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Regarding Safeguards against the dangers of monopoly and intrinsic risks of using government products mostly designed to justify the programs and approaches of the government - reviews, correct methods and data to accompany findings, references for quotes.

To B.C.'s Residents Interested in Public Service Issues,

Premier Christy Clark suggested, in 2012, going to communities where people live and work, to listen to their concerns as an option to BC's capital city, Victoria's "sick culture".

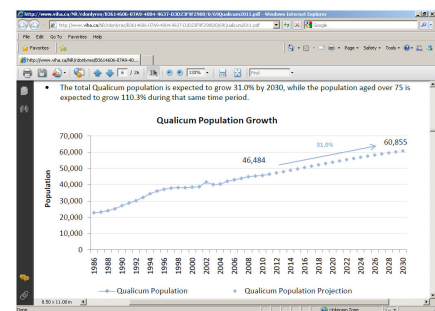
But how can people in BC's communities help cure the province's ills when at the municipal and district levels we are not allowed to speak, for if we do point out discrepancies, deficiencies, provide information, and suggest improvements, we can be accused of defamation and threatened with having to pay damages to public service employees?

"Your allegations are defamatory and unfounded..the employees are entitled to damages for the defamatory statements made about the and collectively reserve the right to seek damages from you."ⁱ

This is what happened to Elvena Slump and many others across BC including myself. Indeed, the mayor who authorized the use of taxpayer dollars to hire a law firm to send a threatening letter to Slump said that 90% of the people who receive these letters apologize, and their behaviour changes. This same technique, used by senior staff in Victoria to cover up deficiencies, including fraud, is being adopted by some local level officials.ⁱⁱ Yet Victoria's "sick culture" can infect communities in another way.

Local level decision-making often refers to "findings" from BC's, Victoria based, Official Statistical Agency, BC Statistics; however, unlike Statistics Canada, Victoria based BC Statistics does not have formal policies and clear accountabilities designed to safeguard against the "intrinsic risks" and "dangers of monopoly" inherent in Official Statistical Agencies - risks such as "publishing material that is mostly designed to justify the programs and approaches of the government."ⁱⁱⁱ

Regular readers may recall several articles last spring highlighting two departments of government, namely health and education, each provided a very different population forecast in 2013 for the same local area. The Medical Health Officer presented at a Qualicum Beach Town Council meeting this chart created by BC Statistics personnel showing a single possible future population, increasing by over 30%. Also in 2013, at public consultation meetings, the Superintendent of Schools provided a new much lower forecast, justifying, at least in part, closing local schools. In both cases, only one possible future forecast was offered as seen in this chart.^{iv}



Statistics Canada clearly states, rather than providing only one forecast of a possible future, that a set of well defined possible projection scenarios (more than one) must always be published:

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

"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 [sic] analytic scenario." (Former Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada, Ivan Fellegi, 1999)^v

Yet, senior municipal staff and elected representatives block citizens from presenting well defined possible projection scenarios at Town council meetings. As the current elected representatives and the town planner for the Town of Qualicum Beach are aware, I have been allowed to present at many national and international population conferences, a set of well defined population projection scenarios for Canada's census areas, including scenarios for the Town of Qualicum Beach and surrounding areas; however, while, allowing the Ministry of Health's presentation of a single forecast at a Town of Qualicum Beach Town Council meeting in 2013, senior staff and elected representatives for the Town of Qualicum Beach have not allowed my presentation of well defined population projection scenarios. In reply to my many requests, I was eventually informed:

There is no law mandating that all delegations applying be scheduled to appear before Council; it is discretionary, and staff are guided by Council and CAO direction, Council priorities, delegation topic (for information or action), and mandates for that topic^{vi}

Thankfully, the Mayor, Teunis Westbroek, did advocate a presentation of a set of well defined projection scenarios but to no avail (one against many). Perhaps, a cure begins with removing the "dangers of monopoly" – allowing people to express their concerns; for example, citizens should not be blocked from pointing out discrepancies, deficiencies, presenting information and offering solutions at town hall meetings.

Unfortunately, a closed group of BC Statistics' personnel may choose to not publish correct methods and data to accompany forecasts - pretending to foretell the future, a monopoly protected by some provincial as well as municipal senior staff and elected representatives.^{vii}

Fortunately, the Population Projections Project for Canada's census areas, available on the internet, provides well defined population projection scenarios – a reference with which to help understand where we are and where we are headed on current demographic trends.^{viii}

Premier Christy Clark may be correct – health may yet be restored, thanks to people like Elvena Slump who raise concerns about the public service in our communities, Teunis Westbroek, and thanks to projects like the Population Projections Project.

Cordially,



William Warren Munroe

ⁱ Vancouver law firm Harper Grey LLP, accusing Slump of defaming senior staff at the city of Penticton. See the Global TV news cast and read the Penticton Herald articles about Elvena Slump on the internet.

ⁱⁱ The author, having served as a Population Analyst for BC Statistics, was threatened by a contract lawyer, from Heenan Blaikie (now collapsed), with paying damages to government employees for stress they may endure if the author pursued arbitration in an effort to resolve accusations made by BC Statistics' senior staff of making government employees feel unsafe. Years after being dismissed for insubordination and refused arbitration, the author discovered the accusations were made against him while BC Statistics' senior staff falsified reports for "The Equalization Program and the Property Tax Base: Feasibility Study Conducted by Statistics Canada" www.wminformatics.com/WP/home.html.

ⁱⁱⁱ From "The United Nations Economic and Social Council, Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, 47th plenary session, "Analytic Activities at Statistics Canada", submitted by Statistics Canada, prepared by Chief Statistician, Ivan Fellegi, 1999."

www.wminformatics.com/WP/ANALYTIC_ACTIVITIES_AT_STATISTICSCANADA.pdf

See the summary of the introduction portion of my presentation to the 2013 Congress, Canadian Population Society *Methods for Projections* session, "[Population Projections for Community Members: Why Verify Population Numbers](#)", W.W. Munroe, June 2013, www.wminformatics.com/PopulationProjections/CPS_PPP_Validate.pdf

^{iv} This forecast was created in 2011, prior to the release of the 2011 census results; therefore, the most recent census reference year was 2006. In 2013, the Superintendent of Schools presented a forecast showing a 0% increase in school aged children to 2027, markedly lower than the previous forecast created in 2010, justifying the closure of 2 elementary schools as enrolment began to rise again. www.wminformatics.com/WManalytics/Articles/140318/QSDFR_PPP_5.html

^v Fellegi, 1999

^{vi} “this message is to confirm that your name has not been added as a delegation” Qualicum Beach Corporate Administrator, Trudy Coates, on behalf of council members and senior staff, and the town planner, 2012 and 2013.

^{vii} Incorrect methods and data accompanied unfounded population numbers from 2001 to 2011. For example, during this time, BC Statistics’ senior officials did not publish the use of the change in the number of telephone landlines as an indicator of the change in population, nor changes made by the Ministry of Finance.

^{viii} The Population Projections Project was developed to provide community members with a clearly explained, understandable, verifiable, valid set of population projection scenarios developed from open public current demographic data, namely the Census of Population from Statistics Canada, www.wminfomatics.com/PopulationProjections/CND2a.html. To read what people are saying about the project see www.wminfomatics.com/PopulationProjections/feedback.html