

-----Original Message-----

From: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Sent: November 15, 2005 10:43 AM
To: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Subject: ieced

Hello Dave,

You had mentioned that there might be money available to make the individual entry current events database web queriable.

Perhaps we could hire a student for a term to do this, or perhaps it could be contracted out.

From previous experience, it has taken approximately 2 to 3 months to make datasets web queriable.

Perhaps, I (we) should also invite contractors to give us an estimate.

Your thoughts?

Warren

From: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Sent: November 15, 2005 10:56 AM
To: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Subject: RE: ieced

Good. This is something we've needed for a while, though by web I assume you mean intranet, as we wouldn't open this outside the branch. What is needed is to spec out the requirements fairly carefully. As this has to be (potentially) accessible to any in the branch, there should be some discussion with others as to what might be useful to other staff (Paul G, Don M, etc).

It has to minimally be able to create a report in the form that the old 'migration book' presented. This really shouldn't be too major of a jump, so we may be able to use internal resources to do it. This means we also have to pull in a systems person about the programming parameters.

Please rough out the key characteristics of the elements of the queriable front end and let's discuss it.

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-----Original Message-----

From: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Sent: November 17, 2005 11:45 AM
To: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Subject: CSD estimates
Importance: High

Warren,

A couple of things. First, I'd like you to do the standard package of outputs for the CSDs, LHAs, etc that we publish on the web this year. This means getting the data from Frank, then, using last year's tables, generate the html, pdf and csv outputs for the web site. This would include the last table that goes in to the Municipal Population Estimates Highlights pdf. As before, I'll do up the rest of the document and pass it on to you to take a look at.

As we still have to finish all the estimates and aggregates, it will be a day or so before we get the numbers to Local Government for their ok. So, if Frank's finished by the end of this week/early next week, then likely we'll have approval by mid next week. This will then give us about a week to get all the tables prepped and up on the web site (by the end of this month).

As regards your note re GVRD migs.... I want to check some things out about it and then get back to you.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Sent: November 18, 2005 9:29 AM
To: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Cc: McRae, Don LCS:EX
Subject: FW: CSD estimates

Hello Dave,

This is a change from what was agreed previously; outputs were to be taken care of by the person who created them (in this case Frank). Also, as previously offered, I would gladly take on the role of running the estimates (from beginning to end).

The last time (2002) that I created and formatted the html, .csv files, and the .pdfs, it took me over 5 weeks along with my regular chores. I have not been taking any courses or had a chance to improve my ability to create these outputs more quickly which is a very manual and time consuming process. Therefore, in order to create these outputs in one week, I will need help and/or have to work overtime.

However, if I use the program that I had initiated and championed (estatsBC) and designed, the outputs can be generated in a matter of minutes once they are put into MS Access (the government standard for database on pcs). As you know, this program, estatsBC, writes the code that creates the webpage and allows for .csvs to be downloaded. As you know, government employees are encouraged to be innovative.

Indeed, the preliminary outputs are already in html and csvs. All that need be added to estatsBC is a pdf generator (easily done).

When Frank gets the numbers finalized, I will put them up on estatsBC right away and the numbers will be available in a matter of minutes.

As you know, the Outcomes surveys people use MS Access and eventually Oracle (which estatsBC can also work with) in order to allow users to query the databases themselves. Therefore, this way of providing data via the internet with spreadsheet downloads has precedence.

By automating the processes, we can focus on ensuring the highest quality of the data along with the highest quality of the sourcing, footnotes, meta data (notes to the reader) and even to our reports and studies.

However, if you would rather that I use the very manual (and error prone) process in one week, I will need help and/or have to work overtime.

Warren

-----Original Message-----

From: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Sent: November 21, 2005 9:48 AM
To: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Subject: RE: CSD estimates
Importance: High

Hi Warren,
I've got your previous email, but given the time constraints I'll deal with these questions first.

The reason I've asked you is that Frank has some other specific work he needs to finish up over the next little while. The estimates release has a high priority and profile. It is important that we release the data in the same format that we have done so in the

past. If you can get eStats to produce the output in the same format as we have on the web (the three tables sorted by RD, name and size, in the three formats csv, pdf and html), with all appropriate footnotes and formatting then please go ahead.

As Frank is finished (or by the end of the day) with the regular, non-GAP estimates, I assume you can get the definitive numbers from him and get the pages up by the end of this week.

I will do up the municipal pop estimate pdf report and table except for the last table, which includes the Muns, RDs and DRs, which I would appreciate your doing up as well.

Thanks

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-----Original Message-----

From: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Sent: November 21, 2005 11:28 AM
To: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Subject: RE: CSD estimates

Hello Dave,

I'll do the best I can.

Apparently, I will be able to get the data today; therefore, I'll let you know how it is going so that we can get this done right away (good thing I did not take that course at this time).

As it has been a while since I did this, could you please point me to the specific webpage(s) and an other output sources just to make sure that I am doing the right things.

Thank you,

Warren

From: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Sent: November 23, 2005 2:15 PM
To: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Cc: McRae, Don LCS:EX; Paxman, Marvin LCS:EX; Gore, Carol PSA:EX

Subject: RE: Local Government Boundary and other changes for 2005

Importance: High

Warren,

I could go through all your comments, but really, I don't have the time at this point. There are too many immediate things on our plates. As you have said, let's look to the future - I am getting a little tired of rehashing this old stuff, which you seem to be dwelling on. As far as I can see, this is just eating up time that could be spent in getting the tasks done.

As I said before, the estimates publication has first priority. It is my responsibility, with Don McRae, to set our priorities. The first priority is the estimates; second is the migration release front page; third is the special feature; fourth is the request from Don McRae; fifth is outside requests; last is the current events updates. Please treat these as the tasks at hand and prioritize your time accordingly. If you have specific difficulties please come and speak with me about them and I will help.

In the past there have been other staff who have been able to handle these tasks. The time frame was the same for them as for what is expected now - not always easy but that is common for an organization like ours.

As you have said, let's move on, get the work done. This is what we are here for. We all work together, we all share jobs we don't necessarily like, but to fulfill the mandate of the organization we do them.

Thank you
Dave

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-----Original Message-----

From: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Sent: November 23, 2005 3:05 PM
To: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Cc: McRae, Don LCS:EX; Paxman, Marvin LCS:EX; Gore, Carol PSA:EX
Subject: RE: Local Government Boundary and other changes for 2005

Hello Dave,

As I suggested here is the work done to date.

<< File: munest9605A.xls >>

As I mentioned, this took me over 5 1/2 weeks to do several years ago.

I will need help to get this done by weeks end.

Warren

-----Original Message-----
From: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Sent: December 1, 2005 8:43 AM
To: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Subject: RE: Estimates on the web

Hello Dave,

I just checked these again, and you are right there was an error in the summing of the incorporated areas in the name sort table. I did mistakenly sum the incorporated areas excluding One Hundred Mile House; I had selected all but the first row in that table...my mistake. I randomly checked the figures in the other cells in all the tables and they appear to be correct.

Regarding the RD sort table, I had sorted the municipalities by size within each RD...would you like me to change that to a name sort for the .csv and the .pdfs?

Regarding the error in the sum of the incorporated areas in the name sort table...as you can appreciate, this old way of doing things is a very manual process and therefore prone to error. This would not happen if the data that Frank generates were put into Micro Soft Access right away (MS Excel can be imported into MS Access very easily because they are both Micro Soft products). As a matter of fact, I did this in a matter of minutes and also walked through the web wizard in estatsBC in about one minute (I'm used to it) and the data was made available in all but the .pdf format. I have mentioned many times that this new way of doing things is far less prone to error as well being many many times faster.

You are very used to the old way of doing things but I am not as I have said many times. Instead, as per my epdp developed with Ruth and since agreed upon by you, I have been working at automating our output process. This has proven to be successful to date and should be finished...the sooner the better, so that the analysts can have the necessary time to better understand and qualify the numbers that are being displayed, thereby improving our service.

To make this point as clear as possible, it might be helpful to compare the time savings between the two ways....

The old way

These outputs were estimated to take one week

35 hours- 30minutesx5 (breaks and startup and shut down time) = 32.5 x 60 minutes = 1950 minutes

The new way

7 minutes if there are mistakes in the data (as with the ferts sent over by Jennifer last year) 1 minute if you are used to the system as I am ..but lets use the 7 minutes

Therefore the new way is 1950 minutes / 7 minutes which = 278.5 times faster....and the new way is less error prone.

Even though this approach would save our section an enormous amount of time old ways are hard to change. Nonetheless, we really should look into this not only because there are fewer of us doing more work (probably because of changes in technology) but it would allow us to be on top of changes in the reliability of indicators of population change as well as able to test new indicators as old indicators become less reliable...etc, etc.

Warren

From: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Sent: December 1, 2005 9:39 AM
To: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Subject: RE: Estimates on the web

Warren,

A couple of things. It was not the muns added up wrong on the sort and size tables, it was that almost all the actual mun pops were wrong (e.g. Vancouver's total pop was out by 3 or 4, etc). As for the municipal sorting on the RD - if you looked at the tables on the web (that should have acted as your guide or template as to what to produce) you can see that they are all alpha sorted within each RD, just like the RDs themselves.

As for the time it took to do the work, in reality it took me less than a day to create all nine output files. There is good value in doing the file creation this way, as it has in the past made visible problems with the estimates that were overlooked (e.g. your creation of files with the wrong numbers this time). I have for years (well before you arrived) automated the generation of parts of the tables (LHA from APL fns), but given the intricacies of municipal geos it is very useful to have a manual aspect to the generation of the tables.

As for your work on eStats to formalize a process, please don't bother except for your own work. Our Infomatics staff are moving to produce systems that are generalizable across the Division and robust, and there is no longer a need for eStats

development. Systems development is not your job - it is the responsibility of our systems staff.

Your current EPDP does not have as a goal systems development. Even if it did (outside of programs that you might build for your own specific work), general systems development, except in terms of discussion with our Infomatics staff, is not part of your job. As far as the structure of your EPDP, I would like to have it from this point on in the form that the other staff have it and which was recommended by the Ministry. It may be that the previous format was ok with Ruth, but it is my call on the format for the EPDP to come to me. I discussed this with you last year - and passed you the form - but you refused. This year I would like it in the standard form. I can provide you with it if you like.

Dave

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From: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Sent: December 9, 2005 9:12 AM
To: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Subject: CTB
Importance: High
Warren,

Don just told me you had provided him with the Sept. CTB. McRae says that the order of this data dissemination should be that you give the table/map to me, I check it out, discuss if necessary, then pass it on to him.

From: O'Neil, David LCS:EX
Sent: December 13, 2005 6:40 AM
To: Munroe, Warren LCS:EX
Subject: Out of Office AutoReply: sick child

I will be out of the office today, December 12. For population/demography inquiries please contact Frank Ip at 387-0336 (Frank.Ip@gov.bc.ca) or Jennifer Hansen at 387-0337/Jennifer.Hansen@gov.bc.ca, and for mapping/geography questions contact Pat Bluemel at Pat.Bluemel@gov.bc.ca. Please check our 'Contact' list on our web site (www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca) for other staff contact info.