

# Statistics Canada Used for Information Laundering

## Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

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Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Regarding: process used to disguise the source of information derived from deception; false information for Equalization Payments Programme study; Canada's Demographic Estimates censored; unverifiable numbers considered acceptable; disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations; Canada's latest baby boom caught experts by surprise; misinformation from the national to municipal levels

Dear Justin,

Thank you for making the effort to travel across Canada visiting with many of the people who have made, and continue to make, this country one of the best places in the world to live. Also, thank you for your personal interest in ensuring Canadians are well informed by improving Canada's census conducted by Statistics Canada (STC), arguably one of the best statistical agencies in the world - helping make Canada one of the best-informed societies with the best-informed citizens, theoretically, one of the best governed societies.

However, STC has been and can be used to legitimize forged documents – false information impacting provincial and federal programs, also used to censor reliable information, thereby deceiving Canadians, resulting in flawed information being used to make decisions.

### **How Statistics Canada has been and can be used for information laundering**

Canada's official statistical agency, STC, takes seriously its role to ensure Canadians are well informed by implementing formal policies and assigning clear accountabilities with clearly described safeguards.<sup>1</sup> For example, requiring verification to ensure correct methods and data accompany findings rather than incorrect methods and data accompanying unverifiable, unsubstantiated, unfounded numbers – numbers that can be made up to support the programs and approaches of the current government.

Unfortunately, Canada's provincial/territorial statistical agencies have not implemented formal policies nor assigned clear accountabilities with clearly described safeguards;

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<sup>1</sup> "Analytic Activities At Statistics Canada", presented by Ivan Fellegi, to the Statistical Commission and Economic Commission For Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, June 1999. An insightful 7-page description of how to safeguard the integrity of information used understand social and economic dynamics: the forces which might be beneficially impacted by policy.  
[wminformatics.com/WP/ANALYTIC\\_ACTIVITIES\\_AT\\_STATISTICSCANADA.pdf](http://wminformatics.com/WP/ANALYTIC_ACTIVITIES_AT_STATISTICSCANADA.pdf)

therefore, incorrect methods and data can accompany unverifiable numbers mostly designed to justify the programs and approaches of the provincial/territorial government.

A further problem arises because false methods, data, and so-called findings from provinces/territories can be accepted by STC without verification. It is even possible the false information can be endorsed by STC as being of “better quality” than STC.

Similar to ‘money laundering’ (“*the process used to disguise the source of money or assets derived from criminal activity.*”<sup>2</sup>), information laundering is the process used to disguise the source of information derived from deception such as forgery, or fraud.<sup>3</sup> Here are some examples of disguising the source of information derived from deception in Canada from the federal, provincial/territorial, regional, to municipal levels.

### **False Information from provincial officials for Equalization Payments Programme Study**

A small group of Provincial Government of British Columbia (BC) officials gave STC officials false information for a study by STC into methods and data to determine Canada’s Equalization Payments for Finance Canada. This false information was accepted by STC without verification. BC Statistics’ (BC Stats) falsified numbers were found to be almost exactly the same as the census results – closer than the numbers calculated using STC’s methods and data; therefore, STC endorsed BC Stats’ method and data as producing population estimates of “better quality” than STC’s.<sup>4</sup>

### **Statistics Canada’s annual publication censored hiding provincial government’s deception**

The small group of BC Stats’ officials’ deception even impacted STC’s Demography Division’s annual publication “Canada’s Demographic Estimates” for census divisions across Canada, wherein the differences between STC and BC Stats’ calculations and estimates were stated. In response to questions about STC’s inferior quality (in truth STC is better than BC Stats), large portions of the publication were removed. Information useful to Canadians but revealing of BC Stats officials’ deception.<sup>5</sup>

### **Statistics Canada’s endorsement used to dismiss concerns about false information**

Concerns, raised by parents/guardians, and citizens addressing public school closures, about BC Stats’ incorrect method and data accompanying unfounded, unverifiable numbers for over 10 years were dismissed by BC Government Ministers and officials quoting STC’s endorsement. To be clear, BC Stats’ incorrect methods and data

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/fintrac-canafe/definitions/money-argent-eng.asp>. The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) is Canada's financial intelligence unit.

<sup>3</sup> Fraud and forgery described in [wminfomatics.com/WP/Articles/2017/statistical-agency-forgery.html](http://wminfomatics.com/WP/Articles/2017/statistical-agency-forgery.html)

<sup>4</sup> “The Equalization Program and the Property Tax Base: Feasibility Study Conducted by Statistics Canada”, February 28, 2005, p. 63 describes BC’s method, data and “findings”. These differ from BC Statistics’ methods and data used during the feasibility study described six years later in “GENERALIZATION ESTIMATION SYSTEM (GES) Small Area Population Estimation, Method and Error Evaluation” BC Stats, August 2011, (GES 2011) p.8. See the article “Is it true, does Statistics Canada consider BC Stats' population estimation methods to be of “better quality”?” November 22, 2011, [wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html](http://wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html).

<sup>5</sup> “BC Stats' Executive Director goes on CBC Radio Claiming Close Ties to Statistics Canada”, December 5, 2007, [wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html](http://wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html); “Restricting Access to the Annual Population Estimates Compendium from Statistics Canada”, June 15, 2009, [wminfomatics.com/WManalytics/Articles/090616/090615.html](http://wminfomatics.com/WManalytics/Articles/090616/090615.html)

accompanying unfounded numbers for over 10 years were considered acceptable because STC found that BC Stats false method and data produced population estimates (albeit it fraudulently) of “better quality” than STC’s.<sup>6</sup>

### **“Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations”**

A freedom of information request for the source of the quote “better quality”, used by the Minister of Labour, Citizens’ Services and Open Government spokesperson to assert the “integrity” of BC Stats was denied claiming “disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations”.<sup>7</sup> More truthfully, “disclosure helpful to everyone but harmful to BC Stats Officials’ careers”.

Dismissing concerns about incorrect methods and data accompanying unverifiable unfounded population numbers for over 10 years, Ministry of Education experts forecasted continued declining enrolment referring to unsubstantiated numbers, mostly designed to support the current government’s policies - closing public schools while enrolment in BC was rising again - boom, bust, echo.

### **“Canada’s latest baby boom caught experts by surprise”.**

The lack of understanding of fundamental demographic shifts such as boom, bust, echo was not isolated to BC. After interviewing demographers, Canadian Population Society members, academics, and government officials across Canada, a researcher wrote an article, published in a main stream newspaper with nation wide distribution, titled “Canada’s latest baby boom caught experts by surprise”.<sup>8</sup>

Even with one of the world’s best statistical agencies, (STC) as well as the so called “better” (but duplicitous) BC Stats’ Population Section, basic demographic information used to guide public service delivery in Canada could not be more wrong.

### **Good information up, misleading information down**

Every 5 years Canadians count Canadians as part of the census from small towns and villages, and regions added together to provinces/territories and to the nation as a whole. Yet the process used to disguise the source of post census numbers derived from deception cascades from the national, provincial/territorial, regional, district, to the municipal levels.

For example, in response to a question about why the new enrolment forecast was so much lower than the previous forecast, a Superintendent of Schools replied, “Any attempt to suggest/imply a grassy knoll conspiracy theory is disrespectful”<sup>9</sup> rather than simply

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<sup>6</sup> See Letter to Minister of Labour, Citizen Services and Open Government, Margaret MacDiarmid “British Columbia’s Official Population Statistics must be verifiable” and response from spokesperson, Betty Jo Hughes, Assistant Deputy Minister, ServiceBC, November 2011, [www.wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html](http://www.wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html)

<sup>7</sup> [www.wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html](http://www.wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html), June 22, 2012

<sup>8</sup> <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/07/04/canadas-latest-baby-boom-caught-experts-by-surprise-in-part-because-our-birth-rate-is-declining>, Sarah Boesveld, National Post, July 4, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Rollie Koop, Superintendent of Schools, Qualicum School District, March 2014. Mr. Koop went on to say that the disrespect was towards “the work that trustees, staff, and the community has done collaboratively to this point”. Requests to see the methods and data used to come up with the enrolment forecast had been made as part of the community’s’ public consultation process.

providing the method and data. Four of fifteen public schools in the district were closed referring to a single unverifiable enrolment forecast while enrolment increased.

At a town council meeting, a representative from a different Ministry (Health) presented a very different single possible (unverifiable) future scenario showing an over 30% population increase for the same district.<sup>10</sup> Requests to address the unverifiable numbers and present to the town council several well-defined projection scenarios calculated directly from Censuses of Population (rather than a single unfounded possible scenario pretending to foretell the future) were denied claiming “there is no law” requiring all requests to present be allowed.<sup>11</sup>

### **Town hall Q and A, Canadians’ future, well informed or misinformed, your thoughts**

Thank you, again for your cross-Canada Town Hall Q&A tour, and for your efforts to improve information for Canadians by improving Canada’s census conducted by Statistics Canada (STC). With one of the best statistical agencies in the world, Canadians should have sound, verifiable information with which to understand where we are and where we are heading on current trends.

Instead, Canadians are given unverifiable information derived from deception resulting in fundamental misunderstandings of current trends. These issues have been described many times to all levels of government officials to no avail, but what do you think?

- 1) Should correct methods and data accompany findings rather than incorrect methods and data accompanying unfounded numbers?
- 2) Should all levels of government in Canada implement formal policies with clearly described safeguards and assign clear accountabilities?
- 3) Should misinformation provided to Canadians be corrected?

and more generally,

- 4) What kind of society do you prefer to belong too?
  - a) a society where the population is well informed and able to intelligently participate in the setting of local to national priorities, or
  - b) a society where the population is misinformed and easily misled?

Thank you in advance for your reply. Sincerely,



William Warren Munroe

Population Projections Project for Canada’s census areas

(Former Economist in the position of Population Analyst, ranking expert on migration, 2002 to 2006, BC Statistics, Provincial Government of British Columbia)

For more information visit: [www.wminfomatics.com/WP/Home.html](http://www.wminfomatics.com/WP/Home.html)

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<sup>10</sup> “VIHA forecasts 30% total population increase while the Qualicum School District Superintendent forecasts 0% increase for school age children.” March 18, 2014  
[wminfomatics.com/WManalytics/Articles/140318/QSDFR\\_PPP\\_5.html](http://wminfomatics.com/WManalytics/Articles/140318/QSDFR_PPP_5.html)

<sup>11</sup> Trudy Coates, on behalf of Town of Qualicum Beach staff and council, April 2013