

William Warren Munroe
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Dear Canadian Population Society President,

Thank you for your thoughtful reply pointing out that an objective of the Canadian Population Society (CPS) is “to promote the study and development of the science of demography” in response to my questions, should Canada’s Official Statistical Agencies provide “correct methods and data used to create population numbers, (rather than incorrect methods and data)”. Your care and attention concerning the promotion of science is a welcome alternative to people who do not care and may degrade, devalue, cheapen, and / or damage the study and development of the science of demography.

Indeed, people who do not care about promoting science would not care about evidence, verification, testing, and discussion of methods, data, and findings nor would they care whether wrong methods and data accompany so called findings. Additionally, opponents to science may purposefully impede, stifle, block and / or prevent verification, testing, and discussion of wrong methods, data and findings.

Alternatively, promoters and advocates of science would point out wrong methods and data accompanying so called findings, as well as informing the people who brought forward wrong methods and data that the findings are not verifiable. Promoters of science may accidentally put forward wrong methods and data – mistakes can happen. In such cases, the unfounded numbers would be withdrawn and corrections would be made. Such mistakes should not be considered dishonest.

In contrast, there have been times when corrections were not made. Indeed, some people may choose to stifle discussion and conceal the wrong methods and data while endorsing people who provide false ‘findings’. Worse yet, a promoter of science who points out wrong methods, data, and findings, as is their obligation, may come under personal attack. The dishonest behaviour of opponents of science can result in flawed public policy with social and economic consequences.

Since population numbers can be falsified, societies that promote the study and development of the science of demography, such as the Canadian Population Society, advocate and support the discussion of methods and data used to create population numbers.

True promoters of the study and development of the science of demography would not block nor stifle discussion about past, present or future wrong methods and data accompanying unfounded population numbers; nor would true promoters of science defend and / or accept unfounded findings.

Consequently, I do not agree with your contention that “the Society itself will never propose standards or advocate for one group or another” and that “it is not pertinent for you to address these questions to any past, current or future officers of the Society”; therefore, I would like the members of the Canadian Population Society to be allowed to discuss whether correct methods and data should accompany Official population estimates and to be allowed to advocate this standard to outside bodies such as Canada’s Official Statistical Agencies as per CPS Constitution Section 2.2 c) “to offer professional comments and to counsel outside bodies”.

Please understand that my efforts are not to highlight blame but rather “to promote the study and development of the science of demography”.

Your truly



William Warren Munroe