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# Improved access to microdata at Statistics Canada



Telling Canada's  
story in numbers

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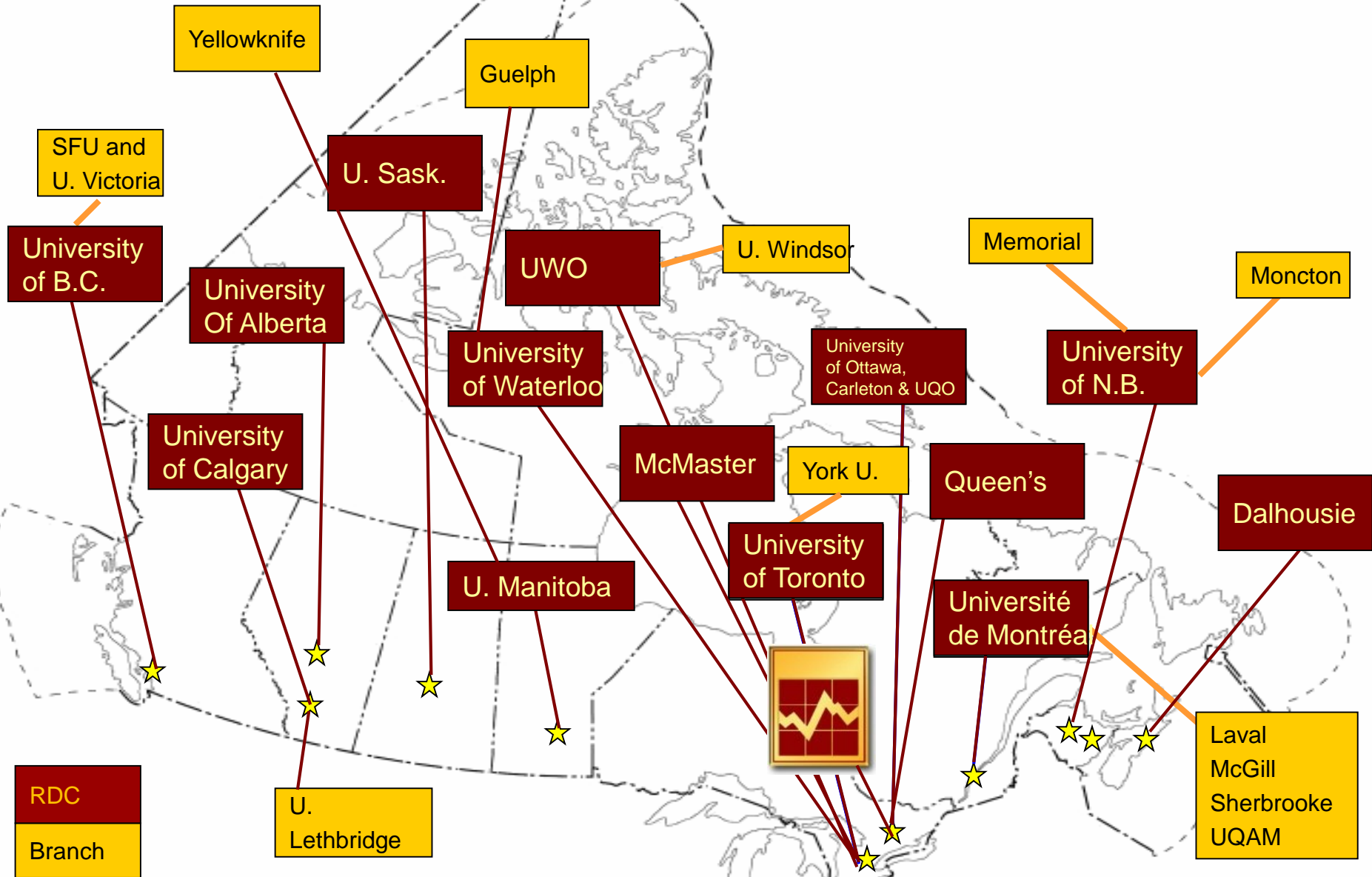
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# A brief history of microdata access

- 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