

Wm. Warren Munroe
Population Analyst
Public Consultation Advocacy
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Angelo Cocco
Provincial Statistician & Executive Director
BC Stats, Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government
Province of British Columbia

Hello Angelo,

Thank you again for having recently made public the methods used to create population numbers for places in BC, in 2011, as well as describing some of the many changes to the methods that were not made public between 1998-2011.

Hopefully the recent changes in management at BC Stats will ensure that clients, taxpayers, and the public will be kept informed of changes to the methods used to create the numbers that are used to justify opening and closing of public, and private, facilities; to set municipal insurance rates; and used by ElectionsBC, BC Hydro etc.

However, some important changes over the last 10 years in particular, a time period during which nearly 200 public schools were closed, are not mentioned in the recently posted Generalized Estimation System (GES) methods paper, some dates incorrect, and some statements are incorrect as well.

It appears as though you may not have been provided with reliable information regarding the real methods used to create population numbers between 2001 and 2011 during which, for most years, BC Stats was under the control of Don McRae, the Executive Director, and Dave O'Neil the Director of the Population Section. It was Mr. McRae and Mr. O'Neil (both recently departed from BC Stats) who replaced Old Age Security data (even now a statistically significant indicator of retiree migration) with Telus data, rather than the recommended Health data.

Please allow me to explain. From 2002 to 2006, I was the Population Analyst for BC Stats. I saw many non-statistical methods used, for example, Mr. McRae wanted to reduce the GES error, out by about one quarter of a million people. So Mr. McRae selected municipalities to be removed, and told me to rerun the GES model without all municipalities (see link below).

At the monthly Population Section meetings, I regularly asked that the GES methods paper be revised and made public; thereby, showing the inclusion of the telephone data, as well as the way the regression was run for two groupings of municipalities etc. Unfortunately, I was eventually not included in the monthly meetings, and perhaps not surprisingly (google R. D. Laing), accused of having a psychological problem that made it impossible for me to control my behaviour (what behaviour? I would still like to know.) .

I contend that the same quality of reasoning displayed by Mr. McRae and Mr. O'Neil who justified removing municipalities to reduce the GES error, as well as the dropping of OAS, not testing the recommended Health data, and adopting the very problematic Telus data etc., was the same quality of reasoning that justified accusing a Population Analyst, who raised concerns about the real methods, of having a psychological problem.

These, and other issues regarding the real methods, and the statements found in the GES August 2011 paper (page 8) are described in more detail in an article I have written and would like to share with you.

BC Stats and the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services can justify open and frank discussions as an effort to work towards the stated goal of providing reliable information.

I would like to mention here that I found the vast majority of people at BC Stats to be very capable and good natured, honest people. Hopefully, BC Stats employees will be allowed to have mediation when accused of psychological problems. May I suggest, such accusations are more reflective of the accuser than the accused.

Please accept my invitation to discuss these matters further.

Please pass on my best wishes to BC Stats members as well.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Munroe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a trailing flourish.

Warren Munroe, M.A.
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www.wminfomatics.com/WP/Outlier.htm

cc. Premier of BC, Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services, MLA R. Cantelon.