

**Data Purchase and Access Working Group meeting**  
**1:30 - 2:30pm EST - November 18, 2015**  
**Teleconference number: 1-888-271-3643**

PRESENT:

Lynn Wright, Simcoe  
Nancy Ramuscak, Peel  
Auburn Larose, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph  
Cheryl Hitchen, Kingston  
Louisa Wong, Hamilton  
Isabelle Lépine, Montreal  
Natalie Hui, York  
Sian Jones, Calgary

REGRETS:

Andrea Dort, Peel  
Paula Yung, Calgary  
Charles Burchill and Christina Maes Nino, Winnipeg  
Heath Priston and Matt Laurie, Toronto  
Ken Murdoch, Winnipeg  
Ian Faris (external), Capital Regional District

Agenda

1. Follow up on data orders and acquisitions
2. Testing the data from the General Social Survey and Canadian Survey on Disability
3. Community Poverty Project data - To buy or not to buy?
4. Varia
5. Next meeting

1. Follow up on data orders and acquisitions

*Data that has been recently added to the catalogue (since the last working group meeting, this list overlaps with what was presented at the last Leads' meeting):*

- Insolvency data by Forward Sortation Area ([2014](#))

- General Social Survey (GSS) - Volunteering data ([2010](#))
- Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) - four tables ([2012](#))
- ePCCF ([July 2015 update](#))
- 2013 data from the T1 Family File (taxfiler data) including Family tables, Neighbourhood Income and Demographics, Seniors, Financial Data and Charitable Donations, Migration estimates
- Working Poverty and Income Inequality ([2011](#)). Note that the deciles used in the income inequality tables are calculated using adjusted family income, which may be different than percentiles and deciles reported in the media. Methodology notes explaining how the income deciles are calculated have been added to this product's [catalogue page](#).
- Canadian Business Counts (formerly Canadian Business Patterns) for [June 2015](#). Note that this product has experienced a change in methodology that resulted in a significant increase in the total number of businesses in Canada. Changes are described on the [product's catalogue entry](#) or in the [Business Registry users' guide](#).
- Custom topic-based tabulations on Education and labour, Mobility and migration, Immigration and ethnocultural diversity as well as Income and housing. A couple of these were popular 2006 tables that were not standard in 2011 and a couple were custom requests from members.
- Police-reported cybercrime ([2013](#))
- Building Permits ([2014](#))
- Census and NHS Target Group Profiles for the Population aged 0-17 ([Census](#); [NHS](#)), Population living alone ([Census](#); [NHS](#)) and the Population living in subsidized housing ([Census](#); [NHS](#))
- Welfare incomes ([2013](#))
- CMHC Comprehensive Rental Market Tables ([2014](#))
- CMHC Comprehensive New Home Construction Tables ([2014](#))

*The following data will be catalogued shortly:*

- Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) for the two-year estimates from the Canadian Community Health Survey, 2011/2012 data. These data are in a format that are suitable for advanced users, in that they can be accessed by SAS or SPSS. Alternatively users can build their own IVT files, but the method for carrying this out is not documented and is not intuitive. These data are also available for free on the [STC website](#) in a more user-friendly format.
- CPP Table 4: Age groups (10), sex (3), income status in 2010 - CPP (7), work activity (10) and selected cultural and activity limitation characteristics (20) for the population 15 years and over living in private households, NHS, 2011
- CPP Table 5B: Visible minority status (3), age groups (8), sex (3), income status in 2010 - CPP (7), and selected income characteristics (9) for the population 15 years and over with income living in private households, NHS, 2011
- CPP Table 5D: Period of immigration (6), age groups (8), sex (3), income status in 2010 - CPP (7), and selected income characteristics (9) for the immigrant population 15 years and over with income living in private households, NHS, 2011

- Aboriginal identity (8), condition of dwelling (4), number of persons per room (5), age groups (7), sex (3), area of residence (10) for the Population in private households, 2011 NHS
- Occupation - National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2011 (691) and Total income groups in 2010 (34) for the Employed Labour Force 15 years and over in private households, 2011 NHS
- Industry - North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2011 (425) and Total income groups in 2010 (34) for the Employed Labour Force 15 years and over in private households, 2011 NHS

*The following products will NOT be acquired soon:*

- Labour Force Survey data will not be published below the CMA level and our recurring order at select CSD and CD geographies will no longer be filled by Statistics Canada. We will look into this matter again in the future.
- There will not be a Permanent Residents Rounded Data Cube released by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in the near future. Data will be made available on the government's open data portal. We will inquire in the future as to whether the new government will support the release of this data product.
- Standard taxfiler tables at custom geographies: We will work with Statistics Canada to confirm a methodology. Rather than DAs, STC is prepared to generate taxfiler tables using custom geographies provided by CDP members. DA tables would be too unreliable. As agreed at the annual meeting in Montreal, we will continue to develop a methodology in 2015/2016 and custom geocoding should be carried out in 2016-2017.
- Data from the Longitudinal Administrative Databank/ Longitudinal Immigration Database will not be acquired as the information we have been given from Statistics Canada is that the data would be expensive and of poor data quality at the CSD level.

## **COMMENTS**

Natalie Hui, York: York put in a request for low income population data from the LAD at the CD level. She will check with her colleague regarding order details, cost and suppression of data.

Sian Jones, Calgary: The LAD has a lot of suppression even at the provincial level (Alberta).

*The following products will be acquired soon:*

- 2015 version of the Shelter Capacity Report from Employment & Social Development Canada

*Core Housing Need*

A cost estimate and information request was submitted to Statistics Canada regarding the acquisition of Core Housing Need data similar to what is [available on HiCO](#), but at the CSD, DA and CT geographic levels. We have inquired to see what cross-tabulations would be possible at the DA and CT levels, including whether median income would be available (as requested during the last meeting).

#### *TransUnion data*

TransUnion data for 2015 Q1 should be sent to us within the next few weeks. TransUnion was contacted regarding their Risk Score and Bankruptcy Score to determine whether it would be possible to acquire 20th percentile data for these scores as a means of better identifying populations at risk. These data can be acquired but they are not standard products and would cost extra. The upcoming data delivery will be the last in our multi-year agreement with TransUnion for these data, after which we will have to discuss whether we continue to acquire these data, if we should also obtain the 20th percentile data and from what provider; TransUnion and Equifax both provide these data.

#### *Environics Analytics data*

No further information has been obtained regarding Prizm since the last meeting. We will submit a cost estimate request for some standard products to be discussed at the Leads' meeting.

EA has access to business directory data. Before putting in a cost-estimate request we will need to know what variables are of interest. We will request business revenues by CSD if available. EA has access to some elements of the Dun & Bradstreet database.

We have not tested Environics Analytics' ePCCF against Statistics Canada's PCCF, as we do not have a copy of the STC version. If someone is able to carry out a comparison or provide us with a copy of the STC PCCF, please let us know.

## 2. Testing the data from the General Social Survey and Canadian Survey on Disability

The data from the General Social Survey (GSS) and Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) were custom orders from Statistics Canada and are from surveys that are not designed to report at geographic levels smaller than the provinces, so there are a lot of suppressed data. We are asking that members review the data and provide feedback on the value of the GSS and CSD tables for their purposes.

## **COMMENTS**

Louisa Wong, Hamilton: Hamilton has a population of 500K+. She looked at the CSD data. The basic tables (age and gender) were of some use, but when broken down by type of disability there were a lot of "Use with caution" warning. Their Access and Equity office would be hesitant to use these data.

Cheryl Hitchen, Kingston: Found that there was nothing of use; 99% was suppressed. It would be lovely to have these data, as there is a great need for it, which will only continue to grow. Wonders if it would be possible to change the sample size or change Census questions.

Sian Jones, Calgary: The data were useful for Calgary, however the labour force status has a different definition from other definitions, so it's hard to compare.

### 3. Community Poverty Project data - To buy or not to buy?

We have placed an order for the remaining CPP tables and have received estimated delivery dates for each of them. For the tables that will not be delivered until the new year, we are looking to confirm continued interest in acquiring these data given the following information:

- With the mandatory long-form census being reinstated, these data will not belong to any time series.
- It is getting later in the Census cycle and these data may be of less interest.
- Several of these tables are relatively expensive compared to other tables. Note that we are not asking you to make any decisions based on the price of the tables and that we are committed to getting these tables if there is continued interest. However these funds could go towards other data purchases, such as more data from the General Social Survey or more custom geography orders.

The order details are [available in this table](#). The tables arriving in January, February and March are those for which we would like you to re-confirm your continued interest. There is a summary tab and a tab with more details for each of the tables.

## COMMENTS

Cheryl Hitchen, Kingston: Don't have a need for the additional tables. Doesn't seem reasonable to spend the money.

Isabelle Lépine, Montréal: Indicated that the more Montréal uses the income data from the NHS the less faith they have in it. Don't consider it to be a reliable data source.

Nancy Ramuscak: Noted that if the General Social Survey does not have reliable data at the CSD level, then it might not be worth spending the money saved from the cancelation of the CPP tables on them.

#### 4. Varia

Sian Jones, Calgary: Statistics Canada is holding consultations on new CMA boundaries. Calgary hasn't had their meeting yet. Has anyone else had one? Wants to know about longitudinal comparability of the boundaries- what is the possibility of expanded reporting on large CSDs

#### 5. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2016 at 1:30pm Eastern time.