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Improved access to microdata at Statistics Canada



Telling Canada's
story in numbers

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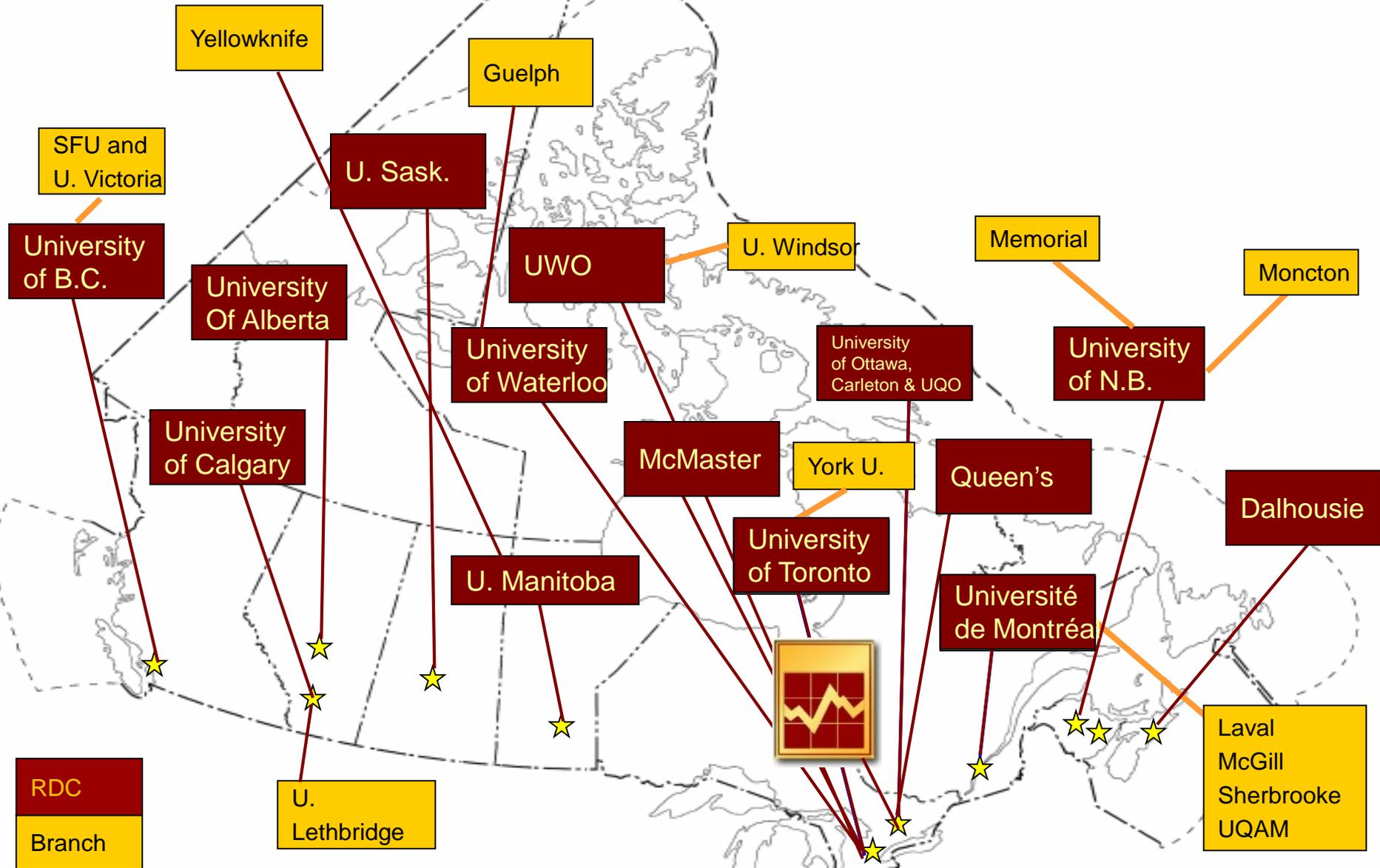
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A brief history of microdata access

- Joint Working Group on the Advancement of Research using Social Statistics (1998) identified three obstacles to quantitative social and health research in Canada:
 - a lack of access to detailed micro-data
 - a lack of skill quantitative researchers
 - weak links between social scientists and potential users of the knowledge that they generate
- Canadian RDC Network was established in 2000
- As of today, there are 14 RDCs and 13 branches located in universities across Canada, plus FRDC in Ottawa and Gatineau
- For the same reasons, the Policy Research Data Group funded the development and establishment of CDER (for the access of business data) at Statistics Canada headquarters in 2012

Location of RDCs and CDER



Data availability in RDCs and CDER

- Nearly 500 cycles of social survey, business survey and administrative data
 - Survey data
 - Cross-sectional
 - One-time collection and multiple cycles
 - Longitudinal
 - Administrative data
 - Personal and business tax data
 - Immigration database
 - Health and justice data
 - Trade and intellectual property data
 - Linked data files

Improving access

- Actively working with partners with and outside of government
- Microdata access operational review committee
 - Identify and find solutions to issues experience by researchers accessing microdata
- Microdata access management committee
 - Work on strategic vision to broaden access, and to provide advice on the components of the modernization of the digital infrastructure for access