

# Appendix: Rural Data Resources (Selected)

*This list of data sources is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive. However, it may identify useful resources for many issues. We encourage you to explore the list to become aware of the range of data available, and use it as inspiration for searches on topics that might not be included. For example, the list may identify government departments or research resources that provide alternative sources more relevant for your questions or issues. You may also find support for your search and analysis via CRRF (<http://crrf.ca>) or the RPLC (<http://rplc-capr.ca>).*

## Resources for Canada-wide and Federally Generated Sub-provincial Data

### Statistics Canada Data Page

#### Availability:

- There are free downloadable datasets with some sub-provincial data (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/type/data>), then select from Subject, Geography, Frequency, and/or Survey or statistical program to view free downloadable tables.
- The basic unit of analysis varies considerably from one data set to another. Some of the smallest units relevant for rural and northern data are Public Health Units, Census Divisions, Census Consolidated Subdivision, Census Subdivisions, Ecoregions, and Climatic regions.
- Of particular relevance to rural and northern issues are the Agriculture Taxfiler Data, Canada Community Health Survey (see Access to the CCHS below), Agriculture Water Survey, the Labour Force Survey, Employment Insurance Benefits, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Employment and Social Development Canada.

#### Analysis:

- Most of the data analysis requires skill with downloading, manipulating, and analyzing tables (CSD, Excel, etc.), and interactive maps.
- The Fact-finder's Guide to Local and Regional Data includes information regarding definitions and hints for downloading and manipulating Statistics Canada tables in its Appendices (See Below).

#### Mobilization:

- Statistics Canada provides many types of data, but with minimal support. At times it is difficult to navigate their websites so it is useful to work with someone who is familiar with their system. Making a connection with a researcher is useful. CRRF

(<http://CRRF.ca>), the RPLC (<http://RPLC-CAPR.ca>), and the Yaffle site in NL (<http://Yaffle.ca>) have links to help you find such people.

### A Fact-Finder's Guide to Local and Regional Data

Rural Ontario Institute (2017) <http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/uploads/userfiles/files/Fact-finder%E2%80%99s%20guide%20to%20local%20and%20regional%20data.pdf>

<http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/uploads/userfiles/files/Fact-finder%E2%80%99s%20guide%20to%20local%20and%20regional%20data.pdf>

#### Availability:

- This guide lists and describes a number of datasets relevant to rural Canada. Accessibility varies depending on the origin and nature of the data.
- A brief summary of the data is provided in Figure 1 (below) and details are provided in the Guide.

#### Analysis:

- Skills for managing and analyzing the data depends on its origin and details.
- Information regarding definitions and hints for downloading and manipulating Statistics Canada tables are included in the Appendices.

#### Mobilization:

- There is considerable free and downloadable data identified in this Guide.
- At times it is difficult to navigate Statistics Canada websites so it is useful to work with someone who is familiar with their system. Making a connection with a researcher is useful. CRRF (<http://CRRF.ca>), the RPLC (<http://RPLC-CAPR.ca>), and the Yaffle site in NL (<http://Yaffle.ca>) have links to help you find such people.

### The Canadian Census

#### Availability:

- In 1971 and in each census from 1981 to 2006, Statistics Canada gathered information about the Canadian population in two forms: a 100% census ("short-form" questionnaire) with demographic and language use information and a 20% sample

(“long-form” questionnaire) of the population with demographic, economic, education, language, ethnic, cultural, housing, income, family structure, and labour information.

- In 2011, the federal government cancelled the long-form census and replaced it with a voluntary National Household Survey with a 33% sample of households.
- In 2016, the long-form was re-instated with a 25% sample of households.
- The basic unit of data collection is the household (with an individual in the household providing the information). Information is enumerated for each individual in the household and thus individual-level and household-level data are available in the statistical tables published on the Statistics Canada website.
- The smallest geographical unit of data for access to the data is the Dissemination Area (DA). This was previously the Enumeration Area (EA). Most of them are from 400 to 700 persons (<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/geoo21-eng.cfm>).
- In 2016 there were 56,590 DAs in Canada – covering all geographical regions.
- Census information calculated for most communities (as represented by Census Subdivisions - CSD) is available via the Census Geography Series (<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/fogs-spg/select-Geo-Choix.cfm?Lang=Eng&GK=CSD&TOPIC=1>) and the community census profile webpage (<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>).
- The boundaries for EAs and CSDs change to some extent for each census as a result of provincial and municipal population change. Comparing over time, therefore, is an analytical challenge.

#### Access:

- Tabulations of census data for the censuses from 1991 to 2016 (and for the 2011 National Household Survey) are available at the Census Datasets webpage (<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/datasets/Index-eng.cfm>). Each of these tables may be downloaded for free. A public use microdata file for individuals enumerated on the 2016 Census of Population is available at <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/98M0001X>.
- A good portal to census and National Household Survey data is at (<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/index-eng.cfm>). Access to more extensive micro data is available to university researchers via the Statistics Canada Research Data Centres at most universities (<https://www.statcan.ca/eng/rdc/index>). CRRF or RPLC

can help make these connections. Note that most of these micro data files will not permit the analysis of data for small geographical units.

- Analysis of this data requires expertise with statistical analysis of large data sets. This includes familiarity with such analysis programs as SPSS, Stata, or similar software. If geographical analysis is desired, familiarity with Geographical Boundary Files and related software is required.

#### Analysis:

- There are a number of reports and studies using Census materials that provide summary analysis. They typically focus on a particular issue. One of the most extensive is the Rural and Small Town Analysis Bulletin series provided by the Agricultural Division of Statistics Canada (up to 2012) (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/21-006-X>).
- Census data and its products are limited to individual or household-level demographic and economic activity data. Information regarding networks, organizations, informal groups, attitudes, preferences, and historical characteristics can only be explored using proxies from this individual-level data.
- Small communities in rural and remote places are often excluded from the data since Statistics Canada policy is designed to avoid the possibility that individuals could be identified. Thus, they exclude DAs and CSDs with fewer than about 400 individuals and randomly round up or down the results by five where the frequencies are small.
- Information for specific types of places (aggregated) can be obtained for a fee with a request via email to [STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN@canada.ca). See also the Canadian Longitudinal CSD Database below. Once the data has been aggregated in this way, new researchers may be able to access it via Statistics Canada or the researcher(s) involved. Opportunities like this can be identified via Statistics Canada Research sites, CRRF, or the RPLC.

#### Mobilization:

- Communication of results from census analysis is most often available via academic research papers and report. These tend to focus on specific issues using the technical language of the analyst. This requires some familiarity with the theoretical and methodological discourse involved. Access to these materials can be found via Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.ca/>) or by contacting CRRF, RPLC, or a university or college researcher.
- Some research projects and centres have explicitly developed programs of knowledge mobilization in which their research results are disseminate in more publicly available forms. Some of them are the following.

- » The New Rural Economy Project (NRE) Posters. These materials identify particular issues as topics for posters from the 22 field sites in the project (<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/sociology-anthropology/research/nre/research-findings.html#posters>)
- » The New Rural Economy Project field site flyers and bulletins. These are materials prepared for the 32 field sites in the NRE project. They include discussions of the site economy, history, communications and infrastructure, social services, economy, and commercial shopping. The information is derived from census data and two major NRE surveys conducted in the sites. You can get access to these materials along with many other reports and studies via <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/sociology-anthropology/research/nre/study-sites.html> and <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/sociology-anthropology/research/nre/research-findings.html>.
- » Similar materials designed for public dissemination can be found via the following websites.
  - ◊ The Rural Ontario Institute (<http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/>). Their focus is primarily on rural and remote issues in Ontario but they provide useful models for analysis in other provinces. Check out their “Knowledge Centre” links.
  - ◊ The Harris Centre at Memorial University has a particular focus on Newfoundland and Labrador (<https://www.mun.ca/harriscentre/>). Their Yaffle software (<https://mun.yaffle.ca/>) is specifically designed to help rural communities and citizens connect with projects and researchers. Some of them are from places outside of NL.

### Canadian Longitudinal CSD Database

#### Availability:

- This is a database of census and related survey data from 1986 to 2016 for all of Canada. The unit of analysis is the CSD. It is unique in that the CSD boundaries don’t change from one census year to the next – they are all calculated for the CSD boundaries established in 2006. It is therefore useful for inter-year comparisons as well as longitudinal analysis.
- The database was established by the NRE project and since its completion has been supported by CRRF and the RPLC.
- The database includes several indexes (Social Capital, GINI, Ethnic Concentration, and some Census Consolidated Subdivision characteristics) in

addition to the information found in the Census.

- Contact RPLC ([rplc-capr@brandonu.ca](mailto:rplc-capr@brandonu.ca)) or Bill Reimer ([Bill.Reimer@concordia.ca](mailto:Bill.Reimer@concordia.ca)) for access to this database. It is free for research and education purposes.

#### Analysis:

- This data has similar limitations as the census data since it relies on individual-level data and excludes information for very small places.
- Its main advantage is the consistency of geographical boundaries across the years.

#### Mobilization:

- There is no communication or mobilization program associated with this dataset.

### The New Rural Economy Project datasets (NRE)

#### Availability:

- From 1997 to 2008, researchers worked with 32 systematically chosen rural and remote Canadian communities (and two in Japan) to better understand the changes they were facing and the options available to them (<http://nre.concordia.ca>).
- The project included the collection of information with the communities using historical documents, surveys, interviews, workshops, conferences, informal meetings, and anecdotal materials.
- Much of this information is available in the form of reports, bulletins, flyers, survey datasets, and interview results.
- Information regarding the history, demographic, social, and economic characteristics, organizations (formal and informal), communication infrastructure, social capital and social support characteristics, the informal economy, social services, governance, community profiles, attitudes regarding the environment, and social cohesion of the field sites is available.
- The selection of the 32 field sites was done using a systematic procedure to reflect variations in globalization, distance to large urban centres, economic stability, institutional capacity, and economic status. This allows strategic comparisons and the association of most other rural communities to the 32 sites of the NRE (see <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/sociology-anthropology/research/nre/study-sites.html> and Reimer, Bill (2002) “A Sample Frame for Rural Canada: Design and Evaluation” *Regional Studies*, 36.8:845-859 <http://billreimer.ca/research/files/ReimerSampleFrameRegionalStudies2002PrePublication.pdf>).
- Inquiries regarding access to these materials for educational or research purposes can be made to [Bill.Reimer@concordia.ca](mailto:Bill.Reimer@concordia.ca).

## Analysis:

- The analysis of this data requires capacity in statistical analysis, the use of SPSS software, content analysis, historical analysis, and/or comparative analysis depending on the particular issue, information, and questions being considered.
- It provides, however, one of the few sources of community-level governance, institutional, business, informal group, social support, and networking information for comparative analysis.
- The NRE data has also been used to develop proxies and indicators for more general Canadian surveys through the General Social Survey series and census information (see Reimer, Bill (2011) "Social Exclusion through Lack of Access to Social Support in Rural Areas" Pp 152-160 in Social Statistics, Poverty and Social Exclusion: perspectives Québécoises, Canadiennes et internationales, Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal.)

## Mobilization:

- The communication of the NRE insights and results has been a major objective of the project. There are, therefore, many materials prepared to communicate insights and results to a variety of audiences.
- Reports, posters, flyers, field site bulletins, videos, as well as more scholarly materials can be found on the NRE website via the Study Sites, Research Findings, and Resources links (<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/sociology-anthropology/research/nre.html>).

## Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

<http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&id=795204>

## Availability:

- The CCHS is a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization, and health determinants for the Canadian population. The survey is offered in both official languages.
- The primary unit of data availability is the health region. See Statistics Canada Data Page (see above).
- The data can be accessed for free at the Statistics Canada "Data" page via <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/type/data>. Choose "health" in the left-hand column and choose "health region" in the left-hand column to see the most recent data (Table 13-10-0113-01). For some reason, data for earlier years by health region does not pop up when one selects health region which means one needs to look at each sub-topic under "health" and then scroll down to find data by health region for earlier years (a quick scan found Table 13-10-0113-01,

Table 13-10-0559-01, Table 13-10-0074-01, Table 13-10-0075-01 and Table 13-10-0586-01 but we expect there are more).

- The survey began collecting data in 2001 and was repeated every two years until 2005. Starting in 2007, data for the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) was collected annually instead of every two years. While a sample of approximately 130,000 respondents were interviewed during the reference periods of 2001, 2003 and 2005, the sample size was changed to 65,000 respondents each year starting in 2007.
- As a result of a major redesign, the 2015 CCHS has a new collection strategy, is drawing the sample from two different frames, and has undergone major content revisions. With all these factors taken together, caution should be taken when comparing data from previous cycles to data released for the 2015 cycle onwards.
- Each health region has been delineated as member of a peer group of health regions in order that analysts can compare health outcomes across a group of "similar" (i.e. peer) health regions. The degree of rurality of each health region is one factor used in the delineation of peer groups. For a recent description of health region peer groups, see Statistics Canada. (2018) Health Region Peer Groups 2018: Working Paper (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-622-X) (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-622-x/82-622-x2018001-eng.htm>).
- For Manitoba, see also:
  - » Fransoo R, A. Mahar, The Need To Know Team, A. Anderson, H. Prior, I. Koseva, S. McCulloch, J. Jarmasz and S. Burchill. (2019) The 2019 RHA [Regional Health Authority] Indicators Atlas (Winnipeg: Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, University of Manitoba, Autumn) ([http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/reference/RHA\\_Report\\_web.pdf](http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/reference/RHA_Report_web.pdf)).
  - » P.J. Martens, R. Fransoo, The Need To Know Team, E. Burland, L. Jebamani, C. Burchill, C. Black, N. Dik, L. MacWilliam, S. Derksen et al. (2003) The Manitoba RHA [Regional Health Authority] Indicators Atlas: Population-Based Comparison of Health and Health Care Use (Winnipeg: Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, University of Manitoba) ([http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/reference/RHAo3\\_Atlas\\_web.pdf](http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/reference/RHAo3_Atlas_web.pdf)).

## Analysis:

- Various confidentiality rules are applied to all data released or published to prevent the publication or disclosure of any information deemed confidential. If necessary, data is suppressed to prevent direct or

residual disclosure of identifiable data.

- The analysis of this data requires capacity in statistical analysis and working with large datasets.

Mobilization:

- Free downloadable data is available via the Statistics Canada Data Page (see above).
- The data is available to universities via the Data Liberation Initiative (<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/dli/dli>) and the Research Data Centres Program (<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/index>) of [Statistics Canada](https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5200))

### Canadian Income Survey (CIS)

<http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5200>

Availability:

- The survey gathers information on labour market activity, school attendance, disability, support payments, child care expenses, inter-household transfers, personal income, and characteristics and costs of housing. This content is supplemented with information on individual and household characteristics (e.g. age, educational attainment, main job characteristics, family type), as well as geographic details (e.g. province, census metropolitan area (CMA)) from the LFS. Tax data for income and income sources are also combined with the survey data.
- The CIS sample is a sub-sample of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample. LFS uses a complex random sampling plan to select households. Each household in the sample represents a number of other households in the population.
- Free downloadable data is available via the Statistics Canada Data Page (see above).
- Public Use Microdata Files are available for the CIS, but the smallest unit of data is the CMA.

Analysis:

- The analysis of this data requires capacity in statistical analysis and working with large datasets.

Mobilization:

- The data is available to universities via the Data Liberation Initiative (<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/dli/dli>) and the Research Data Centres Program (<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/index>) of Statistics Canada.

### Canadian Institute for Health Information datasets (CIHI)

<https://www.cihi.ca/en>

Availability:

- CIHI provides health information in several different forms. Quick Stats, for example, are free publicly available reports on health-related topics. eQuery provides a format for asking questions about

specific topics.

- The smallest region is most often provinces or territories for general reports although health region information is available via some of the more targeted inquiries.

Analysis:

- Many of the results are reported in a tabular format. Familiarity with Excel software is an advantage.

Mobilization:

- CIHR has an active public mobilization program for data. Their "News, Events and Education" link provides public access to reports, media, and other materials which often include inferences and policy implications.

### Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research resources (CRaNHR)

<https://www.cranhr.ca/>

Availability:

- CRaNHR provides a number of publicly available reports and materials on rural and northern related health issues. Their "Focus On Research" publication synthesizes and summarizes studies conducted by their researchers

Analysis:

- Most of the reports are written for researchers or the public. Capacity to interpret tables and graphs is useful

Mobilization:

- CRaNHR has an active program of communication with the public and policy-makers in addition to their research activities.

### Fisheries and Oceans Canada statistics (DFO)

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/stats-eng.htm>

Availability:

- DFO collects and compiles statistics related to aquaculture, commercial fisheries, recreational fishing, and trade (imports/exports).
- Information is most often provided at the national, provincial, or territorial levels
- Data is often provided on their website (often in tabular form), in Excel, or pdf formats.
- DFO Fast Facts series provides annual overviews of national and regional statistics related to aquaculture, commercial fisheries, recreational fishing, trade, and species.
- Specific requests can be requested via [nfostat@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:nfostat@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Analysis:

- Most of the data is provided for business or researchers. Thus, the capacity to interpret tables and graphs is useful.

Mobilization:

- Researchers, policy-makers, and businesses are the



primary target audiences.

#### **Rural Homelessness Estimation Guide (ARDN)**

<https://www.ardn.ca/publications/step-by-step-guide-to-estimating-homelessness>

Availability:

- This guide is publicly available via the website. It is provided in pdf format.

Analysis:

- The guide is primarily directed to researchers and communities considering the collection of their own information.
- It provides considerable advice and information for inexperienced researchers to develop and interpret homelessness data.

Mobilization:

- The guide is sufficiently detailed to support community initiatives for the design, collection, and interpretation of homelessness data.

#### **Rural Development Institute resources (RDI)**

<https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/>

Availability:

- The RDI has a wide range of publications, webinars, newsletters, factsheets, and reports that provide rural data on a number of topics. It also includes links to partners and other rural research centres.
- The materials are usually directed to specific topics and written in the form of reports.
- Most of the materials are freely available via the website, but some of the publications (mostly books) are offered for sale.
- The target audiences are most often researchers, policy-makers, and rural communities.

Analysis:

- Since most of the materials are in a report form, the interpretation of data is most often included.

Mobilization:

- RDI has an active program of mobilization for its material. This can be accessed via its website.

## *Resources for Region-specific Data*

#### **Data BC**

<https://data.gov.bc.ca>

Availability:

- Data BC is responsible for the B.C. Data Catalogue, the Open Data initiative, and the B.C. Spatial Data Infrastructure and associated products and services.
- The Data Catalogue contains over 2,000 datasets regarding a wide variety of research and administrative data about BC. Categories include Natural Resources, Finance, Economy, Service and Health and Safety.
- Most of the data is organized by administrative

regions.

- Much of the data is publicly available although some requires special access.

Analysis:

- The data is in various formats, including map and boundary files. Some experience with a variety of storage and analysis formats is required.

Mobilization:

- The access to information is relatively easy and the website encourages public use, but the technical requirements for retrieving, analyzing, and interpreting the data are likely to make it difficult for use by the general public.

#### **Rural Ontario Institute resources (ROI)**

<http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/knowledge-centre/>

Availability:

- ROI provides numerous reports, briefs, presentations, visual, and engagement resources containing rural data for Ontario.
- These materials are mostly available for free from their website.
- Most materials are designed for researcher, policy-maker, practitioner, and community users.
- Most of the materials are focused on Ontario, but there are some with a more general relevance.

Analysis:

- The materials are most often in the form of reports that include analysis and interpretation of the results.

Mobilization:

- The ROI has an active program of mobilization for its material. This can be accessed via its website.

#### **ConnectON**

<https://www.connecton.ca>

Availability:

- ConnectON is an economic development tool created to support municipal and regional decision making and growth. Currently, municipalities, cities, and regions in the Golden Horseshoe, Greater Golden Horseshoe, and Eastern Ontario are participating in asset mapping for the agri-food and manufacturing sectors. Municipalities have the ability to upload, update, select, sort, and map their own data, as well as view the data regionally, from neighbouring participating municipalities.
- Active participation in the network is required for access to the information. This means providing business and related information to the database. Access is controlled by passwords.
- The data is stored and provided in a common Excel spreadsheet.
- The focus is on Ontario municipalities.

Analysis:

- In most cases, the data is provided and analyzed by municipal employees.
- Familiarity with municipal information and Excel are required.

#### Mobilization

- The data is limited to Ontario municipalities which have a established a partnership with ConnectON

#### Province of Ontario Open Data Catalogue

<https://www.ontario.ca/search/data-catalogue?sort=asc>

#### Availability:

- This is an interactive site which provides Ontario-related data.
- Access to data may be open or restricted based on the sensitivity of the information.
- Topics range widely—including arts and culture, business and economy, roads, land, education, government, health, law, taxes, and recreation.
- Some of the small area data is restricted because of confidentiality considerations.
- Datasets can be downloaded.

#### Analysis:

- Datasets may be downloaded in a variety of formats, including text, Excel, and boundary files. Experience with the type of file selected is necessary.

#### Mobilization:

- The site is primarily directed to researchers and analysts.

#### Community Accounts (Newfoundland and Labrador)

<https://nl.communityaccounts.ca/>

#### Availability:

- These sites provide indicators, profiles, tables, charts, and maps related to Newfoundland and Labrador.
- They also provide a collection of tools to evaluate and explore the indicators.
- The units of analysis are typically economic zones, Rural Secretariat regions, and Police, Health, or School regions.

- The data is publicly available via the websites.

#### Analysis:

- Much of the data requires familiarity with reading tables and charts, however, some is in the form of reports.

#### Mobilization:

- The community accounts are organized for relatively easy access by the public. An interactive tour is provided to facilitate understanding of the site and use of the material.

#### Harris Centre resources

<https://www.mun.ca/harriscentre/whatwedo/>

#### Availability:

- The Harris Centre provides a wide range of materials that include data and analysis of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Much of the data is in the form of reports, podcasts, and other media, but their Vital Signs collection provides data in a more basic form.
- The “Vital Signs” reports provide annual reports on topics like income, crime, food, civic engagement, and recreation. Each topic is provided with data, its implications, and examples.
- The data is publicly available via the website.

#### Analysis:

- Most of the data include analysis and interpretations. This is especially the case with the Vital Signs series.

#### Mobilization:

- The Harris Centre is particularly focused on the mobilization of data and policy issues to researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and the general public. Thus, their materials are usually formulated with general access in mind.
- The Yaffle tool (<https://mun.yaffle.ca/>) can be used to identify researchers and research of particular interest to users. Using this tool may facilitate access to specific data and help in its interpretation.

Other national statistics of relevance to rural analysis in  
 Figure 1: Summary from A Fact-Finder's Guide to Local & Regional Data

Data source (with sub-provincial data)	Sub-provincial geographic units (as defined in Appendix A)	Overview of major data items
<b>Statistics Canada: Quinquennial data (every five years)</b>		
Census of Population: short-form	Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) (over 100,000 inhabitants), Census agglomerations (CA) (10,000 - 99,999 inhabitants), Economic Regions (ER), Census Divisions (CD), Census Subdivisions (CSD), Population centres, rural areas	Population count, sex, age, marital status, language, number of dwellings, type of family (e.g. lone-parent family, etc.)
Census of Population: long-form (and 2011 National Household Survey)	CMA, CA, ER, CD CSD, Population centres, rural areas	Labour force activity, type of firm of employment ("industry"), type of job ("occupation"), level of educational attainment, immigrant status, ethnicity, quality of housing, Aboriginal Identity, commuting to work, mobility and migration and income by source
Aboriginal Peoples Survey	CMA, CA, CD, CSD, Population centres, rural areas	Census (and NHS) data plus experience regarding education and employment For operators: age, sex, amount of work on and off the holding plus acres of each crop, number of livestock and poultry, number and value of machines, gross value of farm revenue, expense by item plus, in 2011, selected management practices (such as no till and rotational grazing), use of irrigation, presence of some organic production, presence of a succession plan, presence of direct selling to consumers, etc.
Census of Agriculture	Census Agricultural Areas (CAR), CD, Census Consolidated Subdivisions (CCS)	
<b>Statistics Canada: Annual data</b>		
Annual Demographic Estimates for sub-provincial areas	CMA, CA, ER, CD, CSD	Population count by age and sex plus components of population change (i.e., births, deaths, immigration, emigration, in-migrants, out-migrants)
Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File)	CMA, CA	Number of individuals by age and sex showing income by source plus data on families, seniors, RRSP contributors, savers, investors, charitable donors, high and low income taxfilers plus profiles of economic dependency and levels of labour income
Agriculture Taxfiler Data Program	CAR (by special request)	Revenue by source and expenses by item by size and type of enterprise plus farm and off-farm income of operators
Field Crop Reporting Series	CAR	Acres of major crops
Canadian Income Survey	Selected CMAs, CAs, ERs, by special request	Income by source and number of individuals and families by size class of income
Survey of Household Spending	Canada level by size of population centre	Household expenditure by item
Canada Community Health Survey (CCHS)	Health regions within provinces	Detailed data on health service utilization and health outcomes
Stillbirth database and birth- related indicators	CMAs, Health regions	Infant and perinatal mortality plus low and high birth weight data
General Social Survey (GSS)	By special request	Major themes (e.g., caregiving, families, time use, social identity, volunteering and victimization) are rotated on an (about) five-year basis
Justice Statistics	Each police service within each province	Police-reported crime statistics
Radio and Television Broadcasting Survey	Selected CMAs	Revenue, expenses, number of employees, number of stations
Residential Telephone Service Survey	Selected CMAs (accessible only via analysis of a Public Use Microdata File)	Number of and types of telephones and if none, reason for no telephone
Construction Union Wage Rates Index	CMA	Level and changes over time in the collective agreement hourly rates
Consumer Price Index for selected cities	Selected cities	Index of price change over time, index of price differences between cities, index of price of new housing
Monthly traffic for each airport	Most airports	Movement of people and goods
Residential property values	CMA	Residential property values at current market price
Agricultural Water Survey	Drainage areas	Water use and current irrigation methods and practices
Canadian Business Counts	ER, CD, CSD (by special request)	Count of number of enterprises by size class of level of employment by type of industry (North American Industry Classification System)
Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises	For Canada, an urban<->rural split and for Ontario, a Northern<->Southern split	Kind of financing used, recent attempts to obtain new financing, barriers to growth, financial position, characteristics of ownership, involvement in innovation
<b>Statistics Canada: Monthly data</b>		
Labour Force Survey (LFS)	ER, CMA/CA vs Non-CMA/CA areas, Population centres vs rural areas	Number employed, number unemployed, number out of the labour force and their characteristics (age, sex, level of educational attainment, immigrant status, Aboriginal Identity, etc.)
Employment Insurance Beneficiaries	CMAs, CAs, Metropolitan Influence Zones outside CMA/CA areas, Census Divisions	Number of Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by age and sex
Building Permits	ERs, CMAs, Areas over and under 10,000 inhabitants (CD by special request)	Number and value of building permits by type of structure
<b>Other federal government departments</b>		
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (formerly, Citizenship and Immigration Canada)	CMA, CA, Non-CMA/CA areas, CD	Number of admissions of permanent residents by age and sex
Canada Revenue Agency	CD, CSD (with a code indicating delineation as part of a CMA or CA or Metropolitan Influence Zone)	Number of taxfilers by size class of income and income by source
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	CMA, CA, Non-CMA/CA areas	Number of housing starts
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (formerly, Industry Canada)	Community Information Database (CID) with maps and tables and census data by CSD	Major variables from the Census of Population