

An Act to Amend the Statistics Act, 2017

Whereas the Statistics Act needs to be modernized

Whereas Statistics Canada should not be able to operate without any nonpartisan oversight

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Modern Statistics Act.

Amending the Statistics Act

2. Section 2 of the Statistics Act is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

identifying information means any information that makes it possible to identify an individual person, business or organization; (renseignement identificateur)

3. Subsection 4(1) of the Statistics Act is replaced by the following:

4(1) The Governor in Council shall appoint the Chief Statistician of Canada to be the deputy head of Statistics Canada.

4. Section 4 of the Statistics Act is amended by adding the following:

Tenure

(7) The Chief Statistician holds office for a term of not more than five years during good behaviour, but may be removed for cause by the Governor in Council.

Reappointment

(8) The Chief Statistician is eligible to be reappointed for an additional term of not more than five years.

Interim Appointment

(9) In the event of the absence or incapacity of the Chief Statistician, or if that office is vacant, the Governor in Council may appoint any qualified person to hold that office in the interim for a term not exceeding six months, and that person shall, while holding office, be paid the salary or other remuneration and expenses that may be fixed by the Governor in Council.

5. The Statistics Act is amended by adding the following to the end of the Act.

Canadian Statistics Advisory Council

38(1) An advisory council, to be known as the Canadian Statistics Advisory Council, is established;

(a) to advise the Minister and Chief Statistician in a transparent manner on any question that either of them has referred to the Council on the overall quality of the national statistical system, including the relevance, accuracy, accessibility and timeliness of its data; and

(b) to make public an annual report on the state of the national statistical system.

38(2) The Council is composed of, in addition to the Chief Statistician, not more than 10 other members appointed by the Governor in Council to hold office during pleasure, including one Chairperson.

38(3) The Chairperson is appointed to a term of not more than five years and may be reappointed for an additional term of three years.

38(4) The other members are appointed to a term of three years and may be reappointed for an additional term of three years.

38(5) The members appointed under subsection (2) shall be paid the remuneration that is fixed by the Governor in Council and are entitled to be paid any reasonable travel and living expenses that are incurred while absent from their ordinary place of residence in the course of performing their duties under this Act.