

# Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) Accreditation – The Canadian Model



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# Overview of Talk

- Professional Designation-Types considered
- Canadian Model
- SSC Accreditation status
- History of SSC Accreditation

# Historical Background

## SSC Mechanisms to address Applied Members' Needs

- Regional Associations:
  - Statistical Association of Manitoba
  - Southern Ontario Regional Association (SORA)
  - Statistical Society of Ottawa
  - Statistical Society of Montreal
- Sections created starting early 1990's:
  - Biostatistics
  - Survey Methodology
  - Business and Industrial Statistics Section
  - Probability Section
- 1999 SSC Strategic Development Plan identified action item of satisfying the needs of practicing statisticians

# Movement(s) to SSC Accreditation

- Early 1990's SSC attempt at Accreditation based on Engineers' challenge to practice failed in 1994; Engineers' actions led to Canadian Association of Physicists' (CAP) model of Federal Trademarking
- 1995, Professional Standards, New Zealand Code of Conduct: Liaison Editors organized broad spectrum discussion
- 1998, Statistical Society of Australia institutes 2 level Accreditation: presented with background rationale in Liaison

- 1999 SSC Strategic Development Plan identified satisfying the needs of practicing statisticians as an action item
- 2000, extensive Discussion of Accreditation: Liaison; SSC 2000 Annual Meeting Panel Discussion with Australian Accreditation Rep.
- June, 2000: Board approves Ad Hoc Committee, to set stage for national approach, to include ASSQ representative as ASSQ working on Accreditation strategy
- 2001, SSC referendum approved development of strategy for 2 level Accreditation
- July, 2001: Board established Committee for Implementation of Accreditation

- Liaison and SSC Meeting presentations continued. Besides Australian experience, RSS Chartering experience presented by Denise Lievesley.
- June, 2003: Board approves establishment of Interim Accreditation Committee for legal formalization. Jon Baskerville, Chair of Professional Development Committee was member of Committee, as was Pierre Lavallee, “Father of ASSQ Accreditation”, and Geoff Hole, RSS C.Stat.
- October, 2003: Code of Ethical Statistical Practice announced to the membership and posted, comments or objections invited. Only positive responses were received.
- October, 2003: SSC Accreditation process for Federal Trademarking approved in principle by SSC Board:  
  
P.Stat. #1 (Ken McRae), A.Stat. #1 (Statistics Canada nominee – Claude Girard) – both passed Accreditation Committee review
- December, 2003: Trademark application submitted

- March, 2004: SSC Board approved
  - SSC Accreditation legal document
  - P.Stat. on 2 Accreditation Committees
  - Initial Accreditation Committee and Initial Accreditation Appeals Committee
  - First general call for P.Stat. applications (A.Stat. applications on hold pending sufficient # P.Stat. for good matching with P.Stat. mentors)
  
- March 21, 2006: Federal Trade-mark posting of P.Stat., A.Stat.
  
- Spring, 2006: First election of Accreditation Committee members
  
- June, 2006: SSC Board approved pilot opening for A.Stat.
  
- October, 2006: General opening of A.Stat.
  
- June, 2007: SSC Board approved Accreditation Committee use of University-specific course checklist list for A.Stat. applications.
  - Accreditation Committee approved first 8 University lists:  
[Acadia University;](#) [Dalhousie University;](#) [Simon Fraser University;](#)  
[Université Laval;](#) [University of Manitoba;](#) [University of Ottawa;](#)  
  
[Université de Sherbrooke;](#) [Université de Montréal](#)

# Background to Process

- Early 1990s, and 2000-2003: Ad Hoc, volunteers
- 2003- 2006, Interim and Initial Accreditation Committees:  
Chosen representative of SSC region,  
applied subject matter,  
employment type,  
male/female
- 2006- Elected by Accredited

# Professional Designation-Types Considered

Some other Canadian professional designations:

- Actuarial (National Charter, Act of Canadian Parliament)
- Professions of Medicine, Law, Engineers (Provincial Charter)
- Physicists (National Federal Trademark)

Statistical:

- ASSQ (A.Stat.)
- RSS (G.Stat., C.Stat.)
- Australian (G.Stat., A.Stat.)
- ASA failed Certification (curriculum guidelines for undergraduate, possibility of exams, integration of statistical theory to area of application and ability to communicate about it, code of ethics)

# SSC Accreditation

- Integration of statistical theory to area of application; formal training, or demonstration of equivalency
- Professional development appropriate to area of application; 6 years cumulative applied practice for P.Stat; then, ongoing professional development
- Code of Ethical Statistical Practice
- Oral and written communication skills, demonstrated appropriately for area of practice: 3 levels of confidentiality review
- University-specific course list for A.Stat.; mentoring

# Program

- National Licensee #, certificate, seal
- Announcement and photo in Liaison
- Public Registration at SSC website:  
Name, Employer, Identification Picture (coming),  
Careers in Statistics short bios of Accredited (coming)
- Accredited only access database for professional networking
- Accredited only area of SSC website for professional resources (coming)
- Professional Development aimed at Accredited' needs, accessible regionally, or nationally through virtual meetings, weblinks, etc. (coming)
- Standards with Appeals process
- SSC Membership required, Annual dues, Annual filings of current interests for networking and Professional Development

# Past Application Date:

February 1, for approval  
at June Board

Next Application Date:

June 30<sup>th</sup>, for approval  
at October Board

**[www.ssc.ca](http://www.ssc.ca)**

Must have some connection to  
Statistical practice in Canada.





# Chronologically, within category

- Accreditation Chairs:
  1. Fernando Camacho;
  2. (Co-Chairs) Ernie Enns, Ken McRae;
  3. Judy-Anne Chapman;
  4. Carl Schwarz;
  5. Neil Arnason
- SSC Professional Development: Sheryl Bartlett; Jon Baskerville
- Professional Image Designers: Sheryl Bartlett, Ken McRae, Ivan Hon, Judy-Anne Chapman, Christian Genest
- Members of Ad Hoc, Implementation, Interim, and Initial Accreditation Committees
- SSC Presidents: Jack Kalbfleisch, Louis-Paul Rivest, David Brillinger, James Ramsay, Mary Thompson, Nancy Reid, David Binder, Charmaine Dean
- Editors of Liaison: John Nash, Charles Patrick, Roman Viveros-Aguilera, Yogendra Chaubey
- Web Master: Peter Macdonald
- Accreditation Chair of Programming: Judy-Anne Chapman
- Accreditation Chair of Professional Development: Sheryl Bartlett
- Accredited: 108 P.Stat., 31 A.Stat.