

## Statistics Canada – Responding to the Pandemic

June 12, 2020

Delivering insight through data, for a better Canada



Statistics Statistique Canada Canada





**Preparation and Prioritization** 

### Subject Matter Considerations



**Staying Relevant** 

The HR Element

Lessons Learned





## **COVID** – Preparation and prioritization

## BCP Testing Offsite

March 11, employees responsible for mission critical programs were whisked on a bus and taken offsite. Once there they had to work through a production cycle with different scenarios. This allowed us to work out the kinks, determine communication, priorities, fix systems that would not work offsite and plan for work under different HR availability scenarios.

## Clear prioritization

Senior management quickly identified 22 mission critical programs and made those the priority. This was clearly communicated to the staff and guided decision making. All data shedding light on the pandemic was also prioritized.

# Strong decision making

Early on a decision was made to access SSI, to make working from home effective. Daily meetings with top officials helped with timely decision making. Social distancing made logistical issues surrounding retrieving equipment a challenge. Prioritization was necessary.

### Technology

At the beginning Bandwidth and VPN licenses were insufficient. Access was limited to employees working on mission critical programs. Usage was closely monitored and access was progressively expanded. New tools were added to enhance collaboration.





## COVID - Impacts on Ongoing Programs

Conceptual Challenges	<ul> <li>Negative seasonally adjusted values, oil prices</li> <li>Projectors made for stable economy</li> <li>Treatment of government subsidies</li> <li>Reconciling output when employees getting paid but not working</li> </ul>
Impacts on priorities	<ul> <li>Potential delays for non-mission critical programs</li> <li>Expansions for COVID data, custom tabulations</li> <li>Interdependencies, complexities in macroeconomic accounts</li> </ul>
Data Gaps	Challenges for accessing administrative data and delays receiving the data from banks, governments
Data quality	Minor challenges persist that could impact our data quality; response rates are slightly lower for some surveys. Modelled data needed extra review





Shifting Priorities to answer the questions of the day

## **COVID-19** A data perspective

Developing new products to provide timely insights on impacts of COVID



### Highlights



Data tables related to COVID-19



Canadian Statistical Geospatial Explorer Hub

Increasing role of data steward,

## Flash estimates, Crowdsourcing, horizontal analysis



Canadian Economic Dashboard and COVID-19

Providing expertise in areas such as modelling



Activities and concerns of Canadian youth during the COVID-19 pandemic

All COVID-19 rel





#### 1. Recording COVID-19 measures in the national accounts

#### Articles and reports: 13-605-X202000100001

*Description:* Since March, Canadian governments, federal, provincial and local, along with their associated government business enterprises, have been implementing a wide range of policy... <u>More</u>

#### StatCan COVID-19: Data to Insights for a Better Canada

A series of articles on various subjects which explore the impact of COVID-19 on the socio-economic landscape. New articles will be released periodically.

#### · Impact of economic consequences of COVID-19 on Canadians' social concerns

This article examines the extent to which Canadians' personal financial concerns are associated with greater concerns about family life and social cohesion (family stress from confinement, violence in the home, maintaining social ties, the ability to cooperate and support one another, and the risk of civil disorder).

#### · Running the economy remotely: Potential for working from home during and after COVID-19

Physical distancing measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in a large number of Canadians working from home, many for the first time. This sudden transition in how the economy is operating raises questions about how many jobs can reasonably be performed from home.

#### Indigenous people in urban areas: Vulnerabilities to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19

Using the 2016 Census and the 2017 Aboriginal Peoples Survey, the article highlights key measures of economic well being (low income, food security, ability to deal with unexpected expenses) for First Nations people, Métis and Inuit living in medium population centres (30,000 to 99,999 residents) and large urban population centres (100,000 or more residents).



#### Activities and concerns of Canadian youth during the COVID-19 pandemic









### **New Products related to COVID 19**



As part of Statistics Canada's prioritization on providing COVID 19 insights, several new products have been created related to the Macroeconomic Accounts. These innovative products provide timely context on the impact of COVID 19. There are longer term possibilities for some of these products if there Is user demand.





## HR Element

The message was clear and consistent: Employee Health and Safety comes first

Government of Canada Employees – Special Paid leave COVID 19, Caring for Small Children

Emphasis on Mental Health Resources Available

Employees offline, feeling isolated, like work is less valued

Our values TRUSTWORTHY PURPOSEFUL

### Lessons learned

Working from home can work – clear communication is paramount We will never go back to how things were



People want to be productive, contributing members of a team Staff can be determined to succeed no matter the obstacles

Partners should have a shared understanding of priorities for success Our priorities will change as a result of this experience



Keep processes simple and consistent Trust your employees and managers



Technology is a great enabler Invest in technology to facilitate telework



