

Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy

May 19 - 20, 2005
Ottawa, Ontario



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

Meeting May 19-20, 2005

Ottawa, Ontario

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY

**Minutes of the meeting of May 19 and 20, 2005
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1. Opening remarks

Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada and chair of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy, welcomed the participants. He began the meeting by reviewing recent personnel changes, commencing with the provincial and territorial statistical focal points. After 31 years, it would be the last Consultative Council meeting for Mr. Ron McMahon (Saskatchewan); Mr. John Palmer (Prince Edward Island) had already left his duties as Director, and had been succeeded by Mr. Nigel Burns. Although absent, Paul Harris is the newly appointed member for Nunavut.

Dr. Fellegi proceeded to address the numerous organizational changes within Statistics Canada. At the Assistant Chief Statistician (ACS) level, Mr. Mike Sheridan (Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field) had left the Agency to pursue new endeavours, and had since been replaced by Mr. Richard Barnabé (former ACS of Communications and Operations Field); Mr. Wayne Smith had replaced Mr. Barnabé as ACS of Communications and Operations Field, and Mr. François Maranda had replaced Mr. Gordon Brackstone as ACS of Informatics and Methodology Field.

1.1. Adoption of the agenda

Mr. Wilf Falk (Manitoba) requested that one item be added to the agenda: an update on how Statistics Canada planned to gain access to provincial driver licenses files.

1.2. Approval of the minutes of the 2004 meeting

The minutes of the meeting of May 2004 were approved without amendment.

2. Achievements and priorities

In relation to the distribution of the *@StatCan Special Issue 2005*, which summarized the Agency's main accomplishments and priorities, Dr. Fellegi noted just one very important change since the document's publication. At that particular time, it was expected that a 5% budget reduction would be implemented at Statistics Canada. However, it has since been confirmed that the Agency has been exempted from this expenditure review. Cabinet members, who made this decision, believed that Statistics Canada's work was

vital, and that the Agency was very efficient and well managed, so it should be exempt from program cuts.

Although money was set aside for this anticipated budget reduction, it was ultimately money saved for significant investments in service industry statistics and possibly in labour cost index measurements, which are both high priority items.

The Chief Statistician then invited the members to a round-table discussion of the @StatCan Special Issue 2005 report.

Questions and Answers:

2.1. Historical census data

The question posed by Mr. Wilf Falk (Manitoba) was twofold: first, he requested a brief status on the access to historical census data; second, he asked what text will appear on the 2006 Census questionnaire for authorization to access the historical personal information.

Regarding the status on the access to historical census data, Dr. Fellegi explained that the decision was still pending among the politicians on Parliament Hill. With many delays, the proposed amendment to the *Statistics Act* was approved by the Senate, and was currently in the House of Commons for its second reading. However, if the House was dissolved, the process would need to be restarted.

The wording on the 2006 Census questionnaire is, "Does this person agree to make his/her 2006 Census information available for public release in 2098 (92 years after the census)? Yes/No."

Mr. Ron McMahon (Saskatchewan) asked if focus groups had been organized to ascertain why the public did not want to release their personal information in 92 years, but permitted access to their tax data.

Dr. Fellegi clarified that numerous Canadians agreed to authorize Elections Canada to obtain their names and addresses, but not to access their individual income tax information. He also emphasized that a high proportion of the population permit Statistics Canada to access their tax data for survey purposes, and that the information is protected by the *Statistics Act*. Dr. Fellegi stated that the income tax form does not pose the direct question, "Can your tax information be released to the public?", and confirmed that he expects a significant proportion of Canadians will agree to release their data in the public domain in 92 years.

2.2. 2006 Census

In response to a question asked by Mr. Don McRae (British Columbia) concerning funding for the 2006 Census, Mr. Richard Barnabé (Assistant Chief Statistician, Social,

Institutions and Labour Statistics Field) confirmed that approximately \$57 million of the \$76 million was funded by other federal departments. The main contributors were Human Resources and Skills Development, Social Development Canada, followed by Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Canadian Heritage, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Statistics Canada, which invested approximately \$6 million.

Dr. Fellegi remarked that the Short Population Questionnaire (Form 2A) was entirely funded by the government. Mr. Barnabé added that an extra \$17 million was still required to cover the fiscal framework of the Long Population Questionnaire (Form 2B), which was, at that time, at Treasury Board.

2.3. Aboriginal statistics initiative

Mr. Yvon Fortin (Quebec) mentioned that the entire situation involving the Aboriginal statistical initiatives was extremely frustrating: the initiatives were time consuming, labour intensive, and entailed uncertain funding for little result. Mr. Fortin requested Dr. Fellegi's views on this matter.

Dr. Fellegi noted that the work involving the Aboriginal statistics program was progressing slowly. He added that a two-year pilot project, financed by the government, was recently successfully completed, for which the goal was to develop a program between censuses on Aboriginal statistics. Mr. Richard Barnabé remarked that particular difficulties and complexities were encountered with data collection in Quebec, especially with *l'Assemblée des Premières nations Québec-Labrador*, as its members were specifically asked to not participate in any survey conducted by Statistics Canada.

2.4. Using the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Dr. Gerry Ewert (Yukon) tabled his interest in obtaining Goods and Services Tax (GST) information. He asked if it was possible for Statistics Canada to provide him with some indication of GST claims at specific border points to estimate cross-border shopping.

Mr. François Maranda remarked that an amendment to the *Excise Tax Act* was required before Statistics Canada could consider releasing GST micro data to the statistical agency of a province or territory. (A similar amendment was made to the *Income Tax Act* for the release of business taxation data). He noted that the Canada Revenue Agency and Finance Canada both supported such an amendment and are working towards introducing it in the *Excise Tax Act*. Dr. Fellegi added that it may be possible to provide Dr. Ewert with tabulations of aggregated data.

2.5. Labour Force Survey redesign and telephone first contact list

Mr. Fred Bergman (Nova Scotia) commented on the Labour Force Survey redesign. He remarked that the information provided in the fall of 2003 suggested that there would be a 3% reduction in the sample across Canada, and outlined some estimates of the impact. However, when the document samples were circulated in August 2004, some provinces (i.e., B.C. and Alberta) experienced gains in sample size, others remained fairly stable

(i.e., Newfoundland and P.E.I.), while Nova Scotia saw a reduction in excess of 10%. Mr. Bergman added that this report was somewhat misleading and questioned if people were aware of the actual reductions by jurisdiction and why Nova Scotia wasn't presented with CDs incorporating those reductions. Further, Mr. Bergman stated that, in the @StatCan issue, there was mention of some efficiency gains and savings due to the introduction of telephone interviewing, which may affect the sample size of the survey (which had recently been reduced). Therefore, will the survey revert to the previous sample sizes, as suggested in the report?

Mr. Richard Barnabé responded that the sample reduction was implemented in such a way to minimize the impact on the quality of the estimates. Therefore, the areas where the sample reduction seemed disproportionate were considered low-yield areas in terms of the quality of the estimate.

Regarding the telephone interviewing, Mr. Barnabé said that, last fall, a telephone first contact list was introduced. Initial results showed a slight reduction in response rate on first contact, but a slight improvement by the second month. Continued detailed analyses will be conducted to precisely measure the impact of the mode change on data quality.

2.6. System-wide integration of justice statistics

To ensure coherency and consistency, Dr. Gerry Ewert (Yukon) asked if there was a conceptual paper that explained the integration of health and other data with justice information.

Mr. Richard Barnabé informed the committee members that a paper had indeed been prepared on this matter and is ready.

Dr. Ewert asked whether Statistics Canada was able to integrate juvenile data without access restrictions. Ultimately, he needed information on longevity: if juvenile delinquents matured into other types of criminals; how they progressed through the justice system; and where they eventually ended up.

Mr. Barnabé said that there were two important points to consider. First: a framework for justice statistics and analysis had been put into place that focused primarily on person-oriented statistics throughout the system; that work was in progress to track individuals from age 12 to 22 longitudinally; and that information is currently available on transition—not only on interaction with the justice system by clusters, by juvenile or adult, but also by individuals throughout their lives. Second, Mr. Barnabé reported that the biggest gain in coverage will be as a result of the RCMP responding to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

2.7. System-wide integration of justice statistics: Aboriginal statistics

Dr. Gerry Ewert (Yukon) had one follow-up comment. He and his colleagues had noticed that when Statistics Canada compared the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations, the

convictions numbers were quite different. With extensive statistical support, Dr. Ewert said that one could easily arrive at an incorrect conclusion, and that during a corrections review, he decided that it would be best to not release any data, as numbers were being reported without context.

Mr. Barnabé said that it is always a difficult trade-off between the information requested by Statistics Canada and the actual details provided by the administrative bodies. He added that consensus is required from all stakeholders to determine the information that is truly useful.

On the issue of differentiation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal statistics, Mr. Barnabé added that the results of a project completed in Saskatchewan will be released in approximately one month. Its findings should identify the causes associated with these differences.

3. Provincial and territorial reports

The written reports of the provinces and territories are appended.

4. National Accounts and Analytical Studies (Mr. Philip Smith, Assistant Chief Statistician, National Accounts and Analytical Studies)

4.1. Program update

Mr. Smith noted that, from a production point of view, fiscal year 2004/2005 had been fairly routine. Among other activities, the Provincial Economic Accounts (PEA) were released on April 27, along with a newly introduced 'e-pub.' A new National Accounts module was under development for the Statistics Canada website, and new projects within the Balance of Payments Division included a multiyear redesign of its surveys, processes and systems (for which integration and the replacement of obsolete systems will be the primary objectives).

Also launched this past year were two special projects:

- a 'pensions satellite account' which will provide comprehensive pension asset information by type, and will record inflows and outflows (i.e., contributions, investment income, transfers, withdrawals and pension payments), and holding gains and losses; and
- an 'interest and dividends matrix,' which will lead to improved investment income and dividends estimates, reconciled to corresponding asset stocks and flows by sector.

Other projects included:

- the implementation of a merchandise/non-merchandise split in the PEA;

- three projects initiated in collaboration with Infrastructure Canada:
 - (1) a paper on the alternative definitions of infrastructure and available data (scheduled for release by fall 2005);
 - (2) a paper on international comparison of infrastructure capital formation in Canada, the United States and Australia (scheduled for release by early 2006); and
 - (3) the development of provincial data on investment and capital stocks by asset type for provincial and local public administration (delineating the relative importance of roads versus bridges versus sewers, etc.).
The intention is to produce historical time series from 1961 forward. Its completion timeframe is July 2006.
- providing country-wide presentations and workshops on national accounting.

4.2. Environmental Statistics

A four-year project was announced in the February, 2004 Speech from the Throne and the March, 2004 budget. Environment Canada, Statistics Canada and Health Canada are receiving a total of \$45 million over the four years of the project, of which one-quarter will go to Statistics Canada. Indicators are being developed and will be published for air quality, water quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Improved monitoring networks for air and water quality will be put in place by Environment Canada. Surveys of industrial, agriculture and households water use are also in development for the fall of 2006. The first indicators report is slated for late in 2005 and annually thereafter. Work is currently under way and the political process is now complete.

4.3. Input–Output (IO)

A multiyear project to overhaul the IO system is planned. Several factors combining to encourage a redesign of the IO accounts are: improved services data are coming online; North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) revisions; strategic streamlining initiatives, especially in manufacturing, have reduced the commodity detail available for the goods industries; the North American Product Classification System is being implemented; and the new international standard for national accounting (SNA-2008) is progressing.

The basic premise is to redefine the industries and commodities of the IO accounts; aim for additional services, fewer goods; work with modern industry and commodity definitions and priorities; and have fewer confidentiality problems.

4.4. Residential property tax project

A study was conducted for Finance Canada at a cost of \$1.4 million, over the period from May 2004 to April 2005. The study was sent to the statistical focal points in April via the

External Communications Network. The results confirmed that it is feasible to produce estimates of property values, tax revenues and population by municipality. Discussions with Finance Canada on subsequent steps are currently under way. Treasury Board submission and project start await a firmer decision by Finance, who, in turn, will likely await the report of the expert panel that was established to review the Equalization Program.

Mr. David West (Ontario) requested documentation on the infrastructure project. Specifically, he asked for details outlining the project and for information pertaining to provincial capital stocks by asset type. Mr. Smith replied that some documentation was available and that it would be provided shortly.

Mr. David Stewart (Northwest Territories) asked if the forthcoming environmental indicators will be published provincially, territorially or nationally only. Mr. Smith responded that the intention was to provide three national indicators (as opposed to 13 provincial breakdowns).

Mr. David Stewart commented on the problem areas regarding the provincial economic accounts and the IO tables in relation to territorial levels.

Mr. Smith informed the committee members that the Public Institutions Division was working on a project involving the development of public sector statistics for aboriginal communities. The activity was a relatively small part of a larger project on which Mr. Richard Barnabé will elaborate in his presentation. The Branch's portion of the project involved working with approximately 15 to 20 Aboriginal communities. The key objectives were to explore the willingness of Aboriginals, and the feasibility of converting financial statements to a Financial Management System basis to ensure comparability with those of other Aboriginal communities. Currently, the goal is to build relationships based on trust, and provide assurance that the data collected will not be published. This type of communication was meant to demystify the process and improve the dialogue regarding the benefits. Overall, this activity was quite successful.

5. Business and Trade Statistics (Mr. Ray Ryan, Assistant Chief Statistician for Business and Trade Statistics, and Mr. François Maranda, Assistant Chief Statistician for Informatics and Methodology)

5.1. Program update

Mr. Ray Ryan announced recent organizational changes in his field at both the director general and director levels. He then briefly outlined the plans for investing in the development of two five-year projects aiming to fill service sector data gaps: a new service indexes program and a quarterly services indicator program. Documents outlining the two programs will be posted on the External Communications Network for focal point use and feedback.

5.2. Mandatory reporting on greenhouse gas emissions

Mr. Ryan provided an update on the Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting System. He mentioned that data is being collected under Alberta's *Climate Change Emission Management Act*. The information will be used to support federal policy development, provincial/territorial legislation, the national inventory, and provide information to Canadians. Among other important items, the report collects greenhouse gas emissions by type of gas and source, reporting runs from March 15, 2005 to June 1, 2005; a single-window harmonized Greenhouse Gas Reporting System is used, which permits electronic data reporting. Public release of data is expected in the fall. Environment Canada and the Alberta government are handling the bulk of the public release and media enquiries. Statistics Canada will release a selection of non-confidential aggregate data.

Work involving the Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting 2005 is under way between Environment Canada and Alberta. Discussions regarding the implementation of focal point data sharing will begin shortly.

5.3. International trade data

Mr. Ryan discussed efforts under way to improve quality of imports and export reporting. Regarding imports, Mr. Ryan reviewed the data receipt problem from the Canada Border Services Agency for the November 2004 data that resulted in a re-issuing of the November data. A report on recommended processes and strategies to help prevent a recurrence of this problem will be prepared and presented to a joint Assistant Deputy Ministers task force in June.

Regarding exports, data revisions have recently been large due to reporting problems in the energy sector—natural gas and crude petroleum. Data on Canadian energy sector exports are not included in the data exchange with the United States because of incomplete and late reporting from U.S. energy importers. Discussions are underway with the U.S. Census Bureau to see if this can be remedied.

Meanwhile, data from the National Energy Board is being used—this comes with a one-month lag, and suffers from reporting problems complicated by the recent exceptionally volatile energy prices. An awareness campaign is also underway to better inform users of the inherent issues in the trade data. Discussions have taken place with major federal users, and plans are under way to better inform the media as to why revisions (sometimes large) occur in the monthly series.

Mr. Yvon Fortin (Quebec) said that *l'Institut de la statistique du Québec* (ISQ) would be interested in working jointly on some analysis that would help users better understand the trade data monthly movements. Mr. David West (Ontario) suggested that large revisions be included in the monthly release.

5.4. Use of administrative data (Canada Revenue Agency)

Mr. François Maranda reported that the Business Register will undergo a complete redesign in a three-year project. A presentation on this topic was provided at the January 2005 meeting of the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Business Statistics.

The principal factors for this undertaking include the need to: modernize a 20-year-old system and its operational processes, as they are outmoded and obsolete; review and revise the conceptual framework of the Business Register and the associated updating rules improve the system functionality; and migrate off the mainframe.

The main objectives of the redesign are: to simplify the structure of business units used for statistical activities; to redesign the various computer programs using newer and more user-friendly technologies; to facilitate the integration of the overall system with other important systems within Statistics Canada; to continue providing frame and sample files to client programs with minimum changes; and to attain significant economies (15% per year). A corporate decision was made to phase out the mainframe within the next four years, therefore alternative solutions are needed. Further, Mr. Maranda explained the use of tax data for self-employed tax filers data (T1), the corporate income tax data (T2) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) data.

6. Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics (Mr. Richard Barnabé, Assistant Chief Statistician for Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics)

6.1. Program update

Mr. Richard Barnabé also announced the numerous organizational changes in his field at the director general and director levels.

6.2. Update on 2006 Censuses

Mr. Barnabé noted that Cabinet had approved the content of the detailed census in the fall, that the funding sources had been recently confirmed, and that the census questions were published in the Canada Gazette on April 16, 2005.

He further remarked that the Census Test had been conducted in May 2004. Although the evaluation was not yet completed, all primary objectives had been attained. The test confirmed that the major changes to the census (including changes to the questionnaire, to the method of reporting—including an Internet option—and new technologies relating to questionnaire registration and capture, etc.) had proven their feasibility and should lead to good operational results for the 2006 Census. Mr. Barnabé informed the committee members that the role of the outside contractors was clarified to address issues that had been raised in this regard.

6.2.1. Provincial assistance for 2006 Census

Dale Johnston has recently been deployed from Regional Operations Branch to

manage the census communications activities, and will be in contact with focal points' offices for public communication support.

6.2.2. Reverse record check for 2006 Census

Development work for the 2006 coverage studies was progressing. As a result of discussions at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Demography meeting held in September 2004, the sample size for the Reverse Record Check would be increased by 25% (approximately 75,000). An additional sample for the provinces has also been allocated to equalize expected variances of provincial estimates of coverage error.

Mr. Barnabé stated that, in 2006, the census overcoverage will be estimated by using an expanded Automated Match Study (AMS), the Reverse Record Check will not be used for overcoverage measurement, the Collective Dwelling Study will be cancelled and that components of overcoverage will be covered by the expanded AMS. (Further details on coverage will be provided at the upcoming Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Demography Committee meeting scheduled for September, 2006).

6.3. Labour Force Survey redesign

Mr. Barnabé reported that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) successfully launched its new sample in November 2004. The sample redesign was completed with the phasing-in of the final rotation group in April 2005. The LFS sample now reflects the 2001 population distribution and is aligned to current geographic boundaries.

Some of the innovations for the LFS include:

- use of the Address Register for approximately 60% of all of the LFS sample areas;
- use of telephone interviewing for the first-month interview;
- reduction of sample size in expensive and remote areas; and
- creation of aboriginal strata in western provinces and immigrant strata in major cities to better target difficult-to-reach subpopulations.

6.4. Population estimates and Labour Force Survey results

Every five years, the LFS revises its population estimates to reflect information from the most recent census. The LFS requires population estimates at the provincial and subprovincial level, adjusted for undercount. This information is only available three years after the census is conducted. Beginning with the release of the January 2005 survey, population estimates used by the LFS were modified from a 1996 Census base to a 2001 Census base. Work will continue on the documentation process to create a historical record of this redesign and the success and lessons learned. The monitoring of effects of the redesign, slippage and response rates will also continue.

6.5. Aboriginal statistics program/First Nations Statistical Institute (FNSI)

Mr. Barnabé noted that a comprehensive and multiyear program proposal on the Aboriginal statistics program will be submitted next fall. He also informed the committee members that the legal framework to permit the creation of the First Nations Statistical Institute was now in place.

6.5.1. Among numerous other projects, Mr. Barnabé reported on the:

- Aboriginal groups in Canada;
- population estimates for aboriginal groups;
- projection of visible minority population groups;
- Children of Aboriginals Survey (postcensal survey); and
- Aboriginal Off-reserve Labour Force in Western Canada (post censal survey).

6.6. Demography: Use of administrative data and quality issues in interprovincial migration data

Demographic Estimates Program

Mr. Barnabé announced that the 2004 issue of *Annual Demographic Statistics* was released in March 2005. It provides the most recent population estimates by age and sex, as well as data on births, deaths and migrations. The information is shown by province and territory, census metropolitan area, census division, and, for the first time, by economic region.

Prompted by the 2004 Equalization Program renewal, Statistics Canada will produce new population estimates at the municipal (census subdivision) level for Finance Canada.

Developmental work on population estimates and their components

Two major projects were conducted to evaluate the current methodology for the production of the final estimates of internal migration and for the preliminary estimates of internal migration. As a result of the research on the method for final estimates, the model was altered to better estimate those migrants who are not captured by tax returns.

The Population Estimates Program will be expanded to produce population estimates by single year of age up to 100 years for Canada, the provinces and territories, commencing in the fall of 2005.

Mr. Yvon Fortin (Quebec) commented on the request from the Ministry of Finance to provide municipal population estimates. In the case of Quebec, the Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec stipulates that Quebec must provide, yearly, the municipal population estimates. Therefore, it is the Quebec estimates that should be used for subsequent work. He also mentioned that a co-ordination mechanism should be

implemented to ensure that this occurs. Mr. Réjean Lachapelle, Director, Demolinguistics Studies Division, confirmed that they did indeed use the numbers provided by Quebec.

Mr. Fortin asked if a mechanism was in place to measure the distribution of the allophone population. Mr. Réjean Lachapelle responded that one of the postcensal surveys (Enquête sur la vitalité des communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire) includes francophones outside of Quebec and anglophones within Quebec. A special survey on allophones will be conducted in the Montréal region to better understand their linguistic orientation. Mr. Lachapelle confirmed that there were no samples of francophones in Quebec nor anglophones outside of Quebec.

Mr. David West (Ontario) asked when the drop to a two-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) level will be implemented for the LFS. Mr. Barnabé replied that this change will occur in the next six months.

Mr. Nigel Burns (Prince Edward Island) asked if the old Labour Market Activity Survey (forerunner of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics) was back in circulation. Ms. Maryanne Webber (Director General, Labour and Household Surveys Branch) replied that she needed to inquire further about this matter and would provide feedback as soon as possible.

Ms. Kathy Wrywas (New Brunswick) asked for a status on the residential property tax project and if there was any indication of the extent of research required for the feasibility study. Mr. Philip Smith replied that a special task force was formed to review the entire Equalization Program; the task force is to provide feedback by year's end. Meanwhile, the work on the residential property tax project is on hold. Statistics Canada will await a final decision from the Department of Finance upon their receipt of the task force report.

Mr. Wilf Falk (Manitoba) asked if Statistics Canada will ask the provinces to provide access to driver's license files for the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics and for the Reverse Record Check. Mr. Barnabé replied that, as per his understanding, access negotiations covered all of the possible uses, including the reverse record check. Mr. Barnabé indicated that for up-to-date reporting, updated driver's licenses are required and that the potentially sensitive nature of these files will require that appropriate precautions be taken. He also reiterated that the focal points' participation would be crucial and that they would be kept informed of all developments to ensure that they play an active role in the process.

7. Communications and Operations (Mr. Wayne Smith, Assistant Chief Statistician for Communications and Operations)

7.1. Program update

Wayne Smith provided a program update. He discussed the operational environment, including: the lower demand for collection; the positive predisposition of respondents; the

growing collection challenges; and the need to increase efficiency. Mr. Smith continued with the operations infrastructure. He mentioned that the move from five to three regions was near completion; that call centres will be reduced in number from eight to six by October with greater specialization; that there has been a significant reduction in computer-assisted telephone interview capacity in most regional offices and headquarters; and that regional technical infrastructure was being reviewed and renewed.

Mr. Smith then discussed operations initiatives, including: replacing the Consumer Price Index collection infrastructure; replacing key elements in the business survey infrastructure; and planning the replacement of the case management system for social surveys. All surveys were using Blaise for computer-assisted interviewing, he reported, and negotiations for the next round of collective agreements for interviewers were under way. Other operations initiatives discussed were: active management; collection research; electronic data reporting; and the 2006 Census.

Subsequently, Mr. Smith covered the communications and dissemination environment. Included were items such as: public opinion research that indicated the effectiveness of dissemination programs; the website as the principal platform for communication and dissemination; a decline in publication sales volumes and revenues; the stable but changing nature of telephone inquiries; and the virtual disappearance of in-person visits. Areas of interest in the communications and disseminations infrastructures included: the consolidation of inquiries services in Ottawa; the closing of the regional reference centres; the focus of regional Advisory Services on value-added services; and the deployment of CANSIM as an aggregate data warehouse that is being leveraged to reduce operations costs of publishing.

New communications and dissemination initiatives included: a two-year project to improve the effectiveness of the STC website; introduction of the Media Room; the revamping and expanding of the Canadian Statistics module; improvements to Integrated Meta Data Base (IMDB); smart publishing, improvements to Internal Communications Network (ICN); and a proposal for rationalization of publication program.

Yvon Fortin (Quebec) asked if Statistics Canada would consider collaborating and guiding *l'Institut de la statistique du Québec* (ISQ) with the implementation and utilization of the Blaise system for its data collection. Mr. Smith agreed to do so.

7.2. Update on the External Communications Network (ECN)

Ms. Cynthia Ingalls provided a brief update on the ECN focal point module. She reported that site redesign was now completed and available to all participants. She also stated that, during its restructuring, much feedback had been received and incorporated into the final design. The main website resided in the Communications and Library Services Division (CLSD), and the data releases were made available promptly by the Business and Trade Statistics Field.

Ms. Ingalls added that the site was functioning well, that it had been reassigned to CLSD, and that the new module manager was Monique Williams (Federal–Provincial–Territorial Relations Secretariat).

7.3. Pricing and licensing

Mr. David Roy (Director, Marketing Division) provided a report on pricing and licensing entitled “Statistics Canada’s Pricing Policy.” It comprehensively describes STC’s pricing and licensing approach and addresses various issues of interests to the focal points.

Mr. Wilf Falk (Manitoba) requested further details on the 55% rate for overhead charges, as he needed to provide an explanation to senior managers. In reply, Mr. Smith said that the 55% rate covered many indirect costs. For example, of the 55%, 33% represents the

- cost of the employee benefits; and
- employee salaries.

He further explained that another 13% is for accommodations, and another portion is for the infrastructure—support staff (i.e., Finance, Human Resources and Administrative Support Services Divisions), as well as supervisory activities. The supervisory structure entails real charges—not profit and not a tax.

Alton Hollett (Newfoundland and Labrador) commented on whether the policies were appropriate to the focal points. He could understand the corporate logic, but from the perspective of doing business with a statistical agency, that this was not really helpful. He then asked if this issue could be re-examined along with the needs of the provincial and territorial statistics agencies.

Dr. Fellegi replied that the issues raised were all quite different: they involve collection costs, the cost structure of Statistics Canada, and dissemination costs—which are policy issues. He added that enormous efforts were being made to produce a transparent cost structure. In closing, he noted that pricing and licensing issues are extremely complex and should be further discussed at the next Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Data Dissemination meeting or the upcoming Federal–Provincial–Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy meeting.

8. Analysis and Development (Dr. Michael Wolfson, Assistant Chief Statistician for Analysis and Development)

8.1. Program update

Dr. Wolfson noted that the release of the results from the nutrition survey will begin in July; obesity results should be released in early July, and information on the diets of Canadians will be released in the fall of 2005.

Canadian Community Health Survey

Dr. Wolfson added that much attention was recently placed on the epidemic of obesity. However, a report from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggested that

being overweight had no impact on one's relative risk of dying compared with someone whose weight was within the normal range. A quick preview of the data analyzed from the National Population Health Survey and the mortality follow-up confirmed these findings. Despite the complex challenges, it was also mentioned that the Canadian Community Health Survey may soon be conducted each year, rather than every two years.

Canadian Health Measures Survey

Dr. Wolfson reported that the sample size consisted of 5,000 Canadians. In addition to answering questions, the respondents would need to provide blood and urine samples, and the pretest, which was conducted in the Calgary Health Region, was very successful. Due to the high costs associated with the testing, it was decided that an alternate method will be used for upcoming surveys—a Mobile Examination Clinic.

9. Program Committee Report

The chair of the 2005 Program Committee, Mr. Wilf Falk, mentioned that, during the planning period, Mr. John Palmer (Prince Edward Island) had been replaced by Mr. Hank Spierenburg, and that, due to scheduling difficulties, Dr. Gerry Ewert (Yukon) had been temporarily replaced by Mr. David Stewart (Northwest Territories).

He also raised the issue of the administration of travel subsidies as a potential controversial item that will be addressed by the 2006 Program Committee. Mr. Falk then cordially thanked the focal points, the Statistics Canada participants and the program committee for their participation.

10. Nominations to the next program committee (Mr. Wilf Falk)

Mr. Wilf Falk proposed that the 2006 Program Committee for the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy consist of

- Fred Bergman (Nova Scotia);
- David West (Ontario);
- Don McRae (British Columbia);
- David Stewart, (Northwest Territories), who would also serve as Chairperson; and
- Victoria Crompton (Statistics Canada).

11. Concluding remarks

Dr. Fellegi adjourned the 2005 Consultative Council meeting. He then thanked, expressed his best wishes, and presented a gift to Mr. Ron McMahon for his many years of service.

Approved in Ottawa, January 5, 2006
By Dr. Fellegi

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF STATISTICAL FOCAL POINTS AND STATISTICS CANADA 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 and Labrador Agency	Alton Hollett	Director Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Department of Finance, Economics and Statistics Branch
Prince Edward Island	Nigel Burns	Acting Director Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division Department of the Provincial Treasury
Nova Scotia	Fred Bergman	Acting Director Economics and 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 Statistics Alberta Finance
British Columbia	Don McRae	Director BC STATS Ministry of Management Services
Northwest Territories	David Stewart	Territorial Statistician Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics
Yukon	Gerry Ewert	Director Yukon Bureau of Statistics
Nunavut	Paul Harris	Director Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

STATISTICS CANADA PARTICIPANTS

Jacques Morin	Departmental Secretary Chief Statistician of Canada
Richard Barnabé	Assistant Chief Statistician Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics
Ray Ryan	Assistant Chief Statistician Business and Trade Statistics
Philip Smith	Assistant Chief Statistician National Account and Analytical Studies
Michael Wolfson	Assistant Chief Statistician Analysis and Development
Wayne Smith	Assistant Chief Statistician Communications and Operations

François Maranda	Assistant Chief Statistician Informatics and Methodology
Alain Séguin	Assistant Chief Statistician Management Services
Sange de Silva	Director General Institutions and Social Statistics
Douglas Norris	Director General Social and Demographic Statistics
Maryanne Webber	Director General Labour and Household Surveys
Anil Arora	Director General and 2006 Census Manager Social and Demographic Statistics
Karen Wilson	Director General System of National Accounts
George Andrusiak	Director General Economy Wide Statistics
Réjean Lachapelle	Director Demography
Gordon Deecker	Director Geography
Ian Macredie	Director Public Institutions
David Roy	Director Marketing
Rosemary Campbell	Assistant Director Marketing
Rosemary Bender	Director Social and Aboriginal Statistics

Jamie Brunet	Assistant Director Labour Statistics
Victoria Crompton	Director Communications and Library Services
Monique Williams	Head Federal–Provincial–Territorial Relations Secretariat Communications

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA

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

May 19 and 20, 2005
Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room, Ottawa, Ontario

AGENDA

Thursday, May 19, 2005

- 9:00 A.M. **Opening remarks**—Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Adoption of the agenda
 - Approval of the minutes of the 2004 meeting
- 9:15 A.M. **Achievements and Priorities**—Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi
- Dr. Fellegi's response to questions arising from the contents of the *2005@StatCan Special Issue*
- 10:15 A.M. Break
- 10:30 A.M. **Provincial and territorial reports**—Focal points
- 12:00 A.M. Luncheon (executive dining room)
- 1:00 P.M. **National Accounts and Analytical Studies**—Mr. Philip Smith
- Program update
 - Environmental statistics
 - IO
 - Reduced structure/level of detail
 - Quality issues (impact of confidentiality on utility)
 - Resource issue
 - Residential property tax project
- 1:45 P.M. **Business and Trade Statistics**—Mr. Ray Ryan / Mr. François Maranda
- Program update
 - Mandatory reporting system on greenhouse gas emissions
 - International trade data
 - Use of administrative data (Canada Revenue Agency)
- 2:30 P.M. Break

- 2:45 P.M. **Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics**—Mr. Richard Barnabé
- Program update
 - 2006 Census
 - Assistance for the 2006 Census
 - Reverse record check for 2006
 - Labour Force Survey (LFS) redesign
 - Population estimates and LFS results
 - Aboriginal statistics program / First Nations Statistical Institute (FNSI)
 - Demography: Use of administrative data and quality issues inter provincial migration data
- 4:00 P.M. **Communications and Operations**—Mr. Wayne Smith
- Program update
 - Update on External Communications Network (ECN)—Ms. Cynthia Ingalls
 - Data pricing/licensing—Mr. David Roy
- 4:45 P.M. Reception

Friday, May 20, 2005

- 9:00 A.M. **Analysis and Development**—Dr. Michael Wolfson
- Program update
 - Update on Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) pilot

- 9:45 A.M. **Program Committee repor** —Mr. Wilf Falk

Nominations to the next program committee—Mr. Wilf Falk

Other business

Concluding remarks

Close of meeting

APPENDIX 3

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

ALBERTA

Overview

During the 2004/05 operating period, Alberta Statistics continued to maintain its operations as the province's central statistical agency reporting to the Finance Department through the Office of Budget and Management.

Statistics' move towards an increased role in primary data gathering has stabilized, with a variety human resource, social and economic survey programs now in place. The general focus of core statistical activities has again remained relatively consistent over the past year continuing the trend toward a greater emphasis on developing and maintaining statistical standards.

Administration and budget

During the 2004/05 fiscal period, core staffing levels remained constant, supplemented by contract and wage personnel for special projects. Budgetary allocations for Statistics remained stable for the 2004/05 operating period, with cost-recovery revenues providing the basis for undertaking various ad hoc social and economic projects.

Goals and objectives

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

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

Programs and services

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

- Alberta Economic Accounts (internal release)
- Alberta I/O Economic Impact Model
- demographic population projections and estimates
- inter- and intra-provincial statistical co-ordination custom survey operations
- GIS-based data referencing and translation
- municipal census training/consultation program.

ASIST (Alberta Statistical Information SysTem)

ASIST continues to be the Alberta Government's centralized Internet 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.

Electronic dissemination and publications

During 2004/05, the following publications were available from Statistics and its secondary distributors:

- Alberta Economic Multipliers, 2001
- Alberta Municipal Census Enumerators Training Manual
- Alberta Economic Accounts, 2003 (internal release)
- Alberta Population Projections, 2004 to 2026
- Alberta Provincial Electoral Division Profiles

Demographic program

Custom population estimates and projections are now part of the in-house core services provide by 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 complete on the Alberta Population Projection Model, 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.

Geographic Information Services

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 file allows the translation of survey and administrative data into over 25 standard and custom sets of Alberta geographic regions.

Economic Modelling Program

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 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 2005 to include the latest I/O data and recent provincial tax revisions. The economic multipliers program provides both a standard series and user-specific custom industry aggregations of Alberta economic multipliers and intensity/supply ratios to meet a wide range of client modelling applications.

Acknowledgement

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The last year has been another very busy one for BC Stats, as evidenced by a 20% expansion in our activities. Our base funding supporting the various corporate programs of government remained unchanged last year; however, our supplementary statistical programs, which are funded by recoveries from clients and a variety of data partners, expanded by over 40%. Currently, almost three-quarters of our activities are financed through data and analytic partnerships with client ministries, Crown corporations or agencies in the broader public sector.

The following is a summary of new or major projects completed in the last year.

Labour and Social Statistics

Aboriginal Data Project

The Government of British Columbia has placed a priority on improving the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal people in British Columbia. As part of this initiative, government and the Aboriginal community have created the Provincial Aboriginal Socio-Economic Strategy (PASES) to achieve measurable improvements in the quality of life for Aboriginal people. BC STATS, in co-operation with Statistics Canada, is supporting this policy initiative by providing data and analytical services in the following areas:

- **Aboriginal Profiles:** A series of detailed regional profiles on the Aboriginal population in B.C., based on data from the 2001 Census, were created and are available via our website. These profiles were developed for 15 distinct regions within the province and report on the socio-economic characteristics of three distinct population groups: Aboriginal people living on reserve, Aboriginal people living off reserve, and the non-Aboriginal population. The topics profiled are designed to provide easy access to benchmarking information highlighting the social and economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations.
- **Aboriginal Labour Force Survey:** Following the lead of Alberta, the Government of British Columbia has purchased 1,100 additional sample points that were phased in to the B.C. portion of the Labour Force Survey over the period November 2004 to April 2005. The additional sample will support the production of three-month moving-average estimates of key labour-market outcomes for Aboriginal peoples living off reserve in British Columbia. The first release of this new data is planned for the end of May and will continue for the next 12 months.

B.C. College and Institute Student Outcomes

In December, BC STATS released the Highlights from the 2004 B.C. College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey. The document presented a summary of student satisfaction with

various educational programs offered by B.C. colleges and institutes, as well as describing subsequent outcomes with respect to employment and further education. The B.C. College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey, operated by BC STATS, contacts 18,000 former students by telephone 9 to 20 months after they complete all, or a significant portion, of their program. The survey asks former students what they have done since leaving and whether they were satisfied with the education they received. The results from this survey form an important link in demonstrating accountability for public funding of postsecondary institutions, as well as providing valued information to postsecondary institutions to review and improve educational programs and services.

Socio-economic indicators

As part of the Government's commitment to measuring the success of its programs and reporting on performance, BC STATS worked closely with the British Columbia Progress Board reviewing data and analytical requirements to support the establishment and monitoring of performance benchmarks for the December 15th release of its report for 2004. These indicators form the key measures used to assess the objectives of the three primary strategic goals of the Government – "a strong and vibrant economy," "a supportive social infrastructure," and "safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment."

Our regional socio-economic indicators program continued in 2004 with an update for various regions within the province. These reports summarize social and economic conditions over a wide variety of indicators into a single composite index. When viewed together, they provide a summary measure of the relative successes and challenges across regions of the province and provide policy makers with information that supports fact-based decision making when allocating budgetary resources.

Business and Economic Statistics

Sector studies

For a number of years we have reported on the health of various special industrial sectors within the Province, such as small business, high technology, and tourism. This work continued in 2004, with updates to all three reports.

We also completed a study on the importance of service exports to the B.C. economy. The significance of the service sector is not universally recognized, partly because standard measures of economic activity have traditionally focused on goods-producing activities, with less attention paid to the value of the service sector. This view is changing as the role of the service sector has been more clearly articulated in the data, and as the demand for services in our increasingly consumer-driven economy expands.

International trade reports

Analysis and reporting on international trade conditions for British Columbia continues to be

a priority for BC STATS. For a small, open, resource-dependent economy, timely data and analysis on international trade conditions are essential inputs into our understanding of the current state of the provincial economy. As part of that process, in the past year we have provided analysis on a variety of topics, including updates to the softwood lumber dispute with the United States and B.C.'s trade with China, Brazil and the European Union.

Surveys and Analysis

The Surveys and Analysis section of BC STATS continued to provide cost-recovered survey and analytical services to the B.C. Government and the broader public sector. Up until this year, most of the surveys we delivered were web-based internal client and employee surveys, in keeping with the Government's commitment to program performance improvement. However, because of growing demand from within government for surveys of the general public, we have expanded our capabilities to include survey call centre services. In late September, three vendors were selected through a competitive bidding process to provide call center services under contract. This important strategic move allows BC STATS to support surveys at competitive rates in all modes (web, telephone, paper and face to face). With these standing offers in place, we are now able to guarantee pricing and capacity to those clients who wish to conduct ongoing or occasional telephone surveys of either a specific population or the general public.

The newly acquired BC STATS telephone-based survey capacity was used to develop an omnibus telephone survey focused on population health. The survey, with a sample design optimized to give accurate results by health authority and local health delivery area, is in the field monthly. Clients include the Nurseline, which is conducting an evaluation of its telephone call centre and website, as well as the Tobacco Control Program, which is monitoring tobacco use. The new BC STATS Omnibus product is still under development and we anticipate adding more clients in future.

B.C. Voters' List Quality Audit

In December we delivered the second of three reports to Elections BC on the quality of the provincial voters' list. The report provides benchmark measures of both the completeness of the voters' list and the accuracy of the address information contained on that list. Using sampling techniques, BC STATS was able to provide guidance to Elections BC on where within the province to concentrate enumeration efforts leading up to the May 17, 2005 general election, with the result being a more efficient utilization of Election BC resources. The approach developed by BC STATS was unique to the electoral community in Canada and has resulted in recent discussions with Elections Canada, who are looking to follow our lead.

Population Statistics

Regional population estimates

In November we completed our 2004 population estimates for various subprovincial

administrative regions, including 155 municipalities, 28 regional districts, 56 school districts and 89 health regions. These population estimates are used by provincial and local governments to assess current and future community needs, as well as forming a basis for provincial–local government fiscal transfers.

Regional population projections

Our regional population projections continue to have broad use in planning related to health, education and social service needs at the regional level, as well as regional government planning to manage population growth in urban areas. Last year, at the request of our Ministry of Education, we produced an in-house system to generate school district enrolment projections by age and grade. Until recently, enrolment projections were done by the Ministry of Education. However, as the system was primarily driven by our population projection, we proposed that the current enrolment model be managed, and where necessary, enhanced by BC STATS. This program transfer resulted in reduced costs to the Ministry of Education and provided greater system continuity.

Mapping development

To meet the demands of government clients for geographic-based data presentations, we have licensed the Internet mapping service ARC/IMS. As BC STATS provides georeferencing services and products to government and the public, the development of the capability to host an interactive web-based mapping application is viewed as providing substantial efficiencies in the delivery of current and new statistical products. Currently, the Ministries of Health and Education are investigating the use of BC STATS as a provider of Internet mapping services for their statistical information holdings.

Data Services

As of September, BC STATS implemented a database and query-driven system that allows clients to access population and demographic information on the BC STATS website through dynamic selection of only the data that are needed. Prior to implementation, this information was maintained as static HTML pages. This new ASP-based method has been applied initially to selected population statistics for a variety of administrative regions, but will be expanded in future to include additional statistical data holdings. The goal is to improve access to the data holdings of BC STATS by government departments and the public.

MANITOBA

Overview

The Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) is the central statistical agency for the Province of the Manitoba. For 2005/06, it comprises 11 permanent positions. The organization reports to the Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines through the Deputy Minister.

The base budget for the MBS was reduced for the 2005/06 fiscal year by one vacant position. Operational expenditures were subject to a small increase.

Information development and dissemination

The following are some of MBS' information development and dissemination activities in the last 12 months:

- continued development of MBS StatsBase, an online information system that enables Manitoba government staff to access time series and cross-sectional information on various topic using the Beyond 20/20 Web Data Server software
- maintained the currency of MBS information systems, including the MBS InfoNet and MBS Trade
- maintained the Manitoba Economic Accounts program to measure annual economic activity in Manitoba
- developed semi-annual economic forecasts of the Manitoba economy as well as public accounts forecasts
- released a new set of Manitoba- and regional-level population projections (December 2004 and January 2005)
- updated Manitoba Aboriginal Population Projections for 2001 to 2026 for a mid-June 2005 release
- continued finalizing several Manitoba Labour Force projection scenarios that are consistent with the Manitoba-level population projections (target release date: late June 2005)
- developed detailed profiles of Manitoba's Aboriginal community in report and database formats, including Aboriginal youth

- developed a new Manitoba Economic Multipliers 2004 Report, based on the most recent Manitoba Input–Output tables
- conducted the Prices Monitoring Survey in 19 Manitoba communities to determine food price differentials in southern and northern centres
- developed a number of 2001 Census Target Group profiles, including seniors groups and Immigrants
- distributed monthly and quarterly key economic information within the Manitoba government, including Labour Force Survey, CPI, Investment, Population and International Trade.

Assistance to provincial departments and agencies

A significant amount of the work of the MBS focused on supporting provincial departments' information requirements during 2004/05. The requests that were responded to ranged from very basic to complex.

Some specific examples include

- development of a survey of educational institutions to obtain a statistical profile of their international students
- development of a number of economic and tax revenue impact assessments of government and departmental initiatives, projects and activities
- development of custom economic forecasts on a short- and long-term basis
- holding of several sessions of the one-day workshop *Economic Multipliers 2004*; the objective was to highlight the MBS-produced Manitoba economic multipliers and to discuss the appropriate use of this analytical tool within the Manitoba government
- developed the presentation *Manitoba's Demographic Future: A 2005 to 2017 View*; the presentation is being expanded into a half-day workshop format
- participated in the development and presentation of performance indicators for several government-wide initiatives that are scheduled for release in June 2005.

Working with Statistics Canada

MBS continued to provide input on a variety of Statistics Canada programs, including participation in federal–provincial–territorial committee meetings on statistics. Working

with Statistics Canada to improve the scope and quality of statistical information for Manitoba is an important part of our legislative mandate.

MBS is starting to gear up for the 2006 Census collection phase and the examination of the proposed coverage studies methodology. Manitoba is again looking at participating in a public awareness campaign for the 2006 Census.

MBS had extensive discussions with Statistics Canada regarding the increasing the number of households surveyed in the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The increased sample would be targeted to obtain an increased number of Aboriginal respondents resulting in 'higher quality' Aboriginal labour-market estimates. Unfortunately, we were not able to proceed because of the startup and data collection costs involved. We are looking to see whether we can acquire the required funds for a startup in 2005/06.

We look forward to further consultations with the provinces and territories on the Aboriginal Statistics Initiative prior to its submission to Cabinet in the fall of 2005. Manitoba views Aboriginal Labour Market information as an important component of an Aboriginal statistics initiative.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Organizational structure

During 2004/05, the New Brunswick government operated within a tight fiscal environment, resulting in cuts to operating budgets for many departments. While the New Brunswick Statistics Agency (NBSA) continued to operate within the Department of Finance, there was a change to the divisional structure of the department because of the retirement of some senior staff.

NBSA now falls under the Fiscal Policy and Economics Branch of the Fiscal Policy Division. Kathy Wyrwas continues as the focal point for the province and Director of NBSA; five staff fulfill the statistical focal point office role as well as being responsible for new tasks associated with fiscal policy issues. The NBSA 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. Finally, the Agency continues to provide research, analysis and advice to senior officials of the government, including the Premier's Office.

Operations

The Agency produces regular reports on economic, demographic and social indicators, including the *Quarterly Review of Economic Performance* (available through the Finance intranet site), *New Brunswick Economic Indicators* (annual and monthly, available through the government website) and *New Brunswick Forestry Statistics* (quarterly, available through the government website). The economics and statistics component of the New Brunswick government website, which is maintained by our staff, contains a variety of annual indicators for New Brunswick presented in both official languages and can be found at www.gnb.ca/0024/economics/index.asp. As well, a weekly briefing document that is prepared for our deputy and senior managers 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 2005*, which provides a snapshot of New Brunswick's economic indicators and industry sectors, was released in March 2005. It was a supporting document to the provincial budget. All of the budget documents can be found at www.gnb.ca/0160/budget/buddoc2005/index.asp

Statistics Canada

New Brunswick continued its participation throughout the year at Statistics Canada's federal-provincial-territorial committee meetings. Without the financial support from Statistics Canada, it is doubtful a provincial delegate would have been in attendance at each meeting. Other meetings with Statistics Canada officials were held in Fredericton on specific issues, including the Property Tax Base Feasibility Study and the 2006 Census. Finally, Martin Podehl, Director General, visited our focal point office.

In 2004/05, there was no budget to purchase the Statistics Canada products that the NBSA traditionally purchases, specifically, the Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M), tables from Small Area and Administrative Data Division (SAAD), and customized census tables. Therefore, it is extremely important for NBSA to continue to have access to CANSIM and the Trade database via the consortium agreement. The ongoing expansion of CANSIM data series is fully supported. The External Communications Network focal point module is another important medium used by NBSA staff to access critical data series, publications, key contacts and other important information to meet the daily demands of our clients.

Finally, the NBSA continues to have a good working relationship with Statistics Canada staff in Halifax and Ottawa. Efforts by staff to keep us informed of new developments and their efficient and prompt attention to our requests are appreciated.

Future activities

For 2005/06, the NBSA will be operating with basically the same budget as the previous fiscal year, meaning there is no additional funding to take on new initiatives. Every effort will be made to maintain the activities mentioned earlier in the report.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Data dissemination

This service, which is provided mainly through our data centre, has historically been a highly valuable core function area of the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistical Agency (NLSA). Its focus is to operate as a main point of contact for government departments and external clients for all data produced by Statistics Canada (STC) as well as data produced in-house. We plan a review of our data dissemination activities this year to determine how adequate our efforts have been and whether new directions/services are required.

Survey services

Call centre established

Until this year, tasks in our Survey Unit have included survey design, paper data collection and key entry (small surveys). This year a decision was taken to establish telephone and online data collection. This decision came from the growing need to fill data gaps not met by STC and other sources and to reduce the high cost of contracting out collection as well as purchasing certain datasets. A variety of other factors also made this approach attractive and necessary.

A computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system and 20 workstations have been set up. This gives us a total capacity of 40 interviewers on a 2-shift basis. We currently have 38 interviewers on contract.

Efforts to date have been highly successful. They have also highlighted technical capacity we must have to properly carry out data collection and associated work. The NLSA will work with STC to enhance skills and capacity and ensure that standards can be met and that duplication of STC efforts is minimized. Discussions are under way with STC regarding setting up a training program for NLSA staff who will participate in training in methodology, survey design and numerous other focused and relevant topic areas. The intent is to ensure, to the extent resources permit, that data collection standards are as close to those of STC as possible.

The first training session was held in April 2004 and the topic was coding survey responses. We would like to thank Wilma Sashtry, Human Resources Development Division, and her colleagues who came to St. John's and led the three-day training session. It was highly successful and the subject matter is being used intensively.

Major surveys undertaken

Since September, three important surveys have been carried out in-house. They are listed below and give a sense of the selected topics for which NLSA will undertake data collection.

- Survey of Expatriots: This surveys people who have migrated from the province.

About 40,000 calls were made to contact 15,000 people. In total, about 2,500 completions were achieved and the data are now being prepared for use.

- **Survey of Firms' Practices in Hiring Immigrants:** This survey of 400 firms explores the extent to which they hire workers from outside Canada, their willingness to do so, how they go about recruiting the workers, and the perceived strengths and weaknesses of this approach to meeting labour needs. This interest comes from government's need to explore issues associated with impending labour shortages due to population aging and decline in the province.
- **Survey of Small Manufacturing Firms:** The purpose of this survey was to collect data on firms' interest and readiness to export. Most manufacturers outside fishing, mining, and pulp and paper are very small, and thus data have not been available from established sources to support recent policy initiatives. A key element of current policy focuses on business development, partially through the development of exports.
- **A census of employers and the most recent cycle of the Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Labour Activity Survey (LAS)** is being completed. We expect results to be available by July. This year the LAS sample size was increased from 2,500 to 5,500. The oversample was required to improve data for Labrador and small urban areas in the province. The survey has also been enlarged and its structure has been changed compared to previous years.

Special projects

The System of Community Accounts (CAs)

The CAs continue to be maintained and developed, and to date training has been provided to over 4,000 users. Feedback has been excellent from within and outside the province. This year a major effort has been to launch projects to enhance labour-market data in the accounts and to develop/provide data on crime and community safety. The crime and community-safety data are being developed on invitation and with financial support from a component of the federal government's National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI)

The CCRI is a project involving seven universities across Canada, including Memorial University (MUN), along with IBM and Statistics Canada. The project is funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), and its purpose is to build databases containing historical census data back to 1911. Work in NL is a joint initiative of NLSA and MUN; all data for Atlantic Canada will be key-entered at NLSA. A grand opening for the centre was held in December.

The Production Accounts

This element of the Community Accounts provides data to reflect the 'production process' in NL and to provide data and indicators relating to productivity and competitiveness with comparisons for NL and other jurisdictions. This has been a collaborative effort of the NLSA, Dr. Doug May of MUN, and our Department of Industry, Trade and Rural Development. This system has been under development for about three years. It is now ready for release, pending a briefing of Cabinet and discussions with STC regarding data access. The NLSA appreciates the support of STC, in particular from Philip Smith, John Baldwin, Michel Gerard, and other National Accounts staff.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Overview

The NWT Bureau of Statistics, the central statistical agency for the Government of the Northwest Territories, comprises seven permanent and two term positions. It is located in the Department of Finance.

The base budget for the Bureau was increased for the 2005/06 fiscal year, reflecting the addition of a fourth statistician position. This position will focus on ensuring statistical systems are able to monitor impacts of resource development and provide statistical support for planning for development impacts. No changes in the organizational placement of the Bureau are planned.

Data development and dissemination

Although it is impossible to describe all the data development and dissemination activities, highlights for the NWT Bureau of Statistics include the following:

- preparation of community population for July 1, 2004
- development of a new NWT Population Projection Model, using 2004 community estimates as the base and integrating economic forecasts
- dissemination of the 2004 NWT Community Survey, which focuses on labour market activity, housing, languages, and harvesting activities
- other survey work during the year, including
 - ♦ the NWT Alcohol and Drug Survey
 - ♦ the 2004 NWT Community Price Survey
- preparation of detailed forecasts of cumulative impacts of resource development activity and completion of a study on the impacts on government services
- development and dissemination of a suite of community profiles, including comprehensive statistical profiles, social indicators and infrastructure profiles
- update of *NWT Socio-Economic Scan* and *NWT Labour Market Trends*.

Assistance to departments

A significant amount of the work of the Bureau focused on supporting government initiatives during 2003/04. Some specific examples include the preparation of the *NWT Socio-Economic Scan*, an overview of trends in demographic, social and economic conditions in the territory. This document, in conjunction with the business planning assumptions, is used by all departments in preparation of the departmental business plans that are the first step in the budget development process. The business planning assumptions document provides a common set of forecasts of demographic and price changes that will affect departmental programs.

As noted above, a major project was the development of forecasts of the economic and demographic impacts of non-renewable resource development projects. The project uses these forecasts with cost driver models to ensure integration of the expected impacts of non-renewable resource development into government-wide business planning. The Bureau and the Financial Management Board Secretariat are the leads on this project.

A significant amount of support is also provided to departments in the monitoring, planning and participation the environmental assessment process for the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

Work with Statistics Canada

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

Significant effort is planned in the upcoming year to work with Statistics Canada to ensure the effective completion of the 2006 Census in the Northwest Territories.

NOVA SCOTIA

Restructuring and Community Counts

The Economics and Statistics Division was created on June 1, 2004, as a result of an amalgamation of the former Economic Policy and Analysis Division and the Statistics Division. The former director of the Statistics Division, Dennis Pilkey, was assigned a two-year mandate to implement Community Counts, which is an effort to supply information on the Internet about Nova Scotia communities to better inform policy makers and assist them in evidence-based decision making. The Community Counts website went live in January 2005. You can find this website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/communitycounts/default2.asp>

Keep in mind, this website is still under development. The Economics and Statistics Division assisted the Community Counts project with accessing Small Area Administrative Data and Census data in 2004/05 from Statistics Canada, ensuring it received the necessary licensing agreements to place information on the Internet. The provincial focal point was the signatory to these agreements.

Internet and publications

In addition to providing the Daily Stats e-mails summarizing *Daily Releases* by Statistics Canada, the Economics and Statistics Division updated most of its 15 other publications. Information was recently purchased to update the trade publication and data are being accessed to update the business statistics publication. Two publications have been dormant for a number of years and are being considered for termination (largest employers and manufacturing directory). The labour force historical revision has been captured on the websites and in key publications as of March 2005. The Division's publications are provided free of charge in PDF format on its websites. Downloads of these publications from the websites totalled 346,388 in 2004, a 35.3% increase over 2003. However, the rate of downloads appears to have peaked in the fall of 2004. Some of the planned publication updates may offset this trend. Downloads of data from CANSIM II more than doubled in 2004. Over the coming year, the content and look and feel of the Internet and intranet sites maintained by the Economics and Statistics Division will change as a result of the hiring of a webmaster for the Department of Finance. The Division's website can be found on the Internet at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/statistics/agency/index.asp>

Intranet

The Division's intranet site is the primary vehicle for data dissemination to government. The site has been rebuilt to provide a variety of statistical data and related resources. Entry to the information base is by subscription to control access to licensed materials. 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 that can be used dynamically to produce customized presentations by knowledgeable users. A prototype knowledge-base application continues to be developed and includes functions to capture, manage and disseminate information from diverse sources. There are 155 registered subscribers to the Intranet site. This site was demonstrated at the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Data Dissemination meeting in December 2003.

Federal–provincial–territorial (FPT) meetings and committees

The Economics and Statistics Division attended nine of the FPT meetings at Statistics Canada in 2004/05, as well as the Small Area Estimation Workshop in February 2005. The remaining FPT meetings were attended by representatives from other provincial departments. In addition, the Economics and Statistics Division attended the Continuing Committee of Officials Subcommittee meetings on Economic and Fiscal Matters. This is a FPT subcommittee related to finance/treasury departments.

Over the last year, the Economics and Statistics Division was involved in a number of interdepartmental committees. Some of these involved federal departments, including Forum of Labour Market Ministers—Labour Market Information, Skills Nova Scotia, Offshore Review, Immigration Strategy, Oceans Sector Study, Private Lands and Conservation Enhancement Strategy, Sydney Tar Ponds Clean-up, and Economic Diversification Agreement Evaluation. On the go forward, there will be participation in a number of new committees including Ageing Workforce, Community Development Policy Initiative, Defence, Climate Change, and Major Events Hosting Policy. There will be renewed involvement in the Target Nova Scotia and GeoNova advisory committees, which are both Internet-based portals for Nova Scotia information.

Economic impact analysis and economic forecasting

A number of economic impact studies were undertaken in 2004/05, mainly for Nova Scotia Business Incorporated and the Office of Economic Development. These provincial agencies are in charge of administering payroll rebates and business loans. The Nova Scotia Input–Output Model was successfully updated to the year 2000 at the W-level. In May 2004, the Division hosted an IO Workshop put on by the IO Division of Statistics Canada. This workshop was very well received and the Division is looking forward to hosting future workshops on how to construct an IO model. On the go forward, there is also an interest in hosting a workshop on the National Accounts. In addition, the Economics and Statistics Division will have to comply with the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Canada Revenue Agency tax data in order to get access to this information.

In terms of providing feedback to Statistics Canada, the new Division has been more proactive in providing its views on data related to provincial economic accounts, gross domestic product by industry, provincial input–output tables, and public sector statistics/financial management system. The Division already has a history of commenting on population estimates.

The Division was responsible for updating its national and provincial economic forecasts for 2004/05 in August 2004 (prior to the release of the Public Accounts) and in November 2004 (prior to the release of the Year End Forecast Update), and during the provincial Budget process in March 2005. The Division also assisted with due diligence and presentations related to the bond-rating agencies in the spring of 2004, helping to improve the province's credit rating for the first time in a number of years. The Division also helped produce the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Form 18-K submission over the fall/winter of 2004/05, as is required to issue provincial government bonds in the United States.

Restructuring highlights

As part of the restructuring, the Economics and Statistics Division came up with a new mandate, including a vision and mission statement, a set of strategic goals, an action plan to achieve these goals, and a review of its existing client base. The latter showed that while most of the services provided by the Economics and Statistics Division was for external clients, only a small share was for clients outside of the provincial government umbrella. One of the administrative assistants will retire in August 2005. A two-year postgraduate career starts intern economist was hired in September 2004. In order to assist in succession planning, efforts will be undertaken to have more career starts individuals join the Division. Given the demands of the Division, there may be a necessity for increased project management. The present staff compliment is 13, including the acting director, 2 administrative assistants, 1 senior policy analyst, 1 senior economist, 2 economists, 1 intern economist, 2 senior research and statistical officers, and 3 research and statistical officers.

NUNAVUT

The relocation of the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, previously operating in the capital of Nunavut, Iqaluit, is now located in the hamlet of Pangnirtung, approximately one hour's flight time from Iqaluit. Pangnirtung is primarily an Inuit community of approximately 1,250 individuals.

The Bureau was moved to Pangnirtung in the fall of 2004 as part of the territorial government's decentralization program. The territorial government has approximately 115 employees working in Pangnirtung in various departments, including Education, Health, Economic Development, and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (the home department of the Bureau of Statistics).

As a result of the move to Pangnirtung, all of the Bureau's staff working in Iqaluit, including the director, declined to relocate and either left the government or were reassigned to other departments. One employee, the Bureau's survey manager, agreed to remain with the Bureau in Iqaluit until the end of the 2004/05 fiscal year in order to complete the field operations of the 2004 Nunavut Household Survey.

In the meantime, an offer was made to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to second one of their employees for a period of two years to re-establish the Nunavut Bureau in its new location. The offer was accepted and the employee arrived in Pangnirtung in September 2004.

The re-establishment of the Bureau

Renovations to house the Bureau in the territorial government's building in Pangnirtung had just been completed in September 2004. No office furniture, equipment or, most important, staff were in place, however. The single employee, the new director, had brought from the Bureau's old office in Iqaluit one computer and several boxes of miscellaneous reports and files. A surplus desk and chair was found, the computer and a telephone hooked up and work begun to plan the 'new' Bureau.

By the end of October, brand new office furniture for the Bureau, ordered the previous summer, had arrived via 'sea lift,' a small coastal ship from Montréal that transports cargo to Pangnirtung (and other communities) twice a year. Local movers were hired to bring the furniture into the office, unpack it and set it up. Over the next month, equipment began to arrive via air cargo, including new computers, a fax machine, printers, a scanner and a Xerox duplicator. These items were all unboxed and set up with the assistance of the local IT technician.

Also in November, funding was approved to hire a casual office administrator until the end

of the current fiscal year. A competition was run and a local person was hired by the end of the month. Shortly thereafter, a third person, a policy analyst on loan from the Department's Evaluation Unit, joined the Bureau on a temporary basis. The Evaluation Unit, previously part of the Bureau, was split off as a separate unit just prior to the decentralization initiative. It was also decentralized to Pangnirtung and is in the process of re-establishing itself.

During the fall of 2004 and early in 2005, the Bureau Director took part in the regular federal-provincial-territorial meetings at Statistics Canada, including demography and census (September), agriculture (October), health (November), provincial economic accounts, public sector and data dissemination (December), and transportation and business (January 2005). While these meetings took place at Statistics Canada, discussions were held with the Aboriginal Data Initiative Unit at Statistics Canada to seek their support for training opportunities for the Bureau's soon-to-be-hired staff.

Highlights of the first six months of the Bureau's operation in Pangnirtung

- **Staffing process begun**

The new Bureau organization has three positions: a territorial statistician (seconded from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics) and two information officer/analysts. The two successful candidates for the information officer/analyst positions, hired locally, should be in place by the end of March.

- **Intern position approved**

A proposal to have an intern funded for the Bureau was approved by the territorial government's Human Resources Department. The successful candidate, hired locally, will be in place as of April 1.

- **Proposal to develop a Nunavut Statistics Act approved**

Cabinet approval was received in late fall to begin the development of a *Nunavut Statistics Act*. Plans call for the proposed Act to be considered by the legislature in the fall of 2005.

- **Interchange agreement finalized**

An agreement to bring a Statistics Canada analyst to the Bureau for a year (and perhaps longer) was successfully negotiated, with the analyst arriving in Pangnirtung at the end of January 2005.

- **Data dissemination resumes**

A new electronic publication entitled *StatsUpdate*, highlighting the latest statistics publicly available for Nunavut, was approved for distribution. The first issue was disseminated early in March 2005. More issues will be forthcoming as data is identified.

- **Labour market workshop held**
A workshop was organized and held in Iqaluit mid-February 2005 involving territorial and federal government departments, Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Tungavik Inc. and the Nunavut Research Institute. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the development of a work plan to analyse Nunavut's labour market.
- **Nunavut Household Survey (NuHS) 2004 field operations completed**
The NuHS 2004 is an omnibus household survey collecting (by telephone) statistical data of importance to a number of GN departments and agencies. Approximately 1,000 surveys were completed in the fall of 2004. Data input was also accomplished. A comprehensive overview of the results of this survey will be released in the spring of 2005.
- **Employee Job and Workplace Satisfaction Survey**
Since September 2004, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics has been working collaboratively with the Inuit Employment Division of the Government of Nunavut to develop, administer, analyze and report the results of an employee job and workplace satisfaction survey. The survey form will be piloted in April and plans call for the administration of the survey to the approximately 3,300 government employees in May and June 2005.
- **Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey**
The Bureau, in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Health Canada, is drafting a survey on smoking in Nunavut. A proposed questionnaire is under review, with a methodology appropriate to Nunavut to be developed. Field operations will hopefully begin in the summer of 2005.
- **Drug Addiction Survey**
Discussions have been held with the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Health Canada to deliver a Nunavut version of the Canadian Addictions Survey. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is currently to be drafted with Health Canada, with potential field operations in the fall of 2005.

Challenges ahead

- **CANSIM**
As a designated focal point for Statistics Canada, the Bureau has access to CANSIM but has, unfortunately, encountered technical problems related to the Government of Nunavut 'firewall' and perhaps the relatively slow speed of the connection, which have thwarted all attempts to obtain data. Further investigation of this problem is being pursued by both the Government of Nunavut Information Technology Branch and Statistics Canada, as are alternative connection possibilities that could take

advantage of the broad-band access to the Internet that the community of Pangnirtung is soon to have. (The Government office, because of confidentiality requirements, will not be part of the broad-band connection.)

- **Training**

As the positions at the Bureau are filled with locally hired candidates, the training of these individuals will become a priority within the Bureau. All projects undertaken will become training opportunities. The goal for the next two years will be to produce a Bureau staff with the appropriate skills, organizational abilities and contacts to carry on the work of the Bureau as a credible source of statistical information for the Government of Nunavut.

- **Respondent burden**

The relatively high level of respondent burden in Nunavut is a major concern to the Bureau. Some means to either reduce the burden through joint research initiatives between the Bureau and Statistics Canada, more innovative and less intrusive survey techniques, or identification and better use of existing administrative datasets within government will be part of the Bureau's work plan over the next two years.

The Nunavut Bureau would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere thanks to Statistics Canada for its collaboration and support during the relocation, and looks forward to continuing to work together as the Bureau reestablishes itself in Pangnirtung.

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 managed by David West and is currently staffed by seven economists.

The Unit provides economic and statistical information to senior management in the Ministry—including the Minister of Finance—and to other ministries and agencies of the Government.

The major functions of the Unit include:

- monitoring current economic events by producing daily and weekly bulletins and regular briefing notes on current economic indicators
- identification and analysis of emerging economic trends and issues
- publishing the quarterly Ontario Economic Accounts (the OEA)
- acting as Ontario statistical focal point at Statistics Canada.

The Current Analysis Unit also works co-operatively with other groups in the Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Branch in the preparation of economic and fiscal revenue forecasts.

Major products

Daily e-mail bulletins

The Unit provides daily e-mail bulletins to senior staff throughout the government, summarizing and analysing all major economic releases.

Report on Ontario key economic indicators

The Unit produces a weekly electronic report on major economic news released during the week. This report is provided to senior staff throughout the government

Monthly reports

The Unit also produces regular more detailed reports, maintained on our intranet site, on a wide-variety of economic indicators, including consumer prices, labour markets, international trade, retail and wholesale sales, manufacturing shipments, housing markets and auto production.

Ontario Economic Accounts

The Unit is also responsible for the production of the Ontario Economic Accounts (OEA).

The OEA is a public document, released four times a year, that provides the best overall assessment of the current state of the Ontario economy. The OEA is distributed to the business community, libraries and news media and is also posted on the Ministry's website.

Under Ontario's *Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act* (2004), release of the Ontario Economic Accounts is required within 45 days following Statistics Canada's release of the corresponding National Income and Expenditure Accounts.

Economic Update and Fact Sheet

Updated each month and available on the Ministry's website, the Economic Update is a summary of recent economic developments.

Economic outlook and fiscal review

This official government publication provides a mid-year look at the state of the province's finances and economy. The Unit is responsible for the production of a detailed data appendix summarizing a wide variety of economic statistics.

Information management

The detailed economic statistics used by the Ministry of Finance are managed through a highly automated data system, referred to as the Economic and Financial Data System (EFDS).

This system incorporates the following:

- daily downloads of data from Statistics Canada, the Conference Board, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Canadian Real Estate Association, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and other sources to a series of databases containing approximately 12,000 economic and financial time-series data
- automatic updating of approximately 30 statistical reports and in excess of 150 statistical tables detailing thousands of individual economic data series. The reports are organized under nine broad headings:
 - ✓ Overview of Recent Economic Indicators
 - ✓ Economic Activity (Gross Domestic Product)
 - ✓ Labour Market and Employment
 - ✓ Consumer Spending and Housing
 - ✓ Business Conditions and Activity
 - ✓ Business Investment
 - ✓ International Merchandise Trade
 - ✓ Prices and Wages
 - ✓ Financial Markets

- daily posting of updated statistical reports to the Office of Economic Policy's intranet site.

Ontario statistics initiative

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.

Over the past year, the Unit launched a joint initiative with a number of other ministries, in which we are proposing to play a more active role in the dissemination of Ontario statistics. The goal of this initiative is the creation of a government-wide repository of public Ontario statistics, accessible through the government's intranet. A large portion of those statistics will be sourced from CANSIM.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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

The Division disseminates this statistical information to the public via the Government website at 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 2004 to 2030. Extended capabilities of this demographic model include population projections for Prince County, Queens County and Kings County.

Numerous requests for population data and projections by census subdivision, by county, and by health region have been prepared. Recently, the Division provided demographic projections and analysis to the P.E.I. Electoral Boundaries Commission, which was tasked with a review of the provincial electoral boundaries.

The *Annual Statistical Review*, published in May of each year, now provides a colourful overview of provincial information as well as colour graphs throughout the publication. A number of new tables have been added, including more social statistics.

Other activities in 2004 included the publication of the P.E.I. Economy Progress Report series, supplemented by monthly statistics on key variables, and maintenance of the province's economic forecasting model.

QUÉBEC

New publications and studies

Several new titles were added to the catalogue of l'Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) during 2004/05:

- Le Québec dans le monde. Statistiques économiques
- État des lieux du livre et des bibliothèques
- Annuaire québécois des statistiques du travail. Portrait historique des principaux indicateurs du marché du travail, vol. 1, no. 1
- Aspects du contexte et des conséquences de la violence conjugale. Violence situationnelle et terrorisme conjugal au Canada en 1999
- Bulletin statistique régional (17 statistical newsletters continuously updated on the ISQ website)
- Les personnes âgées à travers les enquêtes de Santé Québec
- Vie des générations et personnes âgées: aujourd'hui et demain
- Rémunération des salariés. Étude de sensibilité. Effet d'un mode de collecte allégé introduit dans l'ERG 2004
- Étude de faisabilité sur l'utilisation de statistiques fiscales des particuliers pour suivre l'évolution du marché du travail par MRC
- Méthode de repérage des filières industrielles sur le territoire québécois basée sur les tableaux d'entrées-sorties

A number of studies and reports based on surveys were prepared in the past 12 months at the request of specific clients. They included the following:

- Grandir en qualité en 2003. Enquête québécoise sur la qualité des services de garde éducatifs, as well as three highlight reports:
 - ✓ La qualité éducative dans les installations de centres de la petite enfance
 - ✓ La qualité éducative dans les services de garde en milieu familial coordonnés par les centres de la petite enfance
 - ✓ La qualité éducative dans les garderies privées
- Three reports based on l'Étude longitudinale du développement des enfants du Québec (ELDEQ, 1998-2002, Vol. 3: De la naissance à 4 ans):
 - ✓ Naître au Québec à la fin des années 1990. Une histoire courte qui en dit long...
 - ✓ Conditions économiques, travail des mères et services de garde. Quand argent rime avec bonne journée maman!

- ✓ Je suis capable tout seul! Sentiment d'efficacité et conduites coercitives réactives chez les mères de nourrissons devenus bambins
- Enquête québécoise sur les couvertures vaccinales contre l'influenza et le pneumocoque, 2003-2004
- Enquête sociale et de santé auprès des enfants et des adolescents québécois.
- Nutrition component
- L'incapacité dans les familles québécoises. Composition et conditions de vie des familles, santé et bien-être des proches

Also, at the request of le ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the ISQ produced a series of documents containing highlights for each of the cultural communities concerned by l'Étude auprès des communautés culturelles, 1998-1999, namely immigrants from China, Haiti, North Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

In addition, the ISQ published the following new feature articles, based on research or analysis, in its various newsletters and periodicals:

Flash-Info Travail et remuneration

- Les régimes complémentaires de retraite
- Le marché du travail au Québec en 2003
- La rémunération comparée des emplois de la catégorie « ouvriers »
- La croissance salariale au Québec en 2002 et 2003 chez les employés syndiqués
- La gestion administrative et financière des régimes de retraite agréés
- Les changements au chapitre de l'emploi au Québec
- Le taux d'emploi. Un indicateur important du marché du travail
- Enquête sur la rémunération globale. Fréquence, coût moyen et caractéristiques des programmes de congés de maladie et d'assurance-salaire
- Les perspectives salariales. Méthodologie et résultats

Données sociodémographiques en bref

- Quatre ans d'écart d'âge en moyenne entre les conjoints
- Travailler à son compte. Des conditions différentes selon le sexe
- L'influence du revenu sur les conditions de vie dans les logements du Québec et de l'Ontario
- La croissance démographique des MRC, 2001-2026
- Contexte et conséquences de la violence conjugale. Terrorisme conjugal et violence situationnelle
- Quel est le seuil du troisième âge?
- La migration interrégionale au Québec. Faits saillants de l'année 2003-2004
- Les naissances hors mariage au Québec et dans les pays nordiques

- L'accessibilité financière au logement au Québec entre 1991 et 2001.
Aperçu régional

S@voir.stat

- L'innovation de produits dans les PME québécoises du secteur de la fabrication
- Les entreprises ayant des dépenses de R-D intra-muros et bénéficiaires de crédits d'impôt à la recherche et développement
- Les RHSTO. Présence et caractéristiques par industrie, au Québec et en Ontario
- Le repérage des filières industrielles dans le territoire québécois, basé sur les tableaux d'entrées-sorties

Commerce international des marchandises au Québec

- Forte hausse des importations de médicaments par le Québec entre 1997 et 2003
- L'élargissement de l'UE: conséquences pour le Québec?
- Évolution des exportations québécoises
- Qui sont nos clients et nos fournisseurs?

L'Écostat

- Les résultats d'impact du modèle intersectoriel du Québec
- L'activité régionale dans l'économie du Québec. Une synthèse
- Le système statistique québécois
- L'activité manufacturière au Québec. Synthèse

Statistiques en bref

- La fréquentation des institutions muséales du Québec en 2003
- Les organismes de représentation et de promotion du secteur de la culture et des communications
- La fréquentation des spectacles en arts de la scène à l'automne 2003 et à l'hiver 2004

The ISQ also published an analysis entitled *La diffusion des naissances hors mariage, 1950-2003*, which appeared in the 2004 edition of its annual population report.

A program evaluation was carried out on the general publication *Le Québec statistique* in 2004-2005. All the recommendations in the evaluation report were implemented, including the recommendations to continue publication; to base the content on themes identified after consulting the branches concerned as well as external partners and the clientele; to move toward publishing biennially; to make the publication accessible on the Internet; and to reduce its size.

Electronic dissemination

After first exceeding the 100,000-visitor mark in 2004, the ISQ website reached a new peak in popularity in January 2005 with 116,612 visitors. The content of the site was substantially expanded in May 2004 with the addition of more than 370 economic, demographic and social tables on the 103 county regional municipalities (MRCs). In February 2005, the site acquired a new search engine suitable for doing searches in everyday language, retrieving data and obtaining summaries. Not only did the ISQ website undergo a 'facelift' when it acquired a new visual image in February 2005, but it also became the second Quebec government site, after that of the Conseil du trésor, to meet WC3 international programming standards. This means that Internet users can access the ISQ site whatever their web browser or its operating environment (Windows or Apple). Also, since the international standards of the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) have been implemented, visually impaired persons can now access nearly 300 pages on the site.

Principal surveys and related activities

In addition to the many surveys included in its regular programming, the ISQ carried out collection or analysis (sometimes both) for the following surveys:

Individual and household surveys

- Enquête québécoise sur le tabac, l'alcool, la drogue et le jeu chez les élèves du secondaire, 2004 (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux)
- Enquête sur la violence familiale dans la vie des enfants du Québec (ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux)
- Enquête sociale et de santé auprès des enfants et des adolescents québécois (ESSEA), nutrition component (ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux)
- Enquête "Grandir en qualité, 2003" (ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille)
- Enquête de nutrition auprès des enfants québécois de quatre ans (ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux)

- International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (Statistics Canada)
- Étude longitudinale du développement des enfants du Québec (ELDEQ) (ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux)
- Canadian Community Health Survey (Statistics Canada)
- Enquête québécoise sur les couvertures vaccinales contre l'influenza et le pneumocoque, 2003-2004 (ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux)
- Enquête sur les besoins des familles en matière de services de garde, 2004 (ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille)

Business surveys

- Collecte de données sur les entreprises de R-D industrielle qui exécutent de la recherche et développement pour d'autres firmes (ministère du Développement économique et régional)
- Enquête sur le recrutement et l'emploi au Québec (Centre d'étude sur l'emploi et la technologie ou CETECH (unit of Emploi Québec))
- Enquête auprès des employés québécois des organisations assujetties à la Loi favorisant le développement de la formation de la main-d'œuvre (loi 90), employer and employee components (ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille)
- Enquête auprès des restaurants à service complet (Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor)
- Enquête sur l'évaluation des impacts de la réforme du Code de procédure civile du Québec (ministère de la Justice)
- Enquête de classification des établissements du patrimoine (jointly funded by le ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the ISQ)
- Enquête auprès des établissements du patrimoine (jointly funded by le ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the ISQ)
- Enquête sur l'impartition dans le secteur financier (ministère des Finances)
- Enquête sur la gestion des matières résiduelles au Québec (RECYC-Québec)

In order to provide collection methods that are ever more suited to respondents' preferences and needs, work was begun on developing and conducting a pilot project on electronic data collection. Considering that l'Enquête sur les statistiques avicoles recurs so frequently (with collection taking place weekly), it was chosen for the pilot project. Also, as part of l'Enquête sur les dépenses en recherche, science, technologie et innovation au sein de l'administration publique québécoise, an electronic version of the questionnaire can now be transmitted to respondents requesting it, and a secure data transmission procedure has been developed to enable respondents to transmit their survey data electronically if they wish to do so. Furthermore, in l'Enquête sur la rémunération globale, wage rates can be reported by transmitting an electronic file.

Lastly, la Direction des activités de collecte has undergone a name change; it is now called la Direction des services et des stratégies de collecte. This new name better reflects the mission of this administrative unit within the ISQ, which is to develop and implement collection strategies.

Methodology and other expertise

At the invitation of le ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS), the ISQ contributed to the preparation of a document entitled *Rapport du Québec sur les indicateurs comparables dans le domaine de la santé*, which the MSSS published in November 2004. The ISQ's role consisted of analysing health indicators based on data drawn from Statistics Canada surveys, providing expertise on related methodology and technical matters, and producing the technical appendix. An ISQ representative also participated in the

management committee on comparable indicators in the health field in Quebec, set up by the MSSS.

In July 2004, the ISQ signed a partnership agreement with le ministère de l'Environnement, le ministère du Développement économique et régional et de la Recherche and l'Agence de l'efficacité énergétique on evaluating the eco-efficiency of companies in the manufacturing sector in Quebec. It carried out its work under a service agreement signed the previous year with le ministère du Développement économique et régional for the production of statistical data and indicators on research, science, technology and innovation. For the account of le ministère des Finances du Québec, the ISQ continued to develop statistics on the financial services industry in Quebec. It continued to provide quality assurance regarding the work carried on by Statistics Canada in producing a sample supplementing the 2003 Survey of Household Spending, and it undertook a feasibility study on purchasing power parity (PPP) among the provinces.

To provide Quebec with an instrument for modeling economic data, a five-year memorandum of understanding was signed in November 2003 between the ISQ and le ministère des Finances du Québec to create the ISQ's Observatoire économétrique. This new work unit, which has been operational since January 2004, is part of la Direction des statistiques économiques et sociales. During 2004/05, the ISQ created a secure technological environment for l'Observatoire and finished fitting out its premises. It began work on constructing a social compatibility matrix on the basis of data from the year 2000, and it is in the process of implementing a project on multifactor productivity.

Organized by the ISQ and Université Laval, in co-operation with several partners including Statistics Canada, le Colloque francophone sur les sondages 2005, an official meeting of la Société Française de Statistique (SFdS), will take place at Québec from May 24 to 27, 2005. This symposium is the preferred place for examining both theoretical and practical aspects of conducting surveys. It allows survey users and statisticians who specialize in survey methodology, among others, to debate a number of issues around conducting surveys. The meeting at Québec follows the first three symposiums, which were all held on European soil: at Rennes in 1997, Brussels and Lille in 2000, and Autrans in 2002. Also, the ISQ is a member of the committees responsible for organizing a France-Québec forum on health, entitled "Vieillesse et santé: idées reçues, idées nouvelles," which will take place in Quebec in May 2005. L'Observatoire franco-québécois de la santé et de la solidarité was asked to hold this forum by Quebec's Minister of Health and Social Services.

Improvement and development activities

In 2002, the ISQ was commissioned by le ministère des Finances to produce, analyse and disseminate a series of statistics in the economic, social and demographic fields relating to the 17 administrative regions and the 103 MRCs. Under these terms of reference, the ISQ has engaged the services of researchers from l'Institut national de recherche scientifique to develop a methodology for estimating gross domestic product at base prices for the 17 administrative regions. These figures had never before been produced and were eagerly awaited at the regional level, and the data for 1997 to 2000 are now available on the ISQ website. By early 2006, the

website is expected to offer GDP data by administrative region and census metropolitan area for the period 1997 to 2003.

Similarly, the ISQ conducted a study in January 2005 to assess the feasibility of producing, on a regular basis, indicators monitoring the labour market by MRC based on personal income tax returns from Revenu Québec. This study shows that despite some limitations, the indicators constructed by the ISQ using tax statistics seem a useful and valid barometer for comparing the performance of MRCs on the improvement or deterioration of employment. Furthermore, unlike labour market indicators based on the census of population, these indicators have the advantage of tracking the change in employment annually. They also lend themselves to tracking job growth by selected age groups. Data from 1998 to 2002 may be accessed on the ISQ website.

A partnership agreement was concluded in April 2004—among the ISQ, l'Institut national de santé publique (INSPQ) and a group involved in research on child development, health and well-being—on the implementation of l'Environnement pour la promotion de la santé de l'enfant et de son bien-être (EPSEBE). In 2004/05, focus groups met in order for the policy directions for this new service framework to be validated by researchers. Work has begun on testing the concept, so as to validate the solution and determine its impact on the organizations involved. A market study was undertaken to gain a better understanding of the clientele and its specific needs, and to define the provision of services and determine the pricing.

The ISQ project to develop a business database has moved forward. The architecture for the functions and work process of the database's information system has been created and approved, along with the conceptual and physical models for the data. The new business database will enable the ISQ to provide data to Statistics Canada's Business Register database, so as to ensure linkage of the two databases.

Following the three process review exercises launched in the previous year (relating to le Registre des événements démographiques, l'Enquête sur la rémunération globale and collection activities), recommendations were made and the ISQ began to implement the actions recommended.

The ISQ continued its work on developing an integrated framework for managing quality in a statistical agency. On this score, it prepared a general policy document that sets out the background, the objectives and dimensions identified by the ISQ for defining quality. Work on survey quality has also begun with a view to establishing an action plan designed to systematize, harmonize, improve and perfect methods already in place for ensuring that ISQ surveys (sample surveys, census surveys or the use of administrative data for statistical purposes) are of good quality. Accordingly, a study was conducted reviewing best practices in the world's largest statistical agencies, and a working group was set up to adapt them to the ISQ's situation and apply to a number of representative surveys a tool designed in Europe for self-assessment of survey quality (DDevelopment of a SelfAssessment Program – DESAP).

Also, a third survey was conducted to assess the organizational climate among ISQ staff so as to identify areas for improvement.

Statistical co-ordination

Incorporation of data into la Banque de données des statistiques officielles sur le Québec (BDSO) continued. In its current stage, the BDSO contains data from the ISQ, le ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille, le ministère des Transports, le ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and le ministère de l'Éducation. At the time of writing of this report, the ISQ was working on incorporating data from le ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, le Conseil du statut de la femme and la Régie des rentes du Québec.

In December 2004, the 24 partners on the BDSO management committee approved the document entitled *Gestion et codification des territoires aux fins de la BDSO*. This reference document concerns the international codification of countries, continents and continental regions, as well as the codification of regions, provinces or states within some countries. It seeks to establish standards for the BDSO, based on classifications that are the most valid and recognized nationally and internationally for producing and disseminating official statistics. Lastly, improvements were made to the BDSO's 'cartographic representation' capability.

It should be noted that the BDSO project was selected as one of the three finalists in the 'Government On-Line services' category in the OCTAS 2004 awards issued by la Fédération informatique du Québec (FIQ). Organized on an annual basis since 1987 by the FIQ, the OCTAS awards are a unique opportunity to recognize the achievement of excellence in Quebec's information technology industry.

In December 2002, the Quebec National Assembly passed the Act to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion. That legislation created l'Observatoire de la pauvreté et de l'exclusion sociale and gave the ISQ responsibility for administering it. L'Observatoire was conceived as a place of observation, research and discussion, designed to provide reliable and objective information on poverty and social exclusion. In 2004/05, an agreement was signed between the ISQ and le ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille (MESSF), creating this unit, which was called le Service de recherche et d'information sur la pauvreté et l'exclusion (SRIPE). Since September 2004, two professionals have been hired, and work has begun on developing indicators.

In recent years, the ISQ has worked to promote the emergence of conceptual frameworks and the establishment of partnership agreements on longitudinal surveys, and in recent months, significant progress has been made in these efforts. A partnership agreement is being concluded among the ISQ, a few government departments and public agencies, and a private agency for the purpose of conducting l'Enquête longitudinale sur le développement des enfants. This partnership could evolve more generally toward the creation of a comprehensive longitudinal health and social survey.

Protection of confidentiality

On October 12, 2004, the committee on the protection of personal information and other confidential information approved a policy and guidelines for controlling the risk of disclosure of confidential information through the dissemination of tables of results. These results may be based on information that is collected in surveys of individuals, households or businesses or data from le Registre des événements démographiques. Information sessions on the policy and guidelines are being provided to ISQ staff during the winter of 2004/05.

In recent months, the committee also approved a directive and a procedure for taking information out of ISQ premises. The purpose of these documents is to instruct ISQ staff on how to proceed in the event that they must take statistical information out of ISQ premises, that is, take information outside the physical perimeter of the ISQ either by transporting it themselves, having another person transport it or arranging some other means of conveyance, or by transmitting it electronically (by fax machine or e-mail).

In the past year, two pilot projects were conducted on the remote use of survey microdata. Using the remote access system developed at le Centre d'accès aux données de recherche de l'Institut de la statistique du Québec (CADRISQ), researchers at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, were able to use a slightly masked file from the 1998 Enquête sociale et de santé, and researchers at Université de Poitiers in France had access to slightly masked data from the 1999 Enquête sociale et de santé auprès des enfants et adolescents québécois.

The ISQ carried out two promotional activities targeting its external clientele in January 2005 to publicize its commitments and practices with respect to confidentiality. The first of these activities was to make changes to its website to add new sections dealing with confidentiality, including one for respondents to its surveys. The second operation produced a leaflet that the ISQ includes in its mailings.

An outside firm specializing in computer security has been engaged to verify the methods put in place for the remote use of the system controlling access to premises and for making data backup copies. Information sessions were also organized for all employees on the security of information technology.

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 our 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
- Provincial Constituency Profiles

In addition, the website provides up-to-date information on Saskatchewan population trends along with selected data on Saskatchewan from the 2001 Census. This year, being the centenary of the Province, we have added selected data from the 1906 Census.

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 and imports. 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

The following information is a list of projects, surveys and releases for the Yukon Bureau of Statistics (YBS) conducted during 2004/05.

Projects:

- **2006 Census preparation**

- Pilot project mapping**

- The YBS investigated a new method to update listing information using land satellite photo imaging combined with previously compiled text-based listing information. The pilot project was conducted in the Southern Lakes area of the Yukon, a country rural residential area just south of Whitehorse.

- Updated listings**

- Rural community listing information for several smaller rural communities in the Yukon was updated during the past year.

- **Department of Justice Criminal Information Review**

The purpose of this collaborative project between the Department of Justice and the YBS is to develop a comprehensive overview of charges and incidents that occurred in the Yukon. Working with the Justice system at the community level through a broad-based consultation, the YBS will assist the Department of Justice in its ongoing community consultation to review and improve the effectiveness of justice programs within the system.

Surveys:

- **Anti-Smoking Campaign Phase III**

The YBS worked with the Department of Health and Social Services to complete phase III of an ongoing project that assesses the smoking habits of Yukon citizens in order to determine the impact of locally created media campaigns that encourage people to quit smoking. Funded by the federal Department of Health, the survey was developed and administered by the YBS to a representative and randomly selected population in the Yukon.

- **Anti-smoking focus groups**

A related project was conducted by the YBS with the Health Promotion Branch of the Department of Health to engage young Yukon people aged 18 to 34 years in

discussions focused on promoting smoke-free living. Thirteen focus groups were conducted with young adults to gather their input in order to determine the tone and content of campaigns to be developed and identify media channels relevant to the target group. We plan to reconvene some or all of the participants in the initial focus group to confirm the 'look and feel' of the design of the ads.

- **Yukon Physician Exit Survey**

An ongoing survey is conducted by the YBS on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services to assess the movement of medical doctors who have left the territory. Initial survey findings, released in 2004, covered medical doctors' input from 1999 to 2003. The purpose of this Physician Exit Survey is to develop a better understanding of what the government can do in making the Yukon more attractive work destination to physicians.

- **Visitor Exit Survey 2004**

Working with the Department of Tourism, this survey is undertaken every five years to measure visitor activities to the Yukon Territory. Field operations were underway by mid-May and over the course of the summer there were 4,000 surveys completed. Preliminary analysis of survey results has been conducted, and a report has been completed for industry and the Department of Tourism that was delivered in January. Detailed analysis will be completed in the upcoming fiscal year.

- **Client Satisfaction Survey – Alcohol and Drug Services Out-Patient**

The Bureau of Statistics worked with the Alcohol and Drug Services Treatment Services Unit, Department of Health and Social Services, in the Fall of 2004 to develop and draft a confidential out-patient client survey. The survey was administered to clients by the counseling staff of Treatment Services. Completed forms were sent to the Bureau of Statistics where the information from the forms was inputted into an electronic database. The final completed survey forms were delivered to the Bureau of Statistics on March 30, 2005 and analysis will be completed by mid-May.

- **Client Satisfaction Survey – Social services**

The YBS conducted an annual Social Assistance Client Survey for the Social Services branch of the Department of Health and Social Services to gather feedback from clients on the social assistance program and staff. Operations and analysis were completed in August 2004.

- **Data collection – Canadian Addictions Survey**

The Yukon Addictions Survey was conducted by the YBS on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services, with funding by Health Canada, to determine the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use in the Yukon population aged 15 and older. A randomly selected telephone sample was generated for the Whitehorse region while a list sample method was used for nine rural communities to select households based on the current community listings. Operations have been completed and analysis will be conducted in the upcoming fiscal year. Special populations were targeted, such as street people, in a special survey within the Yukon Addictions Survey framework.

- **Seat Belt Compliance Survey**

The YBS worked with the RCMP and Transport Canada to conduct surveys in 11 communities in the Yukon to establish benchmarks on seatbelt usage throughout the territory. Several media campaigns had been designed to promote awareness and usage; the intent is for the RCMP to see whether baseline numbers improve when they return to the communities in order to assess the impact of these initiatives.

- **Ongoing Internal Survey Collection**

The Bureau has been conducting several surveys with the Yukon Territory, such as

- ✓ Community Price Survey – twice a year
- ✓ Fuel price survey – bi-weekly
- ✓ Rent and Real Estate survey – quarterly
- ✓ Health Care Update – twice a year

- **Maintenance Enforcement Program**

Working with the Department of Justice, the YBS has completed the methodology and survey preparation work so that surveys may be conducted early in the fiscal year. The purpose is to fulfill a federal funding requirement for evaluation of programs and services that receive funding from the Child-Centered Family Justice Fund. Major ongoing activities that provide a service to the public require surveys every five years to continually evaluate if the program is meeting the goals and objectives outlined in the Results-based Management and Accountability plan.

- **For the Sake of the Children**

The survey of the parent education workshop, For the Sake of the Children, will be conducted by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics on behalf of the Department of Justice in order to fulfill a federal funding requirement of evaluation of programs and services that receive funding from the Child-Centered Family Justice Fund.

- **Physical Activity Survey**

The Bureau has undertaken the survey for the Departments of Community Services, Sport and Recreation and Education and has completed survey design and methodology, and operational control forms. The intent is to establish baseline information to measure, monitor and encourage participation in sport by Yukon youth for the upcoming 2007 Winter Arctic Games, to be held in Whitehorse. The survey will be facilitated through a classroom collection process by Sports Yukon and will include all students in Yukon schools from Grade 4 to 12.

APPENDIX 4

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Last meeting: October 4–5, 2004
Next meeting: October 24–25, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial focal points (or their representatives)

The Federal–Provincial–Territorial Meeting on Agricultural Statistics was held October 4–5, 2004, with delegates attending from all provinces and territories (except the Northwest Territories). The main theme of the 2004 meeting was respondent relations. Major highlights include the following:

1. *Statistics Canada priorities:* Agriculture Division reviewed Agency priorities in the areas of budgets, human resources, respondent relations, data relevance and analysis, and partnerships and collaborations.
2. *Provincial/territorial reports:* Diverse collaborations with Agriculture Division were recognized. Concentration-induced sectoral suppression was raised. The usefulness of the Farm Product Price Index and the need for a stronger Farm Input Price Index were reiterated. The use of administrative land information and registration systems was discussed with the objective of helping the Census of Agriculture identify farm operators.
3. *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) report:* The new five-year memorandum-of-understanding between AAFC and Statistics Canada continues traditional activities while funding emerging areas (i.e., pulses, innovation, bioproducts, input–output models, agri-environmental issues, and functional foods). A recently established policy research initiative is responsible for innovation, consumer and market demands, integrated farm-level analysis, North American market integration, and trade policy. AAFC is also studying longer-term farm family income issues and broadening rural analysis.
4. *Presentations on a variety of topics:* These included
 - respondent relations (including response burden and non-response analysis)
 - the Farm Finance Survey (overview, 2004 progress report, and Canada–United States comparisons)
 - agri-environmental dissemination
 - electronic data reporting in crop surveys
 - memorandum of understanding (licensing)
 - 2006 Census of Agriculture (achievements and challenges)
 - NISA/CAIS data transition and tax data replacement issues

- Research and Analysis Program highlights (academic and rural)
5. *Provincial/territorial presentations:* At the invitation of the organizing committee, provincial representatives of Prince Edward Island and Alberta presented on the following topics:
- Provincial agriculture committee examining information management with a focus on survey response burden (Prince Edward Island)
 - Client Needs and Satisfaction Survey results (Alberta)

The Chair thanked delegates for their advice on many important issues, saying it would be useful to improve the agriculture statistics program. He also encouraged provincial and territorial delegates who would be interested in presenting research work or projects of general interest to participants in future to come forward when next year's agenda is prepared.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

Last meeting: January 27–28, 2005
Next meeting: October 20–21, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Ray Ryan welcomed the members and apologized for having to reschedule the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Ryan discussed the impact of the federal budget reallocation on program priorities. He noted that Philip Smith talked about the System of National Accounts (SNA) strategy at the National Accounts' federal–provincial–territorial meeting last fall. The SNA is planning to reduce the amount of industrial and commodity detail; this will have an impact on the Business and Trade Statistics program, which is a major feeder area for the accounts. Sample sizes and the commodity and industrial dimension of outputs could be affected. The cuts will be implemented over three years, with one-third of them taking place each year. Statistics Canada is working on the identification of the cuts over the next year and will flesh this out over the two following years. There are likely to be human resources/deployment issues associated with this downsizing.

Mr. Ryan noted that Statistics Canada has been trying to expand the services statistics program, which is underrepresented relative to its influence and importance in the economy. Statistics Canada has been trying to improve all dimensions of the services program, including service prices, services indicators, and services trade (international trade in services). About \$4 million to \$5 million had been allocated from the corporate reserve for this work but the recent round of budget cuts has put this on hold.

Dr. Fellegi expressed concern about services statistics at the LTP meeting in January, and Mr. Ryan indicated that Statistics Canada hopes to be able to reinstate this work. Dr. Fellegi encouraged Statistics Canada to put together a consortium with other interested departments, including Industry Canada, Finance Canada and the Bank of Canada, to move this work forward. Statistics Canada is preparing a paper to take to these departments. Other departments may also be interested, such as Heritage Canada and the former DFAIT, which may be interested in trade in services. Dr. Fellegi plans to meet with his colleagues in these departments to discuss this issue. Mr. Ryan noted that the provinces and territories need these data to understand their economies, and that Statistics Canada would appreciate having the moral and/or financial support of the provinces and territories for this initiative. The National Accounts are involved in the services statistics initiative as well. For example, there is a need for better deflators for the SNA, and a game plan has been developed for this, especially on the prices side.

The Impact of streamlining initiatives at Statistics Canada on Business and Trade Statistics

Peter Lys gave an overview on the streamlining initiatives that were introduced to re-examine the way that Statistics Canada does business; prior to the budget cuts, it had been hoped that the savings from streamlining could be re-invested in new programs. The streamlining initiatives focused on three major themes: social surveys, operating structures and approaches, and business surveys. With respect to business surveys, presentations were given on two case studies (ASM and QFS) as well as on the expansion in the use of tax data for survey replacement.

Marcelle Dion gave a presentation on the ASM streamlining initiative, outlining the project objectives, the main changes to the 2004 survey, and the key milestones. As part of this initiative, the financial questionnaire was converted to a Chart of Accounts (COA) basis, the number of commodities for which data were collected were reduced from 9,000 to 1,400, and comparability with U.S. manufactured commodities was increased. Data from the survey are scheduled for release at the end of March 2006.

Jean Leduc gave a presentation on the QFS streamlining initiative, outlining the project's objectives, and the elements being reviewed by the initiative. The objectives of the QFS initiative were to improve the quality of the preliminary estimates and to streamline the processes. For example, QFS wanted to improve the efficiency of the sample, automate edit correction, and minimize overlap with the financial questions on the Agriculture Survey. Respondents wanted electronic data reporting. The average CVs have improved at each level of the survey.

Marie Brodeur gave a presentation on the expansion of the use of tax data for survey replacement. The main objectives of the tax project are to reduce response burden and survey costs. The goal is to use tax data to substitute for survey data for 50% of simple businesses. The COA has facilitated the comparison of tax and survey data. Since the 2003 reference year, tax data are being used in the UES for estimation of over 50% of simple businesses and for imputation for survey non-respondents. More units will be replaced in reference year 2004. The GST project calls for the replacement of survey data for simple businesses with a ratio model combining survey and GST data in MRCTS, MSM and MWRTS.

Update on International Trade Data

David Dodds gave an update on international trade. He indicated that the focal points are receiving the trade data detail earlier, and that this system is working well. He also reported improvements to the system for estimating provincial imports. Improvements to the export system will also be implemented. Mr. Dodds also reported that they are looking into the implications of revising December data when January estimates are released. Mr. Dodds indicated that International Trade Division is working with MCED and NEB to address fluctuations in energy export data.

Proposed Statistical Compendium for International Polar Year (2007/08)

Fred Gault gave a presentation on the proposed compendium for International Polar Year. One of the first issues to resolve is the definition of 'the North.' This project may include some development of additional statistics on the North.

The potential for a provincial dimension in ICT industries analysis and for improvements in telecom surveys

Craig Kuntz explained that the development of Canadian estimates for the information and communications technology (ICT) sector was funded by the Data Gaps Initiative. The ICT sector definition was developed by the OECD to provide a statistical framework for international comparisons. This is why the data were estimated at the national and not the provincial/territorial level. Mr. Kuntz provided the focal points with a CD containing existing provincial data on the ICT sector, outlined existing provincial ICT sector analysis, and explained some of the challenges that would be involved in producing data on ICT industries at the provincial level.

Challenges facing telecommunications surveys

Craig Kuntz described some of the regulatory and technological changes that have impacted this sector. For example, cellular phones are increasing their share of the phone market; this means that telephone companies are now facing competition in both local and long-distance markets. It is expected that convergence will take place between the cable and the telephone industries. Statistics Canada is surveying both telecommunications and cable providers, and there is overlap with Canadian Radio–television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) surveys, which is adding to response burden. There will be a major reorganization of this sector under NAICS 2007, with internet service providers moving into the Telecommunications Services major group. Mr. Kuntz noted that substituting administrative data for survey data requires some investigation and planning, and may entail some modifications to the CRTC data collection; for example, the CRTC does not currently publish provincial data.

Price Indexes Update

George Beelen's update on the prices statistics program included a listing of expected changes to the CPI basket, an explanation of the treatment of insurance in the CPI, an update on work underway to improve the estimates of the core CPI, a summary of improvements to the intercity spatial price indexes, and updates on services price indexes.

Progress report on the Business and Trade Statistics Initiative on the ECN

Cyndie Ingalls gave a demonstration of the expanded website, to which focal points have had access since December.

Multinational Enterprises

Jean Leduc gave a presentation on Phase I of the Multinational Enterprises Project, which is exploring the feasibility of having multinational enterprises report in an integrated fashion to several National Statistical Offices. The results of Phase I will be presented to the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2005.

Business Register redesign

Mario Ménard gave a presentation on the redesign of the Business Register (BR). The objectives of the redesign include simplification, increased accessibility, integration of systems, improved management and monitoring of response burden, and improved timeliness. The BR will be completely redesigned on a Windows or Unix platform. Operating structure will be used instead of statistical structure for statistical purposes (e.g., sampling and estimation). Concepts will be harmonized, and storage and maintenance of the legal structure will be centralized. The BR will maintain links between legal entities and a set of related operating units. A transition plan will be developed by September 2005, and the project should be completed by the end of 2007/08.

Tax data MOUs

Janice McMechan gave a presentation on the status of the MOU between Statistics Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) concerning the acquisition of tax data by STC, and on the status of MOUs between STC and the provinces concerning the sharing of business tax data with the statistical agencies of provinces/territories. Also, it was mentioned that CRA is supporting amendments to the legislation that would permit Statistics Canada to share GST data obtained from CRA with the provinces. However, this is a slow process and Statistics Canada has been following up with CRA, who in turn have followed up with Finance Canada. There is currently no concrete schedule for these amendments to be passed.

NAICS: status and future plans

Paul Johanis provided an overview on the status of the revisions to NAICS 2007. He indicated that the current strategy is to do more frequent (every five years) but smaller revisions to NAICS. Paul mentioned that changes to NAICS 2007 will be relatively limited.

New version of the metadatabase

Paul Johanis gave a demonstration of the new version of the metadatabase, and indicated that this would be released soon. The new metadatabase will include a list of variables, definitions and links to the CANSIM tables.

Agenda for the next meeting

It was decided that Angelo Cocco (N.W.T.) and Wilf Falk (Manitoba) will continue as the provincial/territorial representatives on the Program Committee, working with Helen McDonald and a Director General from Business and Trade Statistics Field on preparing the agenda for the next meeting.

A detailed list of action items arising from the January 2005 meeting of the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Business Statistics was produced and circulated to all members.

CENSUS OF POPULATION

Last meeting: September 22, 2004
Next meeting: September 21, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Report from the 2006 Census Manager (Anil Arora)

Mr. Arora provided an overview of the drivers for change for the 2006 Census and the key changes in methodology being implemented, including an Internet response option, mailout to two-thirds of the population, centralized data processing, automated data capture, and centralized failed-edit follow-up via telephone. He discussed the decision to outsource development of certain components of the census, and the recent decision to de-scope the contract to include the procurement of hardware, software and associated servicing only. Mr. Arora also advised that Statistics Canada has received funding for the 2A portion of the census only, and would be seeking funding for the 2B portion from federal partners, as for past censuses.

Proposed 2006 Census content (Rosemary Bender for Joan Coulter)

Mrs. Bender provided an overview of the extensive consultation process conducted on the content for the 2006 Census. She also informed the committee members on the results of qualitative testing on various content options. The vast majority of census content is expected to remain as it was in 2001. Major changes in the proposed content being considered include revisions to 'relationship to person 1' to include married same-sex couples; revision of the education module to emphasize completion of credentials and eliminate the 'number of years of schooling' question; addition of tax linkage permission and questions on child tax benefits and income tax paid; and addition of a question on consent for public release of census information in 92 years. Members of the committee asked for further information on the methodology to be used for tax linkage.

Action: Documentation on the tax linkage methodology will be provided to focal points once testing has been completed and methods set, likely in late 2005.

The proposed content, developed based on the consultation and testing results, was tested in the 2004 Census Test. As analysis of the 2004 Test was still underway, Mrs. Bender described the results to date. She indicated that only the 'relationship to person 1' question was causing serious concerns that might lead to reverting back to a version similar to the 2001 question. (Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided to propose a version similar to the 2001 question.) Otherwise, Statistics Canada planned to propose the content as tested for Cabinet approval next spring.

Mrs. Bender also advised that, as for previous censuses, Statistics Canada would be seeking funding for coding 'place of work' data below the municipal level. Discussions would begin shortly with the previous consortium and potential new members.

Results of the 2004 Census Test (Duncan Wrighte)

In May 2004, a census test was conducted involving a sample of approximately 300,000 dwellings and farms in 3 sites. Its goal was to test all key operations, systems and integration points under the new census methodology. Mr. Wrighte reported that the test was very successful from an operational perspective. There were no major system failures and all integration points worked adequately. As expected, a number of areas were identified as requiring further development and testing. As well, work will be needed on scaling the operations and systems up to the full scope of the census.

In response to a request from the committee members, Mr. Wrighte also provided an overview of the process for Form 4, used to document and follow up refusal cases. Questions were raised on the relation between Form 4 and coverage studies but were left until the coverage study discussion at the next day's Demography Committee meeting.

2006 Census dissemination (Rosemary Bender)

Mrs. Bender described the results of the evaluation of the 2001 Census products and services line, which was conducted with a broad spectrum of census users as part of the integrated consultation on content, geography and dissemination. She advised that consultation on 2006 dissemination will be getting under way in 2005. User feedback to date included maintaining the basic products and services framework and specialty Internet products, better integration of the various profile series, expansion of the Community Profiles to include other data sources, and continuation of data release for dissolved census subdivisions. Content of the products will also be reviewed to consider more relevant measures for analysis, alternatives for very large tables, and improved functionality of website and Internet products. Committee members raised several questions and concerns, which will be addressed as follows.

Action: Mary-Lynne Reid will ensure that

- users are notified when final versions of the Census Dictionary and Catalogue are released
- focal points will be consulted on the geography levels for products
- problems of accessing data in very large tables are addressed in the 2006 product line
- when it is ready the prototype for upgrades to the 2001 Community Profiles will be made available to focal points for their input
- changes in the status of technical reports (e.g., release dates, cancellations) will be posted on the website and focal points will be informed directly.

Update on geographic areas (Joe Kresovic)

Mr. Kresovic provided an update on changes in geographic areas, including changes in census division and subdivision names, types and boundaries, census tract (CT) delineation in Fredericton and Chilliwack, completion of CT splits, plans for creation of dissemination areas (DAs) outside CT areas, and implementation of the 2003 representation order for federal electoral districts. Mr. Kresovic indicated that submissions on designated places were being assessed. Division of large blocks using input from focal points will begin in 2005.

Action: Focal points will be informed of the status of their requests for designated places in winter 2005. Division of large blocks will begin in 2005.

Communications issues surrounding outsourcing (Greg Peterson)

Mr. Peterson provided an overview of the issues raised in the media and the House of Commons regarding census outsourcing, and Statistics Canada's communications activities in response to these issues and to the de-scoping of the contract. He also described initial plans for the 2006 Census communications.

Action: Mr. Peterson will provide the focal points with a summary of the strategies to be used to address issues that include security of data and consent for release of personal census information, and to encourage responses from youth and recent immigrants.

Dwelling Classification Study (Peter Dick)

Mr. Dick presented highlights of the results of the 2001 study and the options, challenges and risks for 2006.

Action: Mr. Dick will provide focal points with the algorithm for the 2006 Dwelling Classification Study by April 30, 2005.

DATA DISSEMINATION

Last meeting: December 10, 2004
Next meeting: December 9, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Improved searching on Statistics Canada website

Mr. Louis Boucher, Director of Dissemination Division, confirmed the need to improve the search function on the Statistics Canada website. He informed the committee members that this undertaking would involve a multi-faceted effort that would also assist in the resolution of several related problems.

It was reported that sections of the site contained inadequate or poorly written metadata and poorly indexed information that resulted in empty searches, or yielded hundreds of hits. To resolve these problems, Communications and Library Services Division have assumed various responsibilities including:

- Developing standards in applying metatags; and
- Creating a controlled vocabulary that contains a list of standardized terms for specific subjects.

The new interface and functionality is to be rolled out this March 2005.

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI)

Mr. Ernie Boyko, retired Director of the former Library Services Division, provided a brief overview of the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI) initiative. Its objective is to create databases for each historic census from 1911 to 1951. Work has been underway for nearly one year and has been conducted in seven research data centres across the country. The research teams expect to complete the compilation for 1911 by the end of the winter or early spring.

Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)

Ms. Vicki Crompton provided an update on this program, now in its 10th year. The DLI consortium currently includes every Canadian university. Approximately 20,000 microdata files, census files and geography files are available to students.

The DLI has recently adopted the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI), a standard XML-based meta-tagging system for the social sciences. The Agency is currently applying DDI to its public use microdata files.

Also underway is the creation of a bibliographic citation guide which has attracted international attention.

Members of the DLI have expressed their concerns regarding the closure of the Statistics Canada reference centres located in the regional offices.

The Media Room

Mr. Jacques Lefebvre of Communications and Library Services Division, provided a brief presentation on this new Statistics Canada (STC) web module being offered to journalists.

Accredited journalists will continue to be provided with free access to priced STC publications via the Media Room. However, journalists will be required to register and prove their credentials prior to accessing them.

Outputs and products of 2006 Census

Ms. Jane Badets and Mr. Charles Watson of Census Operations Division, provided an update on the 2006 dissemination program, specifically the Census Product Line.

The releases will likely follow the topic-based approach that was used in 2001. The standard products will likely include population and dwelling counts, topic-based tabulations, more detailed cross tabulations, the public-use microdata files, the popular community profiles, aboriginal profiles, and provincial and territorial profiles. Also under discussion for 2006 is a series of city profiles.

A detailed product line and release dates for the various census products will be further discussed this spring.

Statistics Canada survey of focal point websites

Mr. David Roy and Ms. Margaret Clement of Marketing Division, presented a review of a survey conducted by Marketing Division to see whether provincial focal point websites complied with data dissemination standards.

Compliance was very high. In cases of non-compliance, letters were sent to the focal points encouraging their co-operation. Mr. Roy expressed appreciation for the focal points' overall co-operation.

External communications network (ECN)

Ms. Susan Irving of Communications and Library Services Division, provided a brief overview of the progress of the focal point site.

The site has been developed in consultation with the ECN Focal Point Working Group, and funded by the Business and Trade Statistics Division.

Presentations

Mr. Jean-Francois Pelchat, delegate of Quebec, provided a brief presentation on the use and redistribution of microdata files. Information from various surveys was used including the Census, the Survey of Household Spending, the Labour Force Survey, the General Social Survey and the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. The ISQ has recently signed an accord with Statistics Canada enabling them to redistribute these files.

Mr. Paul Gosh, delegate of British Columbia, presented the detailed census profiles he developed in MS-Excel for British Columbia. The profiles offer charts for novice data users and detailed tables for more experienced users. The information was presented as a richer approach to the census community profiles. CD-ROMs containing the MS-Excel workbooks used to develop the profiles, were distributed among the committee members.

Nominations to the 2005 Program Committee

The next Program Committee will comprise Ms. Kathy Wyrwas (Eastern Provinces), Ms. Wendy Fletcher (Central Provinces), Mr. Bill Hyshka (Western Provinces), Mr. Paul Harris (Nunavut) and Mr. Wilder Boucaud (Statistics Canada).

DEMOGRAPHY

Last meeting: September 23–24, 2004
Next meeting: September 22–23, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

The 2004 meeting of the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Demography was devoted to discussions on the three main topics: issues related to 2006 Census coverage studies, the current developmental work on population estimates, and elaboration of projections for general population and the Aboriginal population.

Census methodologists reported that the work on the 2006 coverage studies is well ahead of the schedule of similar work conducted for the 2001 cycle. Although a working assumption was that the 2006 studies will be of the same nature as the 2001 studies, several potential changes were discussed: an increase of the size of reverse record check (RRC) sample, sample allocation, measurement of overcoverage using the Automated Match Study only, and the issue of interprovincial migrants carrying large weights. Also, the new strategy would involve an earlier selection of and collection from the immigrant and non-permanent residents' frames, starting processing before interviewing begins, improving the transmission of information between processing and interviewing, and concentrating computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) in regional offices. The report from the 2001 RRC study on enumeration of students and workers away from their permanent residence was also discussed.

Focal points were presented with the progress achieved since the last meeting in 2003 in the research on preliminary estimates of internal migration, the feasibility of producing estimates of single year of age past the age of 90 years, the impact of the new immigration law (IRPA) introduced in June 2002 on estimates of non-permanent residents, and the feasibility of producing population estimates at the census subdivision level. Follow-up discussions resulted in a decision to retain the current methods for the preliminary estimates of internal migration and non-permanent residents. The population estimates by age will be produced with greater detail past the age of 90 years and made available from 2001 on.

A discussion on the work done for population projections concentrated on the presentations on the framework to derive estimates and projections for Aboriginal populations. The framework was developed within the Aboriginal Data Initiative feasibility project and the feasibility of application of the microsimulation model to calculate projections for the Canadian population and its subgroups, such as visible minorities and immigrants, by place of birth. A need for close co-operation and exchange of information and expertise between Demography Division and focal points was stressed.

Since the September meeting, the 2006 coverage studies work has been conducted under the working assumption that the new strategy will be adopted. Research continues on improvements to the Automated Match Study as a vehicle for estimation of overcoverage. Also, a work on a development of the new strategy for sample selection in the three territories is under way. The issue of change in the RRC method for estimation of interprovincial migrants carrying large weights was presented at the Advisory Committee on Statistical Methods in November 2004. Following the Committee's recommendation, the current method will be retained for 2006. The final Demography Division report summarizing research results from the project to improve preliminary estimates of internal migration was made available to focal points. Significant progress has been achieved in data exchanges on international migration between Demography Division and the U.S. Census Bureau. Also, consultations were conducted and information exchanged with several focal points on projections of general population and experimental data for estimates of Aboriginal groups.

ENERGY STATISTICS PROGRAM

Last meeting: January 26, 2005, Ottawa
Next meeting: October 20, 2005, Ottawa
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
or their representatives, as well as delegates from provincial and
territorial departments of energy, National Energy Board, Natural
Resources Canada and Environment Canada.

1. The third one-day meeting dealing with the Energy Statistics Program was held under the umbrella of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Business Statistics Committee on January 26, 2005.
2. The members provided provincial and territorial perspective on energy statistics.
3. Presentations, focussing on information, developments and updates relating to energy statistics were made by the following organizations:
 - Canadian Centre for Energy Information – An overview
 - Environment Canada – Cogeneration
 - Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation (CIPEC)
 - Natural Resources Canada – The Canadian Energy Model (Maple-C)
 - National Energy Board: Natural Gas Markets in Transition
 - Ontario Ministry of Energy – Energy Statistics Requirements
 - Statistics Canada – Update on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Vehicle
 - Statistics Canada – Update on Energy Statistics Program
4. Action items resulting from the discussions:
 - A CD-ROM containing the English and French versions of the presentations will be sent to all participants.
 - Statistics Canada will provide information to Quebec relating to the consumption of aviation fuel in that province.
 - Statistics Canada will provide to Alberta the results of the pilot survey on natural gas in coal under the data-sharing agreement of Section 11 of the *Statistics Act*.
 - Statistics Canada will consult with Data Access and Control Division regarding several questions raised by focal points as to the access to microdata obtained from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Vehicle.
 - Statistics Canada will provide the list of representatives on the federal, provincial and territorial steering committee, co-ordinating the development of the reporting system.

- The Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics and the Energy Section, Statistics Canada will continue to work together to resolve interprovincial data issues.
- Natural Resources Canada will examine, if it can share with the provinces and territories, the assumptions contained in their energy model, before results are disseminated.

LABOUR STATISTIC

Last meeting: June 17–18, 2004
Next meeting: June 15–16, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Issues surrounding the Labour Force Survey (LFS)

During 2003/04, several Labour Statistics Division (LSD) consultations were conducted. Peter Morrison provided a summary of the key points discussed. He reiterated that there is still no external funding for the redesign and that it will be financed by borrowing funds from within Statistics Canada, followed by a payback strategy that will draw savings from a temporary reduction in the LFS sample size. The sample size reduction will be spread over three years, starting in October 2004, and will not exceed 3% in any given year. The general sentiment shared by the statistical focal points was that a sample reduction was a real concern.

The consultations also focussed on content priorities. According to feedback from the focal points, data on immigrants, Aboriginal people, retirement, field of study and year of graduation are priorities for new LFS content. No suggested deletions to current content were brought forward from the consultations. He briefly described the off-reserve initiative now moving forward in all western provinces.

Peter Morrison presented several other activities that affect the LFS. The LFS population data will be rebased to the 2001 Census and the release date is set for January 2005. Also for January 2005, the LFS will incorporate North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2002 and NOC 2001. LSD is in the process of developing a new product that will contain a graphical overview of labour market data. He then explained that there is a Strategic Streamlining Initiative to reduce LFS collection costs through telephone contact, as opposed to personal visits, for the birth interviews.

Labour market characteristics of Aboriginal people living off reserve in the West

Alberta has been participating in this project since 2003 and British Columbia is currently in discussion with LSD on participation. Deborah Sunter explained that both British Columbia and Alberta are paying to have their sample sizes increased. Because of the size of the Aboriginal population off reserve in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, they could probably obtain some data with their sample sizes as they currently stand. She pointed out that there are no population benchmarks for these figures and they are, therefore, more volatile than the rest of the LFS.

Bill Hyshka provided the committee with an overview of the project in Alberta that began as a two-year pilot project. The purpose of this project was to find ways of ensuring that Aboriginal people more fully participate in society in Alberta. It was felt that the results obtained justify the cost of the project. Alberta would like to be able to do provincial comparisons and awaits the inclusion of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Don McRae explained that British Columbia's motivation for participating in this project was to bring Aboriginal people into the work force and improve their standard of living. Last fall, it was realized that a gap in labour statistics existed and funding was granted by the premier.

Update on Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM)

Deborah Sunter told the Committee that there have been two developments of interest to the focal points. The first is the Monitoring Tool Kit. Focal points will be made aware of the content of this Tool Kit by Jacques Ouellet.

The second is work being undertaken this summer in preparation for a meeting of senior FLMM officials in the fall. LSD has five deliverables for September:

1. an inventory of data sources that provide key indicators for target groups.
2. a description of ongoing initiatives, such as content additions to the LFS, the status of small area estimation and steps towards making the T4 a source of occupational wage data
3. new initiatives that are costed but not yet funded (e.g., WES skills)
4. the cost of increasing LFS sample size to equalize CVs for the unemployment rate across provinces
5. CVs for three-year average weekly earnings for four-digit occupations by province.

Finally, Deborah discussed the issue of the relationship between the focal points and the FLMM. In many cases, there is already an excellent working relationship, whereas in other cases, it is practically non-existent. Committee members were encouraged to make contact.

New measures of productivity

Tarek Harchaoui explained that national measures of productivity currently exist, as do measures at the industrial level. He explained that their goal is to put in place a program at the provincial level that mimics the one at the federal level. They are trying to measure the three different contributors to GDP growth (capital input, labour input, and multifactor productivity) by using the growth accounting approach.

There will be a new CANSIM series with table number 383-0011; it will contain data on labour productivity and related variables by province and special aggregates. The data will be broken down by total economy, business sector, non-farm business sector, business goods and business services. There will also be various industrial groupings, such as primary industries, manufacturing and ICT goods.

Community and Work Pattern surveys: The experience of the Northwest Territories, and Newfoundland and Labrador

David Stewart informed the Committee that the Northwest Territories has conducted the N.W.T. Community Labour Force Survey every five years since 1984. These surveys have been timed to fall between census periods in order to build a time series. The N.W.T. Community Labour Force Survey collects labour force data as well as other variables, such as education levels, language use and trapping activity. This survey has provided the GNWT with community-level data as well as information on subpopulations over time. The Northwest Territories has been included in the LFS only since 2001 and new challenges have arisen since that time. The two surveys often produce different labour force estimates and these are difficult to explain.

Robert Reid and Alton Hollett explained that the Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Activity Survey (LAS) was first conducted in 2000, collects data on NL specific topics, and provides data at the subprovincial level. Data are collected for 25 subprovincial regions, and each region has a maximum margin of error of +/-10%, with a 95% confidence level. It includes topics such as demographics, work satisfaction, non-work activities, quality of life, migration, and unionization. In conclusion, Robert Reid spoke about the need to have province-specific data in order to provide subprovincial data and issue-/policy-focussed data. They have decided that they need to have large enough sample sizes while keeping it affordable, and configure the data the way they deem necessary.

Labour market analysis: Feminization of the work force

By looking at data from various sources within Statistics Canada, Marie Drolet examined women's role in the work force and the wage gap between men's and women's earnings. Using SLID information as a starting point, she showed that women earn an average of 81 cents for every dollar earned by men. After considering various factors and data from other areas, such as the Workplace and Employee Survey, the gender wage differential becomes 91 cents for women for each dollar for men.

After considering all of these factors, Marie Drolet pointed out that there is still a substantial portion of the pay gap that cannot be explained. There are other factors that may contribute to the gap, such as pre-labour market experiences, better measures of skills used on the job, initial wages, and career progression. The narrowing of the gap can be seen as a cohort story. As more recent cohorts (with higher earnings) replace earlier cohorts, the relative earnings of women will continue to rise and the gap will continue to narrow. When the wage gap is looked at over time, it can be seen that although it is getting smaller, it still exists.

Labour market analysis: Rising employment rates of senior workers

Lucy Chung presented a summary of the new analysis that has begun to look at the rise in the number of senior workers—those aged 55 years and over. The employment rates of seniors decreased from 1976 through the early 1990s, they then reached a plateau for a number of years and showed strong increases from 2001 to 2003.

They are trying to decipher whether the increase in the employment rate is due to demographics or to behavioural change. She explained that demographics seem to play a large role on the employment growth of male seniors aged 55 to 59 for most of the provinces. The increase for women seems to be more attributable to factors such as women having better-paying jobs and wanting to put in the time in order to receive a full pension. For those 65 and over, demographics have very little impact. The increase seems to be more attributable to seniors easing into retirement by switching from full-time to part-time employment.

Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH) Strategic Streamlining Initiative

Paul McPhie explained that a fundamental review of the design of the SEPH has begun. The department's Corporate Planning Committee approved a Strategic Streamlining Initiative in 2004/05 to investigate ways of reducing survey complexity and cost while continuing to meet the key needs of users; the major user is the National Accounts for GDP calculations. Paul McPhie then identified some options being considered: decoupling the Business Payroll Survey (BPS) from administrative data; reducing product detail; reducing output frequency; and increasing electronic reporting to the BPS.

Paul McPhie noted that consultations had begun with both internal and external clients and asked that the jurisdictions represented around the table consult locally concerning SEPH data needs, and respond with their findings.

MINERAL STATISTICS

Last meeting:	May 26–28, 2003
Next meeting:	May 30 to June 1, 2005
Members:	Delegates from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan); Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Statistics Canada; provincial and territorial mining departments, ministries 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 and mineral statistics and the surveys used by the member organizations. Although the annual meeting provides a milestone event for Committee activities, contacts between member organizations occur throughout the year, as the need arises.

The last annual meeting of the Federal–Provincial–Territorial Committee on Mineral Statistics (FPTCMS) was held May 26–28, 2003, and was well attended. The 2004 meeting of the FPTCMS, scheduled for the spring of 2004, was cancelled for budgetary and organizational reasons. As a consequence, it is doubly important that the 2005 meeting, currently planned and scheduled for May 30 to June 1, address relevant issues of common concern to committee member organizations.

The continuation of a series of federal–provincial–territorial meetings on energy statistics is viewed from an FPTCMS perspective as an extreme adjunct to the work of the federal–provincial–territorial committee structure.

Important events and activities for the FPTCMS during 2004/05

1. Senior teams from the Mineral and Mining Statistics Division travelled to many of the provinces and territories, including Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario (Ministry of Natural Resources), Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory during the past year. While some items on the respective agendas were common to all visits, concerns and issues specific to each partnership relationship were discussed. Among the common elements discussed in each visit were the renewal of memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and the improvement of electronic communications. Also prominent in agendas was the use of common interactive websites to share data, particularly related to exploration expenditures and sand and gravel production.

2. The MOU with Nunavut was finalized and signed, allowing sharing of information collected with that territory.

Important events and activities for the FPTCMS expected during 2005/06

1. Completion of the recent round of visits to provinces and territories, promoting co-operative statistical activities: As a consequence of this activity, it is expected that several updated MOUs will be signed between NRCan and the provincial or territorial member organizations.
2. The release of information gathered in the pilot survey for the support activities to mining industries: This exercise includes an extension to the ongoing Contract Diamond Drilling Survey.
3. The next annual meeting of the FPTCMS, scheduled for May 30 to June 1, 2005. This meeting is to be co-chaired by the representative of British Columbia. New distribution techniques for meeting materials (including the use of CDs) will be employed at this meeting to avoid heavy usage of paper products.

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

- the development of Internet-based systems to share knowledge on the ongoing status of joint data collection processes, including initiatives to improve data collection processes and statistical reconciliation of the data variables collected in the joint Exploration, Deposit Appraisal and Mine Complex Development Expenditures Survey
- a review of the status and way forward for the Single Window Harmonized approach for the collection of greenhouse gas (GHG) data and related statistics, energy and fuels issues, the Kyoto protocol and energy conservation measures, and the organization of sessions devoted to these and related issues
- presentations on the approach to the collection of data on aggregates from the perspective of both the collector and user of the data
- demonstrations of new methods to access mineral and mining information through Internet systems
- updates on the progress of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, growth in the Canadian diamond mining and exploration industry and related transparency issues.

Summary of issues facing the FPTCMS and its member organizations

- 1.** Issues related to the introduction of the Single Window Harmonized System for collection of GHG data and related data will be presented.
- 2.** Initiatives to access and to effectively use available administrative data from provincial and territorial sources to reduce response burden and operational costs and, in particular, to use provincial information to analyse and improve construction aggregate data should be extended will be reviewed.
- 3.** Needs for information on innovation, dependent communities, recycling and participation by Aboriginal people in the natural resource industries must be addressed.
- 4.** Issues related to the maintenance of a sound and efficient system for mineral and mining statistics in the face of continuing budgetary restraints should be continued to be addressed.
- 5.** The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, designed to limit trade in conflict diamonds, has now been implemented. This scheme, together with the increased strength of the diamond mining industry to 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. Issues related to the transparency of the global natural resource industries are coming to the fore.
- 6.** Based on the experiences gained in previous meetings of the FPTCMS, the role of bilateral discussions, interaction on common systems and the time provided for open discussions between participants must be increased.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Last meeting: December 9, 2004
Next meeting: December 8, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

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

- a discussion on trade flows estimates
- an update on provincial labour inputs project
- a presentation on the SNA Internet module.

During the round table, provinces expressed their appreciation regarding the input-output (IO) workshops that were offered to them in 2004 and encouraged Statistics Canada to have additional workshops on topics such as IO modeling. Some provinces requested that Industry Measures and Analysis Division (IMAD) resume disseminating Laspeyre-index GDP. Some concerns were expressed regarding the reduction in the number of industries published, as those that are of importance at the national level may not match those of specific provinces or territories. Once again, the issue of trade detail was raised by a number of representatives, with the request that at least Income and Expenditure Accounts Division (IEAD) provide a split between goods and services. There were also comments on the magnitude of revisions for the non-IO years. The non-additivity of GDP subcomponents in Fisher was pointed out as being a problem to some provinces. The delegates were pleased with the consultation process and the co-operation they receive from the staff in the three divisions.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for December 8, 2005 in the Simon A. Goldberg Conference Room of the R.H. Coats Building. Items on the agenda will likely include additional discussions on trade flow estimates, an update on the IEAD sources and methods guide, and a presentation by a Quebec representative on regional GDP estimates.

Release schedule

Release date

Preliminary Provincial Economic Accounts and GDP by Industry..... April 27, 2005

Provincial Economic Accounts, reference period 2001 to 2004Fall 2005

Provincial GDP by Industry, reference period 1994 to 2004Fall 2005

Interprovincial Input–Output Accounts, 2001 to 2004Fall 2005

Quarterly National Income and Expenditure Accounts:

First Quarter 2005

(including revisions from First Quarter 2001 to Fourth Quarter 2004)..... May 31, 2005

Second Quarter 2005 August 31, 2005

Third Quarter 2005 November 30, 2005

Fourth Quarter 2005 February 28, 2006

The *Provincial Economic Accounts* and the provincial *GDP by Industry* will appear as an integrated text in *The Daily*, while more detailed specific analysis will be featured in an electronic publication. Their product lines will continue to be produced separately.

PUBLIC SECTOR STATISTICS

Last meeting: December 8, 2004
Next meeting: December 7, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial focal points
(or their representatives)

Opening remarks

Because of the federal government-wide expenditure reallocation initiative, Statistics Canada may have to reduce its budget by 5 % (\$17.3 M) over 3 years starting in April 2005. Final decisions will be announced in the 2005 federal budget. Changes in Public Institutions Division personnel were announced. The new divisional organization chart was presented.

Provincial-territorial round table

Québec

The ISQ SNA coded the 2002/03 Québec public bodies and special funds, and reconciled these to Public Institutions Division data. This will also be done for 2003/04. Data will be sent to PID.

The response rate to the survey of large municipalities is now almost 100%. Most of the completed questionnaires were transmitted to PID.

The ISQ did not find it possible to comment on the methodology outlined in the November 19 progress report on the property tax base feasibility study. Public Institutions Division will forward to interested focal points copies of the documents provided to the Advisory Committee on Statistical Methods.

The ISQ provides to the Ministère des affaires municipales, according to an act of parliament, annual population estimates by municipality. In the ISQ's opinion, problems could arise should Statistics Canada, in the context of the equalization payments, produce different municipal population numbers.

New Brunswick

The statistical office is facing resource shortages and is doing its best to support Public Institutions Division. It released a workforce profile of the civil service, which moved away from the full-time equivalency concept. These data are more comparable to Public Institutions Division employment estimates.

Newfoundland and Labrador

There was an official opening of the Canadian Centre for Research on Infrastructure (CCRI). The statistical office now has its own in-house call centre.

Public sector wage rates are being phased in for the Employer and Wage Rates survey.

Northwest Territories

For the 2005/06 fiscal year, a new federal-territorial formula financing agreement will be coming into effect and expenditures are anticipated to be reduced by \$30 million.

The statistical bureau continues to work towards electronic transmission of data to Public Institutions Division.

Nunavut

The statistical office was decentralised to Pangnirtung.

Alberta

The statistical focal point is still working towards the electronic transmission of data.

Prince Edward Island

Obtaining electronic public agencies data for Public Institutions Division is an ongoing process showing progress.

Manitoba

There is interest in having historical data on the Public Institutions Division external communications network (ECN).

Nova Scotia

There is interest in seeing an update to the Krishna Sahay paper on the equalization formula. More detail is required in the public sector statistics reconciliation statements.

Ontario

Looks forward to the June FMS release.

Most focal points commented on the excellence of Public Institutions Division's ECN and many on the problems encountered with the new .XML formats.

Public/private partnerships

A working definition of P3 and examples were provided. A discussion followed on the challenges of 'keeping up' with the myriad of new initiatives and subsequent classification difficulties. Questions arose, such as who owns the assets and who carries the risk. Individual contracts will need to be studied. Assistance or information on P3s from the focal points was encouraged.

Property tax base feasibility study

Jacques Delisle provided background to Finance Canada's request. Objectives of the study are:

1. to determine the statistical requirements of Finance Canada
2. to assess Statistics Canada's capacity to fulfill these requirements and
3. to establish a work plan.

Finance Canada has requested, by province and by municipality, the residential and non-residential property values, the revenues from property taxes, and population estimates. Results of the study will be sent to Finance Canada in February 2005 and forwarded to the focal points.

First Nations Public Sector Statistics (FNPSS)

The FNPSS project is part of the Aboriginal Data Initiative. To date, FNPSS has been invited to present or has presented to 16 First Nations governments, 2 tribal councils, the First Nations Statistical Institute (FNSI), and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC). Four FMS data conversions for First Nations governments have been performed and a number of opportunities for conversions exist in the near future. According to section 17 (2) of the Statistics Act, these data remain confidential. Because of the structure and operations of First Nations governments, it may be necessary to build new FMS standards and codes to accommodate First Nations governments. The report to Cabinet is due in March 2005.

Public sector employment statistics

The sources for the public sector employment data vary. Data imputation is now less than 1% of total employment and the integration with the Statistics Canada business register awaits only the completion of the BR's redesign. For the year to come, plans are to migrate all data processing from mainframe to network servers, impacting the format in which the provincial and territorial focal points will be asked to transmit their data. Increasing analysis reviewing the coverage of the federal, provincial and territorial general governments and government business enterprises are also planned.

A mathematical formula was provided for full-time equivalency measures.

Local government statistics

For years, Public Institutions Division released combined current and capital expenditure data. In June 2004, Public Institutions Division released the local general government capital expenditure data separate from the current expenditure data, by function, for 1988 to 2003.

All local government revenue and expenditure questionnaires will no longer require the GST / HST paid and the value of the rebate. The Ontario short form will be eliminated. Because of a reduction in the data quality, the short form in British Columbia may be replaced by the long form.

Government expenditure by function

There were discussions on the repercussions of the upcoming move from the FMS to GFS using COFOG to classify expenditure functions. FMS has 17 functions and 62 sub-functions, a total of 79. COFOG has 10 functions and 69 sub-functions. Some of the similarities and differences were highlighted. The implementation plan was briefly discussed.

Dissemination activities

Public Institutions Division's recent dissemination initiatives were discussed and a tour of the Public Institutions Division ECN was given.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Last meeting: June 15–16, 2004
Next meeting: June 14–15, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

The Chair welcomed the members and tabled the agenda, which was accepted. He added that the agenda, covering 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

All provincial and territorial statistical focal points provided a summary of their activities in the area of social statistics from the period September 2003 to June 2004. Updates on post-censal surveys, the General Social Survey, special surveys, education and culture statistics, health statistics, justice statistics and income statistics were provided through detailed presentations followed by general discussion. In these presentations, particular emphasis was given to Aboriginal data issues and the Framework for Justice Statistics and Analysis.

Aboriginal Data Initiative (ADI)

The ADI is a two-year project looking at ways to improve collection and reporting of data on Aboriginal people. A fundamental pillar of ADI is capacity building, which deals with the development of new statistical training initiatives putting emphasis on hands-on training approaches and on the uses of administrative data to produce statistics. Feedback from recent consultation confirms that capacity building is essential and that more needs to be done. Three new courses are under development and will be tested in fall 2004: economic and business statistics for the Aboriginal business community; how to turn statistics into a story to be integrated into business plan; and how to use administrative records as a data sources.

The second component of ADI is addressing survey development. Feedback from the consultation has shown that different survey design strategies have to be considered for on- and off-reserves. We are considering starting with a post-censal survey in 2006 for both on- and off-reserves. For off-reserves, we could use CCHS and LFS as frames to do surveys in non-census years at a frequency not yet determined. As for on-reserves, some kind of an annual survey could be conducted using community rotation. It is planned that these surveys would have core questions around labour force, education and health, with optional content that would be rotated. Statistics Canada is working on a questionnaire and will conduct a demonstration survey in the fall on four reserves, testing the listing and sample selection procedures.

The different survey data framework initiatives that are currently under way, such as the Aboriginal Health Reporting Framework, the National Justice Statistics Initiative and the Aboriginal Report Card, were described. The importance of integrating the work of all these initiatives in order to avoid duplication of effort was stressed.

Aboriginal Children's Survey (ACS)

The Committee was informed that a feasibility study has been conducted in 2003 to look at the possibility of conducting the ACS as a longitudinal survey. It was concluded that the ACS could not be conducted as a longitudinal survey because of the small population at hand, the respondent burden and concerns about mobility tracing. It was recommended that ACS be conducted as a national cross-sectional survey with a repeat strategy: this survey will be repeated every five years, always following national census. The goal of this survey is to look at the prevalence of various health, social and economic characteristics of Aboriginal children, to investigate the impact of these characteristics on the healthy childhood of Aboriginal children, and to provide information for policy and program development.

The collection of the ACS is planned for 2006, using the population census as a frame. Data will be collected nationally, including the North, for both on-reserve and off-reserve populations. The survey will produce early childhood development indicators as specified in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Early Childhood Development for North American Indian, Inuit and Métis children. These indicators will cover topics such as social development, emotional problems, hyperactivity, physical aggression and prosocial behaviour. The sample size of this survey has been set at 12,200 Aboriginal children under age 6. Data will be collected from October 2006 to March 2007 through a paper questionnaire, using personal interviews on reserves and in remote areas and telephone interviews for off reserve locations. Aboriginal interviewers will be used wherever possible. Processing activities will be performed from April 2007 to August 2008. It is hoped that by September 2008, ACS will produce national, provincial (except for the Atlantic region) and territorial estimates for Aboriginal children by age group for both on-reserve and off-reserve populations.

Framework for Justice Statistics and Analysis

This framework was initiated in January 2003 by the Justice Information Council in order to move the justice sector into an evidence-based policy development environment. A preliminary framework was developed in the summer of 2003, with subsequent discussions in the fall of 2003 with the Liaison Committee for the National Justice Statistics Initiative and the Justice Statistics Academic Advisory Committee.

This new framework should provide better understanding of factors influencing outcomes such as crime, victimization and re-offending and the reasons for their occurrence. The framework incorporates individual, family and community influences and contexts. It takes into account both justice and partner system interventions to provide a broad lens to assess

priorities for information development and to promote evidence-based policy development. It was noted that microdata are key to understanding system interventions and outcomes and that the justice statistics program will continue to move in this direction in the future. A progress report on national microdata surveys was provided and it was noted that the major gap in the area of correctional services was now being addressed.

It was explained how the analytical potential will be expanded and that analytic work would be pursued on criminal career development, neighbourhood crimes, readmission to correctional services, sentencing, group crime and criminal networking and family breakdown and dispute resolution. Work initiatives currently considered in each of these areas were described and discussed.

It was concluded that good progress has been made in the recent months on the framework development. Limits on its development could be imposed by the ability of the justice statistics community to identify priorities and funding sources and by the analytical capacity to support it in the longer term.

Closing remarks

The Chair assured members that Statistics Canada will follow up on the issues that were raised during the deliberations. He thanked all delegates for their valuable contributions and is looking forward to their co-operation on the many initiatives that will be developed during the year.

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Last meeting: January 25, 2005
Next meeting: October 18, 2005
Members: Provincial and territorial statistical focal points
(or their representatives)

Meeting summary

- Representatives from all the provinces and territories (except the Yukon, because of illness, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island) as well as from Transport Canada and the Canadian Transportation Agency were in attendance for the meeting.
- A presentation was given on the Canadian Vehicle Survey Fuel, jointly funded by Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada. The first release of these new data, planned for May 2005, will enable better monitoring of fuel consumption and the impact of vehicle usage on the environment.
- An update was given on the implementation of the Trucking Commodity Origin and Destination Survey in reference year 2004. Improvements over the former Trucking Origin and Destination Survey include the following:
 - ✓ coverage expanded to all North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Trucking, including local trucking
 - ✓ more appropriate treatment of the Used Household and Office Goods Moving industry;
 - ✓ coverage of all trucking establishments, consistent with System of National Accounts requirements
 - ✓ full linkage to Statistic Canada's Business Register
 - ✓ sampling of 6.9% of all shipments versus 1.4% previously, with the same collection budget.
- The Census Subject Matter Program provided an update on the status of the 2006 Census Place of Work and Mode of Transportation initiative. The possibility of provinces joining the consortium to fund the data coding and the advantages that this provided were outlined to the Committee.
- A presentation on Transportation Division's aviation data program included the issue of what detail of financial and operating statistics, airport activity data, fare basis data and passenger origin/destination data can be published, with increasing concentration within the industry. Delays in obtaining waivers to enable release is affecting data timeliness.

- The Committee was informed that the Financial Survey of Canadian Water Carriers will be only tax based estimated effective with the reference year 2003
- The North American Transportation Statistics (NATS) database, a unique online source for comprehensive information on transportation activity, was officially launched on September 27, 2004. The database, available in English, French and Spanish, is the result of a tripartite initiative representing the transportation and statistical agencies of Canada, the United States and Mexico. The database can be found at <http://nats.inegi.gob.mx/nats>.
- Transport Canada provided updates to the Committee on the following initiatives:
 - ✓ National Roadside Survey 2005, with special interest in increasing the use of 'weigh-in-motion' systems technology
 - ✓ Electronic Collection of Air Transportation Statistics (ECATS) project
 - ✓ Investigation of 'Full Costs of Transportation,' a project to identify and measure the economic and social costs of transportation.

VITAL STATISTICS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

Last meeting: June 27–30, 2004 (Ottawa)
Next meeting: June 27–30, 2005 (Banff)
Members: Provincial and Territorial Registrars / Directors of Vital Statistics

This year again, the Security Committee, a subcommittee of the Vital Statistics Council for Canada (VSCC), undertook the development of a set of standards that would provide clear direction to jurisdictions on requirements to adequately protect themselves from identified threats. The work is ongoing. The subcommittee of the VSCC met for three days in January 2004 and an update will be presented to the next Annual Meeting.

In 2004, funding from the federal government's Government On-Line initiative was approved for a Catalytic Project Proposal to pilot the National Routing System. This pilot project is being led by Statistics Canada, in partnership with the Vital Statistics offices in British Columbia and Alberta, and with the Canadian Passport Office, the Canada Revenue Agency, and Public Works and Government Services Canada's Secure Channel. Functionality of the system will include sending notifications of vital events (births, deaths) and real-time queries to validate birth certificate information. These functionalities have implications for national security and program management, as well as making the data available in a more timely manner and improving data quality through the use of standards. Development of the system is in progress. The pilot is planned to run from June to October 2005. Results from the pilot project will be used to develop cost estimates and a strategy for a national implementation.

The VSCC continued its ongoing work of monitoring and upgrading the data quality of vital statistics. In 2004, the VSCC Data Quality and Standards Committee participated in the 'report card' exercise covering the vital and cancer registries, and databases resident at the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Twelve indicators covering six elements of data quality (timeliness, compliance with technical specifications, coverage, accuracy, completeness, and coherence with other data sources) were constructed, along with recommended standards. Each registry was assessed on whether the birth data for 2002 met these standards. Results were forwarded to the Deputy Minister of Health in each jurisdiction, and also the Deputy Minister responsible for the vital statistics registry if the registry reported to someone other than the Minister of Health. Response by the registrars to the exercise was positive. Further work needs to be done on following up the recommendations for registries to meet the standards. Plans are underway for 2005 to create and report on similar standards for deaths, and to repeat the exercise for births.

Council agreed to a major overhaul of its website to make it more user-friendly and more focussed on Council and its activities rather than the activities of its individual members.

APPENDIX 5

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

**Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy
May 19-20, 2005**

Follow-up Items

Item 1

National Accounts and Analytical Studies – Program update (Minutes 4.1)

The focal point for Ontario requested a report that would provide more information on the Infrastructure Canada (INFC) Project. (David West, ON)

Action: (Philip Smith, ACS)

Status: Available information provided; update to be included in program report on May 11, 2006

Item 2

National Accounts and Analytical Studies - Program update (Minutes 4.1)

The focal point for Nova Scotia asked for more elaborate pension account information. (Fred Bergman, NS)

Action: (Pension satellite account)

Status: No paper report available, but Philip Smith will provide a verbal update during his program report May 11, 2006.

Item 3

Business and Trade Statistics - Program update (Minutes 5.1)

Ray Ryan will place pertinent documents on the ECN for review by Focal Points. (Ray Ryan, ACS)

Action: (Ray Ryan, ACS)

Status: Done.

Item 4

Business and Trade Statistics - International trade data (Minutes 5.3)

The focal point for Québec would be interested in receiving information regarding the data exchange with the United States. Also, the Ontario focal point suggested that large revisions be mentioned in the monthly release. (Yvon Fortin, QC; David West, ON)

Action: (Ray Ryan, ACS & Trade Division)

Status: Ongoing. International Trade Division plans to meet with Québec Departments in the next few weeks to describe the Trade program, including the data exchange with the U.S. Data revisions are being mentioned in monthly releases, and data also being provided for trade without energy, since energy is the most volatile estimate

Item 5

Social Institutions and Labour Statistics (Minutes 6.0)

The focal point for Ontario requested an electronic copy (via e-mail) of Richard Barnabé's presentation or notes. (David West, ON)

Action: (Richard Barnabé, ACS)

Status: Done

Item 6

Communications and Operations (Minutes 7.0)

The focal points requested Wayne Smith's MS-PowerPoint presentation.

Action: (Wayne Smith, ACS)

Status: Done (posted on ECN)

Item 7

Communications and Operations - Program update (Minutes 7.1)

The focal point for Québec asked if Statistics Canada would consider collaborating and guiding l'Institut de la statistique du Québec with the implementation of Blaise for its data collection activities. This joint venture could ultimately assist in avoiding potential problems. (Yvon Fortin, QC)

Action: Mr. Smith agreed that this could be done. (Wayne Smith, ACS)

Status: Ongoing

Item 8

Communications and Operations - Update on the External Communications Network (Minutes 7.2)

The focal point for Ontario requested that Wayne Smith's presentation be placed on the ECN (including the pricing/licensing policy information). (David West, ON)

Action: Presentation will be placed on the ECN by the Secretariat. (Wayne Smith, ACS / Federal Provincial Territorial Secretariat)

Status: Done

Item 9

Communications and Operations - Pricing and licensing (Minutes 7.3)

Focal Point for Manitoba requested that Wayne Smith provide a 1-page summary on pricing/licensing policy charges (% of counts, etc). (Wilf Falk, MB)

Action: (Wayne Smith, ACS)

Status: Done.

Item 10

Program Committee Report (Minutes 9.0)

The Focal points have expressed some reservations about the initial proposals for travel subsidies for attending the committees that are under the umbrella of the Council; they would like the 2006 Program Committee to discuss this matter. (Wilf Falk, MB)

Action: This will be looked at by the Program Committee for 2006. (Program Committee with Federal Provincial Territorial Secretariat)

Status: Update to be included in 2006 Program Committee report.

Item 11

(Not in Minutes)

François Maranda has offered to provide an information session for all interested participants. (François Maranda, ACS)

Action: (François Maranda, ACS)

Status: On the agenda for 2006.

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