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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)  
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

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Topic (i): Changes in statistical processes

## **NATIONAL ROUTING SYSTEM**

**Invited Paper prepared by John Menic and Mel Turner, Statistics Canada**

### **Summary**

1. As Canada's National Statistical Office, Statistics Canada traditionally integrates information that originates from provincial administrative sources. A key area of provincial responsibility in Canada is the registration of vital events (births and deaths), which plays an important role in Identity Proofing and eligibility for government services. The National Routing System (NRS) is a secure electronic communications environment permitting provinces and federal departments to exchange vital event information.
2. The scope of the NRS initiative was to establish data standards and create a secure environment for the exchange of data between two data-producing organizations - the Vital Statistics Offices in British Columbia and Alberta - and the data-subscribing organizations - Statistics Canada, Passport Office (PPTC) and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The particular challenge with this initiative was facilitating the electronic exchange of data across the various provincial and federal legacy systems in a standard format, while accommodating each jurisdiction's confidentiality, privacy and data information needs.
3. This paper will report on both the technical achievements and the governance issues that arose in working across multiple federal departments and across jurisdictions. This pilot system is currently operational among the federal government and two provinces; activity continues to expand this approach to all provinces and agencies.