

Leads Teleconference
Canadian Council on Social Development
Community Data Program
January 19, 2017
1:30 – 3pm ET
via Adobe Connect: <https://cdp.adobeconnect.com/theboardroom>

Agenda:

1. Results of the User Survey
2. Census: What's new in 2016?
3. Information from Statistics Canada
4. Data acquisition plan guiding principles
5. Emerging priorities
6. Historical context
7. Priority list highlights
8. Requests to 'bump up' the priority of data tables
9. Next steps
10. Toronto Data Consultation Process (Heath Priston)
11. Next meeting: Face-to-face meeting in Kingston, May 25-26, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE

- Katherine Scott – CCSD
- Michel Frojmovic – CCSD
- Michael Ditor – CCSD
- Julie Lam – CCSD
- Aaron Mulcaster – Kawartha Lakes & Haliburton
- Alison Gerrits – Bow Valley
- Aman Gill – City of Regina
- Amanda Richards – Peel Region
- Amandine – Northern Ontario
- Andrea Dort – Peel Region
- Auburn Larose – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph
- Brenda Dales – Peterborough
- Cheryl Hitchen – Kingston
- Christina Maes Mino – Winnipeg
- David Plumstead – Parry Sound-Nipissing
- Diane Urquhart – Ottawa
- Heath Priston – Toronto
- Irena Pozgaj-Jones – Simcoe County
- Jasmine Ing – City of Calgary
- Jessica Demings – Waterloo
- Karen Loney – Erie-St. Clair
- Louisa Wong – Hamilton
- Mo Jeng – London
- Natalie Hui – York Region
- Sian Jones – City of Calgary

- Tracy Birtch – Perth-Huron

REGRETS

- Adam Durrant – Niagara Region
- Anthony Campese – Halton
- Arran Rowles – Waterloo
- Bhavana Varma – Kingston
- Brendon Neilson – Red Deer
- Clara Jimeno – Ottawa
- Emily McGirr – Regina
- Gena Ali – Halton Region
- Gregory Tucker – Newfoundland and Labrador
- Harvey Low – Toronto
- Janet Patterson – Parry Sound-Nipissing
- Jennifer MacLeod – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph
- Joseph LeBlanc – Sudbury
- Kim Hockey – Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington
- Lisa Gonsalves – York Region
- Lorraine Copas – Vancouver
- Marc Lefebvre – Sudbury
- Maria Leonis – York Region
- Randy Hatfield – St. John
- Sonya Hardman – Durham

Actions arising

- **CDP Team will process requests from 2016 User Survey**
- **CDP Leads to submit custom geographies**
- **CDP to maintain contact with Statistics Canada on orders and webinars**
- **The DPAWG will review the CPP tables to consider if changes need to be made**
- **DPAWG to provide feedback on the priority list – all Leads are invited to do the same**
- **CDP Leads to review and provide feedback on data acquisition priorities no later than May 11, 2017 in advance of the May 25-26 annual meeting**
- **Where possible, Leads should advance membership renewals before the end of February to allow for a more precise budget to be determined**

1. Results of the User Survey

Some preliminary information on the results of the 2016 User Survey – collected 137 unique responses. Most of the member organizations did not feel our listed sector categories fit their organization and chose ‘other’ (18%). There are many organizations that work in health, mental health (13%), community services (13%), and social planning (12%).

Some of the most important policy issues for member organizations were labour and employment (7.6%), children and families (7.4%), poverty (6.9%), aging population (6.5%) and immigration/migration (5.9%).

The majority of member organizations chose ‘strategic planning’ (18%) as their organization purpose, followed by ‘research’ (17%), monitoring & evaluation (15%) and service/program design (12%).

The top five geographic levels required by member organizations are census subdivisions (11.4%), postal codes (10.7%), custom geographies (10.7%), census tracts (10.2%) and census division (9.6%). This information will supplement data acquisition decisions based on popular downloaded products (user download history) and CDP leads’ input.

ACTION: CDP team will continue to review the 2016 User Survey to process data requests.

2. Census: What’s new in 2016?

Statistics Canada has published a Census data release schedule, with the earliest release in on Feb 8, 2017 for population and dwelling counts. With the mandatory long-form Census data, data is expected to be greater in volume and quality. Also, 100% of the sample of income data will be taken from tax forms. Note that religion was not included in the 2016 Census, it is collected once every 10 years.

There is a new census geographic area – the Aggregated Dissemination Area (ADA) – with the intent of ensuring census data availability across all regions of Canada. In brief, ADAs will have a population count between 5,000 and 15,000 people, and are based on one of the three geographic areas: census tracts (CTs), census subdivisions (CSD) or dissemination areas (DAs). This will hopefully prevent the data suppression issues from previous years.

More information on the ADA can be found here: [link to the Statistics Canada ADA page](#)

Heath – Toronto: Note re: suppression – we’re noticing more CT splits in Toronto than expected. May be worth keeping an eye on in other communities.

The CDP team will take a look at Target Group Profiles as there has been a need to include housing and family data in these tables. This issue will be discussed further in the DPAWG meeting.

3. Information from Statistics Canada

The CDP team is aiming to get tables as soon as possible after the data release dates. The timing is still unknown; however, CDP is in the queue for both standard and custom geographies. The orders will be compared to a master list of previous orders to list all 2016 standard tables.

Coordinating a webinar to share information with CDP members has been moving forward slowly. There were many questions that were unanswered during the Census webinar in May 2016. Ideally, this webinar will take place in February after the first release of data.

There are some file size limits – IVT files from Beyond 20/20 show limitations when files exceed ½ billion cells.

Pricing will be similar to the 2011 order, with a small increase in the hourly rate.

4. Data acquisition plan guiding principals

The CDP team will acquire data for all of Canada at the smallest geographies possible, in both the CD-CSD-ADA-DA and CMA-CA-CT hierarchies, and aims to replicate the 2011 order including custom orders, with some continuity with the 2006 order.

It is important to prioritize the order and the CDP teams recognizes the need for tables outside of the Census. Need to consider budget constraints, and thus focus on high priority tables and limit the number of tables for which custom geographies are applied.

5. New emerging priorities

To free up funds, pick tables that are high priority, such as tables at custom geographies, and not order the least popular tables. For consistency, acquire tables that link to 2006 data. Based on the User Survey and emails, there are some reoccurring themes among the member organizations, one example is economic development. The priorities also need to balance against non-census products, such as Taxfiler data with cross-tabulations and custom geographies.

6. Historical context

The 2011 Census products first became available on the CDP website in May 2013. The CDP is about one year ahead of schedule compared to the last round.

There were 193 total products ordered from the Census/NHS and 33 tables at the custom geographies (including profiles and target group profiles). The tables with custom geographies ranked in the Top 26 downloads. Tables with DA-level data were the most popular (3162 downloads), followed by CT-level (1944) and CSD-level (1508) tables.

The Top 20 products were downloaded 90 times or more. On the opposite end of the scale, there are 68 tables that had 9 downloads or less, 45 tables that had 5 downloads or less, and only 4 tables have no downloads. Overall, that is about a third of the tables not being used very much.

Thus, the CDP team proposes to put more resources into custom geographies and less into less popular tables, as the interest is displayed by the data product downloads.

Cheryl – Kingston: Maybe people are downloading them once and putting them on a shared drive - so not sure how accurate the data is when looking at downloads. I end up downloading the same table multiple times because I'm disorganized.

Jasmine – City of Calgary: I agree, same situation here in Calgary.

Jessica – Waterloo: Same here in Waterloo.

Auburn – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph: I think it would be fairly easy to remove duplicates to avoid counting multiple downloads, but I'm not sure we can account for sharing files on a drive.

Heath – Toronto: Some tables were deemed not worth downloading because of GNR issues, too. Agree we will need to provide feedback, too.

Cheryl – Kingston: Think we could look at the list of unloved tables and decide if it is one that anyone needs.

David – Parry Sound-Nipissing: Table popularity can also ebb and flow with federal policy direction and research priorities. In Ontario, housing, homelessness, and poverty are big policy and planning areas right now.

The CDP team will distribute a spreadsheet containing a list of data products by popularity and geographic level to the CDP leads. The combination of user product data download popularity and the CDP leads' input will serve a basis for data priority.

7. Priority list highlights

For more detail on the priority list below, please see the slide deck.

1. Census Profiles (for all standard and custom geographies)
2. Target Group Profiles
3. Custom geographies
 - a. Previously ordered
 - b. Requests for 2016 data
 - c. Good candidates
4. Community Poverty Project
5. Topic-based tabulations

Mo Jeng – London: Can you elaborate on what will be available at the County level and rural communities. Thanks.

Michael – CCSD: Hopefully, the data quality is high so that the ADA geography can provide more data to smaller/rural communities. Custom geographies can also help rural communities.

Christina – Winnipeg: Our consortium includes many Provincial departments so we use custom geographies to get that data at the rural municipality level.

Irena – Simcoe: We don't have custom geographies yet, but we rely heavily on the DA and CSD levels and that's why where interested in learning more about the new ADAs.

Amandine – Northern Ontario: Same for Northern Ontario, we use CSD and are curious about the new ADAs as well. Especially for unorganised areas.

ACTION: The DPAWG will review the CPP tables to consider if changes need to be made, as there are some tables with less than 20 downloads. The CPP tables themselves may also need to be re-designed.

8. Request to 'bump up' the priority of data tables

Throughout the year, the CDP team expects there will be requests to increase the priority of some tables, as well as requests for tables not on the priority list. These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be as transparent as possible, since there are many stakeholders to consider. However, a request

from a Lead, who may be dissemination data to others, will carry more weight than a request from other members.

Small changes to priority ranking can be approved by the CCSD team without consultation. But a significant change in the ranking will be put to the DPAWG for a decision, with considerations of the tables that will be lowered due to the change in ranking.

Christina – Winnipeg: Sounds like a good process to me.

Irena – Simcoe: It doesn't sound disorganized, but it might help if we knew some timelines of when you need feedback, so that we as Leads are helping as much as we can. We do recognize it's not an easy process.

9. Next steps

1. Leads review the priority list and make requests and comments
2. Confirm timeframe for feedback from Leads
3. Next DPAWG meeting in early February
4. Information from Statistics Canada will be relayed to the Leads
5. Leads to ensure all custom geographies have been submitted
6. Organizing second 2016 Census webinar with Statistics Canada
7. Annual Leads' meeting in May 2017 (Kingston)
 - a. Census acquisition plan
 - b. Draft schedule B for 2017-18 program year
8. Aim to have MOA renewals finalized by end of Feb 2017

Irena – Simcoe: What's the latest date that custom geographies can be submitted?

Michel – CCSD: Ideally, February or March 2017, before the AGM. We recognize that the process of creating custom geographies can be long and we will try to accommodate all custom geography submissions. We will eventually be limited by the need to make an order for tables or be limited by budget constraints. We will communicate these limits to you as they become apparent.

Karen: Do we submit them to you?

Michael – CCSD: Yes!

Cheryl – Kingston: We may need to change or custom geographies once we see how DA's boundaries, etc., have changed in some of our expanding suburbs.

Christina – Winnipeg: I know our representative from the City of Winnipeg is working on it, but it is a long process of confirming the geographies.

Irena – Simcoe: Our Data Consortium is discussing this at our next meeting in March. So, we recognize that that's later in the process than other consortia. But hoping we might be able to still be included. Thanks, will stay tuned to hear more on deadlines.

Auburn: We would like 2006 data at custom geographies.

10. Toronto Data Consultation Process (Heath Priston)

Heath Prison shared a presentation on Toronto's consultation process. A brief summary below:

- How Toronto prepares for a decision
- Reaching out to Statistics Canada for public consultations
- Key indicators taken from Statistics Canada reference documents
- Use local data to share information, help people understand
- Survey component for members, similar to CDP 2016 User Survey
- To be used at consortia meeting
- Continue to update slide deck and share the presentation
- Removed 2011 data, used only 2006-2016 census-to-census

Karen: Did you say when this is going to happen; just wondering how it aligns with the staggered release of the Census?

Heath: Late April.

Cheryl Hitchen: Are people going to do comparisons between 2011 and 2016... or 2006 to 2016 and "skipping" 2011?

Heath: We will pretend the 2011 NHS never happened!

Karen: A bit of different question, but is there a standard list of indicators people use for community profiles?

Alison Gerrits: I like your question Karen - maybe we can chat further about it at the AGM in Kingston? The DIY infographics are likely a good indication of the most popular? I think we should have a "how to" on the DIY's in person in Kingston. I love them! Karen...also try the new Community Data Access Tool. Saves me so much time.

Karen: Thanks - learned lots!

Closing remarks

Michel commented that the CDP is in a great position now compared to five years ago. Goal now is to tighten the acquisition plan and have the priority list done by May 11, before the AGM in May 25-26, 2017.