

Vital Statistics Council for Canada

Presentation for Joint Councils (PSSDC / PSCI OC)

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Toronto

What is the Vital Statistics Council for Canada?

- ▶ Vital Statistics Council for Canada (VSCC) is an inter-jurisdictional advisory group created in 1945 with representation from each jurisdiction in Canada
- ▶ The VSCC provides a forum for:
 - ▶ Developing common approaches for collecting vital statistics data and facilitating the transfer of data to Statistics Canada
 - ▶ Sharing information between jurisdictions
 - ▶ Discussion of issues around civil registration and vital statistics
 - ▶ Liaison with federal, provincial and territorial stakeholders
- ▶ We have considerable expertise in the area of vital events and public health statistics including the creation/source of Canada's foundation identity records
- ▶ We are a tightly knit and highly collaborative group

Importance of Identity Management

- ▶ Birth certificates are the foundation identity documents for people born in Canada. The focus on identity has grown substantially since 9-11 with increased rigor and restrictions to access
- ▶ Accurately tracking births, deaths, and changes of names is vital to protecting Canadians' identities and Canada's security
- ▶ Currently, processes for registering and sharing this data across jurisdictions need to evolve further to meet the challenges ahead
- ▶ There are several proposed paths forward in identity management, such as Canada's Digital Interchange and digitizing an inter-jurisdictional notification system for identity management across Canada

Key Issues in the VS Wheelhouse

- ▶ Identity Security, Privacy and Confidentiality
- ▶ Data Sharing and Standards
- ▶ Gender Identity
- ▶ Parentage reforms - Assisted Human Reproduction (e.g., Surrogacy)
- ▶ Adoption disclosure
- ▶ Death and Change of Name Notification
- ▶ Establishing legal identities through Legal Changes of Name
- ▶ MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying)
- ▶ Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada - Calls to Action related to Residential Schools and Reclamation of Indigenous Names
- ▶ Digital challenges

Working Together

- ▶ Vital Statistics Agencies are heavily involved in the establishment and protection of identity
- ▶ As the providers of foundation identity documents we can inform and support identity management initiatives
- ▶ We recognize the importance of harmonizing legislation to support a pan-Canadian identity management strategy
- ▶ We have experience in collaborating with FPT partners and are continuing to broaden and strengthen the relationships that we have built
- ▶ We believe that collaboration into the future will be critical to the success of any identity management initiatives
 - ▶ FTP
 - ▶ IT / VS / Digital Identity / Service Delivery

Questions

- ▶ Co-Chair, VSCC François Nault - francois.nault@canada.ca
Director, Health Statistics Division - Statistics Canada
- ▶ Co-Chair, VSCC Alexandra Schmidt - alexandra.schmidt@ontario.ca
Deputy Registrar General/Director - VS - Ontario
- ▶ Incoming Co-Chair Krista Dewey - krista.dewey@novascotia.ca
Deputy Registrar General/Director - VS - Nova Scotia