

December 21, 2005

**Notes regarding March 2002 Isolated Post Survey Point of Supply:**

Since March 2002, the retail environment in Whitehorse has seen three major retail stores open their doors: Wal-Mart, Superstore and Staples. For obvious reasons, these stores are not considered in the context of the attached survey.

However, a recent informal survey (July 2005) of these stores has confirmed that both Wal-Mart and Superstore receive 100% of their product from either Edmonton or Calgary. These stores likely represent a major share of the food and small consumer items purchased by federal employees.

It should be noted that the 2002 survey reports on the origin of a wide range of products, many of which may not be part of the basket of goods. It is interesting to note that an overwhelming majority of food items (89.5%), were, in 2002, coming from Alberta. Food makes up a significant component of the basket of goods considered as part the Living Cost Differential calculation.

In all likelihood, the percentage of goods within the basket of goods having an origin in Alberta has increased between 2002 and 2005.

In the coming weeks, federal employees in Whitehorse will attempt to obtain confirmation regarding the source of supply from the three major chains above. This information will be attached to the 2002 survey, and the overall point of origin of goods will be recalculated.