

William Warren Munroe
763 Beach Road
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1S2
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HONOURABLE BEN STEWART
Minister of Citizens' Services
PO BOX 9068 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2

HONOURABLE MURRAY COELL
Minister of Labour
PO BOX 9052 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2

Honorable Ministers,

As mention in previous correspondences, I look forward to reading your reports into the use of non-statistical (including coercion) and sub-standard methods and models used by BC Stats Population Section and the dissemination of unreliable information to clients and citizens in violation of the BC Public Service Act, and BC Labour Code. As you know, as Ministers you are responsible for investigating violations of the BC Public Service Act, and the BC Labour Code. Also, the official opposition critics have a responsibility to raise these issues with the Honorable Ministers in an honest effort to ensure the reliability of official statistics disseminated by BC Stats.

For example, regarding the \$50,000 contract between ElectionsBC and BC Stats Population Section done in 2005, for population forecasts to 2009 for all the Electoral Districts in BC, ElectionsBC did not receive truthful answers to their questions of why the population numbers for Richmond and Burnaby were much lower than expected.

ElectionsBC and other clients should have been informed, without asking, that BC Stats purchases Telus data to use along with BC Hydro and Fortis data to estimate population change. Since the number of telephone landline hookups were relative low in Richmond and Burnaby, (relatively high cell phone use) the population was underestimated resulting in inflated population numbers for all other Electoral Districts.

It may be the case that ElectionsBC has never been told the truth to their questions posed in the summer of 2005, until now, well over four years later. Also, as mentioned, this contract included population forecasts for all Electoral Districts to 2009; therefore, the data purchased, the decisions made based on the data, and the relationship with the data provider including possible future contracts are still of relevance, even though the ElectionsBC spokesperson contends that...

“Elections BC accepted the data supplied by BC Stats and the associated contract with BC Stats has been closed for several years.”

Please understand that this issue can reasonably be seen as a public service issue which the Ministers and official opposition critics are responsible to address, and not only a personnel issue between myself and the employer as suggested by the ElectionsBC spokesperson in her statement

“we consider this matter to be a personnel matter between you and BC Stats”,

The categorization of this matter as either a personnel matter, a matter of interest to clients and/or a public matter needs to be clearly addressed.

Please be aware that the information purchased was used by ElectionsBC to address elections for eligible voters in BC. Since elections can impact all people living in BC this should not be treated only, nor be limited to, a “personnel matter”. Indeed, if I were responsible for paying for information of importance to the public, for which I was concerned about the results, only to find out the real answers many years later (by an employee who recently found out that he/she was dismissed for having advocated the provision of reliable information to me,) I would question the service provider, and advocate measures to ensure verifiability of future information.

As mentioned, other clients have also received unreliable information from BC Stats, including BC Hydro. May I suggest, clients including ElectionsBC should ensure that future contracts for population forecasts be done by organizations that maintain statistical standards and clients of BC Stats should be provided with the raw data (without reference to individuals, which is how BC Stats gets the data from Telus, BC Hydro, and Fortis), to allow verifiability.

As you are aware, when I raised concerns about the reliability of the official population statistics along with easily implementable solutions, while employed by the Ministry of Labour and Citizens’ Services, BC Stats Population Section as a Population Analyst and provincial expert on migration, I was accused of making my co-workers fear for their safety and dismissed while my request for mediation was before the Deputy Minister.

As you can appreciate, I look forward to finding a constructive resolution to this "important" issue as soon as possible. To this end, I continue to request a fair hearing before a neutral, independent board, into the real matters in dispute, with fair representation.

Yours truly,



William Warren Munroe

cc. ElectionsBC, Official Opposition critics for Labour and Citizens’ Services