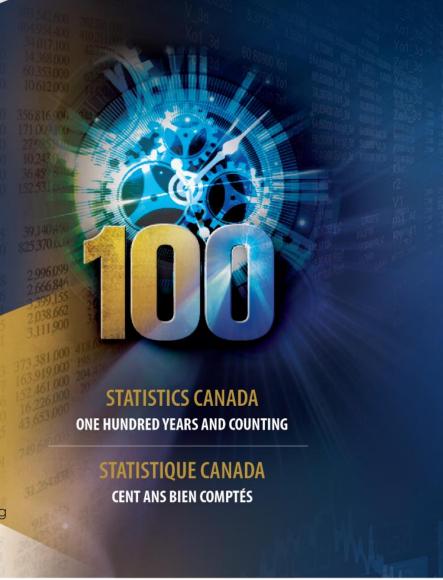
The Challenges to the Independence of Official Statistics

Statistics Canada Case Study

International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) - Special Meeting September 18, 2018

Éric Rancourt, Director General, Statistical Infrastructure Division







Pre-2010 Independence by convention



Minister, as government representative, defines the "what" Chief Statistician defines the "how"

- Statistics Canada
 - reports to a Minister
 - is part of the Innovation, Science and Economic Development portfolio
- The Chief Statistician is the Deputy Minister
- The Statistics Act
 - sets the Chief Statistician's mandate
 - is silent on the established convention

2010 Government decision on the "how"



Impact

- Continuity and quality of data put into question
- Basis for evidence put at risk

Lesson Learned

Need to make explicit what had been by convention

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2015 Minister's Mandate



Reinstate the census long-form

Reinforce independence through updated legislation

... "I will expect you to work with your colleagues and through established legislative, regulatory, and Cabinet processes, including our first Budget, to deliver on your top priorities:

 Restore the long-form census and update legislation governing Statistics Canada to reinforce the institution's independence." ...

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada

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2016-2017 Formalizing independence

Legislating what was previously by convention Preserving the integrity of the data Retaining public trust

- Authorities
- Issuing directives
- Transparency
- Appointment of the Chief Statistician
- Canadian Statistics Advisory Council

Challenges





- renewal
- democratizing data

Independence and relevance finding the right balance

- building partnerships
- transparency and accountability

THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit www.statcan.gc.ca



MERCI!

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