camille Courchesne from the Quebec Statistics Institute for his assistance in this work. There was an extensive discussion of the proposed procedures,



and detailed follow-up notes were prepared and circulated to all those attending the session.

### **Agenda for next year's meeting**

It was agreed that a program committee would be formed with representation from at least two provinces, at least one director general from Business and Trade Statistics (BTS) Field, and Laurie Hill as secretary. Angelo Cocco (N.W.T.) and Kathy Wyrwas (N.B.) will represent the provinces and territories, and George Andrusiak will represent the BTS Field. Program committee members have tentatively agreed to meet in June 2002 to develop the agenda for the next meeting.

A detailed list of action items arising from the 2001 meeting was produced and circulated to all members at the end of November 2001. The secretary has been instructed to monitor progress on these items and to produce periodic update reports.

## CENSUS OF POPULATION

**Last Meeting:** September 2001  
**Next Meeting:** September 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points  
or representatives

B. Laroche welcomed all participants and mentioned that the topics for the meeting were similar to the previous year with the exception of communications and the Internet test. He mentioned that he would be seeking members' advice on a number of topics that would be presented during the course of the meeting. B. Laroche brought the membership up to date on the 2001 Census.

### 2001 Census

The Census was taken on May 15, 2001 in most of Canada. Early enumeration began in March in the North and on some Indian reserves, where it progressed well and according to plan. Questionnaire drop-off began on May 1, 2001 for the regular Census. The retention of field staff in a number of locations—Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Fort McMurray and Vancouver—proved to be a challenge, due to the booming economy and inadequate pay rates to attract the target workforce. In some of these areas people had to be recruited from outside to work on the Census.

Prior to questionnaire delivery there arose the possibility of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. Emergency procedures to reassure farmers that we would not spread the disease were implemented and special procedures were made to enumerate quarantined areas should there have been an outbreak.

In spite of all this, we had the full cooperation of approximately 85% of Canadians. Compared to previous censuses, very satisfactory results were obtained on reserves. Enumeration was completed on all reserves in the Atlantic Provinces, which is a major breakthrough; significant advances were also made in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. However, the Mohawk reserves in Ontario and Quebec remain a challenge and an unresolved issue.

In terms of quality, we believe that we have a good census, although we had to rely increasingly on proxy information to establish the number of people in households we were unable to contact. The number of missing questionnaires was slightly higher than in 1996.

### 2001 Census dissemination plans

The major changes for the dissemination project for 2001 were reviewed. These enhancements were made following an extensive evaluation of the 1996 Census and input from the regional offices as well as other partners. In addition, extensive user consultations had taken place over the last year-and-a-half with representatives from all market sectors.

The following are the main highlights of these changes.

- the Internet to be primary delivery vehicle for standard products;
- under the public good mandate, more free data to be available down to CMA and CA levels;
- fewer CD-ROM products for 2001 Census cycle as we move toward the Internet;
- possibility of moving to one hierarchical file for public use microdata files with feasibility study underway; and
- inclusion of new geographies into the product line for 2001, including dissolved CSDs, dissemination areas, urban areas, designated places and metropolitan influence zones.

A new Internet delivery model, I-Shelf, has been developed to meet a broad range of needs on the Internet. There will be two levels for the graduated Internet access and these were reviewed. While a lot of work still needs to be done, the overall feedback on the prototype was positive and the members liked the new delivery approach. Five component maps, which will make up the products and services line for 2001, were reviewed. These are basically the same five components as in 1996: the standard data products; the reference products; custom products and services; the analytic products; and the geography products and services. In addition, major characteristics, level of geography, method of delivery and release dates were reviewed.

#### **Release and disclosure avoidance**

The release schedule was reviewed. Commencing March 12, 2002, with the release of population and dwelling counts, it continues until May 2003.

The mandate, issues and general strategies of the Census Disclosure Avoidance Practices Task Force were reviewed. The recommendations for the 2001 Census were highlighted. These have been presented to senior management for discussion and have yet to be finalized.

#### **Post-censal surveys**

##### **Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS)**

Data collection was from September to December 2001. A discussion with the territories took place over the countrywide sample of 45,000. Output consultation, which will include the focal points, is planned for Fall 2002. Dissemination is scheduled for early 2003.

##### **Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS)**

Training of the regional office staff took place in September 2001 and data collection began on October 6, 2001 with output planned for July 2003. A communication campaign coincided with the launch of data collection. It was directed primarily at the off-reserve and Inuit communities and also targeted the national aboriginal media. The campaign content was developed in close cooperation with the national aboriginal organizations. Consultation on dissemination for output will begin in the fall and the focal points will be contacted.



## Ethnic Diversity Survey

This survey will be a computer-assisted telephone interview survey and a pilot test is presently underway. The content decisions were completed in Fall 2001. Field collection is scheduled for the second quarter of 2002. Collection cannot be done before this, as autocoding of the census questionnaires must be completed before a sample can be chosen. Our partner for this survey is Heritage Canada, with whom STC has worked closely in developing the content and conducting many focus groups and one-on-one testings on what is a sensitive issue.

## 2006 Census

STC is moving away from the traditional approach for the 2006 Census. The factors which have led us to consider moving away from the traditional approach were reviewed. As part of the 1996 Census, a version of the centralized edit in Eastern Ontario was tested. This was followed by a different version being tested in the 1998 national census test. It was felt that STC was still not ready to implement a new approach in 2001, instead research and development work continued and we are now proposing to introduce the new approach in 2006.

This centralized-edit approach will help with some of the problems we have had with the traditional approach, specifically the local enumerator problem. The centralized approach was then reviewed in detail. Given the amount of changes that are proposed, a dress rehearsal will be undertaken two years before the census itself. Additional funding and some redistribution of the budget over the census cycle will be required, with more resources at the beginning, in the development years. We are in the process of working with Treasury Board to secure the funding. Policy committee approval was given last December to proceed with the new methodology.

We are working toward a first questionnaire or content test in March or April 2002, concentrating on the questionnaire format but also including some content testing. A second content test is scheduled for January 2003. The dress rehearsal will be undertaken in May 2004. It will be a test of all collection and capture procedures. The field verification of the address lists will take place in the fall 2003. Census Day will be in May 2006. We are proposing the release of population and dwelling counts before the end of 2006.

Feedback on content and dissemination issues, as well as the consultation process itself, have been gathered and will be used to formulate the next consultation. The consultation objectives were highlighted. One of these is to maximize the exploitation of the full range of socio-economic data sources from STC to meet users' needs. It is important for STC to maintain the pertinence of the overall statistical program. We must seize the opportunity presented by the next round of consultations to inform our data users of the complementary data sources that already exist at STC and to highlight new data sources. It is also important for STC to find out what the emerging data needs are of the provinces and territories. Discussions on content, dissemination and geography issues will be integrated wherever possible to ensure continuous feedback from data users.



## **DATA DISSEMINATION**

**Last meeting:** November 15, 2001  
**Next meeting:** November 15, 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points  
or their representatives

### **Provincial and territorial activity reports**

Provincial and territorial statistical focal points and representatives summarized their main data dissemination activities during the past year. They also submitted a written report, which will be attached to the minutes.

Mr. Podehl highlighted similar items expressed around the table. The electronic data dissemination experience drew similar conclusions:

- approximate 40% increase of visits over a 12-month period
- fewer calls for information, but more complex requests
- website maintenance costs can equal costs of creating the websites
- automatic site update remains the best solution
- e-mail management still a challenge

### **CANSIM II**

#### **Transition from CANSIM I to CANSIM II**

Pam Schlievert and Dan McCorkell explained that CANSIM II has been available to the public since April 2001 and that daily operations have become increasingly numerous and complex. The database size has doubled since June 2001. The new content is largely related to social statistics. One of the reasons for increasing CANSIM data is the possibility of releasing them in both print and electronic formats directly from the database.

This year's challenges include

- closing the CANSIM I matrix series by the end of 2002
- training all providers and the internal and external clients
- developing and distributing tools to help providers
- developing the application on the STC website, including amendments to the fee schedule and creation of new formats

Concerns expressed by focal points or their representatives were discussed. These included the following:

- Changes made to CANSIM are generating additional costs and work for statistical offices.
- CANSIM I has rapidly deteriorated since the arrival of CANSIM II, and there is speculation whether CANSIM I will remain operational until 2002 as planned.
- The field entitled 'unit of measure' no longer allows segment analysis, which is essential in some systems.
- The integrated software issue resurfaced.

- One of the secondary distributors—the Conference Board—displays the capture date rather than the dissemination date in the database.

#### **Future plans for dissemination of other data via CANSIM II**

CANSIM will eventually provide all data points that have been or will be published. This means that all STC data will eventually be in CANSIM, except for census and international trade data, which have their own separate databases.

Discussion included the following topics:

- availability of the LFS CD-ROM
- difficulty of finding a discontinued catalogued publication
- inconsistency in table numbers
- depletion of V vector numbers

#### **Update on the metadata project**

A presentation on the Integrated Metadata Base was made at the last Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Transportation Statistics. Some issues were raised, including the possibility of tracing the associated metadata sets and determining whether metadata are being edited.

#### **Update on pricing strategy**

Mary Norman explained the pricing strategy for retailers and secondary distributors that is to be proposed to the policy committee.

#### **Provincial / Territorial access to E-STAT**

Ernie Boyko briefly explained what E-STAT is and presented statistical focal points with a project to access this site with a user name and password. Everything should be operational by the end of the year.

#### **Provincial / Territorial access to CANSIM data under consortium agreement**

Martin Podehl proposed that a provincial and territorial consortium for access to CANSIM be developed. The participants agreed to explore this possibility. One representative per region was designated to work on a committee in an effort to develop the terms and conditions of such an agreement.

#### **STC website**

##### **Future plan to improve website**

Paula Fedeski-Koundakjian presented the recent changes made to Statistics Canada's Internet site, as well as upcoming changes concerning

- the common look and feel for Canadian government sites
- the search engine
- new data
- metadata
- the automation of updates
- the dissemination of 2001 Census data

Some issues were raised, including the following:

- the search function in PDF documents
- the *Canadian Statistics* module

- discontinued publications
- roles and responsibilities of the different divisions in regard to errors or problems identified in the modules
- dissemination policies regarding the level of detail of the disseminated data
- notices to users when adding or updating data

### **Update on electronic publishing**

Gerry Savage gave a brief overview of the dynamic e-publications currently available on the STC Internet site, as well as those to be released next year. These publications are largely based on tables and are automatically updated from CANSIM. Technical notes, definitions and methodologies are also available. The next step in this regard will be to use a word-processing software to expand e-publications to analytical publications.

### **External communications network (ECN)**

Grant Niman briefly outlined the reasons behind the creation of an ECN, as well as its development to date. The ECN content is provided and updated by subject-matter divisions.

Participants expressed their interest in the ECN and said that they would like to see increased content. The telephone directory and its search function, as well as the data dissemination schedule and the publications module, were raised as concerns.

Martin Podehl highlighted three goals about the ECN and the special ECN site dedicated to focal points. The ECN

- gives focal points access to information available to employees
- acts as a depository to provide statistical focal points with documents otherwise available only via subject-matter divisions
- provides free access to STC e-publications

### **Government On-Line (GOL) initiative**

Bruce Fulcher provided an update on the GOL initiative, which aims to increase the efficiency of the provision of information and services to the population. The following points were made:

- For the current fiscal year, Treasury Board has allocated funds of \$75 million.
- Three out of four projects that STC proposed were adopted, the fourth to be reconsidered at a later date.
- STC received \$2.1 million to develop 11 online surveys by the end of 2001–02, with allocation of additional funds for 43 other surveys to be assessed later.
- Financial support has been granted to STC for development of the business e-cluster. STC's role is to oversee the design and development of a business statistics page in co-operation with eight other departments.
- A pilot project proposed by STC in the areas of health, education and justice within federal, provincial and municipal jurisdictions also received financing.
- STC—in partnership with the Bank of Canada, the Department of Finance and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade—is also responsible for the economy cluster.

Following a request by Treasury Board, STC has prepared a plan in support of the GOL initiative. This plan is posted on the STC website.

#### **Embedded data / Software issue**

The integrated software issue for census data dissemination was raised. For the time being, the strategy remains the same—using ASCII files and Beyond 20/20—since no other option seems to offer more flexibility to date.



## DEMOGRAPHY

**Last meeting:** September 20–21, 2001  
**Next meeting:** September 12–13, 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Points,  
or their representatives

Three areas of research and development were discussed at the 2001 meeting—the 2001 Census coverage studies, post-censal population estimation methods and demographic projections.

1. Census methodologists presented status reports on the 2001 coverage studies. In particular, they described modifications to the RRC data collection and estimation procedures and they gave the schedule of the proposed future meetings on coverage studies with Provincial and Territorial Focal Points.
2. An overview of the current developmental research on post-censal estimation methods led to discussion focused on research about quality of internal migration data. The focal points also heard about the results of the work on stabilising the source data for the estimates of emigration and on a development of the current indicator for temporary emigration of Canadians.
3. Possible orientations to the Division's demographic projections program were presented as well as modifications to the current model for projecting sub-provincial-level populations. Also, the Alberta and British Columbia focal points gave presentations of their models for projecting populations at sub-provincial level.

Developmental research continues in the above-mentioned areas.

An intermediate report on the research on diminishing discrepancies between preliminary and final data for internal migration was produced and made available to the focal points in December 2001. Also, detailed data on the precocity errors of the other components of population change were shared with the focal points.

A system to produce estimates of in- and out-flows of non-permanent residents has been tested in the production mode.

In a co-operation with the U.S. Census Bureau, further progress has been made both on a framework for improving information on permanent emigrants and on developing data about temporary emigrants from Canada to the United States.

Focal points were consulted on possible dates for an English and a French RRC workshop in 2001.

## LABOUR STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** June 14–15, 2001  
**Next meeting:** June 12–13, 2002  
**Members:** Departments concerned with human resources, education or jobtraining, and provincial and territorial statistical focal points, or their representatives

The 36th meeting of the Labour Statistics Committee was held in Ottawa on June 14–15, 2001, in the Jean Talon Conference Room, Statistics Canada.

Presentations on the following topics were made:

- Labour Force Survey update—Deborah Sunter
- Measuring skills—Scott Murray
- Update on WES analysis and LCI—Howard Krebs
- Impact of SEPH redesign and the small area data project—Réal Laflotte
- Special surveys—Wayne Smith
- Labour market information system—Christian Dea of HRDC
- Labour cluster online—Deborah Sunter
- Integrated client services for LSD—Jacques Ouellet
- Redistribution of data, licensing—André St-Jacques
- Overview of employment insurance—Jean Leduc
- SLID—Phil Giles
- Update on Centre for Labour Market Statistics—Sange de Silva

### Action items resulting from the discussions

Those items that have been completed include:

- Special Surveys Division has provided Ron McMahon with the reason why the Household Internet Use Survey and the supplementary survey do not contain the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in Saskatchewan;
- A request from S. Gilbreath as to when the seasonal data for the Yukon would be ready; and
- Phil Giles has provided the sample size for SLID for Regina and Saskatoon and, at Ron McMahon's request, the two CMAs have been added to the survey.

Those that are 'in progress' include:

- B. Hyshka wanted to know what is happening in Manitoba with a proposal to include Aboriginal peoples in the LFS;
- N. Pelletier asked if the LFS could provide annual averages or two-year averages for the unemployment rate and the participation rate for Nord-du-Québec;

- Anne Kittredge asked about the composite estimates and wondered if some provinces are better than others in the methodology used;
- Dennis Pilkey requested we design a feedback form for the delegates so that they can assess the presentations and suggest ways to improve future meetings; and
- At an 'available on request' status, it is noted that British Columbia would like more age by industry and age by occupation data.

## MINERAL STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** May 14–16, 2001  
**Next meeting:** May 6–8, 2002  
**Members:** Delegates from Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Statistics Canada, provincial and territorial mining departments or agencies, bureaus of statistics from Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and l'Institut de la Statistique du Quebec  
**Observers:** Mining Association of Canada

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

The annual meeting of the Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPCMS) was moved to spring 2001. It was well attended and members generally agreed that the spring seemed to be the more appropriate time to hold the meeting. Accordingly, annual Committee meetings will be scheduled to take place in the spring of each year for the foreseeable future.

### **Structural changes to the committee**

Revisions to the committee's terms of reference, including changing the name to the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPTCMS), were approved at the meeting of May 2001.

### **Summary of issues facing the FPTCMS and its member organizations**

Some members have expressed an interest in expanding the scope of discussions on energy minerals and related issues at future committee meetings. This may be accomplished either by having more presentations and emphasis on mineral fuels at the annual meeting of the committee or by organizing a separate session geared specifically to discuss energy statistics and issues. The chair has been working with Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division of Statistics Canada to explore various options in this regard.

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–territorial partnership. This is particularly important for the measurement of sand and gravel production. Work on the reducing response burden and ending duplicate survey activities will continue.



The memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing Nunavut to become a full participant in federal-provincial-territorial data-sharing arrangements has yet to be finalized.

The various needs for information on energy efficiency, recycling, use of e-commerce, dissemination of advanced technology, and participation by Aboriginal peoples in the natural resource industries must be addressed as they arise.

The pace of providing access to the shared electronic databases within an overall information framework should be accelerated.

Methods are being put in place and fine tuned to ensure that large, new mineral operations are included in the appropriate survey frames and processes in a timely fashion.

Data reporting arrangements with diamond mining companies must be maintained on an ongoing basis, particularly in light of the needs associated with the International Kimberley Process established to stem the flow of conflict diamonds.

#### **Important events and activities for the FPTCMS during 2001-02**

- The annual meeting held on May 14-16. Visits to three Atlantic provinces took place in early 2002.
- These meetings proved extremely valuable. It was agreed that it would be useful to continue these visits to the provinces and territories on a regular, two- or three-year cycle.
- Clear gains in timeliness in the availability of exploration expenditures and production data.

#### **Important events and activities for the FPTCMS expected during 2002-03**

- Continuing work on measures to reduce response burden and eliminate duplication of survey activity.
- Increased development of the websites of common interest including a map of the federal-provincial-territorial mining knowledge site.
- Further visits to the provinces and territories by members of NRCan, promoting co-operative statistical activities.
- The FPTCMS annual meeting is scheduled for May 6-8, 2002.

As well as the normal reports and presentations, discussions at that meeting are expected to include:

- development of an internet-based system to share knowledge on the ongoing status of joint data collection processes;
- proposals to improve data collection questionnaires and processes for the joint Exploration,
- review of the evaluation of the recent investment tax credit

- organization of sessions devoted to energy and fuels issues;
- development of the map of the federal–provincial–territorial mining knowledge site;
- the future of electronic data reporting in our surveys; and
- discussions of the implications of the Kimberley Process.

## PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

**Last meeting:** November 14, 2001  
**Next meeting:** November 14, 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points  
or their representatives

There are a number of important issues concerning federal-provincial activities relating to the federal-provincial meeting of last fall:

1. The early release of Provincial Economic Accounts (PEA) for the current year (2001) will take place on April 22 for the Income and Expenditure Accounts. This is a great improvement in timeliness compared to release in October 2001 for the data year 2000.

The only contentious issue related to this is the fact that the industry data will not be available nor will there be time for extensive consultations with the focal points before release. We will work towards early release of industry data in subsequent rounds.

2. The PEA will move to Fisher chain-weighted indexes in the fall. This is a difficult initiative due to the non-additive character of the index.

Income and Expenditure Accounts has developed and implemented a training program. Quebec, the Western provinces and the territories requested and received sessions, with included documentation.. Other provinces are encouraged to take advantage of this training.

3. A new provincial tourism satellite account was circulated to the provincial focal points for comment in March. It was subsequently published. The Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) and the Province of Alberta paid for this project . Interest or support for this product could lead to permanent funding from the CTC.
4. The move under PIPES to the new system of provincial accounts with benchmarking to provincial input-output tables is a process still undergoing change. Some dissatisfaction has been expressed over the nature and size of revisions to PEA data in the recent rounds. This requires more work on the part of the System of National Accounts branch to fully communicate and sell the benefits of the new system.

## **PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS**

**Last meeting:** November 13, 2001  
**Next meeting:** November 13, 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points  
or their representatives

The Committee met in Ottawa on November 13, 2001. All provinces and territories were represented.

Ian Macredie, newly appointed as director of the Public Institutions Division (PID) in September 2001, welcomed participants. During the initial round table discussion, many representatives expressed satisfaction with the important gain in timeliness of the consolidated government statistics and the measures put in place to improve communications with the statistical focal points representatives. The representatives expressed satisfaction at having received the detailed information on the fiscal arrangement certificate provided to Finance Canada.

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

### **Government employment**

Representatives were in agreement with the development of a full-time equivalent (FTE) concept. They requested a formal proposal from PID on FTE since it would help everybody to identify data gaps. The proposal should inform the provincial and territorial representatives about different possible methods, their relevancy and the possibility to use them for international comparisons.

### **Introduction of the new IMF Government Finance Statistics concepts**

PID informed the participants of the adoption of the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) concepts and methods of the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) in replacement of the actual Financial Management System (FMS) concepts. The first results will be presented in June 2004 and will cover the fiscal years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04. PID will also continue to publish FMS figures. The challenges that the division will have to face with the coming of the new GFS were presented.

### **Consolidation of the FMS current government estimates**

At last year's meeting of this committee, PID presented a plan to develop consolidated figures for the two most current periods of estimates. In June 2001, PID released its FMS consolidated government data 72 days after the reference period. Provincial and territorial analytical content also increased.

This release also improved the comparability of the current annual FMS estimates with the SNA quarterly government estimates.



## **Electronic data**

As mentioned last year, a report on electronic data was presented to this committee. PID presently receives electronic files for New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. At the moment, only the federal and the Northwest Territories governments provide electronic files that could be used to generate complete and current FMS and SNA quarterly statistics.

In comparison, for years Input-Output Division (IO) has been receiving electronic files from all the provinces and territories with the exception of Prince Edward Island and Nunavut. If the files sent to IO, showing commodity information, were rearranged to link the commodity figures to the program, PID and IO could use the same file. That would reduce significantly the time spent on reconciling the information between the two divisions. More detailed information was in the document provided to the participants.

## **Fiscal arrangements**

The federal Department of Finance modified fiscal arrangements. As indicated last year, the changes and the 2001-02 schedule were presented at the Federal-Provincial Committee on Public Sector Statistics. In addition to the new schedule of the fiscal arrangements, PID provided the participants with a document showing the difference in the series used for the production of the old and new fiscal arrangements.

At the request of some representatives, PID will reproduce the sensibility analysis on fiscal arrangements done in the early nineties.

## **Improvements to the PID website**

PID has added the following to its website which is accessible to the focal points:

- old CANSIM and new CANSIM II identifier concordances
- a list of the First Nations, councils and Indian bands, by province and territory
- entity classifications now incorporating financial information
- records of decision on specific financial treatment.

## **Other presentations**

The representatives were given information about plans related to the development of revenue and expenditure reports for the 25 major municipalities in Canada.

More information was provided on the creation of a Task Force on First Nations that will make recommendations to Dr. Fellegi by December 2001 on proposed actions to take from economic and socio-economic points of view.

Information was provided on the IEAD project on the non-profit and voluntary sector, in which PID contributes by identifying and documenting the government entities related to this sector.

## SOCIAL STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** June 2001  
**Next meeting:** June 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial statistical focal points,  
or their representatives

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

### **General Social Survey (GSS)**

The GSS is an annual survey that is conducted on a monthly basis from January to December. Since 1999, the sample size of this survey has been increased from 10,000 to 25,000 individuals in order to obtain better representation at provincial and CMA levels. The objectives of the survey are twofold: to gather information on emerging issues and concerns and to follow these issues over time.

In recent years, Statistics Canada has covered the following issues: time use (1998), victimization (1999), access to and use of information communication technology (2000), family history (2001) and social support and aging (2002). The milestones and the expected outputs and timetables of GSS 2000, 2001 and 2002 were reviewed.

### **Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS)**

PALS intends to create a national database on activity limitation. It will cover 40,000 individuals—adults and children—reporting activity limitation to the census. Initial data release will occur in March 2003.

### **Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS)**

The Federal Government has asked Statistics Canada to conduct a second Aboriginal Peoples Survey as part of the Aboriginal Action Plan "Gathering Strength". The objectives of APS are the following: to provide baseline information on the living conditions of the various Aboriginal groups in Canada; to provide to the extent possible information specific to each Aboriginal group for various levels of geography; and to involve Aboriginal peoples in the development of the survey. Plans are to release data starting July 2003.

### **Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS)**

EDS's objectives are to gather information on ethnic diversity in Canada, to provide information to better understand how Canadians of different ethnic background interpret and report their ethnicity, and to explore ways to measure ethnicity in order to inform future data collection. The 2001 Census will provide the sample selection frame using responses to the questions on ethnic origin, place of birth and place of birth of parents. The data will be collected from March to June 2002, with data release starting in summer of 2003.



## **Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)**

After recalling CCHS's objectives, which were presented and discussed at last year's meeting, STC mentioned that the first cycle of collection involving a sample of 130,000 individuals would be completed by October 2001. Responses and share rates already obtained were reviewed. The file outputs structure was described. Two initiatives to make better sense and better use of CCHS data were described—peer grouping and capacity building. The mental health and well-being component of CCHS would be in the field in January 2002. Consultation for the next large survey, planned for 2003, would occur during fall 2001. The planned content for the 2004 cycle is on nutrition.

### **Health indicators**

The types of indicators selected and the media in which they are presented were discussed. The health regions CD-ROM was reviewed in detail, including the boundary files and the link files. The future plans of the Health Indicators Initiative were reviewed. A release at the end of June 2001 will cover cancer incidence, screening mammography, influenza and immunization, and breast feeding. In December 2000, STC updated its indicators using the 1998 and the 1999 vital statistics. Life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy were also updated, using refined methodology. The 1999 population estimates by health regions were to be produced and indicators on the community profiles were to be updated as well. In spring 2002, the indicators from CCHS will be integrated into the health indicators components.

### **Voluntary sector initiative (VSI)**

The background and the context that led to the development of this high-profile federal initiative were described. The VSI involves the participation of 22 federal departments and ultimately reports to a reference group of nine federal ministers. Statistics Canada has agreed to undertake three initiatives under the voluntary sector umbrella: the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP); the satellite account on voluntary sector; and a study of feasibility of conducting a survey of the voluntary sector. STC recognized that these three statistical components are important initiatives for the totality of the voluntary sector and that it has important repercussion for Statistics Canada in terms of its survey program.

### **Culture, Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics (CTCES): Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS)**

The ESIS—a joint undertaking of STC and the Council of Ministers of Education—is a new data set that will hold information on all post-secondary institutions in Canada. It will follow students through time across institutions. It replaces three surveys currently conducted autonomously. ESIS has been implemented in Atlantic Canada, while other jurisdictions are in various stages of advancement.

### **CTCES: National Graduate Survey (NGS)**

This survey has been conducted on four sets of graduates starting with the class of 1982. The basic idea behind NGS is to interview graduates two years after graduation and then again five years after graduation. NGS looks at transition between school and

work, labour market outcomes, and examines how students finance their studies and repay the money borrowed. One of the key roles of NGS is to provide occupational demand projections. Recently, it has also been used to track students who move to the United States. The five-year follow-up on the class of 1995 was done in 2000 and results were to be published in November 2001. STC is also working to implement the next cycle—the class of 2000. The first interview will take place in May 2002. There will be limited content changes for this cycle.

### **CTCES: Culture statistics**

Major improvements planned for this year and next will focus on improving data access, re-annualising surveys that are currently biannual, expanding library and sports statistics, and developing a vision on policy priorities.

### **Research data centres (RDC)**

RDCs have been implemented in response to recommendations made by a joint SSHRC–STC task force. This task force recognized that longitudinal surveys are not practical to produce public-use microdata files, while there are increasing needs for detailed microdata to analyse crucial social issues. In response to these needs, nine RDCs have been created in university settings to house Statistics Canada microdata files. Access to RDCs is limited to researchers with approved projects, sworn in under the *Statistics Act* as deemed employees. SSHRC has also funded Data Training Schools (DTSS) which provide instruction on advanced analytical techniques, with a focus on longitudinal analysis. Three DTSS were funded in summer 2000 and four DTSS were scheduled for summer 2001 operation.

### **First Nations Statistical Institute (FNSI)**

This institute is an initiative that comes out of the First Nations's interest in expanding a number of different institutions to facilitate self government. Four institutions have been proposed, three of them related to financial considerations. The fourth institution is FNSI with an objective to provide the First Nations with sound statistical information. There are discussions underway within the federal government and the First Nations on the desirability and acceptance of these institutions.

However, there are some guiding principles that have been enunciated by STC regarding FNSI. This institute should produce public data, its activities should support STC in carrying out its responsibility for the National Statistical System and finally the Chief Statistician of Canada should be an ex-officio member of the FNSI Board. The programs that are considered to be carried out by FNSI cover data development from administrative records, First Nations specific surveys over and above what STC produces, and playing an increasing role in data dissemination, analysis and training.

### **Access to income data**

Statistics Canada is continuing the transition from the Survey of Consumer Finance to SLID, the final component of this transition being the data products. There are three standard products: the annual publication *Income in Canada*, a set of standard tables in electronic format released on a CD-ROM—*Income Trends in Canada*—and a public-use



microdata file scheduled for June 2001 release. The next step is to expand the dissemination capability of longitudinal data and non-income data.

An update on the Market Basket Measure was provided. The various concepts and measures were reviewed and compared. STC is in the process of finalizing the detailed methodology; the plan is to have a final document by the end of the summer of 2001, to distribute it widely and to hold a public consultation in the fall of 2001. The plans are to release the rates for reference years 1999 and 2000 during the fall of 2002.

### **Data sharing agreement**

There are two main issues to address in the consideration of sharing agreements. The first question is who is the right agent in terms of both provincial or territorial jurisdiction and public perception vis-à-vis data sharing agreements. The other issue deals with how should information be governed with respect to its care and control, once sharing agreements have been made.

All provinces and territories agreed that focal points are important partners of the National Statistical System and that an approach has to be developed to ensure that focal points have access to the information to carry out their functions and responsibilities. Few provinces or territories would like to be the custodian of data files. Some others are not particularly interested, but would like to have a formal approach to allow them to have access to the individual data. The deemed employee approach was preferred to the third party arrangement. A separate Memorandum of Understanding tailored to each focal point's specifics has also been suggested.

STC recognized that all options presented are worthwhile and should be examined more carefully. It was suggested to create a working group of this committee in fall 2001 to examine these options, their viability and to make recommendations. Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Northwest Territories volunteered for this working group. It was also suggested to the committee that the mandate of this working group be extended to examine the consultation and communication processes, and to suggest effective mechanisms to ensure proper consultation within the social statistics areas.

### **Nova Scotia, a social perspective**

This paper was prepared to demonstrate the use and availability of statistics to inform and support policy development, and to draw attention to some of the policy capacity research in Nova Scotia and elsewhere. The data selected were chosen to give a broad overview of the social situation of Nova Scotians.

### **Closing remarks**

Mr. Sheridan assured members that STC would follow-up on the issues that were raised during the deliberations, especially the ones dealing with surveys in the North, data-sharing agreements, and consultation and communications processes. He thanked all delegates for their valuable contributions and added he looked forward to their co-operation on the many initiatives that would develop during the year.

## TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 25–26, 2001, Ottawa  
Next meeting: October 23, 2002, Ottawa  
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points  
or their representatives, as well as delegates from provincial  
and federal departments of transportation

### Activities

Topics covered at the meeting included:

Updates from provincial and territorial representatives on transportation initiatives

#### Transport Canada initiatives

- Intelligent transportation system
- *Canadian Transportation Act* review and blueprint project

#### Statistics Canada initiatives

- Transportation satellite account
- Tourism satellite accounts
- Place of work data usage
- Integrated meta-database (IMDB)

#### Project development in Transportation Division

- Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Survey redesign project
- Trucking Traffic Survey redesign project

#### Current statistical programs in Transportation Division

- Aviation statistical program
- Trucking statistical program
- Multi-modal statistical program

## VITAL STATISTICS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

**Last Meeting:** June 4–7, 200  
**Next Meeting:** June 17–20, 2002  
**Members:** Provincial and territorial registrars  
or directors of vital statistics

A special meeting of the Vital Statistics Council (VSC) was held in October, 2001 as part of a revitalization of the Council's activities to ensure that its direction and work are focused on the priorities of VSC members.

The VSC and its committees continue to work on projects of concern to all registrars, such as the reduction of fraud, standards for the paper used in certificates, as well as the availability of data to other organizations such as Elections Canada. The security committee's work has been a major priority for registrars since September 11, 2001.

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. Data quality, analysis, and dissemination issues are being addressed.

To assist the transition to ICD-10, Statistics Canada has conducted a study on the impact of the changes resulting from ICD revision. Statistics Canada held a course in Ottawa on "Cause-of-death classification, coding, and analysis, ICD-10 for statisticians", attended by analysts from Health Canada and provincial and territorial registries. This course for health statisticians and epidemiologists was developed by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics and instructors were from its Division of Vital Statistics. There are plans to modify the course using Canadian data and instructors.

Work continues with the Advisory Council of Population Health on the quality of vital statistics data.

As part of the *Roadmap for Health Information*, several projects have been initiated to support our business plan. These include the development of educational material for physicians on mortality certification, the formulation of a plan for electronic routing of the information collected from birth and death registration and the provision of technical assistance to registries to improve the timeliness of data.

Statistics Canada, Health Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the provincial and territorial registries and the coroners have developed a business plan for the collection of coroners' data. The comparability of these data with data from the vital registries is to be addressed. Sub-committees are currently developing specifications for the database development.

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