STATISTICS CANADA'S DETAILED ACTION PLAN

to the recommendations of Report 1— Access to Benefits for Hard-to-Reach Populations of the 2022 Reports 1 to 4 of the Auditor General of Canada

Report Ref. No.	OAG Recommendation	Departmental Response	Description of Final Expected Outcome/Result	Expected Final Completion Date	Key Interim Milestones (Description/Dates)	Responsible Organization/ Point of Contact (Name, Position, Tel #)	*Indicator of Achievement* (For Committee Use Only)
1.31	**Recommendation.** The Canada Revenue Agency, Employment and Social Development Canada, and Statistics Canada should establish a joint prioritization, planning, monitoring, and reporting process to improve how they measure the take-up of benefits. This should include • assessing available and specific data holdings on hard-to-reach populations • defining and implementing actions to collect additional data on specific hard-to-reach populations • improving the use of data in measuring benefit take-up and the sources of gaps in benefit take-up	Agreed. Statistics Canada emphasizes that there are substantial statistical difficulties with computing take-up rates as described in some places in this report (see paragraph 1.24). The challenges result from problems including missing (or non-existent) data, imperfect record linkages, and coverage issues (such as surveys that do not collect data on-reserve or in institutions), which lead to difficulties accurately modelling the size of the population eligible for a benefit. As a result, the use of take-up rates for monitoring and reporting progress is limited, and other solutions must also be used for monitoring and reporting progress on take-up. Despite this, estimated take-up rates can and have been used successfully to help describe differences in take-up between groups and to help identify population groups to target for interventions. The recommendation includes assessing available specific data holdings on hard-to-reach populations, defining and implementing actions to collect additional data on hard-to-reach populations, and improving the use of data in measuring benefit take-up and the sources of gaps in benefit take-up. Once a plan has been agreed upon with the Canada Revenue Agency and Employment and Social Development Canada, Statistics Canada will present funding requirements to federal partners to allow for the work to proceed. Statistics Canada emphasizes that its actions cannot include sharing of confidential microdata with the	CRA, ESDC and Statistics Canada have aligned prioritization, planning, and monitoring of the take-up of benefits for hard-to-reach populations.	End of FY 2023-24	Summer 2022/23: • The CRA, ESDC and Statistics Canada to formalize governance for ongoing prioritization, planning, and reporting on the take-up of benefits for hard-to-reach populations. Winter 2022/23: • The CRA will work with ESDC and Statistics Canada on a second iteration of a project to leverage the most recent Census in order to better understand tendencies in benefit take-up for different segments of the population. Summer 2023/24: • The CRA, ESDC and Statistics Canada to finalize an assessment of current practices, methodologies and data used in planning, monitoring and reporting of the take-up of benefits and identify specific opportunities and measures to improve processes, including the alignment of definitions, the clarification of roles and responsibilities, and associated data requirements. Fall 2023/24: • Statistics Canada will implement where appropriate the plans developed earlier in collaboration, to improve the use of available data and the collection of data, including administrative and qualitative data. Winter 2023/24 • Assess work to date and establish a plan for continuous improvement and refinement of measuring take-up of	Statistics Canada Josée Bégin Director General, Labour Market, Education and Well-being Branch 613-790-7660	

| | | department or agency. | | | benefits for hard-to-reach populations. | | |