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June 18, 2018

Michelle Stilwell, MLA  
2B-1209 Island Hwy  
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Regarding: correct methods and data to accompany the findings; formal policies, clear accountabilities and clear steps to safeguard integrity of information used for public services

Dear Michelle,

Thank you for taking the time to write (April 5, 2018) regarding BC Stats' use method as well as information regarding the Whistleblower Protection Act after I sent you letters November 4th, 9th, 16th, 2016, and January 11th, and November 28th, 2017 (posted online).

Regarding BC Stats' method, as mentioned previously, BC Stats provided incorrect methods and data to accompany unfounded, unsupported, groundless, baseless, unjustifiable population numbers for over 10 years (BC Stats confirms this). You have ignored this fact entirely.

You also ignore that when this lack of integrity was discovered during the public consultation process as per the School Act, in your district, the Minister responsible considered the incorrect methods and data accompanying unfounded numbers from BC Stats to be acceptable – dismissing concerns by quoting Statistics Canada finding BC Stats' methods and data produced population numbers of "better quality" than Statistics Canada. Requests for the source of the quote "better quality" were denied claiming "disclosure harmful to relations or negotiations" – another example of lack of integrity. To gain the unjustifiable endorsement "better quality" BC Stats' officials had also deceived Statistics Canada -providing incorrect methods and data to Statistics Canada as well to citizens.

If BC Stats' had implemented formal policies, assigned clear accountabilities, and clear steps to safeguard statistical office products (including population numbers), this deception would not have occurred, and I would not have been fired in an effort to coverup the deceitful practices of BC Stats officials. Citizens would have had reliable information with which to intelligently participate in setting priorities rather than unreliable information with which to be easily misled.

I ask again, my question to you in my letter (November 9, 2016, posted online):

MLA Stilwell, has the Provincial Government of British Columbia adopted formal policies and clear accountabilities to safeguard the integrity (to include the correct methods and data to accompany "findings") of analytic products such as the population estimates and forecasts? If so, what are they? If not, why not?

I notice that the Ombudsperson is required to provide information annually addressing the integrity of the whistleblower protection practices. But if BC Stats officials can deceive and cause harm to others with impunity, protected by the Ministry, the BC Public Service Agency, the BC Government Employees' Union, the BC Labour Board etc. what keeps the Ombudsperson office from doing the same?

In closing, congratulations for being given the role of culture critic; therefore, you are the go to person to address the "sick culture" (C. Clark, 2012) in the capital of British Columbia. MLA Stilwell, will you put forward a motion in the Legislature to require correct methods and data accompany 'findings' used to guide public services in British Columbia rather than continuing to allow BC Stats' lack of integrity?

One of the best ways to address the intrinsic risks of government control of information is to provide alternatives that use open data, as reliable as possible (Canada's Censuses of Population and Dwellings) with a straight forward method allowing verification. Perhaps as a culture person you will advocate that the Population Projections Project to be taught in Grades 10 to 12. This project shows students how to access and assess demographic data with which to examine current demographic trends in their communities, and how to calculate several well-defined population projection scenarios rather than one scenario pretending to foretell the future.

Cordially,



William Warren Munroe

Population Projections Project for Canada's census areas

<http://wminfomatics.com/PopulationProjections/CND2a.html>

For more information, go to: <http://wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html>

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**From:** "Stilwell.MLA, Michelle" <Michelle.Stilwell.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

**Sent:** April 5, 2018 2:56 PM

**To:** "William Warren Munroe" <wwmunroe@wminfomatics.com>

**Subject:** information

William,

Thank you for contacting me again in regards to population statistics and your concerns over whistleblower protection.

BC Stats applies the Component/Cohort-Survival method to project the population. This method "grows" the population from the latest base year estimate by forecasting births, deaths and migration by age. These forecasts are based on past trends modified to account for possible future changes and, consequently, should be viewed as only one possible scenario of future population.

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act (2015)* serves to facilitate the disclosure and investigation of significant and serious matters in or relating to the public service, that are potentially unlawful, dangerous to the public or injurious to the public. BC Public Service employees who proactively disclose privileged information with the intention of defending the public interest are worthy of our protection.

I hope this information is helpful.

Kind regards,

**Michelle Stilwell, MLA for Parksville Qualicum**

Opposition Critic for Tourism, Arts and Culture

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