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# Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

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May 12-13, 2003  
Ottawa, Ontario



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

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**Meeting of May 12-13, 2003**

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**Ottawa, Ontario**

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# FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY

Minutes of the meeting of May 12 and 13, 2003  
Ottawa, Ontario

## 1. Opening remarks

The Council Chair, Chief Statistician Ivan P. Fellegi, welcomed the participants, particularly Mr. David West, the new statistical focal point for Ontario.

The agenda was adopted without amendment. The minutes of the May 2002 meeting were approved.

## 2. Accomplishments and priorities

Since the *@StatCan Special Issue 2003* had been distributed in advance, Dr. Fellegi confined himself to summarizing the accomplishments of the past year and answering questions.

### 2.1. Strategic Streamlining Initiative

Dr. Fellegi noted that progress was being made in this area. There are anticipated budget cuts, partly as a result of Finance Minister John Manley's budget. The cuts may affect Statistics Canada in two areas: its own budget and the budgets of client departments. Other budgetary uncertainties were coming from the contract negotiations with the collection staff.

### 2.2. Negotiations with collection staff

The negotiations had broken down, and a conciliation process was underway. Since the conciliation board had not yet been formed, no results were available. If a strike were to take place (which would not occur before July/August 2003), this would be a serious matter for Statistics Canada because it would be impossible to carry on business as usual. The Agency was in the process of developing possible contingency plans. The statistical focal point for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) asked which agency—Statistics Canada or Treasury Board—would bear the costs if the conciliation process resulted in a wage increase. Dr. Fellegi explained that the salary part would be paid by Treasury Board, but benefits increases were Statistics Canada's responsibility.

### 2.3. Ramifications of the decision to allow access to historical census data

Dr. Fellegi noted that he had come to a kind of compromise agreement to allow genealogists and historians access to census data after 92 years. Various rounds of negotiations had resulted in some changes to the compromise. First,



the data can be consulted by genealogical researchers after 92 years, but some data cannot be published. After 112 years, there would be no restriction on any tombstone information. Historians will have the same type of access 92 years after the census, but the requirement for two peer reviews has been relaxed. All that will be needed is endorsement by a peer whose name is on a list approved by the government. For future censuses, if Parliament approves, the questionnaire for the 2006 and subsequent censuses will contain a question to determine whether the respondent consents to the release of the information after 92 years. If the answer is no, the information will remain confidential forever.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) expressed concern about the implications that this decision might have on response rates. Even if the response rates were affected, Dr. Fellegi stressed that there are no other options, since Statistics Canada must at all costs show itself to be honest with respondents.

The focal point for the Yukon (Dr. Gerry Ewert) said that in his view, there would also be an impact on surveys conducted by the provinces for which confidentiality is guaranteed. If Statistics Canada can be forced to release confidential information, how will respondents react when a province makes the same promise? Dr. Fellegi stated that only census data were involved and that the current compromise had been reached through a democratic process. There had been a number of debates, and the decision will be made by representatives elected to make such decisions. Two things remained very important, in his view. The first was that this kind of decision should never be a backroom deal. Public debate was needed, and in this case, a very well-informed debate had taken place in the Senate. The second was that it was important never to play games with people, and from that standpoint, informed consent was a key principle.

The focal point for Newfoundland and Labrador (Mr. Alton Hollett) said that genealogists' demands seemed rather innocent, and he wondered why they were not being given the same leeway as historians. Dr. Fellegi's response was that genealogists will, in fact, have easier access since no certificate is required from anyone doing genealogical research, only an undertaking by the genealogist to adhere to the amended *Statistics Act* is necessary. Consequently this could open the door to public access of these files.

#### **2.4. Using tax data and reducing sample sizes**

The focal point for Manitoba (Mr. Wilf Falk) wanted to know what Statistics Canada's strategy would be with regard to cutting costs by exploiting tax data more and using smaller samples. Dr. Fellegi stated that the idea was in no way to reduce data quality but to take maximum advantage of the potential of tax data. For example, Statistics Canada planned to incorporate Goods and Services Tax (GST) data into the Monthly Retail Trade Survey, initially as

auxiliary information in the form of a ratio estimator, which should lead to a reduction in sampling.

## **2.5. Research data centres**

The focal point for British Columbia (Mr. Don McRae) asked whether Statistics Canada had ever rejected a research project because its motives had been political, and how one distinguished between policy analysis and political analysis. Dr. Fellegi stated that political implications were not at all the issue. Indeed, even Statistics Canada staff members were producing analyses that might have political repercussions. There was no way of knowing who would use the results when they were published, and it was good if those results triggered public debate, as long as it was clear that Statistics Canada was not taking sides. The review process for research projects was essentially a peer review, and was therefore driven by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Consequently, a research project must first and foremost be scientifically valid.

The focal point for Quebec (Mr. Yvon Fortin) asked whether there were any plans to develop guidelines or a policy on access to business microdata. Dr. Fellegi replied that even though Statistics Canada was very conservative that did not mean that access could not be considered under very specific restrictions and circumstances. Authorized research projects were projects that in theory could be carried out by Statistics Canada employees quite legitimately, but in practice could not be carried out for reasons such as the level of knowledge required. There were no current plans to include business microdata files in research data centres.

The focal point for Newfoundland and Labrador (Mr. Alton Hollett) asked whether the integrated relational database for input-output data currently being developed could be shared with the focal points. Mr. Philip Smith, Assistant Chief Statistician, National Accounts and Analytical Studies, replied that the intention for the moment was not to make the tool available to outside users.

## **2.6. Canadian Learning Information Institute**

The focal point for Prince Edward Island (Mr. John Palmer) asked what type of activities the board of directors had been involved in up to that time and whether the Institute was looking at the provincial side of things. Dr. Fellegi said that there had been few developments of late. The provinces had been consulted and had given their conditional backing to the Institute, except that the conditions were not clear for the time being.

## **2.7. National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy**

The focal point for Nova Scotia (Mr. Dennis Pilkey) asked whether there were any new developments in the area of environmental statistics. Mr. Smith said that the report of the National Round Table on the Environment and

the Economy (NRTEE) had just been published. Dr. Fellegi added that government decisions were expected on issues such as the availability of funding.

### **2.8. Canada-United States Health Survey**

The focal point for British Columbia (Mr. Don McRae) wanted more information about this survey, for which the results will be released in the fall, and about the survey's sources of funding. Dr. Michael Wolfson, Assistant Chief Statistician, Analysis and Development, stated that the idea had grown out of annual meetings with the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics. The survey was funded by Statistics Canada and the National Center for Health Statistics. The Canadian Institute for Health Research and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation had also contributed.

## **3. Report of the 2003 Program Committee**

As chair of the 2003 Program Committee, the focal point for Quebec (Mr. Yvon Fortin) summarized the proceedings of the Committee's two meetings. He suggested that the 2003 Program Committee should have its first conference call at an earlier date, in either September or October.

## **4. Reports of the provinces and territories**

The written reports provided by the provinces and territories are appended.

The focal point for Nunavut (Mr. Jack Hicks) reported that he and his staff were excited to have census results for Nunavut for the first time.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) suggested that a committee of Statistics Canada senior managers should be formed to examine the issue of pipeline development. The increase in activity as a result of the development of the diamond mine was reflected in the data in the statistical system. However, there were areas, such as population, labour data from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the provincial economic accounts, which had more difficulty capturing the activity.

The focal point for Manitoba (Mr. Wilf Falk) raised the issue of access to the Business Register (BR) data in truly exceptional situations, such as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome problem. His province would like to have used the BR to send information out to businesses, but the database can only be used for statistical purposes, not administrative ones. Dr. Fellegi stated that it would be worth looking into, suggesting that truly exceptional circumstances might warrant changing the rules as long as their integrity was maintained. It is important to determine whether this type of access is in the public interest.



## **5. Statistics Canada's policy on accessing provincial and territorial administrative records for survey purposes**

The focal point for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) described the problem that arises when Statistics Canada requests access to Northwest Territories records. In view of existing privacy legislation, departments are very reluctant to release information. The relationship between provincial and federal laws is not always clear. Dr. Fellegi explained that under section 13 of the *Statistics Act*, Statistics Canada has the right to obtain data not only from provincial administrative records but also from businesses. However, the Agency was reluctant to use that power and preferred to secure the provinces' co-operation rather than brandish its statutory right. Ms. Pamela White, Director, Data Access and Control Services, added that it was quite understandable for the provinces to be somewhat hesitant about disclosing data of which they are the guardians. Statistics Canada could have a policy that covers both its relationship with the data provider and its authority under the *Statistics Act*. She offered to draft a document describing that framework in order to assist focal points in situations where data sharing is needed between the provinces and Statistics Canada.

## **6. Business and Trade Statistics**

Mr. Ray Ryan, Assistant Chief Statistician, Business and Trade Statistics, provided a brief program update. A few streamlining opportunities were examined in detail, particularly in business surveys. Electronic data-reporting was also an area in which the Field was heavily involved, as the benefits from this activity were potentially huge. Things were moving very quickly, especially for the monthly surveys.

If there were to be a strike, the key economic indicators for this program were the Consumer Price Index (CPI), retail and wholesale trade, and manufacturing shipments. Contingency plans had been developed to deal with various scenarios so that some basic statistics could still be produced even if there were labour disruptions. The national indicators should not be affected.

Most of the major annual surveys now had a turnaround time of 15 months. In addition, the CPI basket had been updated from 1996 to 2001. Redesign of the Monthly Survey of Retail and Wholesale Trade was continuing, and initial contacts were expected to take place in June, July and August if there was no labour dispute. The goal was to do a parallel run in November, December, January and February. Backcasting of the wholesale data to January 1993 and of the retail data to 1991 with the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) was also planned.

### **6.1. Revision of international trade data**

Mr. Ryan summarized the work being done in the area of trade data. The redesign of import data processing systems was complete, and the overhaul of export data processing systems was underway. The latter were systems from

the 1980s that were unable to produce very detailed provincial distributions. From time to time, those distributions were causing problems. Mr. Ryan suggested establishing a working group to explore the issue of revisions so as to minimize the impact on users. The redesign should be finished within 18 to 24 months, and the system would be solid and easy to manage.

The focal points for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) and Quebec (Mr. Yvon Fortin) volunteered for the working group. Mr. Ryan said that Mr. Georges Andrusiak, Director General, Economy-Wide Statistics Branch, would be in charge of the group. Recommendations would be made by the fall.

The focal point for Saskatchewan (Mr. Ron McMahon) complained that when the data on energy exports were revised he had been unable to get any idea of the magnitude of the revision. Mr. Ryan admitted that there had been a communications problem and that he would like the working group to look at that issue as well. Mr. McMahon asked whether there was a policy stating that if there were problems with the data for a particular month, then only the next month's data would be released. Mr. Ryan explained that trade data were revised every month except at year end, because the annual data were not revised until May. That in-house rule could certainly be reassessed.

Mr. Ryan added that he was very pleased with the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics and that he had particularly liked the idea of divisional program reports. He planned to repeat the exercise next year because he felt that it greatly increased the effectiveness of the consultations with the provinces and territories.

Training will be on the agenda for the next meeting. There are 6-week and 10-week courses available, but it seems to be difficult for the provinces and territories to send people to Ottawa for that length of time. The Program Committee would like to focus on selected training components, such as the National Accounts and some BEST (Business and Economic Statistics Training) modules, and present them in one day or a day and a half. Finally, the November meeting will cover prices, modernization of the CPI and the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Survey.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) had been trying for some time to determine the type of training required for positions in the provinces and territories. After looking at Statistics Canada's regional offices and the courses offered there, he concluded that the approach was too general. He would like to work on this issue by developing a list that would meet the needs of the provinces and territories and preparing appropriate training modules that could be delivered by the regional offices. Mr. Ryan also suggested looking at social survey concepts and methodology. In



addition, he noted that some courses could be posted on the Internet and self-administered.

The focal point for Quebec (Mr. Yvon Fortin) stressed the excellent co-operation received from Statistics Canada employees over the past year in the area of manufacturing statistics during the period when work was being done to integrate access to tax data. He asked what Statistics Canada's intentions were with regard to investment statistics and whether a review of the concept definitions and the way in which the surveys were conducted was planned. He also offered to share the expertise of the *Institut de la statistique du Québec* (ISQ) in the area of adjusting export statistics. Mr. Ryan stated that if there were problems, Statistics Canada would definitely be willing to look at the entire series. He admitted that there was great difficulty in understanding the three surveys and their interrelationships. There were also questions about the need to keep the three surveys. He added that he would be very happy to receive comments from the ISQ on this subject.

The focal point for Alberta (Mr. Bill Hyshka) asked whether the plan was to reduce sample sizes rather than use synthetic data should there be a major labour dispute with the interviewers. Mr. Ryan said that the Agency had no intention of skewing the data. The idea would be to collect the data needed to produce national statistics.

The focal point for Manitoba (Mr. Wilf Falk) expressed interest in sharing data on the Business Conditions Survey. He asked whether there were any plans to extend that type of attitudinal survey to other areas. Mr. Ryan replied that in some sectors, such as retail trade, it would be quite possible to do so if the necessary funds were available. Mr. Falk also asked if he could obtain copies of the 10 short analytical articles mentioned in @StatCan. Mr. Ryan pointed out that the articles had been published in *The Daily* and that they could be found on Statistics Canada's Internet site under the Studies heading. He also offered to send out all the articles.

The focal point for Prince Edward Island (Mr. John Palmer) asked whether users would be informed in cases where data were affected by labour unrest. Dr. Fellegi answered in the affirmative. The focal point for Alberta (Mr. Bill Hyshka) expressed concern about possible breaks in research series as a result of the possible labour disruption. Mr. Ryan indicated that Statistics Canada would produce what it could, and attempt to fill in the gaps later. The situation would probably vary from survey to survey.

The focal point for British Columbia (Mr. Don McRae) asked what the size of the undercount was in the export data. Mr. Smith stated that it was roughly \$10 billion a year, but that agreements had been made with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) and it should be possible to find ways of improving the reporting of exports.

The focal point for the Yukon (Dr. Gerry Ewert) asked how Statistics Canada handled cross-border shopping. In the Yukon, about 20% of retail trade is exports, which means that American consumers are taking advantage of the exchange rate to buy goods at a lower price in Canada. Mr. Smith explained that this was called *services exports*, even though what were actually being exported were goods. They are included in the travel account.

## **7. National Accounts and Analytical Studies**

Mr. Smith gave an overview of his National Accounts program. The Provincial Economic Accounts had been released on April 28, including income- and expenditure-based GDP and GDP estimates by industry. For the first time, Micro-Economic Studies and Analysis Division had been able to coincide their release of estimates of hours worked at the same time as the Provincial Economic Accounts release. Over the last few years, the statistical focal points had repeatedly requested detailed estimates of labour input, hours worked and provincial/territorial employment by input-output activity to facilitate analysis of provincial input-output tables. That had been achieved this year through productive consultations with the provinces and territories.

This fall, the Agency will be producing the usual revision of provincial economic accounts and GDP by industry for 1999 to 2002 and the provincial-territorial GDP by industry, based on the Chain Fisher indexation method from 1984 to the present. There will also be some analyses produced, including an article on provincial-territorial revisions and another on the structural evolution of provincial-territorial economies.

Work on an updated guide to the income and expenditure accounts was progressing well, as was the revised summary of data sources and methods for GDP by industry and the development of the comprehensive guide to the input-output accounts. The new employment and hours data were to be covered in a document that would explain the relationship and conceptual differences between those estimates produced for the National Accounts and other employment estimates derived from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the census.

In its fall 2002 five-year program report, Input-Output Division covered such issues as confidentiality and the challenge it presents when provincial economic account data are released and there are many confidential cells in the database. For the moment, the solution would be to produce input-output models that could use detailed system information in the form of co-efficients or multipliers.

Many tables had been added to the government statistics component of the Canadian Statistics module. Collection was underway in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta to obtain data on financial flows at the

municipality level. Such data should also be obtained from other provinces and territories. The goal was to produce comparable Financial Management System statistics for all municipal governments.

Public Institutions Division was working closely with Investment and Capital Stock Division to produce a comprehensive review of the residential capital stock methodology. The review had been distributed to the focal points and was also available on the Public Institutions website.

In the area of environmental statistics, the difficulty of comparability across provinces regarding waste remained the key challenge. Waste disposal per capita was an interesting indicator of progress or lack thereof in managing the environment.

The NRTEE report had been released on May 12, and a lot of follow-up work was expected over the next year. The report suggested that the government should invest in the production of six key environmental indicators and that Statistics Canada should update them annually. It was also recommended that an expanded system of national accounts be established to track the flows of materials and cover a more broadly defined balance sheet to include indicators of water, air, wildlife and land resources and eventually put a value on those resources. It would then be possible to take a comprehensive measurement of environmental protection expenditures and recycling activities.

The provincial tourism satellite accounts for 1998 were to be published in June. The preliminary results of the national travel satellite account had been presented at a meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Transportation Statistics.

#### **7.1. International Monetary Fund (Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes)**

Mr. Smith explained what had led the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to establish standards and codes in the financial system. For more details, see the IMF website.<sup>1</sup>

Statistics Canada's compliance with the standards and codes was reviewed by a team of six people from the IMF in early 2003. They examined the National Accounts, the CPI, the balance of payments, government statistics, and financial and monetary statistics from the standpoint of timeliness, revisions, methods, availability and consistency. The report showed that Statistics Canada had an excellent system.

The focal point for Ontario (Mr. David West) asked whether the articles to be published in the fall would be pre-released to the statistical focal points. Mr. Smith stated that it was not the Agency's practice to do so.

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1. [www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp](http://www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp)



The focal point for Saskatchewan (Mr. Ron McMahon) asked about the large revisions made in the province's accounts. No one had been able to explain to him why the changes had been so large. While it was clearly related to crops or wheat, a number of factors might explain that, and it would be useful to be more specific, to explain that the item had changed, not just the value of wheat. Mr. Smith fully agreed that an explanation was needed and that not just the revision, but the source of the data that led to the revision, should be provided.

The focal point for Manitoba (Mr. Wilf Falk) also expressed interest in seeing the trend reports before publication, and he asked whether it could be considered part of an ongoing project, as in the case of the provincial accounts, simply to continue the dialogue. He added that the focal points did not like being presented with a conclusion with which they disagreed and end up in the middle of a political and media controversy. On the other hand, he was pleased to learn that more details might be available in the import-export area.

The focal point for Prince Edward Island (Mr. John Palmer) requested confirmation whether Statistics Canada intended to contact the focal points when changes might affect transfer payments, as was the case following the calculation of residential capital stock. Mr. Smith stated that the focal points had already received the results of the study to revise the methodology used to estimate residential capital stock. Statistics Canada had conducted a general review, received comments from very different perspectives and prepared a report. Dr. Fellegi added that the way the data were used was not Statistics Canada's responsibility in this case. Its mandate was to review the methodology, and ensure that the work had been done. No changes would be made in the methodology in the foreseeable future unless better solutions were found. However, when there are changes in methodology, Statistics Canada will be committed to improving communications to avoid further incidents, but that's where the Agency's role ends.

The focal point for Saskatchewan (Mr. Ron McMahon) said he understood that in the future when there would be a change affecting transfer payments, then a warning would be given prior to launching a study. Dr. Fellegi explained that it was his intention to consult focal points if the methodology changes affected data series, particularly transfer payments. Statistics Canada was not committed to looking at every change in methodology solely from the perspective of equalization. It was important to strike a balance between keeping information open and not being swayed by it.

## **8. Informatics and Methodology**

Mr. Gordon Brackstone, Assistant Chief Statistician, Informatics and Methodology,

presented an overview of his Field, which is primarily responsible for providing the infrastructure and technical services required to carry out Statistics Canada's programs.

### **8.1. Classification Systems Branch**

Standards Division takes care of the standards and metadata used by subject-matter divisions. The key challenges at the moment are to further improve the integrated metadatabase in the public domain and behind CANSIM and the website; to work on international standards, particularly in the areas of industries and products; and to develop documentation.

Geography Division's immediate priority was undoubtedly the preparations for the census dress rehearsal in 2004 and the 2006 Census.

Business Register Division was currently working to make the BR more accessible to other programs, to improve the quality of coding, and to assess the technological changes required in the BR system.

Tax Data Division was working very hard to improve the use of tax data from T1 and T2 files in the annual business surveys program and the use of GST data to reduce the response burden in monthly surveys. It was also working on estimation methods that could combine GST data and survey data. The Division had recently concluded a memorandum of understanding with CCRA covering all the terms and conditions for obtaining tax data.

### **8.2. Methodology Branch**

The three methodology divisions work on the statistics programs of other fields. Hence their priorities and challenges reflect those of other fields: measurement of census coverage; estimates based on GST data; redesign of the LFS, health surveys and longitudinal surveys; support for analysis as well as and methodology research programs for solving statistical problems. The Branch also assists all of the Agency's programs in complying with the Quality Assurance Framework.<sup>2</sup>

The Small Area and Administrative Data Division is the Field's only genuine statistical program. Its current priorities include improving the integration of income-tax-based income data with survey-based data and increasing the external use of small area and administrative data to make the program more financially secure.

### **8.3. Informatics Branch**

In an organization such as Statistics Canada, information technology is everywhere. All programs rely on it and have to consider the best way to use information technology (IT), but they must also comply with decisions made at the corporate level. The basic philosophy is that business decisions must

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2. This document is available at [www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/12-586-XIE/free.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/12-586-XIE/free.htm)



lead to IT decisions and not vice versa. That means that the Agency has to be able to assess the costs and benefits when the time comes to make IT decisions.

First, Statistics Canada cannot afford to have 70 programs making their own independent IT decisions on similar problems. The Agency needs standards and a framework to deal with issues that may arise across the organization. Second, those decisions must take into consideration the total cost of IT alternatives. Consequently, it is necessary to know the real cost of all IT services. Third, technology is changing rapidly, and someone has to keep an eye on industry trends in this area.

The approach to managing informatics has several key components.

- The IT Framework, which is updated every three years, attempts to link the Agency's business lines with its technology requirements.
- The Agency has an Informatics Committee as one of its senior-level management committees.
- A cost-recovery system has been established for all necessary hardware and software. This makes expenditures more visible and facilitates decision-making.
- The Policy on the Use of Software Products<sup>3</sup> is intended to reduce the number of applications through recommendations and identifies the support unit for each key application.
- A review process has been established to examine each major project at the development stage to prevent delays and cost overruns and ensure that the management structure is efficient.

The Informatics Technology Services Division provides hardware and communications services on a cost-recovery basis. That includes the network, the mainframe, training and computer security. The System Development Division (SDD) serves the majority of new and updated systems. Some SDD employees also work locally in the divisions.

The focal point for Alberta (Mr. Bill Hyshka) asked whether standards had been set for the production of systems and software, or whether SDD just made recommendations to the divisions, not for data processing as such but for dissemination tools, for example, in cases where the data were embedded in an application. Mr. Brackstone replied that the Dissemination Division and the Informatics Branch worked closely to set standards. The Informatics Committee and the Dissemination Committee both had a role to play. Mr. Martin Podehl, Director General, Marketing and Information Services, added that the subject-matter divisions were heavily involved in the decision-making process. For the moment, the dissemination standard was still the Internet. For publications, the formats were PDF and HTML. CANSIM was

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3. [ecn-ree.statcan.ca/10/10e/10e\\_043\\_e.htm](http://ecn-ree.statcan.ca/10/10e/10e_043_e.htm)

on the Internet. It was a corporate application, and almost all data were on it. For limited-distribution applications or data, such as those available on the External Communications Network (ECN), the decisions were made by the subject-matter divisions on a case-by-case basis.

The focal point for Nova Scotia (Mr. Dennis Pilkey) requested copies of the Information Technology Framework and the Policy on the Use of Software Products. He reiterated the importance of underlying technology issues in federal-provincial-territorial meetings and suggested that it was essential for Statistics Canada to understand the issues also from the user's point of view.

The focal point for British Columbia (Mr. Don McRae) asked whether the Small Area and Administrative Data Division was still operating on a cost-recovery basis and whether that situation might change to bring it into line with other Statistics Canada divisions. Mr. Brackstone pointed out that the Division has never operated on a 100% cost-recovery basis but is expected to cover a larger proportion of its costs than most divisions. Some price cuts had been made to bring prices more closely in line with comparable census products. Dr. Fellegi added that a funding request had been submitted to the Treasury Board two years earlier to enable Statistics Canada to provide information to users free of charge, but there had been no positive response.

The focal point for Quebec (Mr. Yvon Fortin) again raised the issue of the BR. In his view, it was important to relax the rules for using the BR and find ways of linking it with the provincial register to create transparency between the two. Mr. Brackstone replied that the use issue was not a question for the Business Register Division, but rather a political question of what would be the benefits of other uses. The fundamental rule, that the BR was to be used only for statistical purposes, remained in effect. Mr. François Maranda addressed the question of whether the provinces could link to the BR to provide survey feedback. At the fall 2002 meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics, there had been a discussion of the various ways of achieving this goal depending on the volume of transactions to be processed. He reiterated his offer to hold discussions with interested provinces or territories.

The focal point for Manitoba (Mr. Wilf Falk) said he regarded Informatics and Methodology as the foundation on which Statistics Canada was built. The focal points were major users of many of its divisions, including Geography, Business Register, and Small Area and Administrative Data. He thanked the methodologists who worked on the 2001 Census coverage studies. It had been a very difficult job, but they had managed to answer questions, produce a large volume of documentation on the results, and so on.

## **9. Communications and Operations**

Mr. Richard Barnabé, Assistant Chief Statistician, Communications and Operations, provided a program update.

### **9.1. Collective bargaining with the interviewers group**

Dr. Fellegi had already covered this issue earlier in the day. Mr. Barnabé added that the contingency plans for producing at least four key indicators were institutional-level plans. Statistics Canada also had plans for each regional site, since it was operating in the same buildings as other departments. It was important to ensure access in case there were picket lines, and arrangements were being made with local union representatives. If access to the regional offices was expected to be impeded, the focal points would be notified.

### **9.2. Electronic data reporting**

Statistics Canada had obtained funding from Treasury Board for a project to develop an electronic data-reporting capability for business surveys. Mr. Barnabé noted that significant progress had already been made, particularly on the infrastructure needed for secure communications with respondents so that when respondents were connected with the Agency, they would never be connected to the main network, which would compromise security. A process called Secure Staging Area had been developed, and work was underway on two types of applications: an Excel type of questionnaire for simple surveys and a web-based questionnaire for more complex surveys.

Mr. Barnabé hoped to be able to offer the electronic option to some 30,000 respondents across 22 surveys by the fall. Since the spring, the acceptance rate had been 30% to 40% for smaller surveys and about 10% on an initial offer for a larger survey. That was very encouraging. For longer surveys, it was vital to develop secure two-way communications so that multiple sessions could be held. In addition, customized sites had been developed for a few large firms in the Key Provider Manager Program.

As for households surveys, internet reporting will be offered in the next census, and the results will guide its eventual application for household surveys. It was hoped that 25% of respondents would agree to complete the questionnaire on the Internet. Other options would be provided, including mail and telephone using a CATI-like application. But the concept of an enumeration area as a self-contained collection workload unit, whereby the enumerator receives all the questionnaires and then ships them to the processing centre, will disappear.

### **9.3. Dissemination**

Mr. Barnabé noted that the key development in the area of dissemination was CANSIM. The old CANSIM no longer exists, and CANSIM II was not just a



data repository but also an engine capable of generating publications in a dynamic environment. CANSIM's new pricing policy had also been introduced.

Statistics Canada's website was becoming its main dissemination vehicle, averaging about 35,000 visitors a day. A recent user satisfaction survey on the site had yielded encouraging results. The next improvements would probably focus on tagging and cross-indexing data to make it easier for users to find the information they needed, if it was available. A new service had been introduced recently to allow users to subscribe to *The Daily* on a thematic basis.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) requested a technical session on the dynamic production of publications. Mr. Barnabé encouraged participants to notify Mr. Podehl if they were interested in the session.

#### **9.4. Strategic Streamlining Initiative, including re-organization of the regional offices**

Mr. Barnabé then provided an update on the process of consolidating the management function of the regional offices network. The administrative structure had to be downsized from five offices to three: the western, central and eastern regions. The aim was essentially administrative, but it had been necessary to assign resources to different priorities to maintain quality of service. The consolidation was to take effect officially in September.

Mr. Barnabé added that the changes were being made with a very positive attitude and that the regions affected most—the Prairie and Pacific regions, and the Quebec and Atlantic regions—were being very co-operative about the situation.

#### **9.5. External Communications Network (ECN)**

As chair of the working group on the ECN, Ms. Kathy Wyrwas briefly described the group's purpose and mandate. The group had been formed following the fall 2002 meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination in order to look into the development of the ECN.

The ECN was a unique window on Statistics Canada for the focal points, providing access to data, reference materials that were not normally in the public domain, and electronic publications. Ms. Wyrwas added that the ECN was used unevenly by both subject-matter divisions and the focal points. Some subject-matter divisions were currently using FTP to transmit information to the focal points, while others preferred e-mail.

Ms. Wyrwas noted that one of the ECN's advantages was undoubtedly data security. It was also more resource-efficient to use the website than to respond

to recurring requests. For the focal points, the ECN provided efficient and timely access to useful information.

However, there were a few short-term challenges. First, the structure needed to be well suited to all the information that might be posted on the ECN. A structure had been proposed in the fall, and other suggestions could be explored. Second, in view of the number of players involved in the ECN, there was a need for some kind of central co-ordination. Finally, Ms. Wyrwas concluded that it would be necessary to make other divisions aware of the site and position it as the primary tool for communication with the focal points. To that end, the working group had proposed to promote the ECN at the meetings of the various committees over the coming year.

The focal point for Nova Scotia (Mr. Dennis Pilkey) re-iterated that the ECN was an excellent tool for the focal points and that the need to address various issues was a sign of its success. He wondered about the fact that other users had access to the ECN. Mr. Podehl indicated that the password was only given to the focal points. He suggested changing the passwords regularly to prevent others from gaining access.

The focal point for British Columbia (Mr. Don McRae) asked whether it was better to make subject-matter divisions aware of the ECN or to inform them that the Council's members suggested they should use the ECN. Ms. Wyrwas said that it would be best to get positive feedback from the Council before proceeding. The focal point for Alberta (Mr. Bill Hyshka) felt that it would be preferable to get the Council's blessing and take a persuasive approach rather than a coercive one in dealing with the committees. Dr. Fellegi agreed with that approach and encouraged the working group to submit proposals.

#### **10. The 30th anniversary of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy**

Dr. Fellegi stated that the Council's first meeting had been held in 1974 and was chaired by Ms. Sylvia Ostry, then Chief Statistician of Canada. He noted that he personally had attended most of the Council's meetings, as had Mr. Ron McMahon, the focal point for Saskatchewan, who has been a member for 30 years, since the Council's inception. He also singled out Mr. Wilf Falk and Mr. John Palmer, the focal points for Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, for their 24 years of service. He presented all three with commemorative plaques.

#### **11. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics**

Mr. Mike Sheridan, Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics, provided a program update.



### **11.1. 2001 Census**

The most recent 2001 Census data release had taken place that very morning. It focussed on the topics of religion, shelter costs and income.

Mr. Sheridan explained that the Canada Child Tax Benefit data, which were used to derive interprovincial migration estimates, had arrived late from CCRA. Statistics Canada had had to use data for the previous month and the previous year, which produced a slight discrepancy. A change in the processing system appeared to have caused the problem, and everything had returned to order.

A team was currently working on the 30 concerns raised by the results of the Reverse Record Check. Those issues were to be covered in detail at the next meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on the Census in June 2003.

Mr. Sheridan noted that the question of the composite estimator for the Reverse Record Check had been discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Statistical Methods. The group concluded that the bias associated with the estimator and its complexity was not worth the offsetting effect. Consequently, the estimator would not be pursued.

### **11.2. 2006 Census**

Some fundamental changes were needed for the 2006 Census. First, CCRA's keying capacity had declined substantially, and this was forcing Statistics Canada to look at scanning technology for the next census. According to Mr. Sheridan, other major countries were using it successfully, and there was every reason to believe that it would work for Canada as well.

A practical, secure application for completing the census form on the Internet would have to be developed. Statistics Canada had assumed that a secure channel would be available at no cost through the Government On-Line initiative. However, the census required an even more secure environment than other departments, and the Agency had to go back to Treasury Board to obtain additional funding to ensure that everything would be ready for the dress rehearsal in May 2004.

Mr. Sheridan also touched on the issue of centralized edit. Each census, the Agency had to deal with 'traffic accidents' such as lost forms and complaints about confidentiality in small localities. To eliminate these problems, it was decided that forms would be processed at a central location. First, with the creation of the address register, a mail-out/mail-back approach should be possible for 60% of the forms. Second, in areas not covered by the address register, questionnaires would be dropped off, but the processing of completed forms would be centralized. Only non-response follow-up would be

personalized. For the first time, some census work would be contracted out. An \$85 million contract to do the scanning and provide the interface with the Internet responses had been awarded to Lockheed Martin.

For the dress rehearsal, 300,000 households had been identified, and the focal points were provided with a map profiling the mail-out and drop-off areas.

Finally, Mr. Sheridan noted that it would be necessary to look at the concerns raised in the 2001 Census—particularly, a general review of the process and post-processing of the Reverse Record Check will need to be done, as well as a post-mortem of those specific activities.

The focal point for Manitoba (Mr. Wilf Falk) asked for a little more detail on the coverage work or the methodology to be used in the dress rehearsal. Mr. Sheridan stated that one of the points considered was the possibility of using the overcoverage estimates for Canada because of the variability of provincial estimates. The coverage of immigrants would also be reviewed, with the aim of doing as well in the rest of Canada as in Manitoba. Another issue to be examined was the fact that the trace rate for non-mobile missed was the same as for mobiles.

#### **11.3. Poverty measure**

Mr. Sheridan indicated that Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) was working on a poverty measure based on a consumer basket. HRDC and the social services ministers set the release date as May 27 2003. The information would apparently be released to the provincial social services ministries under embargo a week early. All the data that made up the basket had been published before in one form or another, so the embargo applied only to the measure. The debate would probably focus on the basket contents and the methodology.

#### **11.4. Canadian Learning Information Institute**

Mr. Sheridan reported briefly on the Canadian Learning Information Institute (CLII), an initiative of HRDC and the Government of Canada. The institute is intended to play a more pointed and critical analytical role on "What works" in the area of education. As envisioned now the CLII would not be specifically involved in the collection of data and other aspects of its role would evolve over time including the governance structure.

#### **11.5. Postcensal surveys**

Mr. Sheridan announced that the Ethnic Diversity Survey data would be released in late September, and some very interesting analytical work would continue after that. Two months later, in the third week of December, Statistics Canada would publish the data from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

A very important aspect of the Program was the redesign of the LFS. The fiscal framework had changed, and discussions were underway with Treasury Board and the Department of Finance, which had so far not committed to the necessary funding. Mr. Sheridan explained that it would be necessary to submit a low-cost redesign proposal to the Corporate Planning Committee and the Policy Committee. It would be a limited redesign to ensure that the sample reflected the results of the 2001 Census of Population. The current sample was probably not seriously disproportionate now, but it would be wise not to leave it much longer without correcting it.

#### **11.6. Aboriginal Labour Force Survey**

Mr. Sheridan and the focal point for Alberta (Mr. Bill Hyshka) provided an overview of the Aboriginal Labour Force Survey project. The project had been initiated by Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and the Human Resources and Employment Department of Alberta. They had asked the Alberta Statistics Agency for technical advice on the project. The basic idea was to measure the off-reserve Aboriginal labour force. The province had believed for a while that this subgroup would eventually be covered by the LFS, but it finally came up with the funding to conduct its own survey. For the first year, some \$500,000 was earmarked for the survey's methodology work. Mr. Hyshka stated that possibly an additional \$2 million would be allocated for two more three-year survey cycles.

Mr. Sheridan noted that Statistics Canada had used 1996 and 2001 census data to add clusters with higher percentages of Aboriginal people living off reserve. The sample had been phased in from August to January, and the results were satisfactory. The goal was to produce three-month moving averages of a number of labour market characteristics. The estimates were reliable, and the response rate was reasonably good. The preliminary results for the first quarter were compared with the 2001 Census data, and the only area where there appeared to be a problem was self-employment. In June, a meeting was scheduled with the various stakeholders in this project to review the data and discuss the self-employment issue before the data were released. Since the results of this project have been so positive, it would not be surprising to eventually see it extended across the entire country.

#### **11.7. Policy on maintaining access to old survey files**

In the area of special surveys conducted on a cost-recovery basis, Mr. Sheridan said that it was sometimes difficult to determine who was the 'long-term care provider.' Under the *National Archives Act*, a copy of all datasets must be kept. The problem tended to be the usability of the files.

In the area of labour market data, especially for longitudinal surveys, the question had already come up, particularly for the Labour Market Activity Survey. Statistics Canada had the microdata files; all of them were documented and some were part of the Data Liberation Initiative. However,



the possibilities for custom tabulations were very limited. In fact, in some cases, a 286 computer would have to be used to open the file, which created all kinds of problems.

The focal point for Newfoundland and Labrador (Mr. Alton Hollett) said that he would like to have consulted the files of the Work Pattern Survey and the Labour Market Activity Survey. He asked whether Statistics Canada was planning to revive the files that were still usable. Mr. Sheridan replied that there was no problem with files less than 8 to 10 years old. For older files—and there were a great many—it would be extremely expensive to put them into a state where they could be executed and used to produce tabulations. Aside from the cost issue, there were fundamental concerns for Statistics Canada's key indicators: adjustments had been made in the population estimates, whereas for other indicators, that had not been done, meaning that data from a file based on the 1971 population would have to be compared with data from a file rebased on the census population. Consequently, Statistics Canada had no plans to revive the files.

Mr. Hollett re-iterated that there was interest in some of the files and, in view of the changes affecting the labour market, interest would continue to grow. Data from the 1980s were becoming valuable in understanding a number of factors, and it was hoped that Statistics Canada would be able to explore the possibility despite the high cost. In conclusion, Mr. Hollett noted that he had been very satisfied with a project of that type that had been carried out with the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics team.

#### **11.8. First Nations Statistical Institute**

Mr. Sheridan made it clear that the First Nations Statistical Institute (FNSI) and the three associated organizations (First Nations Taxation Commission, First Nations Financial Management Board and First Nations Financial Authority) are on separate approval tracks from the *First Nations Governance Act*.

The FNSI will be established under the following principles:

- The organizations must be accessible and transparent.
- They must publish data and make them available.
- They must not replace or impinge on national surveys or the national statistical system.
- The Chief Statistician of Canada should be a member of the board of governors, no matter what governance mechanism was chosen.

The legislation had been through first reading in the House.

At the same time, pursuant to the findings of the reference group of ministers on Aboriginal issues, Statistics Canada had been asked to take a close look at what data were available on First Nations on reserves compared with what was available on Aboriginals living off-reserve. The challenge was to provide

the comparable information for the First Nations as for the Canadian population on an equal footing. A great deal of work remained to be done in this area.

The focal point for Newfoundland and Labrador (Mr. Alton Hollett) expressed some concern about the Population Estimates Program. He said that while many improvements had been made since 1991, the 2001 Census and coverage studies suggested that population movements within Canada had been missed. He asked whether anything would be done to improve the program, which was off track, since at the moment problems with the data were causing substantial distress, particularly on the financial side.

Mr. Sheridan agreed that there was always room for improvement in the program and that interprovincial migration was not just one of the problems, but the main problem. However, he did not feel that the Population Estimates Program was off track. Canada has never had a closer set of estimates in terms of dovetailing results of the 2001 Census and for Reverse Record Check.

The focal point for Nova Scotia (Mr. Dennis Pilkey) suggested two factors to look at with regard to interprovincial migration. The first was the 1993 tax change, which had completely altered the advantages associated with reporting children by income. The second was the income bias, in that people moving from a large province to a small one tended to have higher incomes, while people moving from a small province to a larger one had lower incomes. Dr. Fellegi stated that he did not want to get into technical details, but he did not consider those explanations valid. On the contrary, if that were the case, it should be easier now to track the migratory movements of low-income people, which would favour the provinces that are losing population. All of a sudden, the tax system would have been better at tracking low-income children and, therefore, out-migration. But that is not what has been observed. The traditional underestimation of out-migration is still present, and therefore we continue to underestimate the population loss suffered by those provinces.

The focal point for the Northwest Territories (Mr. David Stewart) pointed out that at the last meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on the Census of Population, the group had received a research paper by Mr. Peter Wilkinson, who presented some alternatives to the adjustment of CCRA data, which had been the subject of discussion in the Committee for nearly three years without tangible results. With the 2001 Census results and coverage studies, it was probably time to take a closer look at the paper. He agreed that some corrections were still needed in the tax data adjustments, but the main handicap, in his view, was the fact that the co-ordination was being handled by two different divisions at Statistics Canada.

The focal point for Prince Edward Island (Mr. John Palmer) felt that the Population Estimates Program had worked very well for his province between 1991 and 1996. He was surprised to hear that the 2001 program was better



than the 1996 program. He wondered what could be done, since he found it embarrassing to have to keep reminding users not to rely on the data. Dr. Fellegi stated that, overall, the estimates had definitely improved at the national level. It was important to keep in mind, however, that interprovincial migration was based on pure assumptions. There were no direct measures; Statistics Canada had to use small subsets of data (i.e., the file of people who inform CCRA of address changes in order to receive the Child Tax Benefit). The methodology could always be improved, and the improved version could be applied retroactively, but there was no guarantee that the results would be more accurate.

In response to a suggestion by Dr. Fellegi that a taskforce should be established to study the Population Estimates Program, Mr. Sheridan proposed that the suggestion should be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on the Census of Population in June 2003. At the moment, the issue of the Reverse Record Check was taking up all available resources.

On the matter of Aboriginals and the reference group, the focal point for Manitoba (Mr. Wilf Falk) asked whether the Métis would be included in the project and how likely it was that the question on Aboriginal identity would be on the 2006 questionnaires. Mr. Sheridan replied that the group was not looking at the First Nations, but at Aboriginal peoples; consequently, the Métis would be included, as would the Inuit.

## **12. Analysis and Development**

Dr. Michael Wolfson, Assistant Chief Statistician, Analysis and Development, briefly described the two groups that make up the Analysis and Development Field.

### **12.1. Analysis**

This group covers both preparation of research paper and co-operation on surveys and modelling simulations. Dr. Wolfson gave some examples of completed and ongoing projects.

### **12.2. Development**

On the development side, the best-known area is probably the Health Statistics Program, including the National Population Health Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey.

Dr. Wolfson also mentioned the health-related person-oriented information project, which would help analyse and improve understanding of how the health system is working. To do this, it would first be necessary to access provincial data. This process has been proceeding more slowly than desired.

The focal point for Nova Scotia (Mr. Dennis Pilkey) asked whether any research was underway to compare health costs based on socio-demographic variables. Dr. Wolfson replied that last year Health Canada had published a report entitled "The economic burden of illness in Canada," the third in a series in which the Department had tried to evaluate the costs of health problems by disease. In terms of socio-demographic variables, it was a very difficult analysis to do because 90% of the administrative data were classified by disease, from a biomedical perspective. Until very recently, no one in this area thought in terms of socio-economic status, and as a result, that variable was not present in the datasets. On the other hand, much of the data was available in provincial health care institutions, but it was difficult to make the linkages, primarily because of access problems. Each province had its own data and its own access rules.

The focal point for New Brunswick (Ms. Kathy Wyrwas) asked whether the plan was to conduct the analyses of the health-related person-oriented information project. Dr. Wolfson explained that in some provinces, the issue was already being studied by groups of analysts, such as at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario. The challenge was to produce pan-Canadian data, to make interprovincial comparisons, and so on—a factor that was impossible at the time.

### **13. Appointment of Program Committee members**

As Chair of the 2003 Program Committee, Mr. Yvon Fortin provided the Council with the list of members appointed to the 2004 Program Committee: Ms. Kathy Wyrwas (Chair), Mr. Jack Hicks, Mr. David West and Mr. Wilf Falk.

### **14. Closing remarks**

Approved in Ottawa on October 31, 2003 by Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi.

## **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 and Labrador 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	David West	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	Gerry Ewert	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	Mike Sheridan	Assistant Chief Statistician Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Ray Ryan	Assistant Chief Statistician Business and Trade Statistics Field
Statistics Canada	Michael Wolfson	Assistant Chief Statistician Analysis and Development Field
Statistics Canada	Marlene Levine	Assistant Chief Statistician Management Services Field
Statistics Canada	Richard Barnabé	Assistant Chief Statistician Communications and Operations
Statistics Canada	Gordon Brackstone	Assistant Chief Statistician Informatics and Methodology 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	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 12 and 13, 2003

Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

## AGENDA

### MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003

- 9:00 a.m.      **Opening remarks** — Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Adoption of the agenda
  - Approval of the minutes of the 2002 meeting
- 9:15 a.m.      **Achievements and priorities** — Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Strategic Streamlining Initiative
  - Impact of the decision to provide access to historical censuses
  - Dr. Fellegi will respond to questions arising from the contents of the 2003 *@StatCan Special Issue*
- 10:15 a.m.      **Program Committee report** — Yvon Fortin
- 10:30 a.m.      Break
- 10:45 a.m.      **Provincial and Territorial reports** — Focal Points
- 12:00 p.m.      Luncheon (Executive Dining Room)
- 1:00 p.m.      **“Statistics Canada’s policy on accessing provincial or territorial administrative records for survey purpose”** — David Stewart
- 1:30 p.m.      **Business and Trade Statistics** — Ray Ryan
- Program update
- 2:15 p.m.      Break
- 2:30 p.m.      **National Accounts and Analytical Studies** — Philip Smith
- Program update
  - International Monetary Fund – Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes
- 3:15 p.m.      **Informatics and Methodology** — Gordon Brackstone
- Program update

- 3:45 p.m.      **Communications and Operations** — Richard Barnabé
- Program update
  - Strategic Streamlining Initiative including Regional Offices reorganization
  - External Communication Network working group — Kathy Wyrwas
- 4:30 p.m.      Reception

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2003

- 9:00 a.m.      **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics** — Mike Sheridan
- Program update
  - 2001 Census
    - Update on Census coverage studies
  - 2006 Census
    - Status
  - Aboriginal Labour Force Survey
    - The Alberta experience and Statistics Canada's plans in this area
  - First Nations Statistical Institute
    - Update
  - Policy on maintaining access of earlier survey files
- 9:45 a.m.      Break
- 10:00 a.m.      **Analysis and Development** — Michael Wolfson
- Program update
- 10:45 a.m.      **Nominations for the Program Committee** — Yvon Fortin
- 11:00 a.m.      **Other business**
- Concluding remark**



### **APPENDIX III**

#### **PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS**

# ALBERTA

## Synopsis

Alberta Statistics continues to maintain its operations as the province's central statistical agency, reporting to the Finance Department through the Office of Budget and Management. The general focus of core statistical activities continues a trend toward a greater emphasis on developing and maintaining statistical standards within the provincial government.

During the 2002/03 operating period, the demand for Alberta Statistics' services increased in all areas with a particular stress placed on its primary data-gathering role. The Agency's survey program remains in the forefront of operations with a wide variety of social, economic and human resource surveys now in place. Much of the survey work undertaken continues to feed into the government's performance measurement initiative.

## Administration and budget

During the 2002/03 fiscal period, core staffing levels remained constant, supplemented by contract and wage personnel for special projects. Budgetary allocations for Alberta Statistics remained stable during the operating period with cost-recovery revenues providing the basis for undertaking various ad hoc social and economic projects.

## Goals and objectives

Alberta Statistics operates under a general guiding principle of providing a co-ordinated and standardized approach to the development, production and reporting of statistical information within the Alberta government. This objective continues to be strengthened by the increased use of Alberta Statistics' advisory and consultative services, and the movement towards co-ordination of government survey activities through the Agency. Although Alberta Statistics has no direct authority to require the implementation of specific statistical methodologies, the consultative services available to all government departments has provided the impetus towards achieving this objective.

## Programs and services

### Core services

Core activities undertaken by Alberta Statistics remains unchanged from the previous year with the following services provided on behalf of the Alberta government:

- Alberta economic accounts
- Alberta economic modelling program
- demographic population projections and estimates
- Alberta Statistical Information System (ASIST)
- inter- and intraprovincial statistical co-ordination

- custom survey operations
- statistical database management
- geographic information systems (GIS) services
- municipal census training and consultation program

### **Alberta Statistical Information System**

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

With the completion of the ASIST Internet Project in late 2002, and the movement to a CANSIM II format, a program of additional enhancements is currently underway. The final stage will see the incorporation of a new search engine technology to the system, as well as automated daily updates to further reduce manpower requirements.

When the new system is finally complete, it will enable users to have seamless connectivity through both the Internet and intranet, as well as provide enhanced data extraction and manipulation tools.

### **Electronic dissemination and publications**

During the 2001/02 fiscal year, the following publications were available from Alberta Statistics and its secondary distributors.

- Alberta Economic Multipliers, 1999
- Alberta Municipal Census Training Manual, 2001
- Alberta Economic Accounts, 2001
- Alberta Facts And Figures, 2002
- Alberta Population Projections, 2016
- Alberta Provincial Electoral Division Profiles

### **Demographic program**

Custom population estimates and projections are now part of the in-house core services provided by Alberta Statistics. As a core function, centralized demographic statistics provide departments with uniform data to facilitate consistent program and policy planning within the Alberta government.

With development completed and testing underway, the custom projections and estimates program will soon be available for a variety of both standard and user-specified custom geographies. Current annual standard output is at the census division and provincial levels of detail for single years of age and sex.



The project to automate the Alberta Population Projection Model and to provide a timely turn-around on standard and custom projection requests is nearing completion. Technical work on the model has been completed with development of a graphical user interface (GUI) front-end and system documentation currently in progress. Testing of the model is expected to be completed in the summer of 2003 with the model fully operational in the fall.

### **Geographic Information Services**

Alberta Statistics' GIS services continue to be the basis for government-wide initiatives in this area. Alberta Statistics provides custom boundary digitizing and data georeferencing services to clients on a cost-recovery basis. To assist users with in-house analyses and research, a GIS translation product is available to clients on a monthly, quarterly or annual subscription basis. The GIS translator file allows administrative data to be geographically referenced by nearly 30 different sets of standard and custom Alberta boundaries.

### **Economic modelling program**

Alberta Statistics provides a wide range of economic analysis services including the development and operation of an Alberta Economic Impact Model and an economic multipliers program. The Alberta Economic Impact Model, operated by Alberta Statistics, provides a basis for public and private users to measure the impact of various changes in the Alberta economy using standard inputs and algorithms. The model was updated in early 2003 to include the latest input-output data and recent provincial tax revisions.

The economic multipliers program provides both standard series and user-specific, custom industry aggregations of Alberta's economic multipliers, intensity and supply ratios. These data are produced annually to meet a wide range of client modelling applications.

### **Acknowledgements**

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**

With the continued focus of the British Columbia Government on developing performance measures at the program level, BC STATS, the statistical agency for British Columbia (B.C.), has been called upon to perform numerous surveys, largely internal, government surveys. Recently, this had included a number of organizational health surveys, client satisfaction surveys, 360° evaluations of the B.C. Government Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as well as assisting the new Human Resource Organization streamline its hiring process. The reports and presentations include quantitative and qualitative analysis, as well as complete environmental scans. The success of these initiatives is measured by an ever-growing client base.

One of the reasons for the achievement in this area has been the development of a web-based survey capability. Web surveys are a very cost-effective mode of data collection from public sector organizations. Almost all staff members in the B.C. Government have both access to the Internet and personalized e-mail addresses. As a result, questionnaires can be developed and delivered into the field in a relatively short timeframe. This feature, along with rapid turnaround; built-in error checking; removal of the data entry step; and normally greater ease and convenience for the respondent, has resulted in good response rates at a very low cost.

### **Website developments**

The big news on the BC STATS website is the newly developed web store. The store was accomplished in co-operation with the Provincial Treasury branch of the B.C. Ministry of Finance, which provides the government-wide connection to the banking system that actually handles the financial transaction. BC STATS stocks the shelves, provides samples and, once the purchase is approved by the bank, delivers the goods. BC STATS has become one of the early implementers of this mode of transaction within the B.C. Government. Aside from the obvious benefits of reduced transaction costs, the web store offers 24-hour service to clients both inside and outside the government.

Other changes to the website include the addition of socio-economic profiles and overall summary indices describing the relative well-being of regions and communities within the province. These socio-economic indices summarize social and economic conditions over a wide variety of indicators into a single composite index for each region within the province. These summary indices were first developed two years ago, but have only recently been added to the public section of the website.

### **Regional population estimates**

In the last year, BC STATS has updated the official regional population estimates to 2002 for a number of subprovincial regions including municipalities, school districts, regional districts, health areas, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments.

The preliminary 2002 estimates incorporated information from the 2001 Census, adjusted to the provincial population estimates provided by Statistics Canada. The regional population

estimates were also based on a new model, which now includes information on residential telephone lines, in addition to the other indicators of population change, such as residential hydro connections and Old Age Security recipients. The telephone information is expected to improve the accuracy of the estimates in areas where outflows of population have occurred, and may also provide better coverage of secondary suites in urban areas.

### **Regional population projections**

The regional population projections continue to have broad use in the community planning areas of health, education and social service needs, as well as in the planning by regional governments to manage the population growth in urban areas. The regional population projections are now available through our web store, where users can select areas of interest and purchase them. This method of access has made the projections available to a number of new users.

### **Mapping development**

BC STATS is experiencing a growing demand from within the government for a wide variety of thematic maps, as well as maps of provincial administrative boundaries and facilities. These mapping projects play an important role in the government decision-making process (e.g., in evaluating the current access to high-speed Internet services throughout the province and determining directions for expansion).

### **2001 Census dissemination**

Over the past year, BC STATS has provided support for media coverage, especially in the Victoria region and the rest of Vancouver Island, following each Statistics Canada census release. This has included the occasional radio and television interview. Unfortunately, on some occasions, problems were encountered in accessing the census information via the website. To solve this problem, the Pacific Region Office has stepped-in to provide backup CD-ROMs on the day-of-release.

### **Sector studies**

For a number of years, BC STATS has produced reports on special industrial sectors, such as tourism, small business, high technology, and fisheries and aquaculture. This work continued in 2002, with updates (including a conversion to a North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] basis) to all four reports. BC STATS also produced a profile of small and medium-sized exporters in the province using data from Statistics Canada's Exporter Registry. Work on a profile of the province's manufacturing industry (including subsectors such as secondary manufacturing and small manufacturers) is expected to begin soon. There continues to be considerable interest in the development of regional economic indicators (such as subprovincial gross domestic product) and it is likely that in the coming year more work will be undertaken in this area.

## **Economic accounts**

The conversion to the NAICS system proved to be rather challenging, particularly as there was limited data available for some industries. However, following the release of the full 'flash' estimates in 2002, updates to our quarterly income, expenditure and industry account estimates, covering the period from 1961 to 2001, were produced last year.

## **International trade reports**

Analysis and reporting on international trade conditions for British Columbia continues to be a priority for BC STATS. As a small, open, resource-dependent economy, timely data and analysis on international trade conditions are essential in our understanding of the current state of the provincial economy. As part of that process, this year BC STATS has provided analysis on a variety of topics, including the softwood lumber dispute with the United States and B.C.'s trade with Japan, Mexico, Chile, India and the European Union.

## **High technology statistics**

With the publication of the 2002 edition of the *Profile of the British Columbia High Technology Sector* report, BC STATS released its first estimates of gross domestic product, revenues and employment for the province's high-tech sector, which were based on the new NAICS definition. The latest version of the report is available on the website at [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/).

The *Input Indicators* report was also updated in 2002. Plans to expand the research program in this area are underway and production of quarterly reports on the state of the province's high-tech sector are expected to begin. The development of comparable high-tech statistics for selected U.S. states are also expected.



## **NEW BRUNSWICK**

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

### **Organizational structure**

During 2002/03, the Agency operated within the Economics and Statistics Branch of EFP, under the direction of Mr. George Richardson and with a staff of six people. Ms. Kathy Wyrwas continued as Focal Point for the province and Director of NBSA. As in the previous year, there were several staff changes: Ms. Shannon Ker, an intern, resigned and Ms. Sandra Campbell retired. Subsequently, there was also a loss of one administrative support position.

The Division continued to participate in the Public Service Internship Program and employed two interns for the final year of their two-year terms and two more interns working a two-month assignment each. The Division has provided work terms for 15 interns since the program began in 1999.

### **Operations**

The Agency continued to provide research, analysis and advice to senior officials of the government, including the Premier's Office. While the Agency maintained its internal data dissemination activities, it also expanded its use of socio-economic data in public policy, decision-making and program delivery. NBSA staff was involved in major initiatives, including Roundtable on the Wage Gap, an assessment of investment projects using the provincial econometric model, dissemination of the 2001 Census data and production of the document entitled, *Progress on Prosperity—Greater Opportunity: New Brunswick's Prosperity Plan 2002–2012—Year One* (see [www.gnb.ca/0089/speeches-discours/sop2003/sop2003progress-e.pdf](http://www.gnb.ca/0089/speeches-discours/sop2003/sop2003progress-e.pdf)).

During the past year, the New Brunswick government website has undergone major developments, taking an integrated approach to information release for all departments. The economics and statistics component of the site was launched and it contains a variety of annual indicators for New Brunswick presented in both official languages. It can be found at [www.gnb.ca/0024/economics/index.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/0024/economics/index.asp).

The Agency produces regular reports on economic, demographic and social indicators, including Quarterly Review of Economic Performance (available through the Finance intranet site), New Brunswick Economic Statistics (quarterly), New Brunswick Economic Indicators (monthly and available through the government website) and New Brunswick Forestry Statistics (quarterly and available through the government website). As well, a weekly briefing

document for our Deputy, the Finance Senior Executives and the Premier's Office provides information on Statistics Canada's latest data releases, with a focus on New Brunswick results.

The NBSA annual report, *The New Brunswick Economy 2003*, which provides a snapshot of New Brunswick's economic indicators and industry sector reviews, was released in December as a supporting document to the provincial budget. All budget documents can be accessed through the Internet at [www.gnb.ca/0160/budget/buddoc2003/index.html](http://www.gnb.ca/0160/budget/buddoc2003/index.html).

New security measures involving controlled access to the building will be implemented for the fiscal year 2003/04. Visitors without appropriate computer-coded access cards will have to check with security personnel at a single entry point and then be escorted while in the building.

### **Statistics Canada**

The consortium agreement developed between Statistics Canada and the focal points is working well. The NBSA operation is now accessing all Statistics Canada data series directly from CANSIM II instead of through a secondary distributor. NBSA looks forward to the continued expansion of data series made available through CANSIM II.

The External Communication Network – Focal Points (ECN-FP) site continues to play an important role in the daily work of NBSA staff. The site provides fast and efficient access to critical data series, key contacts and other important information that assist focal points in meeting the demands of their clients. New Brunswick is a member of the working group established at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination to review the use of the ECN-FP site and to identify potential improvements.

Progress has been made in meeting the 'deemed' employee status requirements for selected employees of NBSA. The process should be completed by the end of March 2003.

Staff participated in Statistics Canada meetings and consultations throughout the year as resources allowed, including the 2001 Census Products and Service Line; 2006 Census of Population Content Consultation; 2006 Census of Agriculture Content Determination Workshop; and Canadian Community Health Survey Workshop. There was also an opportunity to tour the Research Data Centre at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

The Agency continues to have a good working relationship with Statistics Canada's regional office in Halifax. The regional staff keeps NBSA informed of new developments and deal with NBSA requests for assistance promptly and efficiently. The past year has been very busy with the 2001 Census releases.

## **Future activities**

For 2003/04, the Agency will continue with several of the activities mentioned above. Future work will focus on the analysis of 2001 Census coverage studies and its implications for the population estimates program; dissemination and analysis of the 2001 Census results; analysis of new data (unsuppressed Input–Output Accounts and other System of National Accounts information) provided as the result of ‘deemed’ employee status; updating the NBSA provincial econometric model and expanding the website with more economic and social indicators.

## **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

The fiscal year 2002/03 has been productive and busy for the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency (NLSA). Activities have been brisk with ongoing work, major projects including the Strategic Social Plan and the beginning of new initiatives.

### **Data Dissemination**

Data Dissemination has been busy this year with an increasing number of requests experienced through both personal contact and the NLSA website. About 1,200 requests were received by clients through direct contact and an additional 33,000 hits were recorded via the Web. This level of activity is some 15% above that recorded in the previous year. The level of activity is anticipated to further increase as Census products continue to become available in the coming year. NLSA staff note that Statistics Canada's (STC) 2001 Census electronic dissemination has been timely well organized and well received by the Data Dissemination Unit and its clients. It is interesting that despite the volume of business absorbed by the website, demand continues to rise.

### **Community Accounts released to public**

After almost five years of development work and a number of failed attempts this past year, the Community Accounts (CAs) were finally released to the general public on September 17, 2002. A press conference, involving all Social Policy Cabinet Ministers, was held in Stephenville to launch the CAs. A presentation to introduce the system was made by the Minister responsible for the Strategic Social Plan. Mr. Alton Hollett of the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency and Dr. Doug May of Memorial University then described the Accounts in greater detail, which was followed by a question and answer period for the approximately 100 attendees. The conference sparked high levels of interest resulting in numerous positive and complimentary newspaper articles.

The development of the CAs continues as more data are added and the delivery and analytical capacities of the Accounts are expanded. The NLSA continues to work closely with the Nova Scotia Statistics Agency as it develops the Nova Scotia Community Accounts. Codes have been shared and staff members interact in order to support these activities.

### **Social Audit and Social and Economic Indicators Report**

A major activity this year has been the development of a series of social and economic indicators for the province. The indicators were developed in partnership with Memorial University and work on them has remained intensive since its initiation in June 2002. These indicators will provide information on education, health, income, demography, labour markets and other major domains of interest. The indicator information will draw upon CA data and will be published in the Accounts, as well as in a report which is now ready for the printers.



The release of this document will mark the achievement of the second phase in the completion of the Social Audit, which is currently being carried out and released using a phased approach. The first phase of this Social Audit was completed in September with the release of the CAs. Other phases are expected to be completed within the next year

### **Community Accounts training**

This year, as the result of a large number of requests, a Community Accounts training program has been put in place. Two half-day sessions are offered in St. John's each month and training is also provided to various points throughout the province as requested. About seven training sessions have been conducted on the Island and in Labrador. The College of the North Atlantic and other technical institutions have allowed the NLSA to use their facilities for the training sessions, each of which have been filled to capacity. The objective of these hands-on sessions is to familiarize users with all aspects of the system. Feedback on the CA training program has been excellent and the number of requests for training has been rising. The types of participants attending the training sessions range from citizens to academic researchers.

### **Survey Services**

The Survey Services Unit has been exceptionally busy this year. Since expanding this service area three years ago, the demand for services has grown rapidly. The Unit has undertaken large projects, such as the Labour Activity Survey and the Adult and Community Health Survey, as well as many smaller projects. Initiatives involving 100 to 1,500 respondents account for most of the activity. Work carried out involves a full range of services from survey and questionnaire design to data collection and entry to the production of reports based on the data.

The most significant project undertaken this year has been the development of a survey of Newfoundland and Labrador's employers. Because of the large amount of occupational detail needed by partners in the project, it will be necessary to collect data from about 12,000 firms. An additional questionnaire will collect data on human resources and technology usage from 2,500 firms. Support for this initiative has been provided by STC in the form of data sharing from the Business Register which will be used to establish the sample. The NLSA will work to update the file as firms are contacted, which will be beneficial to both STC and the NLSA.

The NLSA would like to thank the Assistant Chief Statistician, Mr. Ray Ryan, who spearheaded the completion of the agreement enabling the data sharing, and STC for its greatly appreciated assistance. Data collection is expected to begin April 1, 2003.

### **GeoStats Atlantic**

The development of GeoStats Atlantic is near completion. The Geographic Information System was developed to enable the development of a variety of applications for different purposes. GeoStats replaces the Regional Economic Development Information System built by the NLSA in 1994 and is now being piloted by a government economic development

department. In addition to continuing the development of the system, GeoStats' staff has begun to work with the government's Department of Health and Community Services to establish the feasibility of using GeoStats to determine the optimal location of health services and facilities. A report is now being written and the project has the potential to evolve into a three-year project to build this application.

### **Labour Market Development Strategy**

The NLSA has also been asked to participate in and support the development of a Labour Market Development Strategy. Work on this initiative has been underway since May 2002 and is expected to be completed around September 2003. Tremendous support has been given and a baseline statistical report has been drawn up using STC data and NLSA's Labour Activity Survey. As part of this activity, The NLSA has purchased data relating to major labour-market areas of interest. These include data from the Survey of Labour Income Dynamics and the Labour Force Survey. It is hoped that historical series, such as data from the Annual Work Patterns Survey and the Labour Market Activity Survey, will also be made available by STC. These are important historical series and talks have begun regarding access to their data.

### **Strategic Partnership**

This year, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the Strategic Partnership initiative. This venture is a version of the European model where government, business and labour communities work co-operatively to explore issues and the possibility of joint efforts to problem-solving. The NLSA has been involved in setting up this initiative and considerable work has resulted. In particular, productivity and competitiveness (P&C) has been identified as an area of major interest. Thus, the NLSA has been asked to review the current status of P&C data and knowledge that can aid the Partnership.

The NLSA has asked Dr. Doug May to review the status of current productivity measures and make recommendations regarding weaknesses and possible improvements. As architect of the CAs, the NLSA has also asked him to make recommendations about accelerating the completion of the Production Accounts domain of the CAs on behalf of the Strategic Partnership. Discussions are underway with STC about certain data needs that have been identified and about a partnership regarding certain activities that will be carried out as a part of this initiative, which might benefit both STC and the NLSA. Discussions have been ongoing with Dr. John Baldwin regarding these possibilities and the NLSA greatly appreciates his responsiveness and advice.

### **Census data project**

The NLSA is about to undertake a major project in conjunction with Memorial University. The project will see the creation of a database of historic Census data for each province of Canada. The NLSA partnered the project proposal to involve other Canadian universities and statistical agencies, such as IBM, STC, etc. The NLSA will be the centre for Atlantic Canada work and,

ultimately, the data produced through that work. It has been decided that the database will be developed within the Agency and the project co-managed by the NLSA and Memorial University. Staff will be redeployed and hired as needed to startup the initiative. The project is expected to begin in March and continue for a five-year period.

## NOVA SCOTIA

In 2002/03, Nova Scotia continued to improve its services to fulfill its mandate “to provide the Nova Scotia provincial government with comprehensive, timely, and reliable economic and social statistics to support strategic decision-making.” In addition to the regular agenda, data acquisition, dissemination of documents—such as the *Statistical Review*—and special requests, the Statistics Division undertook a number of other projects to improve the quality of and access to information.

Over the year, full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing increased. The vacant research and statistics officer positions were filled and casual staff were hired when required for special projects. One or more co-op students or consultants were engaged to assist with funded projects and to provide additional expertise. The number of permanent approved positions remained at six.

### **Constituency profiles**

The Statistics Division has developed a statistical profile for each of Nova Scotia’s 52 electoral districts and 18 counties, which are available on the Division’s public website. This work allowed the Division to provide statistical support to the provincial electoral boundaries commission. These funded projects allowed the Statistics Division to develop its expertise and statistical infrastructure as described below. Redefinition of the electoral boundaries and associated pending legislation resulted in the release of the profiles in November, 2002.

### **Community Accounts**

The Statistics Division is continuing to work with the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre 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 second prototype, using the Newfoundland version of the Accounts, has been developed. Funding for Phase I of the Nova Scotia Community Accounts was approved in March 2003.

### **Evidence-based project support**

The Statistics Division is working with the Department of Health to develop a model for program delivery using an approach that involves societal indicators of health. The project has presented many challenges and opportunities. Getting socio-economic data by school catchment area with the appropriate software tools and data has developed expertise and resources in staff when using (GIS). The complete and accurate placement of schools, as well as the approximate catchment areas for each school, should be obtained and completed by the end of May.

### **Internet site**

The Statistics Division public website was revamped with a new look and feel in 2002/03. Features of the new Statistics home page include:



- easy access to core statistics, with a Nova Scotia focus;
- direct access to the most frequently downloaded publications;
- announcements of the most recent publications;
- statistical profile brochures for each county and electoral district; and
- daily statistics releases.

The web address is [www.gov.ns.ca/finance/statistics/agency/index.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/statistics/agency/index.asp).

The Division has made a policy of offering all of its publications, at no cost, in Acrobat portable document format (PDF) on its website. Continued accessibility growth of this site and related downloads has been very encouraging, with 2002 traffic more than doubling the traffic in 2001. In 2002, the Statistics Division has had 166,749 downloads of the 12 online statistics publications and are now approaching 20,000 downloads per month in 2003.

### **Intranet site**

The Division's intranet site is the primary vehicle for data dissemination to the government. The site has been rebuilt to provide a variety of statistical data and related resources. In order to control access to licensed materials, a subscription is needed to enter the information base. The new production version of the intranet site went live in October 2002. In order to improve the timeliness and flexibility of data dissemination, the Division has created an online interactive environment. Active server pages, supported by Access databases and Excel pivot tables, provide users with much more data, which can then be used to produce dynamic customized presentations. A prototype knowledgebase application is currently being developed. It includes functions to capture, manage and disseminate information from diverse sources.

### **Population and the census**

The Statistics Division has launched seven census releases that examine the census data from a Nova Scotia perspective. These releases were posted on the Division's website. Internal government requests for new census data have been strong and staff are quick to provide this much anticipated information.

The Division is looking carefully at the reverse record check material supplied by Statistics Canada. The Division believes that Nova Scotia's population was understated in the latest census and further study and analysis will occur with the release of the net undercoverage results.

### **Economy**

The Statistics Division provides assistance and expertise in interpretation of ongoing changes to the Provincial Economic Accounts (PEA) in the Economic Policy and Analysis Division. This information is used in economic forecasting, budgeting processes, and support of strategic policy decisions.

The comparison of the PEA data with the Financial Management System data allow us to explain revisions incorporated in the Accounts to our clients.

The Division also prepares the Economic section of the Provinces Prospectus for Credit Rating Agencies.

Following the release of the Nova Scotia Business Statistics 2002, in February 2003, the Division is identifying gaps in the business statistics information products and will be developing more comprehensive business statistics.

## **Labour**

The Nova Scotia Statistics Agency is a member of the Nova Scotia Federal LMI Committee. The Committee is headed by the Nova Scotia Department of Education which is the lead agency for labour market strategy in Nova Scotia in conjunction with Human Resources Development Canada. The Committee's activities this past year included:

- The presentation of the LMI Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Background Document and Consultation Plan in the fall of 2002.
- An LMI policy paper drafted by the Committee as a result of an Innovation and Skills Nova Scotia Workshop in September 2002 (represented by both federal and provincial department heads). The paper will soon be adopted as the Canada and Nova Scotia Skills and Learning Framework and it will incorporate five strategic directions for LMI.
- An assessment of planned LMI activity in Nova Scotia during this fiscal year, 2003/04, in order to help focus efforts in moving forward with LMI strategic directions and initiatives.

## NUNAVUT

2002-03 was the fourth year of operation of *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit*, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Highlights of the year included dissemination of Census data and data from the 2001 Nunavut Household Survey, and ongoing collaboration with government departments (both territorial and federal), the representative Inuit organizations and the institutions of public government arising out of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (most notably the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board).

*Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit* is part of the Evaluation and Statistics division of the Government of Nunavut (GN)'s Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The org chart 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, and we are working on adding a Labour Market Analyst position. Agreement has been reached between the Government of Nunavut, Human Resources Development Canada and the Inuit representative organization Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated that Nunavut needs a Labour Market Analyst, that Nunavut needs just one Labour Market Analyst serving all three parties to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and that this Labour Market Analyst should be located within our office.

While Census data on the area which now comprises Nunavut has been available for many years, this past year was the first year in which Census data was released having been aggregated to reflect Nunavut as a jurisdiction at the provincial/territorial level. This resulted in many Canadians picking up their daily newspaper and learning, often from the summary graphs presenting data for the provinces and territories, that Nunavut has many differences from the rest of Canada. Many journalists contacted our office to ask how it could be that Nunavut has a median age 15 years below that of Canada as a whole – and what this means for the future of the territory.

In the upcoming year we are looking forward to releasing our first Statistical Profile of Nunavut this summer and to conducting our second Nunavut Household Survey this fall.

# ONTARIO

## Overview

The Ontario Focal Point function falls under the responsibility of the Current Analysis Unit, Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch of the Office of Economic Policy in the Ontario Ministry of Finance. The Unit is currently staffed by seven economists.

The major functions of the Unit include:

- analysis of and reporting on the current state of the Ontario economy;
- production of the *Ontario Economic Accounts* which, on a quarterly basis, summarizes Ontario's gross domestic product (GDP) on an income, expenditure and output basis; and
- identification and analysis of emerging economic trends and issues.

The Unit provides economic and statistical information to senior management of the Ministry of Finance—including the Minister—and other ministries and agencies of the government. In the fall of 2002, the manager of the Current Analysis Unit, Mr. Emmet Weatherhead who had responsibility for the Ontario Focal Point function for the past decade, retired from the Ministry of Finance and was replaced by Mr. David West.

The Current Analysis Unit also works co-operatively with the other units of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch in preparing macroeconomic and fiscal revenue forecasts.

## Major reports

The Unit produces a number of regular bulletins and reports which are released throughout the government. The quarterly *Ontario Economic Accounts* is also distributed outside the government to libraries and various economic research institutions.

## Government-wide circulation

*Consumer Prices:* A monthly report on consumer price movements in Ontario, Canada and the United States.

*Canadian Economic Conditions:* A quarterly report that summarizes the national income and expenditure accounts.

## Ministry-wide circulation

*Ontario Labour Markets:* A monthly report on Ontario labour market conditions.



*Ontario International Trade Update:* A monthly report on international trade in Ontario and Canada.

*Ontario Auto Production:* A monthly report that tracks production, sales and other activity in the automobile sector.

*Housing Markets:* A monthly report on Ontario housing conditions.

*Retail and Wholesale Sales:* A monthly report tracking retail and wholesale sales activity.

*Manufacturing Shipments:* A monthly report examining manufacturing shipment activity.

Various fact sheets present related economic data including bankruptcies, employment insurance, wage settlements, financial statistics, building permits and United States GDP on a monthly basis.

### **Public circulation**

*Ontario Economic Accounts:* A quarterly publication on Ontario income, expenditure and industry-based estimates of GDP, which is distributed to a number of institutions outside the Ontario government including banks, libraries, universities, research institutes and other governments.

### **Electronic services**

*Economic Monitoring Overview:* A daily electronic update and synopsis of major economic releases to senior government staff.

*Ontario Key Economic Indicators:* A weekly electronic bulletin on major economic news released during the previous week (plus monthly and quarterly tables) provided to senior government staff.

*Internet Releases:* A number of the Unit's products are available on the Ministry of Finance's website including:

- Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: a mid-year look at the state of the province's finances and economy, which includes a detailed data appendix prepared by the Current Analysis Unit summarizing a wide variety of economic statistics;
- Ontario Economic Accounts; and
- Economic Update and Fact Sheet: a summary of recent economic developments.

### **Database development**

Over the past year, the Unit has introduced the Economic and Financial Data System (EFDS) into the Ministry to provide central storage and access to all of the economic data used by the Ministry. The database was developed using the Financial Administration Management Environment (FAME) database management system. The EFDS database currently includes about 4,500 concepts and is updated daily from a number of sources, including the Conference Board of Canada and CANSIM II. All of the series in the database have standardized mnemonics and full, searchable descriptions. The Unit has been busy integrating the FAME software and the EFDS database into all of the Unit's activities.

Since February 1, 2003, when the Ontario Focal Point officially joined the Statistics Canada Provincial Focal Point consortium, the Unit has been accessing all of its Statistics Canada data directly from CANSIM II.

### **Library services**

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

### **Co-ordination services**

The Unit is involved in the co-ordination of government data needs from Statistics Canada and other data sources. It also assists and advises ministries with locating and accessing economic and statistical data and is responsible for the dissemination of the Census of Population information to Ontario ministries.

The Unit has also been active in facilitating the consultation process for the 2006 Census between Statistics Canada and Ontario government ministries.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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

As the statistical Focal Point for Prince Edward Island, the Director, along with his division, maintains a close working relationship with Statistics Canada on statistical matters. Statistics Canada continues to serve as a valuable source of information within the provincial government, and the Division relies heavily on this agency for the majority of its data. Statistical information supplied by Statistics Canada, together with data supplied by provincial government departments, are used in the maintenance of its statistical database.

The Division disseminates 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 to an internal government website (intranet).

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. The model is interactive in the sense that users can specify a number of forecast scenarios and obtain detailed results for the future.

Extended capabilities of its demographic model include population projections for Prince County, Queens County and Kings County, as well as projections at the level of the five health regions.

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

Numerous requests for population data and projections by census subdivisions, by county, and by health regions have been prepared. The *Annual Statistical Review*, published in May of each year, has been revised to include this information.

This year, the Division was given access to confidential W-level input-output data for the purpose of verification. Based on this information, a provincial Input-Output Model was developed to track direct, indirect and induced impacts on the Island economy.

Other activities in 2002 included the publication of the *Prince Edward Island Economy Progress Report* series, supplemented by monthly statistics on key variables, and maintenance of the province's economic forecasting model.

## QUEBEC

### New publications and studies

As is the case each year, over 30 publications were released in the 2002/03 fiscal year. A number of new titles were added to the Institut de la statistique du Québec's (ISQ) catalogue during the year:

- Étude longitudinale du développement des enfants du Québec (ELDEQ, 1998–2002), vol. 2 : De la naissance à 29 mois (9 issues)
- L'innovation dans les entreprises du secteur de la fabrication selon la taille et la productivité de l'emploi
- Les ressources humaines en science et technologie. Adaptation de la méthode élaborée par l'OCDE aux données canadiennes
- L'utilisation des technologies de l'information et des communications au travail en 2000
- Investissements privés sous contrôle étranger dans la RMR de Montréal
- Investissements sous contrôle étranger au Québec et au Canada

In July 2002, the ISQ also produced the 2002 edition of *Le Québec statistique*, a prestigious publication now issued every five years. This 61st edition is an innovative one since it includes a CD-ROM providing highlight pages on each of the publication's topics, dynamic tables that can perform calculations, illustrative photographs for each chapter, a search engine and a lexicon that instantly displays the required definition.

Over the last 12 months, the ISQ prepared a number of survey reports and studies at the request of specific clients. The following are some examples:

#### Demography

- Various monographs presenting gender-specific analyses (produced in conjunction with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux)

#### Health

- L'alcool, les drogues, le jeu. Les jeunes sont-ils preneurs?
- Enquête sociale et de santé auprès des enfants et des adolescents québécois, 1999
- Enquête sociale et de santé auprès des enfants et des adolescents québécois, 1999. Faits saillants
- Portrait des familles avec enfant de 2 ½ ans utilisatrices de services de garde
- Santé et bien-être, immigrants récents au Québec : une adaptation réciproque? Étude auprès des communautés culturelles, 1998-1999
- Rapport comparatif sur la santé de la population québécoise et sur la performance du système de santé québécois. Indicateurs et tendances
- Variation des écarts de l'état de santé en fonction du revenu au Québec, de 1987 à 1998



### **Labour and earnings**

- Enquête sur la rémunération globale. Municipalités locales de 10 000 et plus de population, 2001 (with CD-ROM data bank)

### **Knowledge economy**

- L'adoption du commerce électronique par les entreprises québécoises en 2001
- Les dépenses du gouvernement du Québec en recherche, science, technologie et innovation (RSTI), édition 2002
- Tableau de bord sur les secteurs stratégiques des régions de la Capitale-Nationale et de la Chaudière-Appalaches

In addition, the ISQ published a number of feature articles in its various newsletters and periodicals based on research or analyses. For example, its quarterly newsletter *Flash-info travail et rémunération* carried an article on self-employment in Quebec, its evolution over time and its main characteristics. Another article, entitled "L'emploi syndiqué et non syndiqué au Québec. Son évolution depuis 1997 et ses caractéristiques en 2001," highlighted the contributions of unionized and non-unionized employment by comparing them to the total employment growth in Quebec. An analysis of hours worked based on Labour Force Survey data was presented in a third article. Other articles have covered aggregate earnings in municipal governments; the frequency of selected benefits and working conditions among municipal government employees; wage and employment growth in the 15 to 24 age group between 1997 and 2001; changes in employment and earnings by industry over the last two years; and inflation and the cost of living.

In its newsletter *Données sociodémographiques en bref*, issued three times a year, the ISQ also published articles on subjects such as the age of children and custody arrangements at the time of divorce; household expenditures in 2000; income security (changes in the total amount of income security and its share of gross domestic product, and the population groups affected); volunteer work and community assistance in Quebec in 2000; workers aged 55 and over; the main demographic trends in the United States compared with the situation in Quebec; the fertility of women in Quebec; the first couples married in civil ceremonies in Quebec in 2002; and housing in Quebec and Ontario.

A number of feature articles on the knowledge economy were published in the *S@voir.stat* newsletter. The topics included industrial research and development (R&D) spending in Quebec, Ontario and Canada; the distribution of the R&D spending of Quebec businesses by administrative region; international merchandise trade by technological level for 20 of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries; and the level of education of human resources in Quebec.

The ISQ published various articles in its quarterly newsletter *Commerce international des marchandises au Québec*. One of those articles dealt with the North American Industry Classification System and international trade, and another contained a historical study of Quebec's pro-

gram of adjusting Statistics Canada's international trade data to better reflect the reality of the province's imports and exports.

Several feature articles appeared in *Écostat*. One of them was an assessment of the effects of two natural disasters (the July 1996 flood on the Saguenay River and the January 1998 ice storm) and the events of September 11, 2001 on Quebec's economy. Another described the purpose, operation and contents of the 'Banque de données des statistiques officielles sur le Québec' (BDSO). A third presented a profile of population and housing in Quebec's regions based on 2001 Census data.

In the 2002 edition of its annual demographic report, the ISQ published a study entitled "La migration interrégionale au Québec au cours des périodes 1991-1996 et 1996-2001."

The Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de la Métropole commissioned the ISQ to prepare a demographic portrait of the Communauté métropolitaine de Québec and its prospects for the next 20 years. The 100-page study, entitled "Portrait démographique de la Communauté métropolitaine de Québec (CMQ)," was published in January 2003 in *Le choc démographique. La population de la Communauté métropolitaine de Québec à l'aube du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle*, a joint publication of the two sponsors.

The ISQ also authored two articles for the journal *Santé, société et solidarité*, published by the Observatoire franco-québécois de la santé et de la solidarité: the spring 2002 edition on the French and Quebec surveys of the homeless and the one in the fall 2002 issue on aging in France and Quebec, based on the 'Enquête québécoise sur les limitations d'activités.'

### **Electronic dissemination**

The ISQ redesigned its website to reflect the structure of the BDSO and comply with the government's new visual identification standards. The ISQ's website has averaged over 53,000 hits since the spring of 2002, peaking at more than 65,000 hits in October 2002.

*Éco-Santé Québec 2002*, a CD-ROM commissioned by the Observatoire franco-québécois de la santé et de la solidarité, was issued in the fall of 2002. With the combined efforts of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the Institut national de santé publique du Québec, the Institut de la statistique du Québec and the Centre de recherche, d'étude et de documentation en économie de la santé (CREDES), this product contains many health and social services indicators for Quebec's 18 health regions and the province as a whole. Much of the CD-ROM's contents are derived from the report entitled *Le portrait de santé. Le Québec et ses régions*, published by the Institut national de santé publique du Québec. Some indicators were updated, while others were added by project partners.

In addition to presenting the results of the 'Enquête sur la rémunération globale dans les municipalités de 10 000 habitants et plus en 2001' to various representatives of the municipal sector, the ISQ posted the survey's detailed data bank on its website.

The development phase of the BDSO's data loading and dissemination modules was completed in the fall of 2002. The project was extended to 13 more ministries and agencies, which brings the current number of government partners to 26. The organization and documentation of the data will be completed in the near future.

### **Principal surveys and related activities**

In addition to the surveys included in its regular programs or covered by the reports mentioned above, the ISQ conducted and/or analysed data for the following surveys:

#### **Individual and household surveys**

- Enquête sur le tabagisme
- Enquête de nutrition auprès des enfants québécois de quatre ans
- Enquête sur la vaccination antigrippe (influenza)
- Enquête sur la fréquentation des spectacles
- Enquête sur les transactions d'œuvre d'art
- Enquête sur les festivals et événements culturels
- Enquête sur la fréquentation des institutions muséales
- Enquête auprès de la clientèle du Centre d'information et de documentation de l'ISQ

#### **Business surveys**

- Enquête sur les projets d'investissement et sources de financement des entreprises québécoises
- Enquête sur le recrutement et l'emploi au Québec
- Enquête auprès des employés québécois des organisations assujetties à la Loi favorisant le développement de la formation de la main-d'œuvre (Bill 90)
- Enquête auprès des écrivains et des écrivaines du Québec
- Enquête sur les entreprises du plastique
- Enquête sur le profil de l'industrie du multimédia et des nouveaux médias
- Enquête sur l'industrie de l'électronique et des technologies de l'information et des communications
- Enquête sur le financement de la production numérique interactive à contenu culturel

#### **Municipality surveys**

- Complément de l'Enquête sur la rémunération globale dans les municipalités de 10 000 habitants et plus en 2001

### **Improvement and development activities**

Since the three-year agreement concluded in the summer of 2002 when the Ministère des Finances became the Ministère des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche, the ISQ now has a mandate to produce regional statistics and analyses. Specifically, the ISQ has made a commitment to integrate and update the principal economic, social and demographic data for Quebec's regions; design new indicators; and produce comparative studies of Quebec's regions.



The ISQ began delivering data to the ministry in December 2002.

Another three-year co-operation agreement was signed with Montréal international, the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de la Métropole and the Montréal Metropolitan Community for the production of indicators on Montréal.

As part of the implementation of the Kyoto Accord, the ISQ has agreed to conduct a study of the environmental efficiency of manufacturing firms in conjunction with the Ministère de l'Environnement l'Agence de l'efficacité énergétique and the Ministère des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche.

In the fall of 2002, the ISQ redefined the geographic divisions based on the districts of the new cities created in 2002 and corrected a few problems with the completeness of statistics derived from the beneficiaries file of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec. The ISQ agreed to make improvements in the method of estimating the population of regional county municipalities and census subdivisions by age and sex.

To be able to compare the earnings of Quebec's paid workers and to keep up with the current trends in the labour market, the ISQ undertook some major development projects. Those development projects included the selection of benchmark jobs representing the Quebec government from the new public service job classification system; the adjustment of methodologies to reflect the re-organization of municipalities; and the analysis of the effects of adjustments paid out by businesses under the Pay Equity Act.

In the 2002/03 fiscal year, to obtain information about survey methodologies, survey universes, job type variables, components of earnings, survey collection method and so on, the ISQ began an inventory of the various public and private earnings surveys.

In co-operation with the Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration in particular, the ISQ decided to develop an instrument to measure the quality of services provided to individuals and businesses in the province.

### **Statistical co-ordination**

Over the last year, the ISQ has been meeting with public health authorities (a public health directors group and a group of health-monitoring officers in public health directorates) to discuss the use of Canadian Community Health Survey data. The ISQ also held a few interministerial consultations concerning the 2006 Census of Population and Agriculture. As well, the ISQ attended a special workshop on Statistics Canada's activities relating to 2001 Census coverage studies and a co-ordination meeting with the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation to review progress under the three-year agreement to develop regional bio-food statistics using tax data. In addition, the ISQ and Statistics Canada established a working group to harmonize the dissemination of results from Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey. This group has already begun its work.



During the summer and fall of 2002, at the request of the deputy ministers' co-ordination committee, the ISQ took part in the working groups preparing for the fall 2002 Rendez-vous des régions. Since then, the ISQ has been participating in the Comité de suivi de l'application des ententes ACCORD (pursuant to the Rendez-vous des régions), as well as the steering committee and the policy committee of the Observatoire – Réseau du système d'innovation québécois (ORSIQ). The ORSIQ committee, chaired by the Ministère des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche, was put together to guide and enhance research and innovation intelligence activities, and strengthen co-ordination between the ministries and agencies involved.

The ISQ also met with the members of the Table de concertation des conseils régionaux de la culture du Québec to discuss culture and communications statistics. In addition, the ISQ carried out a number of studies and held many discussions with its partners, including Statistics Canada, regarding the subject of reducing the size of the Labour Force Survey sample and increasing the sample for Quebec. As well, the ISQ consulted with the ministries and agencies concerned with labour statistics to inform them of the changes in this area and to obtain a clearer picture of their needs.

Again during the past year, the ISQ was asked on a number of occasions to provide methodological advice or advisory services on various issues to a number of different ministries or agencies. The following are some examples:

- advice provided to the Ministère du Travail concerning methodology for private-sector subcontracting surveys, an opinion that the Ministry tabled in the National Assembly;
  - support provided to the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux in its project to classify health and social service institutions and its project to publish the 14 indicators of overall health system performance;
  - consulting services provided to the Commission de l'équité salariale concerning the methodology that should be used when there is no male benchmark in the firm; and
  - advice provided to the Ministère des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche on increasing the sample size of the Quebec portion of Statistics Canada's Survey of Household Spending.
- Several ministries have also used the ISQ's services for client satisfaction surveys.

## **External relations**

The most notable event was the June 2002 establishment of the Observatoire franco-québécois sur la santé et la solidarité in Paris. The partners in this project were, for Quebec, the ISQ and the Institut national de santé publique and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, while the partners for France included the Institut national de statistiques et d'études économiques, the Ministère de la Solidarité sociale and CREDES.

In the spring of 2002, at the 12th Symposium of the Canadian Association for Adolescent Health, the ISQ led a workshop on the family, mental health and the psychosocial problems of

young people. ISQ representatives also presented two papers based on data from the 'Enquête longitudinale sur le développement des enfants du Québec'—one on lone parenting and the other on low-income episodes in the lives of children in Quebec—at the conference of the Association internationale des démographes de langue française in Senegal. Eight papers based on data from the same survey were also presented at the 17th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development in Ottawa.

In October 2002, the ISQ attended the Colloque francophone sur les sondages in Grenoble and gave a scientific presentation on the weighting of a longitudinal survey. In June, the ISQ made two presentations at the third France–Quebec seminar in Toulouse on health and aging. One of these presentations was entitled, "La situation domestique et familiale," and the other was called the "La vie des générations et personnes âgées de demain. Aspects socioéconomiques." In May 2002, the ISQ took part in a workshop on violence against women at the 6th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control (Trauma 2002).

At the conference of the Association de science régionale de langue française, the ISQ presented, in co-operation with the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de la Métropole, a paper on youth migration, and another paper on Quebec's intersectoral model and the regionalization of impact studies, in conjunction with Investissement Québec and the Université du Québec à Rimouski.

Along with UNESCO, the ISQ organized the International Symposium on Culture Statistics in October 2002 in Montréal. In spite of the challenges posed by cultural diversity, more than 80 specialists from 5 continents gave presentations and exchanged ideas on the theme of statistics in a globalized context. The ISQ also presented its work on cultural activity indicators at the annual meeting of the Canadian Cultural Research Network in Toronto, the conference of the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation and at the conference of the Société des musées québécois.

In conjunction with researchers from the Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en analyse des organisations and the Ministère des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche, the ISQ gave a presentation at the 14th International Conference on Input–Output Techniques entitled, "Constructing a bi-regional social accounting matrix for Quebec and the rest of Canada."

### **Technical accomplishments**

During the past year, significant technological breakthroughs were created in order to make the ISQ's survey data available to researchers via secure remote connection. A pilot project was established, and discussions were held with an Ontario university.

In order to comply with the agreement, a secure technology infrastructure was put in place, making it possible to acquire, access, exploit and store information from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

In response to the need to share documents and exchange information with external partners, the ISQ has developed a new technological solution that combines both a record management

function and a discussion forum. Two extranets were launched in August 2002: one for the partners in the Observatoire de la culture et des communications du Québec, and the other for the Programme intégré d'études longitudinales du Québec.

### **General notes**

Pursuant to the new Public Administration Act, which states that the quality of services to the public is a government priority, the ISQ issued its first Déclaration de services aux citoyens in January 2003.

The ISQ recently produced a progress report on its corporate development plan. More than 50 activities were carried out or initiated under this plan, including a series of events on the theme of the ISQ's vision and corporate persona. The ISQ also analysed and released the results of the previous year's Organizational Environment Survey, and recommendations are currently being studied.

The ISQ expanded the mandate for the Health Directorate's ethics committee, making it also the Institut's ethics committee. In other words, the committee's role now includes examining all ISQ surveys, not just the Institut's health surveys.

Following its assessment of the protection of personal and confidential information, the ISQ has adopted an action plan that incorporates recommendations made by a private firm. The Institut created an independent network to access and process federal tax data files, and began drafting procedures for ISQ employees accessing the data. The Institut developed and implemented a protocol for obtaining prior consent from survey respondents for data sharing. It is preparing confidentiality guidelines for tables based on survey data or administrative files. The ISQ also adopted a policy concerning implementation of articles 27 and 28 of the Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec on releasing lists of businesses, and a policy on protecting the personal information of employees. In recent months, a great deal of work has gone into providing greater protection for information derived from the Registre des événements démographiques, work made necessary by the amendment to article 148 of Quebec's

Civil Code. Many discussions were held with various organizations, including the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Statistics Canada, Ontario and the registrar of civil status.

Many approaches were undertaken by the Quebec ministries and agencies in an effort to put together a proposal for a Programme intégré d'études longitudinales du Québec on health and society. Discussions with the private sector regarding financial participation in the program also took place.

The ISQ was involved in various exchanges with Statistics Canada with the aim of concluding a framework agreement for co-operation in the area of individual and household statistics. Representatives of the two statistical agencies came to a verbal arrangement on the provision of data from the Registre des événements démographiques to Statistics Canada; a draft agree-

ment is currently in preparation. A Memorandum of Understanding concerning the methods of forwarding tax information from Revenue Canada was also signed.

In December 2002, the Quebec National Assembly passed the Act to combat poverty and social exclusion, which makes the ISQ responsible for managing an Observatoire de la pauvreté et de l'exclusion sociale.



## SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics operates under the *1972 Saskatchewan Statistics Act* and is part of the Department of Finance. The Bureau is the designated Focal Point for communications with Statistics Canada and dissemination of its information. The current staff consists of a director, two research officers, a statistical clerk and a secretary.

Much of the Bureau's dissemination activity has moved directly to the Internet. During the past year, the following publications were produced and made available via the website:

- The Saskatchewan Economic Review
- The Monthly Statistical Review
- Saskatchewan Economic Statistics
- The Saskatchewan Fact Sheet
- Monthly Analysis of the Saskatchewan Labour Force
- Monthly Analysis of the Saskatchewan Consumer Price Index

In addition, the website provides up-to-date information on Saskatchewan population trends along with selected data on Saskatchewan from the 2001 Census.

During the past year, the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics, along with the Saskatchewan Electoral Office, assisted the Boundaries Commission in redrawing the Provincial Constituency boundaries. The new boundaries are based on the population data from the 2001 Census. Each of the 56 southern constituencies must be within  $\pm 5\%$  of the average for those constituencies. Given these parameters, the new geography that was attached to the 2001 Census made the drawing of the boundaries much easier to perform. These new boundaries have been accepted by the Legislature and will be used in the next election.

The production of the Saskatchewan Economic Accounts remains the Bureau's core activity. Over the past year, staff members have continued to work on reconciling the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics' accounts data with those produced by Statistics Canada. This is especially true for data measuring Saskatchewan exports. It is proving to be a painfully slow process.

Finally, the Bureau would like to thank the many people and divisions within Statistics Canada who have provided helpful assistance over the past year. It is most appreciated.

## YUKON

### Background

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

The Bureau's budget has remained unchanged for the past several years, but has generated some revenue through cost-recoverable projects for clients within and outside of the Yukon Government.

As an official Statistics Canada depository, the Bureau receives all Statistics Canada public releases. The Bureau's Resource Centre houses its own statistical products, as well as the Statistics Canada information in both print and electronic formats. The Resource Centre is open to the public during normal business hours and can be reached by facsimile, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.

The Bureau responds to approximately 1,200 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 the Yukon Bureau of Statistics website which received approximately 2,000 hits over the past year.

### Staffing

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

The core staff consists of 9 permanent positions, supplemented by over 20 casual and auxiliary personnel hired for specific projects. The Director of the Bureau, Dr. Gerry Ewert, returned to the Bureau in October 2002 after an extended leave of just over two years.

The Bureau's senior methodologist, Dr. Jim Tousignant, also returned in October from his secondment to the Yukon Government's Office of Strategic Management where he has worked since the spring of 2001. His temporary replacement, Mr. Kurt Schreiner, has returned to the Alberta Government.

In a very recent development, Mr. Geoff Abbott, the Bureau's Operations Manager, has taken a leave of absence from the Bureau to assume the duties of a criminal intelligence analyst with the local detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Ms. Sally Stitt is currently acting as Operations Manager.

## **Statistics Canada Regional Office in Vancouver**

The Bureau continues to have regular contact with the Regional Office in Vancouver and in particular, Mr. Dennis Wong and Mr. Neil Mackay, who are always very helpful in our requests for assistance.

Listed below are some of the more significant Bureau projects which took place in the 2002/03 fiscal year:

### **1. Yukon Business Survey 2002**

This project was a major survey jointly funded by the Bureau's department (the Executive Council Office) and the Department of Business, Tourism and Culture. Approximately 3,500 Yukon businesses participated in this project. Field operations commenced mid-February 2003. Considerable time was invested with the local business community in order to refine the survey and enable more information to be derived about the various sectors of the Yukon's economy and the economic impact of Alaskan visitors. For the first time, contact was made with each business before the survey began in order to explain the nature of the changes to the survey and to encourage participation.

### **2. Aboriginal Languages Fluency Survey**

The Bureau is working with the Yukon Government's Aboriginal Languages Unit to develop estimates of fluency levels of the various First Nation languages among the Yukon's First Nation population. This work is a participatory community-based project involving First Nation members in the administration of the survey. Bureau's responsibilities include development of the survey forms and training of the field staff.

### **3. Anti-smoking campaign**

The Bureau worked with the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services' Community Services Branch to develop and administer a survey to a representative, randomly selected group of people regarding the federally funded anti-smoking campaign currently underway. An additional aspect of this project will involve a longitudinal survey of Yukon smokers to determine what effect the anti-smoking campaign has had on their attempts to quit smoking. Some general questions about government advertising will also be included in the survey. This project will continue for approximately two years.

### **4. Research for Health Canada's Office of Sustainable Development**

The Bureau entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Health Canada to provide statistical information needed for a series of 16 health indicators dealing with children and youth in Yukon.

### **5. Yukon Health Status Report**

Assistance to the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services was provided to support their preparation of the 2002 Health Status Report. Analysis of data from the Canadian Community Health Survey and the National Population Health Survey provided much of the requested information.

**6. Performance Indicators Review Committee Report**

The Bureau was also extensively involved with the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services in the preparation of the first ever Performance Indicators Review Committee (PIRC) Report for the Yukon. This project involved research into 14 health indicators as established by the national PIRC. The report was released publicly on October 1, 2002.

**7. Permit hunt authorization audit**

Working with the Yukon Department of the Environment and the local Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Bureau undertook a statistical audit of the permit hunt draw system, whereby hunters are picked to take part in the annual hunts of moose, caribou, sheep, goat and bison. The audit was completed and presented to the Department and Management Board in early fall of 2002.

**8. Survey of Yukon Horse Owners and Horse Boarding Operators**

Under contract to the Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Bureau administered the Survey of Horse Owners and Horse Boarding Operators which gathered data about *equine infectious anemia* (E.I.A.), also known as *swamp fever*. The survey also included questions on the subject of hay/feed production in the Yukon.

**9. Survey of Off-Grid Dwellings**

The Bureau conducted a survey of dwellings not connected to the Yukon's electrical grid. This survey was done on behalf of the Canada-Yukon Energy Solutions Centre and provided detailed information regarding energy use demands and alternative practices for those dwellings that are *off the grid*.

**10. Yukon Statistics Act**

Redrafting of the *Yukon Statistics Act* was undertaken in order to include a provision for designating surveys as mandatory or optional. Discussions on the scheduling of this prospective legislative item will follow.

**11. Mapping project**

An interdepartmental proposal to use the latest Geographic Information System and Global Positioning System equipment and software to map out the location of every dwelling in a pilot enumeration area was successfully concluded by the fall of 2002. Results were presented to the senior management of the Yukon Government.

**12. Yukon Department of Health: Social Assistance Branch**

**Client Survey 2002**

The second annual Client Survey, regarding the service clients receive at the Social Assistance Office, was conducted in the fall of 2002 with results presented to Branch staff early in February 2003. The results contained comparisons to the 2001 survey data.



**Staff Survey**

The Bureau conducted personal interviews of all Branch staff. Information was obtained regarding the interaction between the units within the Social Services Branch and what elements employees thought were working well or needed improvement in terms of providing better service to the public. Results were presented to Branch staff early in February 2003.

**12. Inmate profiles of Whitehorse Correctional Centre**

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics, on behalf of the Department of Justice's Community and Correctional Services Branch, administered a series of pre-determined surveys on a sample of 200 inmates (both current and past) of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The purpose of this project was to develop a profile of the Correctional Centre's inmates in order to assist the Centre in offering appropriate support to the inmates, which in turn could lead to a reduction in the rate of recidivism at the Centre. Survey results were provided to a consultant for analysis and report writing.

**APPENDIX IV**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** October 7 and 8, 2002  
**Next meeting:** October 6 and 7, 2003  
**Members:** Representatives of the Provincial-Territorial Departments of Agriculture or Provincial and Territorial 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-Territorial Reports summarized the program activities, organizational changes and new initiatives adopted since the last meeting. Many provincial and territorial members highlighted the importance of and their reliance on Statistics Canada data to maintain their respective provincial statistical programs. This year was especially important because of the release of the 2001 Census of Agriculture data.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) highlighted some of the significant changes and activities that are occurring in the Department. The Department has been re-organized under several horizontal enabling teams. One of the key horizontal teams deals with food safety and quality. There has also been a major policy focus in the past year on the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF). The APF covers five major elements: food safety and quality, environment, science and innovation, renewal and business risk management. The impact of the APF on agricultural statistics and data will be felt most in two areas: data integration and the development of new data sources.

Until now, economic data has been separate from the other areas in the APF. The APF is trying to integrate policy issues for the major elements noted above. For example, how does the environment affect business risk management?

To answer some of these questions, the Farm Financial Survey (FFS) has been expanded to include questions on education, attitudes and some limited information on environmental expenditures. As well, AAFC is working with Statistics Canada to optimize the use of current databases such as the FFS and the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) databases. These two data sources can provide a five-year longitudinal information base for data analysis.

Similarly, there is also a need to integrate information along the agri-food chain. Efforts will be devoted to the identification and need for other data sources or new information not currently available. The Farm Environmental Management Survey (FEMS) is one of the first steps in this direction. FEMS was carried out in 2002 to deal extensively with farm environmental management issues. AAFC has also supported the collection of information on functional foods and nutraceutical data. It is also interested in the non-food uses of agriculture production (e.g., ethanol and biomass).

The Agriculture Division has reviewed with the participants the major developments at the Agency level and in its programs. It covered internal analysis work and special projects, as well as work carried out on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Some of the key issues discussed by the committee included:

- Functional foods
- Crop prices
- Horticulture surveys
- Remote sensing projects
- Farm environmental data warehouse
- Agriculture and Agri-Food research issues and collaboration
- Farm Environmental Management Survey results
- Employment dynamics in rural and small town Canada
- Redesign of agriculture surveys



## **BUSINESS STATISTICS**

**Last meeting:**           **October 24 to 25, 2002**  
**Next meeting:**       **October 23 to 24, 2003**  
**Members:**           **Provincial and Territorial Focal Points**  
                              **(or their representatives)**

Mr. Tim Davis welcomed the members and indicated that he would be chairing the morning session in place of Mr. Ryan, who could not attend because of other commitments. Mr. Davis indicated that Mr. Ryan would be present for the October 25 session.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Davis noted the significant number of management changes in the Business and Trade Statistics Field. While there had been no changes at the Director General level since the October 2001 meeting, he noted that there had been a lot of changes at the Director and Assistant Director level since that time. He distributed a chart showing these changes to the Provincial and Territorial Focal Points. Mr. Davis observed that most of the Field's Directors, along with many Assistant Directors and Chiefs, were attending the meeting on Business Statistics. He noted that there had been several Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings related to business statistics in recent weeks including meetings on agriculture, energy and transportation.

Mr. Davis mentioned some of the initiatives currently being pursued within Statistics Canada, and within the Business and Trade Statistics Field in particular. He noted that streamlining is currently a hot topic at Statistics Canada, and that this activity actually originated within the Field last spring. As part of the streamlining initiative, the Field has established committees to review data output priorities for the System of National Accounts, to increase the use of tax data, and to ensure that the Unified Enterprise Survey is carried out in the most efficient manner possible. The purpose of this streamlining initiative is to re-allocate resources to support key indicator programs. At the Statistics Canada level, all areas are being examined for streamlining including areas such as human resources.

Mr. Davis also mentioned another initiative that is being pursued in the Field, namely the economic analysis initiative. He noted that Mr. Ryan has championed this initiative as a way to increase analytical outputs from the Field.

### **Access to tax data**

Ms. Janice McMechan, the Director of the Tax Data Division (TDD), gave a presentation on the process to be followed by the provinces and territories in order to obtain access to tax data. She described the administrative steps, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and the security environment which are required in order to obtain access to tax data. Mr. Laval

Tremblay (Quebec) described the process of obtaining tax data from a provincial perspective, outlining how Quebec has implemented this process. The provinces and territories do not currently have access to goods and services tax (GST) data because they are collected under the Excise Tax Act and not the Income Tax Act. Mr. Gaétan St-Louis described the requirements that the provinces and territories must meet to enable the so that the Business Register would be able to process updates from the provinces in volume.

### **The Convergence Project**

Mr. Paul Johanis provided an update on the status of the Convergence Project, an international initiative. This project is attempting to achieve greater comparability among national statistics, while at the same time, enhancing the analytical usefulness of the classification systems. The convergence project has greater implications for the NACE (NACE) than for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) because NAICS is more up-to-date. NACE has not been updated since the early 1990s, while NAICS was only introduced in 1997 and has since been updated. There is 100% convergence at the most aggregated level. However, there are costs to achieving this convergence in terms of the disruption to the classification system. For example, in the area of distributive trades, wholesale and retail trade are merged at the most aggregate level.

A number of bilateral discussions have been held with user groups and using a mail-out questionnaire, feedback is being gathered from clients. The next steps involve consultations with data producers and data users. A similar consultation process is being carried out in Europe. Implementation of this project is slated for 2007. Mr. Johanis indicated that additional information on the Convergence Project was available on the Statistics Canada website.

In the discussion, Mr. Steve Miller (British Columbia) expressed some concerns that the Convergence Project will hurt the continuity of data.

### **Progress report on the redesign of the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Survey**

Mr. Robert Lussier and Ms. Sonia Demers gave a presentation on the redesign of the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Survey (MWRTS). The redesign covers three surveys, namely, the Monthly Wholesale and Retail Trade Surveys and the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey. The strategic goals of the redesign are to move to the NAICS system, to increase use of administrative data and to implement new and more efficient technologies.

Specifications and systems development and individual system testing will be completed in 2002/03. Integrated testing, pre-contact using simulated data and a five-month parallel run, will be done in 2003/04. The parallel run will provide data to bridge the old and new series. Monthly release will be delayed by about four days during the parallel run. The release is planned for April 2004, the normal time for annual revisions.

Monthly retail trade will be backcasted to January 1991 (except for the three census

metropolitan areas), and monthly wholesale trade backcasted to January 1993; quarterly retail commodity estimates will not be backcasted. In Phase II of the redesign, GST data will be used instead of survey data for simple businesses. New trade groups will be sampled using NAICS and the sampling unit will be establishments (rather than locations). Some industrial classifications including grain and petroleum dealers, agents and brokers, electronic commerce and vending machine operators will continue to be excluded from the survey. In the current survey, non-employers are not surveyed. In the redesigned survey, non-employers will be surveyed and an annual revenue threshold will be used to determine exclusions from the survey. Target CVs will be the same for wholesale and retail trade and priority trade groups will be identified for each. Under the new redesign, the new sample will be smaller than the current sample, and will be drawn independently from the current sample.

### **Prices Division update**

The Prices Division presentation covered three topics:

1. the city price indexes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program;
2. CPI developments related to the upcoming basket update; and
3. the isolated posts program.

Mr. George Beelen gave an update on the city price indexes. He indicated that the Prices Division planned to update the spatial indexes (which compare living costs across 11 cities in Canada) from reference month October 1999 to reference month October 2001, with the release of the next month's data. The Prices Division hopes to implement an annual update of the spatial indexes.

The Prices Division believes that there is much greater potential use for city spatial indexes than for the city temporal indexes, which indicate price change over time. The Division intends to review the uses of city indexes (both temporal and spatial) to assess whether existing user demand for city temporal indexes would be adequately met by the province-level temporal indexes.

Ms. Joanne Moreau gave a presentation on the 2001 CPI basket update, which will be introduced with the release of the January 2003 data in February 2003. Consumer expenditure patterns for 1996 will be replaced by 2001 patterns. In general, there will be few changes to the commodity classification. However, women's, men's and children's clothing will be published at the aggregate level (i.e., the details for each will no longer be published). Selected indexes will be published for Iqualuit, but with less detail than is available for Whitehorse and Yellowknife. A number of improvements will be made to the sample coverage. These include the introduction of a financial services index, the introduction of an Internet service provision, replacement of commercial computers as a proxy by actual consumer computer prices for desktops and laptops, and the inclusion of printers and monitors in the coverage of computer equipment and supplies. The move from the Family Expenditure Survey (FAMEX) to the Survey of Household Spending will result in some loss of weight detail for the basic class



level and those levels below the basic classes. External sources will be used in some cases and the FAMEX breakdown will be kept in others. Also, reduced sample sizes for the Food Expenditure Survey mean that weights for detailed food commodities will be based on considerably smaller samples than was the case for the 1996 CPI basket.

Mr. Ab Dufresne gave an update on the Isolated Post Allowances. Statistics Canada is responsible for producing indexes for Treasury Board on a cost-recovery basis for the Living Cost Differential, and the Fuel and Utilities Differential.

### **Collecting data on e-commerce**

Mr. Davis gave a presentation on electronic commerce (e-commerce) measurement at Statistics Canada. While e-commerce has had a tremendous impact on the economy and society, in dollar value, it is not a large industry. It is also very difficult to measure e-commerce using traditional survey approaches. Nevertheless, Statistics Canada has developed a measurement framework and has an established program of data on e-commerce. An MOU has been signed with Industry Canada, which is Statistics Canada's major client for socio-economic indicators of 'Connectedness.' Statistics Canada has studied several other options for collecting data such as the inclusion of a question on industry-specific surveys. This is not being pursued at present because of problems with timeliness, response burden and conceptual issues. However, in his presentation, Mr. Tremblay indicated that Quebec would find it useful to have questions on e-commerce added to various Statistics Canada establishment-based surveys in order to have comparable information across all sectors.

In the discussion, it was noted that while Statistics Canada has the expertise to provide regional estimates of e-commerce, it does not have the funding.

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

It was agreed that the Program Committee would be continued, with Mr. Angelo Cocco (Northwest Territories) and Mr. Wilf Falk (Manitoba), as Provincial-Territorial representatives, and Mr. George Andrusiak, as the Focal Point, organizing next year's meeting. The Provincial-Territorial Program Committee representatives were also asked to canvass the other Focal Points to confirm whether there is an ongoing need for a separate meeting on energy.

A detailed list of action items, arising from the 2002 meeting, was produced and circulated to all members.



## **CENSUS OF POPULATION**

**Last meeting:** September 11, 2002  
**Next meeting:** June 18, 2003  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

Mr. Douglas Norris, Director General of Census and Demographic Statistics, introduced himself to the delegates and mentioned that he has taken over as Chairperson of this Committee since Mr. Benoit Laroche, the 2001 Census Manager, retired in spring 2002. Mr. Norris mentioned that he would like to hear from the delegates about issues that they think should be addressed, particularly in regard to the 2006 Census, as well as the 2001 Census. He brought the membership up-to-date on the 2001 Census.

### **2001 Census update**

#### **Geography**

The development of a national statistics geographic base for the 2001 Census has meant fundamental changes for a number of aspects in the geographical infrastructure. This, in turn, has translated into many changes both in what the Geography Division disseminates and how it is disseminated. These changes were reviewed in great detail. The products and services still to be released were also reviewed.

During the provincial-territorial roundtable discussion, a number of issues were raised concerning blocks and dissemination areas which were also reviewed in great detail. The historical linkage and longitudinal analysis were then addressed. The reasons why Geography moved from North American Datum (NAD) 27 to NAD 83 were highlighted and the issues raised by the provinces and territories were addressed.

Future plans were reviewed and it was noted that the 2006 Census round of consultations would be performed in an integrated way (geographic consultation with content consultation). The Geography Division offered to hold a workshop for the provinces and territories to address not only the technical issues, but also to examine things from a data point-of-view and what this means for the data. The provinces and territories agreed that a workshop would be beneficial to them. The Geography Division will be looking at how Census and Demography Statistics might facilitate this workshop and set it up.

### **2001 Census dissemination plans**

As the Focal Points would have seen from the two releases to date ("Population and dwellings" and "Age and sex"), Dissemination is using a topic-based approach for 2001 Census releases. The Internet is the primary delivery method and Dissemination is using

the new Census homepage doorway on the Internet as the gateway for each release. A demonstration was provided to ensure that Focal Points understand what is available through that doorway and to see where current, previous and upcoming census release information is located on the Internet model. Given that information is being released via the Internet for 2001, Dissemination is using plain language text in their Internet products (e.g., the Census Dictionary and Community Profiles section) and there are plans to go further with this initiative for the 2006 Census.

New for 2001 was the development of the Census Highlight Tables. With the popularity of the population and dwelling count model that was released online March 12th, it was decided that highlight tables for each of the topic releases should also be produced.

On July 9, 2002, the Dissemination Division released online all of the content of the product line that the division had to date, including information about upcoming table titles, variables, subsets, definitions, and specific release dates for most of the product line. Approximately 300 entries of a possible 450 to 500 were put up on the Internet and updates have been continuing. The Focal Points now have information on upcoming tables two or three releases ahead.

The Dissemination Division is working to formalize the 2001 Census Analysis Series to provide analysis through companion documents that will accompany The Daily articles for each of the topic releases. These documents will be permanently stored on the Census Internet site under the 2001 Census Analysis Series header.

Of particular interest to the Focal Points will be the creation of master CD-ROMs for products too large for Internet release (e.g., Forward Sortation Areas, Dissemination Areas). The Dissemination Division will be working with the Focal Point contacts in the Regional Offices to ensure that these can be created. Dissemination will ensure that the Focal Points have access to their free Basic Summary Tables, either via Internet Level II access or by way of a CD-ROM for the lower levels of geography.

The Dissemination Division is working towards improved partner product delivery, entitlements and communications. Co-ordinators are in place in the DL1 and Depository Services Program communities to help keep the Focal Points informed.

## **Post-censal surveys**

### **Aboriginal Peoples Survey**

Four questionnaires were used during the data collection of the Aboriginal Peoples Survey. They included the Core adult questionnaire, the Child questionnaire, the Métis questionnaire and the Inuit questionnaire. Phase I began in October 2001 and continued until January 2002. This phase involved 87,000 respondents. Phase II began in April 2002 and lasted until June 2002 with 10,000 respondents. Data are scheduled for release in September 2003.

The official release will be launched by Statistics Canada's release vehicle, The Daily. In addition to the material that will be available on the Statistics Canada (STC) website at the time of the release, there will also be a staged demonstration of products. These will include detailed tables on CD-ROM or possibly downloadable electronic publications; community profiles; public use microdata files; and analytical files for the Research Data Centres.

- **Ethnic Diversity Survey**

Collection for the main part of the Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS) took place last spring and summer (April to August 2002) and the data are currently being processed. The census release of ethnic origin was released in January 2003. The EDS data will be released in the summer of 2003. The preliminary response rate for this survey was about 75%, approximately 42,000 respondents.

Several problems were encountered with some of the strata, specifically those respondents who were foreign-born and who did not speak either French or English. The stratification will need to be examined in order to ensure that estimates can be completed for all of the selected groups.

In terms of planned output, there will be a release in The Daily, accompanied by an analytical article and supporting tables. As with other surveys, there will be a brief announcement made in The Daily with a link to the longer article and to a document on survey methodology and design. A public use microdata file and analytical file are also being developed. This is a joint project with Canadian Heritage and discussions as to which department will write the analyses have already begun.

- **Participation and Activity Limitation Survey**

Data collection for the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) took place last fall (September 2001 to January 2002) with a response rate of 82.5%. The sample size was over 35,000 in total (approximately 28,900 adults and 6,800 children).

Since the latest disability rates are not comparable to the 1986 and 1991 results and it would require a fair amount of analytical work in order to compare them, it was important to get some new estimates. As a result, a staggered release strategy has been developed. The first release took place in December 2002 and subsequent releases are planned for the spring, summer and fall of 2003. Work is underway with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) to determine the content of these releases. In terms of the planned output, official releases will be launched by STC's The Daily.

STC is working jointly with HRDC on the analytical articles to accompany the PALS data releases, and there will be supporting tables available on the STC website. Funding from HRDC is available until March 2003 and STC is in the process of negotiating additional funding for next year in order to complete the dissemination program.



## **2006 Census update**

As discussed in detail at last year's meeting, the 2006 Census will be very different from the 2001 Census in that STC is moving away from the traditional data collection approach. At the time of the meeting, the methodology changes were once again reviewed. A sizeable dress rehearsal with plans to include 300,000 dwellings will be conducted in 2004.

Funding leading up to the time of the dress rehearsal has been secured, but STC is trying to secure additional funding to invest in those areas affected by the methodology changes. Since the last meeting, a Project Team with representatives from all areas within STC has been assembled. Each of the Project Managers of this team has selected Task Managers who have set up task structures and ensured that they are in place. On September 2, 2002, a Request for Proposal—a document which would leverage the investment and expertise that exist in the private sector in a number of key areas of change—was released. The key areas of change that could be affected include intelligent character recognition technology; Internet application development; questionnaire printing; questionnaire package assembly; and computer-assisted telephone interviewing.

## **Content and output project updates**

A lot of work has been done regarding questionnaire format testing. A series of qualitative tests about the questionnaire format has been completed. Recommendations on how to improve the questionnaire format were presented in October 2002. The tax option tested positively with the focus groups. Content testing then went into the planning stage and internal consultations with subject matter expertise began. The first round of qualitative content-testing began in November 2002. Content testing will continue to be conducted in 2003 and STC's position will be to minimize major content changes. Two key content issues were highlighted—collective dwellings and Aboriginal enumeration. Working groups will present their recommendations in 2003, at which time, the recommendations will go through a formal review and approval process. Stakeholders will then be informed of any major decisions. The planned date for the Cabinet Submission is October 2004.

## **Census consultation**

The consultation objectives for the 2006 Census were reviewed and it was pointed out that for the 2006 Census it remains essential that data needs must be identified to preserve the relevance of the socio-economic statistical program. Major content changes are not anticipated and STC will raise users' awareness of complementary data sources. STC will integrate discussions on content, geographic infrastructure and dissemination issues.

The consultation will be conducted in two phases. For the first phase, federal, provincial and territorial departments; municipalities; academia and libraries; private sector and secondary distributors; and non-government associations were invited to provide written submissions.



STC compiled and analysed the written submissions. The second phase involved follow-up meetings with key stakeholders. These meetings were conducted in the fall of 2002, followed by finalizing meeting arrangements for the provinces and territories.

Preliminary findings were highlighted and it was noted that the Internet is a very appropriate dissemination tool and should continue to be expanded. Users welcome the use of the Internet as a mode of data collection and would appreciate more timely releases of the data.

### **Consultation on Aboriginal issues**

STC organized the fall consultation on Aboriginal issues by seeking out the Focal Points' views on possible topics for discussion during the consultation. STC also sought out the Focal Points' views in defining the role of the Aboriginal data co-ordinator, and in doing so, discovered what the Focal Points' expectations were; what were the best ways of keeping them informed; how often they would like to be informed; and finally, how STC should communicate with the Focal Points.

The federal government is establishing a First Nations Statistical Institute and the legislation has been drafted and sent to the Focal Points. At the end of July 2002, STC received approval from the Prime Minister to consult on the draft legislation. The federal government is responsible for the consultation with provinces and federal departments, and First Nations representatives will be responsible for the consultation with the First Nations members. The consultations were underway and until the end of September/beginning of October. The next step in the consultation process is the tabling of the legislation, followed by a review by the House Committee. At the time of the last meeting, no schedule had yet been set.

There is high interest within the federal government to be able to obtain data on Aboriginal people. Work is progressing on the development of an Aboriginal information strategy. It is too early to tell what form this strategy might take, however, three main areas are being examined—administrative data, surveys and statistical training. Further information was to be made available to the provinces and territories sometime this past winter.

## **DATA DISSEMINATION**

**Last meeting:** November 15, 2002  
**Next meeting:** December 5, 2003  
**Members** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

### **Overview of dissemination at Statistics Canada**

The subjects covered were the 2001 Census, CANSIM II, print and electronic publications, and Statistics Canada's Web site.

### **Reports of the provinces and territories**

It was agreed that the written version of the reports would be posted on the Statistics Canada Intranet site for access by all employees.

### **Release of demographic data**

Incidents that occurred at the time of the recent demographic data release were discussed with representatives of the divisions concerned to improve coordination of upcoming releases.

### **CANSIM II**

The subjects covered were a progress report on CANSIM II, slow access during peak hours, the possibility of receiving advance notice of the vector numbers of new series, the possibility of obtaining the date of the most recent update in time series, the new dynamic publications application, the consortium of provincial and territorial offices, and raising the usage limit for the consortium.

### **2001 Census**

The subjects covered were an overview of census dissemination program highlights and updates for standard products and the Web page, the printing of Census Dictionary updates, the type of agreement reached with the statistical focal points concerning basic summary tables, the model Aboriginal community profile to be published in January 2003, the accuracy of the terminology used to identify Aboriginal populations, Census data access levels based on IP addresses, access to hierarchical files, the availability of population and housing counts by block-face, the support provided to statistical focal points by Statistics Canada regional offices, update on the postal code conversion files, and the existence of a computer program to change the pre-2001 structure and geography.

## **2006 Census**

An overview of the 2006 Census consultations was presented.

### **Special status of the statistical focal points**

Copies of the Policy on the Use of Deemed Employees were distributed.

### **Pre-release of data**

A brief explanation of the Policy on Official Release and the Conditions Governing Work-in-progress Releases was provided.

### **Technical subjects**

The subjects covered were taxonomy, Statistics Canada's list of data themes, the publication cataloguing system, progress on XML and other communication protocol technologies, file formats and structures, the printing of bilingual publications, and the printing of oversize tables in the HTML version of The Daily.

### **External Communications Network**

A working group was formed to study the issue of how to improve the ECN.

### **Terms of Reference**

Participants proposed some amendments to the Data Dissemination Committee's Terms of Reference.

Application of community accounts in Newfoundland and Labrador

Alton Hollett gave a presentation on the application of community accounts as a best-practices model.

## DEMOGRAPHY

**Last meeting:** September 12 to 13, 2002  
**Next meeting:** April 24 to 25, 2003  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

Last year, the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Demography held its meeting on September 12 and 13. Three areas of research and development were discussed: the preliminary evaluation of the 2001 Census data on population, the current research on the components of population estimates and the 2001 Census coverage studies.

The preliminary evaluation of the 2001 Census data on provincial and territorial population and population by age and sex was presented. Since the results of the 2001 Census coverage studies were not available yet, the evaluation was conducted using demographic techniques and indirect methods. The detailed plan for the production and evaluation of the censal population estimates was also discussed. The 2001 to 2003 population estimates based on the 2001 Census (adjusted for coverage error) will be released in September 2003. At the same time, modified (intercensal) estimates from 1996 to 2001 will be made available.

A research overview on the components of population estimates was presented. The discussion focussed on the progress of research dealing with internal migration data quality. The Focal Points were also informed about

- the possible impact of the new immigration and refugee policy of June 2002 on the estimates of non-permanent residents,
- a progress on a development of base data for emigration, and
- initiatives to further improve estimates of international migration components.

A project plan to assess the quality of population estimates by age and sex was also discussed.

Census methodologists presented status reports on the 2001 coverage studies. A general overview was presented and progress on the Dwelling Classification Survey and estimates of incompletely enumerated Indian reserves were described in detail.

Also, as requested by the British Columbia Focal Point, a discussion on the methodology underlying the short-term population projections (published in the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001), and their relationship to the longer-term projections took place. It was decided that publication of these estimates would be put on hold.

The Committee reviewed and modified its mandate.



Since the last meeting, developmental research has been continuing in the above areas. The evaluation of the population data from the 2001 Census, incorporating the coverage studies results, is currently in progress and results will be presented at the next meeting in April. Using the new data from Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, modified estimates of emigrants and returning emigrants were produced and have been evaluated. Data quality research on the internal migration was expanded to incorporate the Focal Points suggestions, especially in the area of tax filer coverage.

The project on the quality of population estimates by age and sex has started with a comprehensive analysis of the estimates produced for the 1971 to 2001 period.

Finally, the manual on population and family estimation methods in Statistics Canada is in its final stages of production. It will provide the one-stop information for the methodology changes that have occurred since 1987.

## **LABOUR STATISTICS**

**Last meeting:** June 12 and 13, 2002  
**Next meeting:** June 16 and 17, 2003  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

### **Report on Forum of Labour Market Ministers**

Ms. Shirley Cyr from the Government of Alberta and Mr. Christian Dea of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) gave a presentation on the work of the Forum of Labour Market Ministers Labour Market Information (FLMM-LMI). The presentation and discussion focussed on the "Action Plan for Data" that the FLMM-LMI group had produced. Consultations on the Action Plan were held between April and May 2002.

A number of key data needs were identified in the consultations. Along with data development initiatives, new ways to improve the current information collection and dissemination systems need to be found, according to the FLMM-LMI group. A business case was being developed for the Action Plan, expected for release to the FLMM ministers in the fall of 2002.

In the discussion that followed the presentation, several Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Labour Statistics members expressed their dissatisfaction that Statistics Canada has not been asked to be more involved in the development of the Action Plan.

### **Action items and progress**

1. A list of FLMM-LMI members was to be distributed to the FPT Labour Statistics group. It was sent to FPT Labour Statistics members on July 4, 2002 by e-mail from Mr. Geoff Bowlby (Statistics Canada).
2. The business case for the Action Plan was to be made available by HRDC and then distributed to FPT members for their review. The business plan is not yet ready (as of late January 2003).

### **Provincial and Territorial Reports**

A roundtable review of recent provincial and territorial activity was given.

### **Action items and progress**

1. Mr. Scott Gilbreath (Yukon) asked for seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey (LFS) data by age and sex. Seasonal models developed by Business Survey Methods Division and final data were sent to Mr. Gilbreath November 19, 2002 by e-mail from Mr. Brian Kennedy (Statistics Canada).

2. Mr. Gilbreath also asked that the Yukon LFS CD-ROM be updated and sent to him. It was sent within a week of the FPT meeting to Mr. Paul Harris from Mr. Marc Levesque (Statistics Canada).

### **Discussion of new Terms of Reference**

Mr. Sange de Silva led a discussion of a draft version of a new Terms of Reference for the FPT Labour group.

### **Action items and progress**

1. A number of small changes were suggested. These changes were made and when the final version came back from translation on January 28, 2003, it was sent by e-mail from Mr. Bowlby (Statistics Canada) to the FPT Labour members shortly afterwards.

### **Statistics Canada survey updates**

Mr. Peter Morrison from Labour Statistics Division gave an update on the Labour Force Survey redesign and announced that HRDC had reduced annual funding by \$300,000 for the Employment Insurance sample, requiring that 1,200 households per month be cut from the sample. Ms. Monica Weise from the Small Business Special Surveys Division gave an overview of the National Construction Wage Rate Survey and the National Survey of Information Technology Occupations.

### **Action items and progress**

1. A consultation document for the Labour Force Survey redesign was promised for distribution in the fall or winter of 2002/03. The document was prepared, but the dissemination has been postponed until redesign funding can be secured.
2. An annual average table on the LFS CD-ROM product that would cover labour force characteristics for students and non-students was also promised. It has been included on the next LFS Historical Review CD-ROM due for release third week of February, 2003.

### **Productivity measures in Canada and the United States**

Mr. Tarek Harchaoui from the Microeconomic Studies and Analysis Division presented a session entitled "U.S. and Canadian productivity in the information age."

There were no action items that arose from this session.

### **How the Labour Force Survey revised its occupation data**

Mr. Geoff Bowlby from the Labour Statistics Division gave a review of the methods used to revise the LFS occupation data. A problem in the historical time-series created at the time of the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 1991 conversion was detected in late 1999. This problem was corrected using an imputation technique and the resulting data were

published on CANSIM in early 2002. Several comparative charts were presented showing the improvements in the time-series at a national level.

### **Action items and progress**

1. Ms. Joan Bisson (Nova Scotia) asked if comparative charts could be provided by province. The charts were loaded onto the Focal Point website for August 2002, LFS download.
2. Mr. Yves Fortier (Quebec) agreed to meet LFS staff for further discussions on the issue. A meeting was held in Ottawa, July 11, 2002.

### **Industry and occupation changes to the census**

Ms. Judy Hosein from the Labour Statistics Division explained that the census is moving to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and SOC 2001 occupation coding. For historical time-series, census users will use the old classification systems. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 1980 data will be available by industry, from 1986 to 2001. From 1991 to 2001, there will be data, by occupation, based on the SOC 1991 system.

There were no action items that arose from this session.

### **Composite estimation and impact on provincial and territorial Labour Force Survey estimates**

Mr. Brian Kennedy from the Labour Statistics Division addressed the issue of composite estimation and whether or not it had the effect of improving the LFS estimates in a similar way for all provinces. Mr. Kennedy presented graphs that indicated the quality of employment and how unemployment level estimates have improved across all provinces. As expected, seasonal adjustment has improved as well.

There were no action items that arose from this session.

### **How Statistics Canada decides to move to a new classification system**

Mr. Paul Johanis of the Standards Division explained the revision schedule for industry (every five years) and occupation classification systems (every 10 years). He noted that the difference between SOC 2001 and SOC 1991 is that two occupations in SOC 1991 have been split into eight different occupations for SOC 2001. The changes introduced in NAICS 2002 were within the Construction and Information sectors. Mr. Johanis also mentioned that there is a project underway to promote greater convergence between NAICS and the European classification system.

There were no action items that arose from this session.

### **Discussion of need for technical subcommittee**

Ms. Anne-Marie Fadel (Quebec) presented her views on the need for more technical



presentations at the FPT Labour meetings. Some other Focal Points expressed their support for the idea and a number of topics were put forward.

### **Action items and progress**

1. Ms. Fadel and Mr. Peter Morrison were asked to organize a teleconference to outline the topics to be addressed and what form the subcommittee might take. The teleconference occurred mid-December 2002 and it was agreed that the first technical workshop on the LFS sample redesign will occur in conjunction with the 2003 FPT labour meetings.

## **MINERAL STATISTICS**

**Last meeting:** May 6 to 8, 2002  
**Next meeting:** May 26 to 28, 2003  
**Members:** Delegates from Natural Resources Canada; Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Statistics Canada; Provincial and Territorial Mining Departments or Agencies; the Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories Bureaus of Statistics; and L'Institut de la Statistique du Québec

**Observers:** The Mining Association of Canada

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

The annual meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPTCMS) was last held on May 6 to 8, 2002. The meeting was well attended, as has normally been the case in recent years.

### **Summary of issues facing the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Mineral Statistics and its member organizations**

1. FPTCMS members had expressed a growing, common need to expand the scope of Federal-Provincial-Territorial discussions on energy, fuel minerals and related issues at future meetings. To address this need, Statistics Canada, led by the Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division under the aegis of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Business Statistics, organized a one-day meeting on October 22, 2002, entitled "Session on energy statistics program," to present energy information to the provincial and territorial representatives. Given the usefulness of this meeting, a second session has been scheduled for October 22, 2003. In addition to these sessions, it is expected that there will continue to be presentations on issues relating to energy and the resource extraction industries on the agenda for future FPTCMS meetings. Issues surrounding energy conservation and the implementation of the Kyoto protocol are expected to be highlighted in future sessions.
2. Initiatives to access and to effectively use available administrative data from provincial and territorial sources in order to reduce response burden and operational costs, and improve the quality of common statistical information (including the accuracy of the survey frames

used) must be accelerated. In particular, efforts to use provincial information to analyse and improve construction aggregate data should be extended.

3. At the 2002 meeting, the Mining Association of Canada outlined areas in which statistical information was required to meet the needs of the industry. Further discussions must occur to ensure that these requirements are properly taken into account.
4. Needs for information on energy efficiency; resource recovery; dependent communities; corporate social responsibility; innovation and the diffusion of advanced technologies; and participation by Aboriginal peoples in the natural resource industries must be addressed.
5. With the implementation of the Kimberley Process to limit trade in conflict diamonds combined with the growing strength of the diamond mining industry in Canada and the continuing importance of exploration for diamonds in a number of provinces and territories, significant resources are being directed towards diamond-related issues. Specialized data-reporting arrangements with diamond mining companies must be developed and maintained on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, issues related to the transparency of the global natural resource industries are coming to the fore.
6. The use of shared and integrated electronic databases with appropriate security within an overall information framework should be increased. In addition, there is considerable interest in systems tools that might be shared among member organizations (such as the MINDABA system used to assist mineral economic evaluations presented at the last meeting).
7. Based on the 2002 meeting of the FPTCMS, the role of bilateral discussions, interaction on common systems and the time provided for open discussions between participants must be increased.

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

1. The annual meeting was held from May 6 to 8, 2002.
2. Redesigned websites for the FPTCMS, as well as for Natural Resources Canada's Minerals and Mining Statistics On-Line and related sites have been introduced.
3. While there have already been important improvements in the quality and timeliness of the availability of exploration expenditures and production data, proposals brought forward at the FPTCMS will provide further gains in efficiency and timeliness, as well as a reduction of the burden placed on respondents and survey costs. Important initiatives have been taken by Statistics Canada to improve the timely delivery of industrial data.

#### **Important events and activities for the FPTCMS expected during 2003/04**

1. Continuing work on measures to reduce response burden and eliminate duplication of survey activity.

2. Further visits to the provinces and territories by Natural Resources Canada to promote co-operative statistical activities.
3. The pilot introduction of the Survey of Support Activities to Mining Industries.
4. The next annual meeting of the FPTCMS is scheduled from May 26 to 28, 2003.

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

- the development of Internet-based systems to share knowledge on the ongoing status of joint data collection processes;
- further initiatives to improve data collection processes for the joint Exploration, Deposit Appraisal and Mine Complex Development Expenditures Survey;
- a report on the evaluation of the recent Investment Tax Credit for Exploration and related provincial measures;
- energy and fuels issues: energy conservation measures and the organization of sessions devoted to these, the Kyoto protocol and related issues; and
- discussions on the Kimberley Process, transparency issues and the growth of the Canadian diamond-mining industry.



## PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

**Last meeting:** November 14, 2002  
**Next meeting:** December 4, 2003  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

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

- a proposal to expand the National Accounts to include broader measures of capital;
- a report on the impact of the Chain Fisher Method on the Provincial Economic Accounts;
- a report on the confidentiality in the provincial Input–Output Accounts; and
- a report on the implementation of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to the Provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Industry program.

During the roundtable discussion, the issue of the changes to the level of aggregation for trade statistics in the Provincial Economic Accounts was raised. Also, continued interest was expressed in obtaining documentation describing methodologies for the provincial programs of the SNA. The issue of changes in confidentiality patterns during the conversion from Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) to NAICS in the Provincial GDP by Industry program were also raised

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for December 4, 2003 in the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room of the R.H. Coats Building. One item on the agenda will likely include a discussion of implementing the Chain Fisher Method for the Provincial GDP by Industry program. In addition, there will likely be continued discussion of the interprovincial trade flow statistics.

## Release schedule

## Release date

Preliminary Provincial Economic Accounts and GDP by Industry .....	April 28, 2003
Provincial Economic Accounts, reference period 1999 to 2002 .....	fall, 2003
Provincial GDP by Industry, reference period 1992 to 2002 .....	fall, 2003
Interprovincial Input–Output Accounts, 1999 to 2002 .....	fall, 2003

### Quarterly National Income and Expenditure Accounts:

#### First Quarter, 2003

(including revisions from the First Quarter 1999 to the Fourth Quarter 2002) May 30, 2003

Second Quarter, 2003 ..... August 29, 2003

Third Quarter, 2003 ..... November 28, 2003

Fourth Quarter, 2001 ..... February 27, 2004

National estimates of GDP by industry at constant prices, revisions to  
reference period 1999 to 2002 ..... September 30, 2003

Note: The Provincial Economic Accounts and Provincial GDP by Industry are presented in separate products, but the two sets of data share a single integrated write-up in The Daily.

## **PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS**

**Last meeting:** November 13, 2002  
**Next meeting:** December 3, 2003  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

Mr. Ian Macredie, Director of the Public Institutions Division (PID), welcomed all participants. During the roundtable discussion, several representatives expressed their satisfaction regarding the actions that PID is continuing to take to improve communications with the Provincial and Territorial Focal Points. The following items concern discussions that took place during the meeting and actions taken by the PID.

### **Public sector employment**

Representatives were in agreement about the need to develop a measure of full-time equivalent (FTE) employment. Following a request from the provinces and territories regarding this, PID had made a proposal on FTEs and presented its initial findings during the conference. Discussions as to the choice and appropriateness of the methods followed.

Introduction of new concepts from the International Monetary Fund on government financial statistics

The incorporation of capital stock data is the greatest challenge involved in implementing the new concepts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). PID made a presentation on the incorporation of government capital stock data and the new financial identities that arise from accrual accounting concepts. This presentation followed the announcement PID made last year about its intention to adopt the new concepts and methods of the IMF's Government Financial Statistics (GFS) system in place of the Financial Management System (FMS).

### **Fiscal arrangements**

In light of the change in the method of calculating residential assets and its impact on allocations under fiscal arrangements, a number of representatives felt that PID should produce a document describing the changes already introduced and those to come. This document should be made available to the Provincial and Territorial Focal Points.

The representatives were also informed that Finance Canada was nearing completion of its study on the impact of changes made to the data used in developing fiscal arrangements.

### **First Nations**

Statistics Canada has submitted an estimate of the costs involved in developing certain types of statistical data on the First Nations to the Privy Council. The Focal Points were informed

that part of this submission deals with public sector financial data.

### **Public sector and data dissemination**

The Guide to the Public Sector will be updated annually on PID's external website. The public sector universe (register) continues to generate growing interest among external users, and this has led the Division to work in co-operation with different outside agencies to obtain the best coverage possible. With respect to dissemination, the annual publication presenting public sector financial data will now be published on CANSIM II. This will reduce the time required to produce it.

### **Other presentations**

The following presentations were made to inform the Focal Points about projects currently under way:

- Allocation of federal transfers by province;
- Production of complete quarterly financial statements of government business enterprises;
- New statements of reconciliation with the public accounts;
- Financial measures of urban areas; and
- Availability of electronic data from provincial and territorial public accounts.

PID also presented its first CD-ROM prototype, entitled Overview of the Public Institutions Division. This product's graphic approach makes it easy to consult reference files, presentations and audio and video files related to the activities of PID. At the request of the Focal Points, the product will be sent to them in early 2003.



## **SOCIAL STATISTICS**

**Last meeting:** June 10 and 11, 2002  
**Next meeting:** September 22 and 23, 2003  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

Mr. Mike Sheridan welcomed the members and tabled the agenda, which was accepted. He added that the agenda, which covers a day and a half, reflects the heavy workload of the social statistics components of Statistics Canada. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without discussion.

### **Updates on social statistics programs**

Each Provincial and Territorial Statistical Focal Point provided a summary of their activities in the area of social statistics from the period of June 2001 to May 2002. Updates were provided through detailed presentations followed by general discussions. They included:

- the 2006 Census;
- the General Social Survey;
- post-censal surveys;
- special surveys;
- health statistics;
- justice statistics;
- income statistics;
- social capital, education and culture statistics;
- the First Nations Statistical Institute;
- the Federal Aboriginal Strategy Working Group; and
- consultation on Aboriginal issues.

The calendar of activities regarding the 2001 Census coverage studies was also described. Alberta presented its Aboriginal Labour Force Survey Pilot Project and Newfoundland provided an update on its Strategic Social Plan and Social Audit and described how the Community Accounts fit into these two initiatives.

### **Status of the sharing microdata with the Canadian Community Health Survey**

Mr. Sheridan reported that, as a follow-up of last year's discussion on sharing microdata with Canadian Community Health Survey, the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group met in Toronto on February 4, 2002 to discuss at length the range and breadth of statistical analysis that could be undertaken using population health information. The group concluded that population health is very broad and cuts across a number of social domains and as such, the

current sharing agreement needs to be expanded. They made the following recommendations for future sharing agreements:

- There should be a reference to population health and the products and services that could be provided by the provincial/territorial statistical agency.
- The agreement should make explicit reference to the provincial/territorial statistical agency. The reference should be specifically mentioned in the subsections that apply to the utilization of data and information.

Mr. Sheridan concluded by stating that the working group reached a concurrence.

### **Consultation and co-ordination issues**

Based on this year's meeting, Mr. Sheridan identified three main areas where consultation and co-ordination need to be improved: Aboriginal co-ordination, territorial strategy and partnerships, and consultation strategy with the Focal Points.

#### **Aboriginal coordination**

Mr. Sheridan committed to appoint, within the Social, Labour and Institutions Field, a Co-ordinator who will make sure that all horizontal Aboriginal issues are connected and who will communicate regularly with the Focal Points. He has also welcomed the notion of having regional representatives that will liaise on an ongoing basis with the Statistics Canada (STC) Aboriginal Co-ordinator. He invited the Focal Points to nominate their representatives at their earliest convenience.

#### **Territorial strategy**

Mr. Sheridan recognizes that even though great progress has been made recently, STC is still having difficulty engaging its federal colleagues to fund northern coverage in some social surveys. To rectify this, he believes that STC and the three territories should put together a strategy paper, along with a process and an operational framework. As a first step in the development of this strategy, the three territories will meet together to clearly establish their position on this issue. Mr. Jack Hicks has agreed to convene this initial meeting. Mr. Sheridan will meet with the territories once this initial meeting has taken place to establish a platform to move this process ahead.

#### **Consultation strategy**

Mr. Sheridan confirmed that there will be consultation along with feedback mechanisms for the Statistical Focal Points on all new initiatives or major revisions within the Social Statistics Program, regardless of who pays for it. As a first step towards this commitment, Mr. Norris suggested having a 'road show' in the fall of 2002 to consult on the 2006 Census, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, General Social Survey and other social statistics issues.

## **Closing remarks**

Mr. Sheridan assured members that STC will follow-up on the issues that were raised during the deliberations, especially those dealing with Aboriginal co-ordination, territorial strategy and consultation processes. He thanked all the delegates for their valuable contributions and looks forward to their co-operation on the many initiatives that will be developed during the year.

## TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

**Last meeting:** October 23, 2002  
**Next meeting:** October 21, 2003  
**Members:** Provincial and Territorial Focal Points  
(or their representatives)

- This was the first meeting in recent years where all provinces and territories were represented.
- The Committee updated its Terms of Reference.
- A presentation on the pilot Fuel Use Survey was given to the Committee. There are two objectives for the pilot. The first is to monitor fuel consumption and the impact of vehicle usage on the environment. Secondly, and more importantly, the pilot survey is being used to test the survey design: a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) will determine household characteristics and maintenance habits, followed by a Fuel Log or record of fuel consumption. Five log combinations for trip characteristics and fuel use are being tested.
- Ontario reported on its 2001 Transportation Tomorrow Survey for the Golden Horseshoe region. This is a survey of 135,000 households, reporting on demographic and travel information. It builds on similar data sets for 1986, 1991 and 1996 and supports both short- and long-term transportation planning in the Golden Horseshoe area.
- Quebec raised the problem of differences in import and export estimates among the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Statistics Canada and L'Institut de la Statistique du Québec. The problem arises primarily because of Statistics Canada's approach of assigning an importing province on the basis of clearance, rather than the final destination of the shipment, which is ultimately the province where the goods will be used. Many import shipments from the United States destined for Quebec are cleared in Ontario. This overestimates Ontario's economic exchanges, whereas Quebec's exchanges are underestimated. (This issue was also raised at the Business and Trade Statistics Federal-Provincial-Territorial Conference the next day and Mr. David Dodds, Director of the International Trade Division, provided the rationale for the current approach.)
- A presentation on the Transportation Division's aviation data program included:
  - ♦ A summary of the analysis on air data quality and availability.
  - ♦ The data recommendations for the Airline Restructuring in Canada, in the Third Report and the Final Report, which were prepared by Ms. Debra Ward and released in July 2002 and in September 2002, respectively.



- ◆ A review of the major challenges in the aviation program. The first challenge, regarding the level of detail in financial and operating statistics that can be published, noted that there was an increasing concentration within the industry to look at these statistics. The second challenge concerned non-response, which can cause some data quality issues with respect to airport activity data, fare basis data and passenger origin and destination data.
  - ◆ A new initiative which is splitting the Aircraft Movement Statistics into two releases. Volume I is for larger airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers and flight service stations and Volume II is for smaller airports. Volume I data are now released about 10 weeks after the reference period. This is an improvement when compared with the previous combined release, which could take up to six months to release.
  - ◆ Another initiative that improves the provincial–territorial allocation of revenues and passengers from the Fare Basis Survey. Results based on new methodology should begin to be made available in January 2003 to the System of National Accounts.
- An update on the development projects in the Transportation Division's trucking data program covered the Trucking Traffic Survey Development, the Canadian Vehicle Survey, Pilot Fuel Use Survey, the North American Transportation Statistics Online project and the transportation component of the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS).
  - Updates were provided on the data releases for the new Marine Origin–Destination Survey, the Annual Survey of Water Carriers, the Monthly Railway Carloadings, the Annual Rail Report, the Rail Origin–Destination Survey, and the Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Survey.
  - Transport Canada provided updates to the Committee on the following initiatives:
    - ◆ Legislative
      - review of the Canadian Marine Act
      - blueprint and CTA Amendments
      - proposed Canada Airports Act
    - ◆ Data
      - air: Electronic Collection of Air Transportation Statistics (ECATS) pilot project
      - trucking: logistics prototype
      - vehicle odometer information
    - ◆ Environment
  - The Industry Measures and Analysis Division provided an update on the work being done to develop a Canadian Transportation Satellite Account. Industry data fail to capture the full importance of transportation services that are produced in the Canadian economy. This is because many industries produce transportation services for their own use. These services are referred to as own-account, private or in-house transportation.

use. These services are referred to as own-account, private or in-house transportation. Preliminary estimates show that the gross domestic product for transportation services is at least 43% higher when own-account transportation (air, rail, water, truck and bus) is included. The majority of own-account transportation comes from trucking. Five main sources of data for estimating own-account transportation were identified:

- ◆ Canadian system of input–output accounts;
  - ◆ census-occupational coding on long forms;
  - ◆ capital stock estimates;
  - ◆ T1 and T2 tax files; and
  - ◆ transportation surveys and special studies.
- The Income and Expenditure Accounts Division provided an update of the work on the provincial and territorial Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) including background and rationale; concepts and definitions; methodology, results and conclusions; and future work.

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