

# UNB-RDC

# January 1 to December 31 2010

This report describes the activities of the UNB-RDC based at the University of New Brunswick's Fredericton Campus during the calendar year 2010.

Ted McDonald Annual Review Report

## **UNB-RDC**

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#### **Executive Summary**

The University of New Brunswick, with campuses in Fredericton and Saint John, is the largest university in New Brunswick and plays a vital role in the creation and dissemination of knowledge to stakeholders in government, industry, the non-profit sector and the population at large. As one of the first Research Data Centres opened in Canada, the UNB-RDC is central to the creation and dissemination of social policy research by members of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy (CRISP), the faculty of Nursing, the Department of Economics, and other departments across the university.

The presence of the RDC and the opportunities available to researchers and policymakers have been instrumental in an ongoing initiative to develop connections among UNB faculty, graduate students, provincial government employees and NGOs that will benefit both the University and the wider community. The impetus came from a clear mission statement from the NB Department of Health and other Departments to move towards evidence-based policy evaluation and formation. At the same time, there was a clear recognition that the ability for the Province to undertake its own research program to assemble policy-relevant evidence was limited. Our efforts began in late 2009 with a key meeting involving Raymond Currie and Byron Spencer making presentations to an audience of approximately 20 deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers from 9 government departments. During 2010, we have hosted 10 RDC information sessions for various government departments beginning with the Executive Council in January. Among the sessions were key departments involved in social policy: Health, Post-Secondary Education and Training, and Social Development.

Throughout 2010, the academic director continued to work closely with Andy Scott, Andrews Senior Fellow in Social Policy at UNB, and Eric Gionet, Executive Director of the NB Social Policy Research Network. The NBSPRN is a province-wide network through which academics, students and government can communicate, collaborate, and prioritize research projects. The RDC has become a very important element of the NBSPRN's strategy to develop relationships and advance policy relevant research in the province.

In April 2010, UNB hosted an extremely successful and well attended 3-day workshop on the use of the NHPS and CCHS that was delivered by Statistics Canada's Health Statistics Division. Among the 40+ registered participants were government employees from a range of departments and agencies in Fredericton and Moncton.

April 2010 also saw the conversion of the Moncton RDC to a branch of the UNB-RDC. Although the Moncton RDC's activities were suspended for the rest of 2010 due to funding issues, we have continued to work with the Universite de Moncton to support the reopening of their centre, which will most likely occur in mid-2011. As well, discussions were initiated with researchers at Memorial University in Newfoundland to establish a Newfoundland branch of the UNB-RDC. The MUN-RDC will be opening for business in late 2011.

The UNB-RDC activity levels and outputs in 2010 continued to be the lowest in the RDC network. However, we believe that our efforts at increasing activity by conducting information sessions and outreach to other faculties at UNB, to government and to the non-government sector will begin to pay off in 2011. With branches in Moncton and Memorial, the UNB-RDC should be on a much sounder basis in terms of activity and funding support.

Ted McDonald Academic Director

#### **Section One: Background Information**

#### a. <u>UNB-RDC Contact Information</u>

38 Dineen Drive, Keirstead Hall Room 320 University of New Brunswick Fredericton, New Brunswick

E3B 5A3

Phone: (506) 458-7240 Facsimile: (506) 458-7240 E-mail: rdc@unb.ca

Web Site: www.unb.ca/rdc

#### b. UNB-RDC Staff

Dr. Ted McDonald Academic Director

Zacharie Tsala-Dimbuene Statistics Canada Analyst

Beth Fairbairn Administrative Officer, CRISP

Hasnain Mirza IT Support

Siobhan Hanratty Library Liason, webpage design

#### c. <u>UNB-RDC Management Committee</u>

Advisory Committee Members				
Dr. Ted McDonald UNB-RDC Academic Director	Andy Scott UNB Andrews Senior Fellow in Social Policy			
Dr. Gregory Kealey				
UNB VP-Research				
Elizabeth Hamilton UNB Data Services				
Dr. Nicole Letourneau UNB CRC Nursing				
Dr. Lucia Tramonte UNB Department of Sociology				
Stephanie Slauenwhite Assistant Dean of Arts				
Ex-Officio Members				
Beth Fairbairn CRISP	Zacharie Tsala Dimbuene Statistics Canada Analyst			

#### d. Operation of the RDC

Number of Stations: 6

Operating Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 to 17:00

#### Criterion 1: Total Contracts and Total Number of Researchers: Expectations and Achievements

#### **Definitions**

Dormant: a researcher has asked for time-out from the contract.

Incomplete: there is not activity in the contract and the researcher has not informed the RDC Director of this.

Article in Review: a product has been delivered to the RDC program and the paper is being reviewed.

Primary: refers to the RDC where the original contract was signed and is defined by the location of the principal investigator.

Secondary: is defined as other locations where the research activity is taking place.

#### Note:

The information for this table will be provided for each Centre by Statistics Canada by the end of March of each year and sent to the Centres. You need not fill in this section unless you wish to verify the totals supplied by Statistics Canada.

		Summary of the	NB-RDC] ne Number of C pleted and Wit			
	Contracts	Contracts	Contracts	Contracts	Contracts	Contracts
	Started	Started	Completed	Completed	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
[2010]	6	0	2	0	0	0

[NB-RDC] Summary of the Total Number of Researchers For Contracts Started in each Primary and Secondary RDC				
[2010] Primary	[2010] Secondary	# of International Researchers as of December 31, [2010]	Since Inception of the Program as of December 31, [2010]	
12	0	0	3	

# Vignette #1: Adolescents' Risky Behaviors – Training for Advanced Undergraduate Students [Lucia Tramonte and Lucia O'Sullivan]

This project explores environmental and family characteristics affecting adolescents' chances to undertake risky behaviours, such as binge drinking, consuming soft and hard drugs, and having unprotected sex, as well as to get involve with criminal behavior. The project involves the use of up to 8 cycles of the National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth (NLSCY), and the study explores longitudinally and cross-sectionally the interactions between peers' behavior, parental monitoring, socio-economic background of the family and of the neighbourhood, and adolescents' risk taking. This project is a collaboration between Drs. Tramonte (Sociology) and O'Sullivan (CRC, Psychology) and involves the participation of a number of upper level undergraduate students who are involved in a honours program and are about to enter the graduate program at the University of New Brunswick or at other universities across Canada.

Students planning to do honours take the course SOCI 3100 'research design'. During the second term of SOCI3100, students learn how to do data cleaning, descriptive analyses, as well as how to run correlation and regression models by using SPSS software with syntax based commands. Students are trained on the NLSCY public data. Among the best performing students in the class, a small number are selected who, as part of their honours theses, can replicate, expand, or modify the analyses that were learned in class on the NLSCY public data. Students choose original research questions within the boundaries of project 079, which means that ideas and hypotheses have to gravitate around the main topic of the project.

The collaboration with the students has been so far smooth, very productive, and highly creative. Drs. Tramonte and O'Sullivan work constantly with them to develop new indicators, recode variables, and create a sort of data library for the NLSCY; students can share syntax commands and indicators produced by me or by their colleagues, but for their theses they accomplish original data modeling.

Students who have performed their honours theses in the RDC, under project 079, have been advised to create posters summarizing their main research questions and results. For those who will maintain an interest towards adolescence, youth and risky behavior, students revise the theses and develop them into publications for submission to peer reviewed journals.

# Vignette #2 Cancer-related health behaviors among Inuit and non-Inuit residents of Canada's North [Ted McDonald]

The objective of this work was to identify the extent to which demographic, socio-economic and geographic factors account for differences between Inuit and other Northern Canadian residents in health-related behaviours and health service use related to cancer incidence and diagnosis. Specifically we were interested in the extent to which documented differences in smoking, obesity and other dimensions between Inuit and non-Inuit could be explained by differences in socio-economic status, in demographic characteristics, and in geographic location and remoteness, and how much was specific to Inuit residents (and so possibly reflecting socio-cultural factors). The study made use of multiple nationally-representative cross-sectional datasets, including the CCHS and APS surveys as well as the Northern component of the NPHS. The study population included Inuit, Métis, First Nation and non-Aboriginal residents aged 21-65 who live in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Labrador, Nunavik and Jamésie in northern Quebec, and the northern regions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The analysis considered the determinants of a range of health behaviors that have been conclusively shown to affect the likelihood of developing cancers of various types: cigarette smoking, binge drinking and obesity. As well, the analysis considered the determinants of differences in the use of a set of basic health service use measures associated with the early detection of cancer, including consultation with a physician, consultation with a nurse, Pap smear testing and mammography.

The paper also made use of geomapping techniques that allowed the calculation of the distance from each individual's place of residence to the nearest hospital. Given the extreme remoteness of much of the regions of study, it was expected that distance would be a significant determinant of health service use. It is also a good measure of remoteness as a determinant of other health behaviors.

While cancer related behaviors and cancer screening were found to be significantly affected by socio-economic status, demographic characteristics, location of residence and distance to a hospital, the key main result of the analysis was that even after accounting for these factors, higher smoking and binge drinking rates and lower rates of female cancer screening were still found among Inuit residents of Canada's north. Instead, this set of health-related behaviours leading to increased cancer risk and to a lower utilization of diagnostic cancer screening appear to be due to unobserved factors specific to Inuit and their unique social-cultural context. The paper recommended that policy interventions to address these problems may need to be targeted specifically to Inuit Canadians and should not be considered in isolation of their broader health, economic and social environment.

The paper was published in 2010 in Social Science and Medicine, the highest ranked social science journal.

#### Measure and Weighting of Output for the Calendar Year, 2010

	UNB-RDC				
Rating	Units	<b>Un-weighted Total</b>	Weighted Total		
0.5	Completed Projects	2	1		
2.0	Books	0			
1.0	Edited Book	1	1		
1.0	Book Chapters	1	1		
1.5	Refereed Articles	5	7.5		
2.0	PhD Theses	0			
1.0	MA & Hon. Theses	0			
0.5	RDC Data in Conference, presentations or invited talks (same	9			
0.5	conference presentations may be counted only once)		4.5		
2.0	RDC Conference Organization	0			
0.5	Working Paper Series Publications.	1	0.5		
0.5 to 1.0	Organize Conference Sessions, Workshops, Symposia	1	1.0		
2.0	Full Year Graduate Course (6 credits)	0			
1.0	Semester Graduate Course (3 credits)	0			
1.0	Report Submitted to Policy Group, either Government or	1			
1.0	Non-Profit Group		1.0		
17.0	Total	20	17.5		

#### **Summary of Substantive Comments on Publications**

While the number of refereed publications is up from 2009, our overall activity levels are lower. This reflects both relatively low activity levels as well as slower than expected progress on a number of projects. We expect that as activity increases, research output will also correspondingly increase from current low levels.

Criterion 2a: A Measure of Research with Social Science and Significant Health Component\*

Summary of Contracts for 2010			
Category	Count	% of Total	
Social Science	15	97	
Significant Health Component	6	53	
Less dominant Health Component	2	13	
Total Health Component	8	67	
No Health Component	8	33	
Total Number of Projects	16	100	

<sup>\*</sup> See Attachment 1 where details on all contracts active in the year are to be reported.

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UNB-RDC Summary of Training and Employment For 2010				
	Thesis in Progress	Thesis Completed	Other Responsibilities	
Undergraduate	3		1	
Masters	1		1	
Doctoral	1		4	
Postdoctoral				

<sup>\*</sup>See Attachment 2 for list of all students doing theses or dissertation work during the calendar year.

#### **Summary of UNB-RDC Training and Employment**

Many departments at UNB have no Ph.D. program, and Master's programs tend to be relatively small. Nevertheless, student-related activity in the RDC in 2010 was very good. The RDC features prominently when graduate students in Sociology and Economics are considering possible research topics. As well, the RDC is now integrated administratively into the data support services offered by the library, providing another conduit through which graduate students can be directed to make use of the RDC for their research.

**Criterion 4: UNB-RDC Staff** 

UNB-RDC Summary Table of Staff For 2010				
Roles and Responsibilities	Students	Non-Students		
RDC Analyst –Zacharie Tsala Dimbuene		1		
Technician - Hasnain Mirza		0.2		
Professional Research Associate				
Administrative Support Staff - Beth Fairbairn		0.2		
Statistical Assistants (part-time, Branch staff, extra hour employees) - Hasnain Mirza		0.2		
Knowledge Transfer Staff – McDonald, Hamilton, Fairbairn	•	0.1		
Other(s): Please Specify, Academic Director – Ted McDonald		0.2		
Summary				

<sup>\*</sup>Assuming a 35-hour week, please indicate the percentage of time spent on this function.

#### Criterion 5: Knowledge Mobilization Activities related to the UNB-RDC

#### For 2010

#### List of Activities including Nature and Content

- Information sessions with provincial government departments
- Presentations to NGOs, government departments and agencies as part of NB-SPRN outreach activities
- Statistics Canada workshop on the uses of and research outcomes from NPHS and CCHS

#### **Substantive Comments and Summary of Activities for 2010**

During 2010, we have hosted 10 RDC information sessions for various government departments beginning with the Executive Council in January. Among the sessions were key departments involved in social policy: Health, Post-Secondary Education and Training, and Social Development.

Throughout 2010, the academic director continued to work closely with Andy Scott, Andrews Senior Fellow in Social Policy at UNB, and Eric Gionet, Executive Director of the NB Social Policy Research Network. The NBSPRN is a province-wide network through which academics, students and government can communicate, collaborate, and prioritize research projects. The RDC has become a very important element of the NBSPRN's strategy to develop relationships and advance policy relevant research in the province.

In April 2010, UNB hosted an extremely successful and well attended 3-day workshop on the use of the NHPS and CCHS that was delivered by Statistics Canada's Health Statistics Division. Among the 40+ registered participants were government employees from a range of departments and agencies in Fredericton and Moncton.

#### List of Training Sessions including Types of Statistical and Methodological Topics Covered

# Statistics Canada Health Division – Analysis of NPHS/CCHS microdata April 2010 26-28 $\,$

This workshop was intended to familiarize government and academic participants with analytical capabilities required for working with Health Division cross-sectional and longitudinal microdata files. 42 people were registered for at least one day of the three day workshop.

#### Criterion 6: Networks of Collaboration, Partnerships in Research and Interdisciplinary Work

#### List of discipline of researchers involved in UNB-RDC

Disciplines of Principal Investigators: Education/CRISP; Economics; Interdisciplinary studies; Nursing; Demography; Math/Stats; Psychology; Sociology; Civil Engineering; Biomedical;

#### Other Collaborators at UNB

UNB Applied Math Centre
Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering

#### **Research Partnership Networks:**

New Investigators Network: Doug Willms, Nicole Letourneau, Lucia Tramonte, Dana Wilson Atlantic Network for Prevention Research: Doug Willms, Lucia Tramonte, Dana Wilson

RURAL Centre (Dalhousie): Doug Willms, Justine Gibbings Canadian Literacy and Language Research Network: Doug Willms

Active Healthy Kids Canada: Doug Willms

Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network: Ted McDonald

Metropolis Project: Ted McDonald

Social and Economic Dimensions of an Aging Population: Ted McDonald NB Social Policy Network: Ted McDonald, Doug Willms, Lucia Tramonte

#### **Collaboration with NGOs:**

Canadian Education Association Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick

#### Criterion 7: Summary of Major Objectives, Challenges and Achievements of the UNB-RDC

The main challenge for the UNB-RDC continues to be to increase activity levels, particularly the number of graduate students using the centre. With no medical school and only a handful of social science departments with Ph.D. programs, the UNB-RDC's management committee has continued to work to broaden the user base to encompass researchers from other departments and faculties such as Kinesiology and Engineering as well as researchers from other universities such as St. Thomas University and the SJ campus of UNB. The Moncton branch of the RDC remained closed for the latter half of 2010 because of funding issues, so that little of the activity and none of the output reflect the Moncton RDC. Nevertheless, our vision of an NB-RDC network serving all four of NB's universities as well as provincial government departments and agencies in both Fredericton and Moncton continues to develop in partnership with the NB Social Policy Research Network. In addition, a number of research contracts from HRSDC and CLSRN have brought in additional operating revenue.

#### **Criterion 8: Annual Projections**

2011 is proving to be a very active year for us in terms of contracts approved, involvement of graduate students, and general activity in the RDC, including one of only a handful of RDCs involved in second phase of the CCR Cancer Registry Pilot. While 2010 was another rebuilding year, we have worked very hard during 2010 and 2011 to lay a firm foundation for growth. We feel that 2010 was a turning point and that next year's annual report will reflect the strength of that foundation in terms of increases in activity and output. With active branches in Moncton and Memorial as well as a partnership agreement with the NB-SPRN, we will have a sound financial basis that will begin to relieve the financial burden of the RDC that is currently being borne by the office of the VP-Research.

#### Section Two: RDC Operating Budget: Revenue and Expenses Report for Fiscal Year 2010/11

#### Note:

While RDC activity is based on calendar year, the financial report is based on the fiscal year of your University (e.g. April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>).

#### **Summary of Revenue**

UNB-RDC Summary of Revenues April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011			
Period	2010		
University	\$64,182.28		
CRISP	\$13,200.00		
UNB Libraries	\$1500.00		
SSHRCC	\$31,078.00		
CIHR (Grant 2001-2005)	\$		
CIHR	\$31,078.00		
Other-RDC-NCC	\$		
HRSDC	\$		
Fee for Service	\$7457.00		
Other	\$		
Total Revenue	\$148,495.28		

#### **Summary of Expenses**

Summ	UNB-RDC nary of Expenses 10 – March 31, 2011			
		COSTS		
	Direct	In Kind	Total	
Statistics Canada Services	126,682.28			
Director Buy-Out of Time and Responsibilities				
Secretarial and Administrative Staff		12,000.00		
Translation Services				
Student Support for Longer Opening Hours				
Statistical and Methodological Services				
Supplies, Telephone, Security	1000.00			
Computer Software, Supplies and Licenses	2000.00			
Computer Assistance	2000.00	1200.00		
Computer Depreciation and Replacement	4000.00			
Local Governance, Conference, Receptions	1250.00			
Workshops, Courses, Training				
Travel (not Directors or training)	1250.00			
Fellowship, Incentives Grants				
Dissemination (Website, Promotion of RDC)		1500.00		
Branch RDC's Annual Costs				
Other				
Actual Square footage of Centre (not dollars)			870 Square Feet	
Total	\$138,182.28	\$14,700.00	\$152,882.28	

Summary Table of Percentage Contributions April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011			
Institution	Institution Percentage of Contribution		
University of New Brunswick			
	Cash Contributions – Operating	48.2%	
	In-kind Contributions	9.9%	
Total UNB-RDC		58.1%	
SSHRC/CII	HR – Grant (2010)	41.9%	

#### Attachment 1

## **Principal Investigator Survey Form**

			Significant	Some Health
			Health	Component
Contract ID	PI	Project Title	Component	
08-SSH-UNB-	Wilson	Youth Gambling in		
1590		Canada, Atlantic		
		Canada and Nunavut		
08-SSH-UNB-	Willms	The Impact of Linguistic		
1654		Heritage on Students		
		Choice of Educational Pathways		
08-SSH-UNB-	McDonald	Immigrant Doctors in the	X	
1793	WicDonald	United States and	A	
1100		Canada: Labour Market		
		Performance and		
		Migration Decisions		
09-SSH-UNB-	Farnworth	Smoking and	X	
2109		immigration		
09-SSH-UNB-	Letourneau	Maternal distress and	X	
2114		the development of	11	
		atopic disease in		
		children: Potential		
		pathways and		
00 0011 0001	Managerial.	interventions		
09-SSH-COOL- 2094	Worswick	Racial Discrimination		
2094		and Immigration: A Cohort Analysis of the		
		Earnings of Visible		
		Minority Groups in		
		Canada		
09-SSH-COOL-	Worswick	Incidence, Occupational		
2099		outcomes and Returns		
		to Apprenticeship		
		Training in Canada: The Role of Family		
		Background and		
		Immigrant Status		
09-SSH-UNB-	Clark	Sociodemographic	X	
2133		Predictors of Prevalence		
		Rates and Health		
		Service Utilization		
		Patterns for Anxiety and		
		Depression in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia,		
		Ontario and Quebec		
09-SSH-UNB-	Zhong	Advancing		
2183		Transportation Data		
		Systems for Timely		
		Informationn Delivery		
		and Improved		
		Parameter Estimation		

09-SSH-UNB- 2214	Tramonte	A Multilayered Perpective on Adolescents' Riksy Behaviours. The Interaction between Individual Characteristics, Family and Peer Relationships, and Community Resources and its Effects on Canadian Adolescents		X
10-SSH-UNB- 2316	Holland	The Returns to education When Wages and Prices Vary by Location in Canada: An Empirical Invesigation		
10-CCR-UNB- 2458	McDonald	An investigation of Cancers of the Head and Neck Using CCR Data	X	
10-SSH-UNB- 2487	Haan	Cohort Progress Toward Household Formation and Homeownership: A Comparison of immigrant Visible Minority Groups in Canada and the United States		
10-SSH-UNB- 2528	Chledowski	The Provision of and Access to Mobility and Prosthetic devices in Atlantic Canada	X	
10-PRG-2529- S003	McDonald	Retirement Incomes of Immigrants in Canada: 1991-2006		X
10-HRD-UNB- 2560	Haan	How do Returns to Education Compare to Work Experience?		

#### Attachment 2 Contracts with Student Involvement in Calendar Year (Duplicate the table as necessary)

#### Contract #

Name of student	Riad Mustafa
Department affiliation	Civil Engineering
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	Ph.D.

#### Contract #

Name of student	Ahad Beykaei
Department affiliation	Civil Engineering
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	Ph.D.

#### Contract #

Name of student	Adriana del Palacio Gonzalez
Department affiliation	Psychology
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	Ph.D.

#### Contract #

Name of student	Earle, Jessica
Department affiliation	Sociology
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	Honours

#### Contract #

Name of student	Gibbings, Justine
Department affiliation	Interdisciplinary Studies
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	PhD

#### Contract #

Name of student	Mather, Lindsay
Department affiliation	Sociology
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	Honours

#### Contract #

Name of student	O'Brian, Kelsey
Department affiliation	Sociology
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	Honours

#### Contract #

Name of student	Holland, Margaret
Department affiliation	Economics
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	MA

#### Contract #

Name of student	Connell, Chris
Department affiliation	Economics
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	MA

#### Contract #

Name of student	Chledowski, Beata
Department affiliation	Interdisciplinary
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	In progress
Level of study, MA or PhD	PhD

#### Contract #

Name of student	Flores, Marco
Department affiliation	Biomedical Engineering
University affiliation:	UNB
Academic degree completed or in progress	Research assistant with Chledowski
Level of study, MA or PhD	BSc