

Subject Re: RE: BC Stats Population Number
From Warren Munroe <wmpopulationanalysis@Shaw.ca>
Date Monday, June 25, 2012 12:32 pm
To Hubert.Denis@statcan.gc.ca
Cc Vincent.Dale@statcan.gc.ca , Johanne.Denis@statcan.gc.ca

Mr. Denis,

Thank you for this information and for providing a copy of the 2005 feasibility study.

I look forward to reading and commenting on this report. From a cursory look, there are several statements regarding the numbers from BC Stats that need to be addressed.

Regarding your statement:

"At that time, there was no commitment from BC Stats to inform STC of any future methodology changes."

Please understand, at that time, 2004 and 2005, BC Stats was already using telephone landline hookup data to estimate population to the CSD level. This fact was not stated in the 2005 feasibility study.

Regarding your statement:

"I appreciate your bringing these changes to my attention and I will discuss them with my colleagues in BC Stats."

Thank you for raising concerns with BC Stats about a commitment from BC Stats to share method changes with Statistics Canada, and I would add to share method changes with "users", as is befitting a "statistical" agency.

Will you allow me to describe to you, and others who may be interested, the real methods used by BC Stats to create population numbers?

Could you please cc me regarding your discussions with BC Stats, and others, regarding this topic.

Thank you,

Warren

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----- Original Message -----

From: Hubert.Denis@statcan.gc.ca
Date: Monday, June 18, 2012 9:11 am
Subject: RE: BC Stats Population Number
To: wmpopulationanalysis@Shaw.ca
Cc: Vincent.Dale@statcan.gc.ca, Johanne.Denis@statcan.gc.ca

> Mr. Munroe,

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> In the context of the 2004 Equalization Program Renewal,
> Statistics Canada (STC) was asked by Finance Canada to assess
> the feasibility of developing and maintaining new statistics
> related to the property tax base. Amongst these statistics,
> Finance Canada was looking for population estimates at the
> municipality level.

>

> In the 2005 feasibility study (report is attached to the e-
> mail), STC compared three methods that could be used to
> produce estimates for census subdivisions (CSD). STC also

> included in its analysis population estimates calculated by
> three jurisdictions (BC, Québec and NWT).
>
> <<conclusions_to_finance.doc>>
>
> The approach used to evaluate methods involved measuring their
> performance between the two most recent censuses at the time
> (1996 and 2001). To do so, we used as a criteria of quality, the
> error of closure. Error of closure was defined as the difference
> between the postcensal estimate as of Census Day 2001 and the
> 2001 Census population counts adjusted for net undercoverage.
> Errors of closure were calculated for each CSD and results were
> summarized using MAPE and WMAPE indicators. We then made the
> assumption that the relative performance of each method would be
> replicated in the years after 2001.
>
> The 2005 study showed that the CSD-level estimates produced by
> BC Stats yielded smaller errors of closure than the methods used
> by STC and were then, based on the "error of closure" criteria,
> considered to be of a better quality than those produced by STC.
> Based on this finding, STC took the decision to use BC Stats CSD-
> level estimates for the purpose of the Property Tax base
> project. At that time, there was no commitment from BC Stats to
> inform STC of any future methodology changes. I appreciate your
> bringing these changes to my attention and I will discuss them
> with my colleagues in BC Stats.
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> Regards,
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>
> Hubert Denis
> Chef / Chief
> Section des estimations démographiques / Demographic Estimates Section
> Division de la démographie / Demography Division
> Statistique Canada / Statistics Canada
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