

William Warren Munroe  
763 Beach Road,  
Qualicum Beach BC  
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Jinny Sims,  
Minister Responsible for BC Statistics  
Minister of Technology, Innovation & Citizens' Services Ministry

Dear Minister Sims,

Understanding where we are and where we are heading on current demographic trends is fundamental to public service delivery; however, for over 10 years the Provincial Government of British Columbia's Official Statistical Agency, BC Statistics, provided incorrect methods and data to accompany population estimates and forecasts for over ten years. Unfortunately, BC Statistics does not have formal policies nor clear accountabilities to safeguard against the danger of monopoly and the intrinsic risks of having a small group of people, not required to respond, in control of population numbers.

To provide people with verifiable population estimates and reproducible projections based on reliable open data (Canada's Census of Population) public service providers can refer to the Population Projections Project for Canada's census areas - for Canada as a whole, the provinces and territories, and Regions within to cities, towns and villages.

Projections of total population as well as population by age and sex are calculated directly from the Censuses of Population over the last 20 years (1996 to 2016). Using a straight forward clear method, projections calculated directly from the 1996 to 2011 censuses produced counts by age and total counts that are remarkably accurate when compared to the actual 2016 results.

I have presented the findings of error of closures (the difference between the projections and the actual 2016 counts) across scale (national to local - <10,000 people) at the International Conference of Population Geographies in June, as well as community members including our Mayor Teunis Westbrook (Qualicum Beach). Some of the early findings are already posted on line at [wminfomatics.com/PopGeog/articles.html](http://wminfomatics.com/PopGeog/articles.html).

Please accept my invitation to present this to you.

### **Why alternative population numbers are needed**

In 2012 our community discovered that not only had BC Statistics Officials provided incorrect methods and data to accompany unfounded population numbers to citizens concerned about closing of public schools, these same Officials provided false methods, data and error calculations to Statistics Canada (STC) for a 2005 feasibility study addressing Canada's equalization payments program.

The false information was not verified by STC but rather accepted in good faith. Consequently, STC found that BC Statistics methods and data provided population estimates of "better quality" than STC's.

In 2011, when asked by citizens concerned about public school closures, why BC Statistics provided incorrect methods and data to accompany unverifiable population numbers, this endorsement, "better quality", was then used to assert the integrity of BC Statistics' practices and to dismiss local concerns.

Interestingly, years before, on the day the feasibility study addressing Canada's equalization payments program was published (February 28, 2005), stating BC Statistics' population estimates are of "better quality", rather than celebrating, BC Statistics' Population Analyst was accused of verbally harassing a female co-worker by BC Statistics' manager of the Population Section, Dave O'Neil. Mr. O'Neil was the same person who provided STC with incorrect information for the feasibility study.

The Population Analyst asked for assistance to address this serious accusation but the accusation was withdrawn; however, the Population Analyst was removed from the contacts list, from all responsibilities, given more and more menial tasks with shorter and shorter time limits and eventually dismissed for insubordination and denied arbitration.

How do I know about this? I was the Population Analyst. I had been hired as an Economist in the position of Population Analysis with the role of ranking provincial government expert on migration. In this position, I was in contact with STC regarding data quality and refinements of methods and models. I contend I was subjected to the wrongful dismissal simply because I was in a government position where I would discover the false reporting to STC.

I discovered the malfeasance (wrongdoing - false reports), 6 years after being fired, when questioning how the school enrolment forecast was created used to justify the closure of the only high school in our town, where my children attended. I would have discovered the false reporting to STC earlier if I had not been subjected to false accusations, ordered to turn in my security pass and leave the building, dismissed for insubordination and denied a fair hearing (arbitration) into the dismissal.

I should mention, in 2014, a new much lower enrolment forecast was presented to our community but no methods and data were provided. My questions asking how come the new forecast was so much lower than the previous forecast (~20% lower in by 2027) elicited this response from the Superintendent of Schools for the Qualicum District, Rollie Koop, "Any attempt to suggest/imply a grassy knoll conspiracy theory is disrespectful of the work that trustees, staff, and the community has done collaboratively to this point."

Improvements to Citizens Services can be made.

#### **Documents addressing the dismissal for insubordination and denial of arbitration**

I have continued to request that a fair hearing into the real matters in dispute (the real methods, data, models and practises used to create and disseminate population numbers) be allowed to proceed. Ideally, BC Statistics would adopt Statistic Canada's formal policies and assign clear accountability as described by former Chief Statistician Ivan Fellegi:

[www.wminfomatics.com/WP/ANALYTIC\\_ACTIVITIES\\_AT\\_STATISTICSCANADA.pdf](http://www.wminfomatics.com/WP/ANALYTIC_ACTIVITIES_AT_STATISTICSCANADA.pdf)

A list of documents is available online at [wminfomatics.com/WP/petition/petition.html](http://wminfomatics.com/WP/petition/petition.html) covering the period to May 2012 (the same month Premier Clark described the Capital of BC as having a "sick culture".)

May I suggest starting with documents that accompanied my application for the position of Population Analyst (2001)

- 1) A reference letter from my Graduate level Statistics Professor  
<http://wminfomatics.com/WP/petition/Exhibit1.pdf>
- 2) A copy of my Graduate level Statistics term paper  
<http://wminfomatics.com/WP/petition/53.512projectw.pdf>

For a short summary of the issues please see the letter to the Ministers of Citizens' Services and Labour, (2013) <http://wminfomatics.com/WP/Articles/130131/MinL&CSIXb.pdf>

For the most recent correspondence received regarding the opportunity to make improvements to public service in British Columbia, please see the letter to Queen Elizabeth II:  
<http://wminfomatics.com/WP/Articles/160831/QEII1c.pdf>

Queen Elizabeth II's spokesperson confirmed "careful note has been taken of the issue relating to your employment..." and "As a constitutional Sovereign, Her Majesty acts through her personal

representative, the Governor General, on advice of her Canadian Ministers and, therefore, you are quite right to address your appeal in the first instance to the relevant Canadian authorities”.

Please understand that I would likely still be serving as Population Analyst and expert on migration if I had not been ordered to leave the building and been dismissed for insubordination; therefore, if called upon, I would return to this position.

Yours sincerely,

William Warren Munroe