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Open letter to Qualicum School District Public Board of Trustees and Administrators,

On page 2 of Qualicum School District "Facility Review Process"¹, we are told that in 2017 the enrolment will be 3,758 students, and in 2027 the enrolment will be 4,030 students, and we are given numbers for 2018, and 2023 - 3,782 and 3942 respectively; however, the method used to create these numbers is not provided.

Could you please explain how the enrolment forecast for the Qualicum School District, referred to in this facility review was created?

Could you please explain why the enrolment forecast for the Qualicum School District, referred to in this facility review is lower than the forecast from the 2010 facility review? (See Appendix A)

Could you please explain why there is only one enrolment forecast for the Qualicum School District, and why there are not high, medium and low projection scenarios?

Projections are by definition developed using a tightly specified model that must be published. Statistics Canada's former Chief Statistician clarifies²:

"Forecasting pretends to foretell the future, while the projection is an analytic tool which -- within the constraints of a tightly specified model -- enables the analyst to consider the implications of alternative scenarios. The issue of scenarios is important: in order to underline the analytic character of projections, it is our policy to publish always a set of possible projections, each corresponding to a well defined an analytic scenario. (Ivan Fellegi, 1999)

Projections should include high medium and low growth scenarios based on current trends. Again, Statistics Canada's former Chief Statistician clarifies:

" How can society intelligently participate in the setting of national priorities if the population does not understand where we are, and where we are heading on current trends." (Ivan Fellegi, 1999)

As you can appreciate, providing the method is important, not only to ensure that the correct numbers have been provided, but also to allow public consultation participants to see the strengths and weaknesses of the method as well as to understand what the "findings" mean. Indeed, if the methods and input data do not accompany a enrolment "forecast", then such a forecast cannot reasonably to included in the review as well.

Before a school is closed referring to numbers that cannot be openly validated by public consultation participants including students, teachers, parents/guardians, and concerned citizens, please allow projections with published analytic scenarios based on current trends to be included in the facility review.

Yours truly,



Wm. Warren Munroe, M.A.

Population Projection Project at www.wminformatics.com/PopulationProjections/About.html

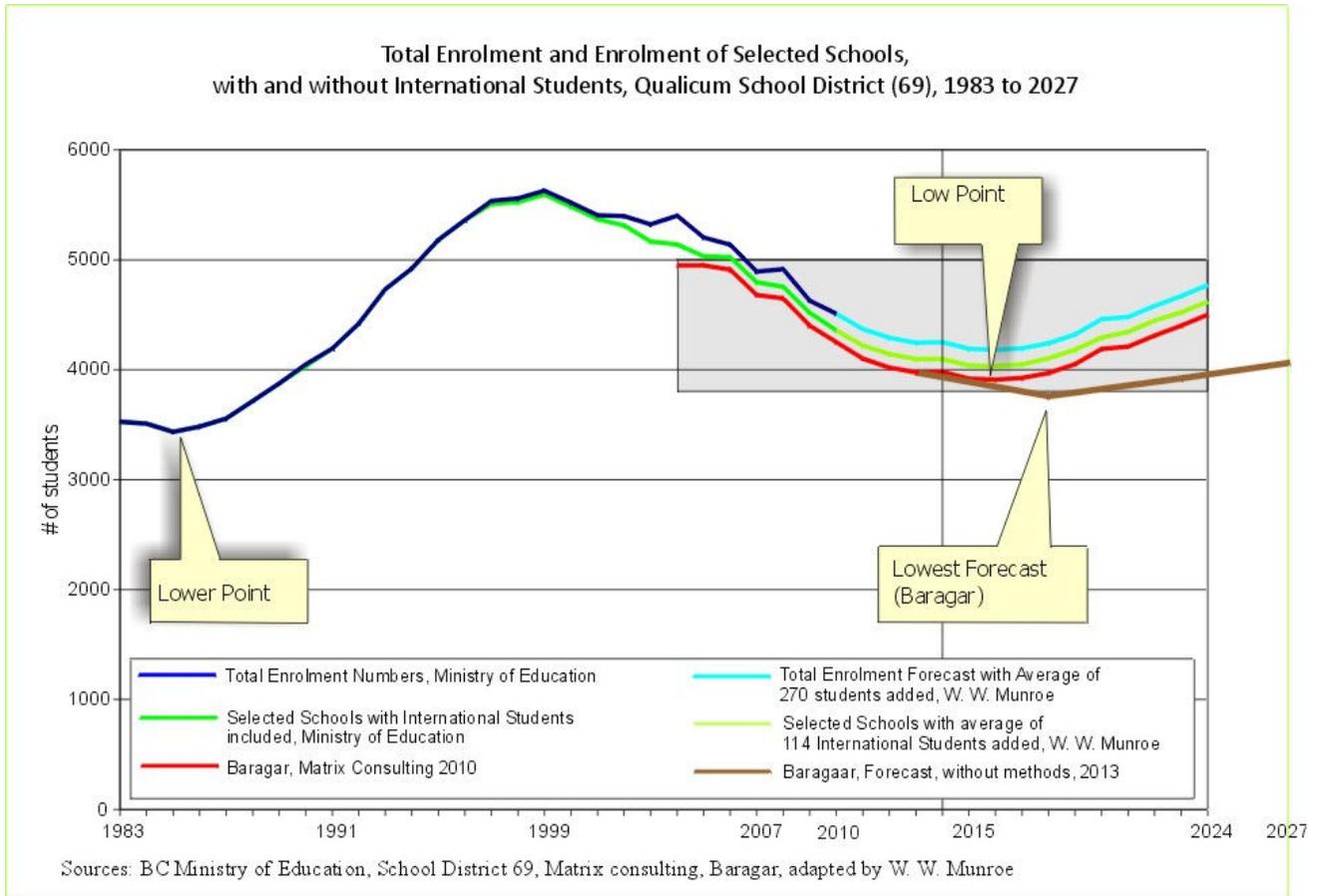
This Population Projection Project, developed in the Qualicum School District to address concerns raised in 2010, was accepted for presentation by the Population Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers AGM, the 2013 Congress "Methods for Projections" session hosted by the Canadian Population Society, and the International Conference of Population Geographies, the Netherlands

¹ <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/Publications/Facility%20Review%202013%20-%20Finance%20and%20Facility%20Planning/13.11.26%20Facilities%20Review%20Presentation.pdf>

² Analytic Activities At Statistics Canada, Ivan Fellegi, Conference Of European Statisticians, June 1999

Appendix A

Figure 1. Comparison of Qualicum School District enrolment forecasts referred to during the 2010 and the 2013 facility reviews



For more information about the facility reviews visit

www.wminformatics.com/WManalytics/Articles/140225/QSDFR2013_14.html