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Canadian Population Society Council Members

A. Belange, M. Haan, D. Kerr, E. Fong

Dear Canadian Population Society Council Members,

In 2012, our community discovered that the people in control of British Columbia's Official Statistical Agency, BC Statistics, provided incorrect methods and data to accompany "unfounded" population numbers for over a decade¹ not only provided to citizens addressing the closing of public facilities, but also to Statistics Canada and Finance Canada addressing Canada's equalization program.²

Unfortunately, when questioned, B.C. government representatives claimed "Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations" and later stated "we do not see value in continuing to respond to enquiries of a similar nature"³; therefore, questions remain.

1. Should the people in control of federal/provincial/territorial government Official Statistical Agencies provide correct methods and data used to create population numbers, (rather than incorrect methods and data) to citizens and to Statistics Canada for studies for Finance Canada regarding equalization payments?

2. Should the people in control of federal/provincial/territorial government Official Statistical Agencies adhere to formal policies and clear accountabilities for the review processes of analytic products including population estimates and projections?

3. Should there be deterrents to discourage the people in control of provincial/territorial government Official Statistical Agencies from falsifying reports to citizens and Statistics Canada for studies for Finance Canada regarding equalization payments?

4. Should federal/provincial/territorial public service providers who raised concerns about incorrect information have "dismissed for just cause" and "insubordination" removed from their record and be allowed a fair open public hearing into the real matters in dispute, namely the real methods and data used to create population numbers?

Statistics Canada has implemented formal policies and clear accountabilities for the review processes of analytic products that include external reviews and validation as an essential part of the "virtuous circle" by which we may better "understand not only the current structure of our society and economy, but also their dynamics: the forces that shape their evolution and which might be beneficially impacted through policy."⁴

Do you agree that the answer to these questions is yes?

Sincerely,



William Warren Munroe

¹ Generalization Estimation System (GES) Small Area Population Estimation Method and Error Evaluation, BC Statistics, 2011

² The Equalization Program and the Property Tax Base, Feasibility Study Conducted by Statistics Canada Feasibility Report to Finance Canada, February 28, 2005

³ See June 22, 2012 and Sept. 26, 2013, "Data Warning" <http://wminfomatics.com/WP/Home.html>. To learn how our community discovered that the people in control of BC Statistics deceived Statistics and Finance Canada (thereby gaining the endorsement, albeit fraudulently, from Statistics Canada that BC Statistics' estimates were of "better quality" than Statistics Canada's) watch the abridged video (11min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6_oFfln24k&feature=youtu.be Big Data and the Third Sector, Edinburg Scotland, Nov. 2014. Also see the introduction to Population Projections for Community Members presented at the 2013 Congress organized by the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences, "Methods For Projections" session hosted by the Canadian Population Society at http://www.wminfomatics.com/PopulationProjections/CPS_PPP_Validate.pdf

⁴ ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES AT STATISTICS CANADA, STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS, Forty-seventh plenary session, (Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 14-16 June 1999) Submitted by Statistics Canada, prepared by Ivan Fellegi