

Subject British Columbia's Official Population Statistics real methods

From Warren Munroe <qualicumvillage@shaw.ca>

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To ron.cantelon.mla@leg.bc.ca
 george.abbott.mla@leg.bc.ca , robin.austin.mla@leg.bc.ca , harry.bains.mla@leg.bc.ca , bill.barisoff.mla@leg.bc.ca , donna.barnett.mla@leg.bc.ca , pat.bell.mla@leg.bc.ca , bill.bennett.mla@leg.bc.ca , dawn.black.mla@leg.bc.ca , iain.black.mla@leg.bc.ca , harry.bloy.mla@leg.bc.ca , shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca , jagrup.brar.mla@leg.bc.ca , stephanie.cadieux.mla@leg.bc.ca , gordon.campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca , premier@gov.bc.ca , ron.cantelon.mla@leg.bc.ca , s.chandraherbert.mla@leg.bc.ca , ida.chong.mla@leg.bc.ca , raj.chouhan.mla@leg.bc.ca , murray.coell.mla@leg.bc.ca , rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca , katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca , gary.coons.mla@leg.bc.ca , kathy.corrigan.mla@leg.bc.ca , marc.dalton.mla@leg.bc.ca , mike.dejong.mla@leg.bc.ca , adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca , doug.donaldson.mla@leg.bc.ca , mable.elmore.mla@leg.bc.ca , kevin.falcon.mla@leg.bc.ca , mike.farnworth.mla@leg.bc.ca , rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca , eric.foster.mla@leg.bc.ca , scott.fraser.mla@leg.bc.ca , guy.gentner.mla@leg.bc.ca , sue.hammell.mla@leg.bc.ca , colin.hansen.mla@leg.bc.ca , randy.hawes.mla@leg.bc.ca , dave.hayer.mla@leg.bc.ca , kash.heed.mla@leg.bc.ca , gordon.hogg.mla@leg.bc.ca , john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca ,

Cc douglas.horne.mla@leg.bc.ca , rob.howard.mla@leg.bc.ca , vicki.huntington.mla@leg.bc.ca , carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca , maurine.karagianis.mla@leg.bc.ca , leonard.krog.mla@leg.bc.ca , kevin.krueger.mla@leg.bc.ca , jenny.kwan.mla@leg.bc.ca , terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca , harry.lali.mla@leg.bc.ca , richard.lee.mla@leg.bc.ca , blair.lekstrom.mla@leg.bc.ca , john.les.mla@leg.bc.ca , norm.letnick.mla@leg.bc.ca , margaret.macdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca , norm.macdonald.mla@leg.bc.ca , joan.mcintyre.mla@leg.bc.ca , mary.mcneil.mla@leg.bc.ca , don.mcrae.mla@leg.bc.ca , michelle.mungall.mla@leg.bc.ca , barry.penner.mla@leg.bc.ca , pat.pimm.mla@leg.bc.ca , mary.polak.mla@leg.bc.ca , lana.popham.mla@leg.bc.ca , bruce.ralston.mla@leg.bc.ca , linda.reid.mla@leg.bc.ca , bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca , douglas.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca , john.rustad.mla@leg.bc.ca , michael.sather.mla@leg.bc.ca , nicholas.simons.mla@leg.bc.ca , bob.simpson.mla@leg.bc.ca , shane.simpson.mla@leg.bc.ca , john.slater.mla@leg.bc.ca , ben.stewart.mla@leg.bc.ca , moira.stilwell.mla@leg.bc.ca , ralph.sultan.mla@leg.bc.ca , steve.thomson.mla@leg.bc.ca , diane.thorne.mla@leg.bc.ca , jane.thornthwaite.mla@leg.bc.ca , claire.trevena.mla@leg.bc.ca , john.vandongen.mla@leg.bc.ca , naomi.yamamoto.mla@leg.bc.ca , john.yap.mla@leg.bc.ca

William Warren Munroe
 763 Beach Road
 Qualicum Beach, BC
 V9K 1S2
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Honorable Ron Cantelon
 Member of the Legislative Assembly - Parksville-Qualicum
 East Annex , Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Sir,

Regarding my request last month, I continue to look forward to meeting with you to explain the real methods used to create British Columbia's Official Population Statistics.

As you can appreciate, because the people of British Columbia pay for these numbers, and use them to justify opening and closing public and private facilities, as well as to determine electoral boundaries, municipal insurance rates, and electric generation requirements, etc., the reliability of these numbers is important.

For example. the report advocating the closure of the only secondary school in Qualicum Beach, directs readers to BC Stats methods documents posted on the internet; however, these documents do not provide the real methods used to create the population numbers.

The population estimates documentation is out dated, and does not include the addition of telephone landline hookups as an indicator. Nor does it describe how data are arbitrarily removed in an effort to reduce modeling error, nor other problems.

The population forecast does not explain that the numbers generated by the model are then sent out of BC Stats for review and can be changed without informing the Population Analysts, or clients. There are many other examples of unreliable information having been provided to clients such as BC Hydro as well as ElectionsBC.

As the Population Analyst with the responsibility to be the provincial expert on migration, I saw the real methods and reported my concerns to management and, as required, to the Ministry responsible in the form of a grievance. Shortly there after, I was ordered to gather my belongings, turn in my security pass, and to leave the BC Stats building. My requests for arbitration continue to be denied.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, please advocate on my behalf, and on behalf of British Columbians, that a fair, open, public hearing be allowed to proceed with regard to the real methods used to create BC's Official Population Statistics in an effort to improve reliability.

Yours truly,

William Warren Munroe

cc, British Columbia's Members of the Legislative Assembly