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Ottawa, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Mr. William Warren Munroe  
763 Beach Road  
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia V9K 1S2

Dear Mr. Munroe:

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development, has asked me to respond to your letter of February 22, 2018, regarding Statistics Canada's Demographic Estimates Program and the relationship between the agency and Provincial-Territorial statistical agencies. I am pleased to have this opportunity to address your concerns.

Some of the issues you raise pertain to the "Property Tax-Based" project sponsored by Finance Canada in 2004 and 2005, and conducted by Statistics Canada. At the time, Finance Canada asked Statistics Canada to gather different sets of data to conduct a feasibility study with the objective of renewing the Equalization Program formula.

For this feasibility study, Statistics Canada considered several options for the production of population estimates at the intraprovincial level, of which the use of estimates produced by provincial and territorial statistical agencies. Jurisdictional methods were evaluated based on the following areas: the demographic estimates produced by the provinces and territories were compared with Statistics Canada's own demographic estimates and census counts. Various indicators were assessed, including population counts, population growth rates, and others.

The findings of these evaluations and resulting decisions were shared with the provinces and territories at several Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings. Statistics Canada's Demographic Estimates Program is built on a close collaboration with the provincial and territorial statistical agencies, which has included, for the past several decades, at least one meeting per year. The Demographic Estimates Program also uses data from the provinces and territories. For example, births and deaths records from Quebec and British Columbia's vital statistics registrars are currently used by the program.

Finance Canada did not follow-up with this feasibility study and as such, municipality-level population estimates produced specifically for the "Property Tax-Based" project were not used to calculate transfer payments to the provinces and territories.

Statistics Canada remains committed to producing quality data based on six guiding principles that are relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, coherence, and interpretability. Information on the

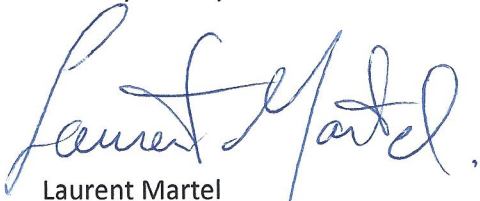


agency's quality assurance can be found on its web page at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/12-586-x/2017001/article/s2-eng.htm> and <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/12-539-x/2009001/introduction-eng.htm>).

The quality of Statistics Canada's statistical programs also rest on the agency's long standing partnership with provincial and territorial statistical agencies, as well as its regular expert advisory committee meetings of which a committee on Demographic Statistics and Studies. This committee, comprised of experts from the academic world and other statistical agencies such as the United States Census Bureau and the Population Division of the United Nations, discusses in detail various demographic methods.

I trust that this information will have proven useful in understanding the context in which Statistics Canada's demographic estimates are produced, as well as Statistics Canada's longstanding, collaborative relationships with its key stakeholders.

Thank you for your interest in this important matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurent Martel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurent" and the last name "Martel" clearly distinguishable.

Laurent Martel  
Director, Demography Division  
Statistics Canada