

Catalogue no. 89260008  
ISSN 2818-5056

# Statistics Canada Annual Report on the Privacy Act, 2021-2022

Release date: October 26, 2022

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## Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

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## Introduction

The *Privacy Act* gives Canadian citizens and people living in Canada the right to access their personal information being held by federal government institutions. The Act also protects against unauthorized disclosure of that personal information and it strictly controls how the government collects, uses, stores, discloses, and disposes of any personal information.

The Annual Report on the Administration of the *Privacy Act* is prepared and submitted, in accordance with section 72 of the Act, and it covers the period from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. The report is tabled in Parliament.

### Administration of the *Privacy Act*

The *Privacy Act*, which concerns itself with personal information, stipulates that government institutions can collect personal information only if it relates to the operation of programs or activities of these institutions. In the case of Statistics Canada, the *Statistics Act* provides the authority to collect personal information. In addition, institutions are required to protect the collected information from disclosure.

The Director of the Office of Privacy Management and Information Coordination administers the Access to Information and Privacy legislations within Statistics Canada, and is also the Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Coordinator and Chief Privacy Officer for the Agency.

### Organization and mandate of Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's mandate derives primarily from the *Statistics Act*. The Act requires that the Agency collect, compile, analyze and publish statistical information on the economic, social, and general conditions of the country and its citizens. The Act also requires that Statistics Canada coordinate the national statistical system, in particular, to avoid duplication in the information collected by government. To this end, the Chief Statistician may enter into joint data collection or sharing agreements with provincial and territorial statistical agencies, as well as with federal, provincial and territorial government departments, pursuant to provisions of the Act.

The *Statistics Act* specifically requires Statistics Canada to conduct a Census of Population and a Census of Agriculture every five years as it did in 2021. The Act also gives the Agency substantial powers to request information through surveys of Canadian businesses and households. Under the Act, the Chief Statistician determines whether a survey will be mandatory or voluntary. Statistics Canada has generally made voluntary household data collection other than the Census of Population and the Labour Force Survey, as the latter produces key economic data. The Census of Agriculture and most other business surveys are mandatory. Refusal to participate in a mandatory survey is subject to legal penalties.

By law, Statistics Canada can also access administrative records, including personal and business tax data, credit information, customs declarations, and birth and death records. Such records are critical sources of



statistical information that enable the Agency to reduce the reporting burden on businesses and individual respondents. Statistics Canada is considered a leader among the world's statistical agencies in reducing reporting burden by using administrative data.

Statistics Canada is ensuring that privacy protection methods and protocols continue to evolve as new data sources with varying levels of sensitivity emerge. The Necessity and Proportionality framework was implemented to ensure increasing transparency in the data acquisition process, to provide stronger justification (necessity) for data acquisition, and to be more explicit about the efforts used to gather data in a manner that is both efficient and proportional to its necessity and sensitivity. This includes ensuring that necessity (requirement for data or information) is well-defined; applying the scientific approach and a series of checkpoints on sensitivity, ethics and proportionality (quality, sample size, content and risk mitigation); considering alternative methods; and requiring a privacy impact assessment and communication throughout the process to ensure transparency.

Statistics Canada adopted a Responsible Privacy approach to honour the commitment made to Canadians to protect their personal information. These mechanisms help Statistics Canada to fulfill this commitment while ensuring that Canadians have all the key information on Canada's economy, society and environment that they require to function effectively as citizens and decision-makers in a rapidly evolving world.

### **Delegation instrument**

The delegation instrument exercises the powers and functions of the Minister as the head of a government institution, pursuant to section 73 of the *Privacy Act*. The current detailed list of authorities under the *Privacy Act* has been formally delegated by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development as of May 18, 2021, (Appendix A) and provides full delegated authority to the Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Privacy Management and Information Coordination.

### **Resources**

The Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Office operates within an allocation of 4.5 persons/year. One ATIP Manager, two Senior ATIP analysts, and two ATIP analysts work full time on the processing of requests.

### **Statistical report**

The statistical report provides aggregate data on the application of the *Privacy Act*. This information is made public annually and is included with the annual report (Appendix B).



## Implementation: Privacy

The *Privacy Act* has a substantial impact on Statistics Canada, but the impact cannot be measured only by the number of requests processed. Although society seeks a broader range of detailed information, it also demands more accountability on the part of government about the collection of personal information and the purposes served by the information.

The Agency has a strong track record of respecting the privacy of Canadians and has taken a number of initiatives to address the privacy challenges this dichotomy raises.

Statistics Canada has internal directives that reflect the basic principles found in the *Privacy Act*. The Agency's Directive on Informing Survey Respondents requires that all respondents be informed of the expected use of the statistics produced from the survey results, the authority under which the survey is taken, their obligation to respond, the confidentiality protection given to all information collected under the *Statistics Act*, and any data-sharing arrangements pursuant to provisions of the *Statistics Act*.

Statistics Canada also developed the Directive on Microdata Linkage to respond to concerns of both respondents and privacy advocates on the potential of matching an individual's information gathered from a variety of sources.

These two directives not only support compliance with the letter and the spirit of the *Privacy Act*, but also demonstrate the Agency's commitment to the protection and appropriate use of the personal information under its control, while still meeting its mandate.

The Agency has also developed and implemented a Necessity and Proportionality framework that ensures that any collection of personal information for its statistical programs is duly justified.

As we chart new paths and methods of collecting data, respecting and protecting the rightful privacy of Canadians sit at the heart of everything we do. Statistics Canada's Trust Centre underlines how we meet Canadians' information needs while keeping their data safe and private.

Recent unexpected events such as the pandemic and current societal changes (political, legislative, social and technological) are challenging Statistics Canada to adapt and lead as we continue our modernization journey and as we strive to meet the demands of a digital world in the 21st century.

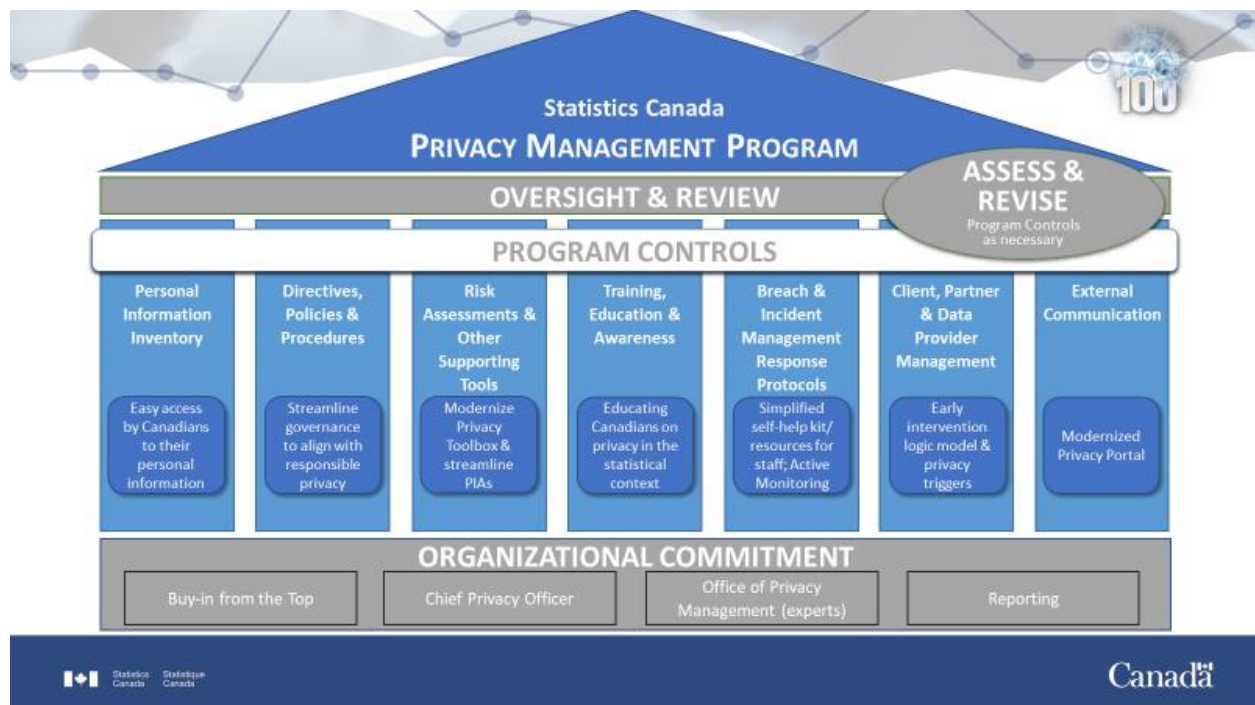
Statistics Canada continues to work diligently to ensure that the confidentiality it has committed to in law and in principle, is upheld. This includes ensuring that privacy remains at the forefront of all our activities.

In the new reality of instant information over social media, meeting legal requirements is no longer sufficient. Institutions must pro-actively engage with Canadians regarding what is socially acceptable under a social contract.

Statistics Canada's very mandate requires that it produce information that helps Canadians better understand their country – its population, resources, economy, environment, society and culture. To achieve this, the Agency must collect a considerable amount of personal information directly from Canadians through surveys, or indirectly from private and public organizations. Parliament has given Statistics Canada this mandate to better serve Canadians, but with such authority comes great responsibility. Statistics Canada continually adjusts to new realities and adapts existing mechanisms, or develops new ones to protect Canadians' privacy and ensure that their data will not be misused. The Agency must demonstrate and provide assurances to Canadians that it can be trusted with their information.

As Statistics Canada continues to modernize, it is committing to Responsible Privacy. Responsible Privacy is instrumental in honouring our promise to diligently collect, use, disclose and protect Canadians' personal information. It ensures that we indefatigably strive to go beyond what is required, and encompasses innovative privacy checks and balances that ensure due diligence when handling personal information. It requires that privacy be imprinted in all our activities.

To foster the Responsible Privacy approach and meet the demands of a digital world in the 21st century, senior management at Statistics Canada has committed to a formalized Privacy Management Program (PMP).





While many of its components were already part of the Agency's regular activities, the PMP instils a systematic and strategic approach that reinforces our commitment to Canadians regarding their personal information.

### Privacy requests

The Agency received 161 new requests in 2021-2022 and 36 requests were carried over from the previous reporting period. During this period, 65 requests were completed and 132 requests were carried forward to the next reporting period.

For 9 requests, information was disclosed completely and for 5 requests, information was partially disclosed, having redactions applied to protect personal information pertaining to other individuals. For 15 requests, the information did not exist, and 36 requests were abandoned as applicants did not respond to requests for additional information or chose to withdraw them entirely. The public is the largest privacy client group for Statistics Canada.

<b>Disposition of requests completed</b>	
All disclosed	9
Disclosed in part	5
Nothing disclosed (exempt)	0
Does not exist	15
Abandoned	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

In addition to requests from the general public, the Agency receives requests from current and former federal public servants regarding personal or staff relations issues. Statistics Canada responds to a number of requests for personal information through its pension search program. This program provides members of the public with information from their own census records, and from the 1940 National Registration records, to support their applications for pensions, citizenship, passports and other services when other administrative records, such as birth certificates, are required but no longer exist or were never issued. Regulations permit duly authorized representatives to act on behalf of a minor or an incompetent person to administer their affairs or estate. To do so, the trustees and estate administrators seek personal information from the census or from 1940 national registration records of deceased individuals, minors, or dependent adults. In the case of the deceased, the administrator of the estate may exercise these rights, but only for the purposes of estate administration.

For the 2021-22 fiscal year, and in relation to the 2021 Census of Population, of the 161 new Privacy requests received, 81 were related to individuals requesting copies of their completed census questionnaires. It should be noted as well that, of the 132 requests carried over to the next fiscal year, 81 of those are due to the fact that extracts of the 2021 Census of Population information, are not yet available for distribution.

Responding to privacy requests involved reviewing more than 1,744 pages, of which 1,416 pages were released. Fourteen (14) requestors received information electronically by email or e-post and zero (0) requestors received the information in paper format.

Fiscal Year	Requests Received	Requests Completed	Number of Pages Processed	Number of Pages Released
2021/2022	161	65	1744	1416
2020/2021	86	138	4,076	2,983
2019/2020	283	210	5,586	3,364
2018/2019	1,012	1,007	15,244	13,595
2017/2018	157	148	20,216	10,886

### Other requests

During this period, Statistics Canada did not receive any *Privacy Act* consultation requests from other departments.

### Disposition of completed requests

The disposition of the 65 requests completed in 2021-2022 was as follows:

- 9 were fully disclosed (19%)
- 5 were disclosed in part (3%)
- 15 information did not exist (12%)
- 36 were abandoned by applicants (66%)

### Completion time and extensions

In 2021-2022 the number of privacy requests completed was 65 for an average of 313 over the last five years. Over half of all completed requests in 2021-22 (35 requests or 54%) processed in 2021-2022 were within the time period and as prescribed by the Act. Several factors contributed to the timely response; information and training sessions with senior leaders and sector contacts, and a streamlined delegation order. There were no extensions taken.

The 65 requests completed in 2021-2022 were processed in the following time frames:

- 20 within 1 to 15 days (31%)
- 15 within 16 to 30 days (23%)
- 6 within 31 to 60 days (9%)
- 2 within 61 to 120 days (3%)
- 6 within 121 to 180 days (9%)
- 11 within 181 to 365 days (17%)

- 5 more than 365 days (8%)

Due to the exceptional measures taken to curb the spread of COVID-19 and to protect federal employees, Statistics Canada employees have been operating with significantly-reduced on-site workforces since April 2020. This impact brought forward new electronic changes to procedures that were implemented in order to facilitate the processing of requests remotely.

### **Exemptions invoked**

In 2021-2022, one exemption was invoked as per the *Privacy Act*, which was as follows:

- Section 26: Exempting personal information about individuals other than the requestor (5).

### **Costs**

During 2021-2022, the ATIP Office incurred an estimated \$79,421 in salary costs and 0\$ in administrative costs to administer the *Privacy Act*. With the introduction of Statistics Canada's return to work place plan entitled "virtual-by-design environment" the ATIP division has been able to reduce administrative costs for the fiscal year 2021-22 by reducing the use of paper, completing virtual training courses, lowering the cost of travel and reducing the costs of office supplies.

### **Training initiatives for privacy**

In 2021-2022, the Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Office began developing a formal training program for all staff across the Agency, which began in April 2020. Informal one-on-one training was made available, until such time as the formal training was implemented. The informal training assists staff in understanding their obligations under the Act, as well as informs them about policies and directives related to personal information at Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada's Office of Privacy Management and Information Coordination offers courses on a variety of subjects related to the *Statistics Act* and the *Privacy Act* as well as supporting policies and directives. These include sessions on "Privacy Impact Assessment" and "Privacy and Confidentiality", with a focus on personal information collected about employees of Statistics Canada, clients or the public, and appropriate use of such personal information.

Statistics Canada also requires employees to complete computer-based courses on confidentiality. A mandatory course for new employees offers a brief overview of confidentiality, illustrating its importance at the Agency.



## Policies, guidelines and procedures

The ATIP Office has a variety of tools in place to ensure that ATIP sector contacts are well informed about their roles and responsibilities for coordinating privacy requests. These tools include a concise checklist outlining steps to follow when providing responsive records for privacy requests, and a responsible contact from the ATIP team throughout the process. There are also a variety of directives and policies provided by the Treasury Board Secretariat, about the protection of personal information. Personal and confidential information is protected by the *Privacy Act* and the *Statistics Act* and will only be disclosed as permitted by these Acts.

Statistics Canada developed and published a privacy framework that identifies the full scope of privacy controls within the operations of Statistics Canada as a collection of approved practices, procedures and governance related to privacy. This includes the identification of the Director, Office of Privacy Management and Information Coordination, as the Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) for Statistics Canada, as designated by the Chief Statistician. The CPO provides leadership on matters related to privacy, develops business strategies and processes that ensure that privacy is considered and accounted for in business decision, and ensures the safeguarding of the information through administrative policy instruments and best practices.

Given its unique position in the federal government in collecting personal information solely for statistical and research purposes, Statistics Canada has determined that the privacy issues associated with its statistical activities undertaken under the authority of the *Statistics Act* could be addressed by means of a [Generic Privacy Impact Assessment \(PIA\)](#).

Although the Generic PIA is comprehensive and reflects the vast majority of Statistics Canada's operations, in the instance of extraordinary activities, specific PIAs are conducted with input from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC). Statistics Canada prepares supplements to the Generic PIA for all new and significantly redesigned surveys and statistical programs involving the collection, use or disclosure of personal information that raise unique or additional privacy, confidentiality or security risks that have not been addressed in the Generic PIA.

## Complaints and investigations

There was one (1) time delay complaint made against Statistics Canada lodged with the OPC. The ATIP Office has responded to the complaint as identification was missing at the time from the complainant, and while the investigation has not yet been finalized, review of the records is on-going.

## Monitoring of the requests

At Statistics Canada, the ATIP Office processes and monitors requests by registering them in a comprehensive system known as Privasoft – Access Pro Case Management. An acknowledgement of the request is sent to the client and a retrieval form is forwarded to the relevant program area, Office of Primary Interest (OPI), for responsive records. If the OPI and/or the ATIP Office need to clarify the request, the ATIP Office contacts the client.

The retrieval form was created by the ATIP Office at Statistics Canada and is based on the Policy on Privacy Protection and the Directive on Privacy Practices from the Treasury Board Secretariat. The form includes the text of the request, the name and phone number of the ATIP Officer, and the date by which records are required (normally 5 to 10 days). The form states that the ATIP Office is obligated to report annually on the administrative costs related to requests and thus information is needed on the group(s) and level(s) of those involved in the retrieval process, and the amount of time spent working on the request (including time for search, retrieval, internal review (relevant or not to the request) and photocopying). The individuals providing the records are asked to identify any areas which may be sensitive in nature (e.g., personal information, legal issues), and the Director General or responsible delegate of the program area signs the form.

The ATIP Office assists the program areas with the retrieval of records from day one. As 5 to 10 days are allowed for the retrieval, a follow-up is made on the fifth day. If additional time is required for the retrieval, this is when the program area is to notify the ATIP Office. An additional 1 to 5 days may be granted depending on the amount of work remaining. Once the documents are received from the OPI, the ATIP Office ensures the form is duly completed and that it has been signed by the appropriate manager. The ATIP Office takes 5 to 10 days to review and process the records. Once the work from the ATIP Office is completed, the final version is released to the client. The OPI and management are very aware of the importance of ATIP requests.

## Privacy breaches

The Privacy and Information Breach Protocol provides clear identification of the various roles and responsibilities in the event of a breach. It includes the requirement to complete a standard template which incorporates the elements suggested in the Treasury Board Secretariat's guidelines on how to respond to a privacy breach. The template has been approved by the Agency's senior management. At a minimum, the incident report will contain the following information:

- a description of the incident (who, what, when, where, why, how)
- the actions already taken and planned for the future
- a description of the risks/impacts
- any other information that might be helpful in locating any lost item(s) or in assessing the consequences of loss or compromise
- recommendations for mitigating or eliminating the risk of the event recurring in future



- information on whether the individuals or organizations whose information was breached were informed of the incident
- indication if the individuals, Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) and Treasury Board Secretariat will be informed of the incident and if not, a rationale for not informing them.

Best practices to eliminate or reduce future recurrences that are identified during an investigation must be communicated to other employees to prevent a recurrence of the breach.

Breaches are coordinated by a centralized group to ensure that all programs impacted by the breach provide input.

There were 18 privacy breaches at Statistics Canada during the reporting period, of which 3 were material in nature. A total of 410 people were affected by these 18 breaches. Amongst the 410 people affected, 200 were a result of 1 incident related to employment candidates email information that was not material in nature.

Three material breaches were reported to the OPC, affecting a total of 5 individuals:

- A Census Enumerator's vehicle was stolen including two completed Census long-form questionnaires.
- Two completed Census long-form questionnaires were stolen from a Census Enumerator's home during a break-in.
- A minor's name was erroneously disclosed through an invitation letter to participate in a Statistics Canada survey.

Additional measures, specific to the areas which experienced a breach were implemented, including the following:

- retraining of Census Enumerators on proper storage of Census materials;
- exploring and updating methodologies for the creation of survey frames for all surveys involving children.

## Privacy impact assessments

The Statistics Canada Directive on Conducting Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) specifies the roles and responsibilities of its senior managers and privacy specialists with regard to the collection, use and dissemination of personal information. This directive applies to all statistical and non-statistical programs that engage in the collection, use or disclosure of personal information.

Statistics Canada's Generic PIA covers all aspects of the Agency's statistical programs that collect, use and disseminate information in support of the mandate under the *Statistics Act*. The Generic PIA addresses the ten privacy principles, and includes a threat and risk assessment for various collection and access modes.



Supplements to the Generic PIA are produced for new and significantly redesigned collections, uses or disclosures of personal information that raise unique or additional privacy, confidentiality or security risks. The Generic PIA and its supplements are posted on the Statistics Canada website: [Generic privacy impact assessment](#).

Specific PIAs are also conducted for new or redesigned administrative programs and services that involve the collection, use and disclosure of personal information that are not addressed in the Generic PIA. Summaries of completed privacy impact assessments can be found on the Statistics Canada website: [Privacy impact assessments](#).

In the current reporting period, 6 PIAs and 10 supplements were approved and submitted to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and the Treasury Board Secretariat. The following are brief descriptions:

### ***Client Relationship Management System***

A PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with updates to Statistics Canada's Client Relationship Management (CRM) system. Statistics Canada has been leveraging a Client Relationship Management (CRM) solution to help support the provision of client service delivery, business respondent relations, microdata access and Census respondent relations. The CRM system was updated to adapt to new realities and to support a strategic, holistic and consistent approach to the collection of quality client business intelligence data that can help to strategically respond to clients' needs and better serve Canadians. The assessment did not identify any privacy risks that cannot be managed using existing safeguards.

### ***Employee Wellness Surveys and Pulse Check Surveys***

A PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Employee Wellness Surveys and associated Pulse Check Surveys. These internal surveys are administered only to Statistics Canada and Statistical Survey Operations employees and seek to offer up-to-date and representative measurement of the state of Statistics Canada's psychological health and safety. The results help the organization better understand where challenges to psychological health and safety reside, where resources to help bolster psychological health and safety exist, and how to best improve overall psychological health and safety, and ultimately, performance. The assessment did not identify any privacy risks that cannot be managed using existing safeguards.

### ***Engaging Disability Innovation Study***

A PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Engaging Disability Innovation Study which consists of the quantitative Employment and Accessibility Survey and associated qualitative asynchronous online engagement. This internal study is conducted only with Statistics Canada and Statistical Survey Operations employees. It aims to help Statistics Canada's Accessibility Secretariat understand where challenges of accessibility and safety reside, where resources to help bolster accessibility exist, and how to best improve overall accessibility of





Statistics Canada's recruitment, retention and promotion process, operational practices, and ultimately, employee performance. The assessment did not identify any privacy risks that cannot be managed using existing safeguards.

### ***Meltwater: Social Media Communications Tool***

A PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with Statistics Canada's use of the Meltwater Social Media Communications Tool. The tool serves to search, monitor and analyze social media and traditional media traffic on issues and topics relevant to Statistics Canada. Using Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), Meltwater performs searches of social and traditional media content based on specific search query keywords relevant to the agency's mandate, indexes the related information found and then presents the results to the agency. The use of Meltwater allows the Agency to better understand current opinion, sentiment and overall conversation on specific Statistics Canada issues to create communications products that resonate with target audiences. While information publicly posted by social media users could include information such as profile picture, comments or opinions, personal preferences or interests, only information pertinent to public relations and communications are retained and used, and are never disseminated in identifiable format. The reports generated through Meltwater only include information in aggregate non-identifiable form. The assessment did not identify any privacy risks that cannot be managed using existing safeguards.

### ***Microsoft 365***

A PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the implementation of Microsoft 365. Microsoft 365 is an enterprise-level, cloud-based version of the Microsoft office productivity tools for creating documents, presentations, and spreadsheets, for internal communications, for managing emails, for work planning, and for other common administrative tasks. This integrated suite of tools supports the daily activities of Statistics Canada's employees, including collaboration within the organization. The assessment did not identify any privacy risks that cannot be managed using existing safeguards.

### ***Vitali-T-Stat Mobile Application***

A PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Vitali-T-Stat Mobile Application. Statistics Canada developed and implemented a mobile application as a new means of inviting respondents to access the agency's secure survey collection infrastructure and complete a survey. The application itself does not collect any personal information; it simply prompts respondents and points them to the secure collection environment housed at Statistics Canada where they complete the survey questionnaire. The application does not utilize geo-location tracking, camera or microphone access, calendar integration, barcode scanning or beacon technology. It will first be used in the context of the longitudinal Pilot Study on Everyday Well-being which will collect data on the well-being of Canadians, and for which a separate supplement to Statistics Canada's Generic PIA supplement was developed. The assessment did not identify any privacy risks that cannot be managed using existing safeguards.





### ***2021 Census of Population***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with new content for the 2021 Census of Population. The Census of Population's purpose is to provide statistical information, analyses and services that measure changes in the Canadian population and demographic characteristics. It serves as a basis for public and private decision making, research and analysis in areas of concern to the people of Canada. Under the Statistics Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. S-19), Statistics Canada is responsible for conducting the Census of Population every five years. As in past censuses, extensive consultations on the questions to include in the 2021 Census of Population were held with Canadians. New and modified questions, developed to reflect new needs identified in the consultations, were qualitatively tested by Statistics Canada in 2018. The assessment concluded that, with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Canadian Child Welfare Information System***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Canadian Child Welfare Information System. The CCWIS is a national public health information system on child welfare, and its purpose is to support nationally standardized analyses and reporting on child maltreatment; investigations and outcomes; the number of children in need of protection; and passage through the child welfare system, including referral to services, placement in foster care, connections to family, reunification, and other requests for family services. Data on these issues inform regional and national child welfare prevention and protection policies and practices. Data-informed child welfare is crucial to protect and improve the lives of many Canadian children and their families. The assessment concluded that, with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Supplement to the Canadian COVID-19 Antibody and Health Survey for Cycle 2***

A supplement to the Canadian COVID-19 Antibody and Health Survey was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with Cycle 2 of the survey. The content of the Cycle 2 questionnaire is slightly different, and includes, in addition to gathering information on COVID-19 status and related health concerns, questions on use of the health care system, prescribed medications, active infections (nucleic acid-based testing) and previous infections (antibody testing). Participants may also be asked to participate in a self-administered collection of microbial nucleic acids from saliva. The collected specimen would be used to assess current SARS-CoV-2 infection status via a polymerase chain-reaction (PCR) test. Only with informed consent from respondents, results from the PCR test are sent to the respondents and local health authorities may be notified when results are positive. All other personal information collected is the same as in the previous cycle of the survey. The assessment concluded that, with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline Feasibility Study Data Acquisition Project***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline Feasibility Study Data Acquisition Project. In response to the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking's call for enhanced data to help inform policy and programs that help victims and survivors, Statistics Canada is working with the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking to acquire and examine administrative data related to their operation of the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline. The hotline has specific procedures in place to seek consent from callers and to inform why and how their information will be used. No information that directly identifies a victim or caller will be provided to Statistics Canada, and the agency will not publish any information that could potentially identify an individual based on the characteristics of victims or location of incidents. The assessment concluded that, with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Childhood National Immunization Coverage Survey***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Childhood National Immunization Coverage Survey. The main objectives of this survey are to determine if children are being vaccinated in accordance with the recommended immunization schedules for publicly-funded vaccines and to measure to what degree recent public health recommendations are being adopted to increase vaccination against the flu and pertussis during pregnancy. Results help health authorities focus vaccination campaigns for the under-vaccinated and vulnerable populations. Results also allow Canada to meet its commitment to provide the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization with estimates of national coverage for childhood vaccines such as measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio. For the 2021 cycle, questions were added to help understand the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on immunization and vaccine coverage for children and pregnant women. The assessment concluded that with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Update to the Longitudinal Immigration Database***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with updates to the Longitudinal Immigration Database. The Database was implemented in 1997, and integrates immigration and citizenship data provided by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada with tax information provided by the Canada Revenue Agency. It is used for statistical research on the socioeconomic performance of non-permanent residents and immigrants in Canada, and supports public policy development on population migration, cultural diversity and the challenges of immigrant integration. The Database originally only included permanent resident data for immigrants admitted since 1980, and did not include information on non-permanent residents. With this update to the Database, coverage has been expanded to include immigrants admitted since 1952, and non-permanent residents. Statistics Canada only releases anonymized, aggregated statistical information on immigrants and non-permanent residents. Individuals will not be identifiable in any product disseminated to the public. The assessment concluded that with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.



### ***Mental Health and Access to Care Survey***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Mental Health and Access to Care Survey. This voluntary survey collects information about the mental health status of Canadians, as well as their access to and need for services and support, whether formal or informal. It also assesses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population health as well as evaluate changes in patterns of mental health, service use and functioning in the last ten years. Results help inform government decision-making and policy development in order to support vulnerable Canadians and their families dealing with mental health issues. Survey results regarding the unmet need for mental-health services also help guide decisions about which parts of the mental-health services system need to be improved, where awareness and treatment programs are most needed, and how such targeted treatment programs should be developed. The assessment concluded that with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Pilot Study on Everyday Well-Being***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Pilot Study on Everyday Well-Being. Canadians who opt to participate in this voluntary pilot study are asked to download Statistics Canada's mobile application (Vitali-T-Stat) and customize their setting to receive up to a maximum of five prompts a day over a thirty day period. Upon receiving and accepting a prompt, respondents are redirected to Statistics Canada's secure collection infrastructure and the Pilot Study on Everyday Well-being questionnaire that asks in-the-moment questions about their activities and feelings. The app itself, for which a PIA was conducted, does not collect any personal information. The results are used to fill key gaps in national-level subjective well-being and can inform governments' decisions regarding publicly-funded cultural and other programs that contribute to Canadians' well-being. The assessment concluded that with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Survey of Employees under Federal Jurisdiction***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Survey of Employees under Federal Jurisdiction. This voluntary targeted survey collects information on the quality of employees' work conditions, access to benefits and flexible work arrangements, labour relations, work-related well-being and workplace health and safety including harassment and discrimination. The information from this survey guides research and analysis to update the *Canada Labour Code*. The assessment concluded that with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

### ***Survey on Health Care Workers' Experiences During the Pandemic***

A supplement to the Generic PIA was conducted to determine if there were any privacy, confidentiality or security issues associated with the Survey on Health Care Workers' Experiences During the Pandemic.

The purpose of this voluntary survey is to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health

care workers in Canada. It covers topics such as job type and setting, personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control practices and protocols, COVID-19 vaccination and diagnosis, and the impacts of the pandemic on personal health and work life. It also includes general demographic questions. The results of this survey help inform health care workforce planning, the delivery of health care services, and to better understand what health care workers need in terms of equipment, training and support. The assessment concluded that with the existing Statistics Canada safeguards, any remaining risks are such that Statistics Canada is prepared to accept and manage the risk.

## **Microdata Linkage**

As outlined in Statistics Canada's Directive on Microdata Linkage, linkages of different records pertaining to the same individual are carried out only for statistical purposes and only in cases where the public good is clearly evident. One of the primary objectives of these linkages is to produce statistical information that facilitates a better understanding of Canadian society, the economy and the environment.

All microdata linkage proposals must satisfy a prescribed review process as outlined in the directive. In addition to demonstrating the public benefit, each submission must provide details of the output. The public dissemination of any information resulting from microdata linkage, like all other statistical information, is only at an aggregate level which protects the confidentiality of the information of individuals.

In 2021-2022, there were 27 approved microdata linkages that involved personal information. A summary of these record linkages is found in Appendix C.

## **8(2)(m) of the Privacy Act**

No disclosures were made under paragraph 8(2)(m) of the *Privacy Act* during the reporting period.

