

## **APPENDIX B**

### **ABOUT THE DATA**

#### **Data Sources**

The data presented in this report were compiled by Statistics Canada from the 2003 annual personal income tax returns. For the most part, these returns were filed in the Spring of 2004. The mailing address at the time of filing is the basis for the Forward Sortation Areas (FSA's) / Postal Codes associated with the data. Non-residential postal areas are therefore shown as having no data as no tax returns were addressed to such locations.

#### **Data Rounding and Suppression**

Data cells are rounded and suppressed to protect the confidentiality of tax filers. For example, a cell count of 15 is rounded to 20, and a cell count of 24 is rounded to 20. Dollar amounts are similarly rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

In addition, data have been intentionally suppressed or omitted when they are determined to breach confidentiality. This includes the following situations:

1. Areas comprising less than 100 tax-filers;
2. Cells represent less than 15 tax-filers; and
3. A single tax-filer dominates cell(s).

The implementation of these data rounding and suppression policies means that data for individual postal areas may not add-up to the city total.

#### **Data Quality**

The data appearing in the tables are taken directly from the T1 Family File (T1FF), built from the income tax and the Canada Child Tax Benefit records. Information on income is obtained from the taxfilers, for both themselves and their non-filing spouses. Demographic information is derived from taxfilers and non-filing spouses and/or children, such as the estimates of the "number of persons".

The initial taxfiler population used to develop the estimated population counts represents over two-thirds of the Canadian population. Taxfilers from the same family including children are matched using common links (e.g., name, address). When there are indications that one or several members of a family are missing (for instance children), those members are imputed. The remaining taxfilers who have not been matched in the family formation process become non-family persons. The resulting population counts approximate the total Canadian population by about 96.1%. The coverage rate for Ontario is slightly higher at 97.8%.

## **Geographic Levels**

Urban Forward Sortation Areas (FSA's) are defined to include all residential addresses covered by the first three characters of a postal code. Rural postal codes comprise of six characters and are identified by a "zero" in the second position of the postal code. A total of 39 FSA's and 18 rural postal codes have been associated with residential addresses in the Ottawa area. The communities and political wards represented by these 57 geographic units are respectively listed in the second and third columns of the data tables. Data for the entire City of Ottawa is also shown at the bottom of the tables.