

## *Course Offering*

# **Statistical Tools for Policy Analysis Including Data Analysis using Excel**

Conducted by  
Richard Shillington  
Winter 2016

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### ***Introduction:***

My name is Richard Shillington and after 25 plus years as a data analyst working for various players on issues related to social and economic policy, I have started to ease into retirement. I believe there is a need for those active in policy analysis for a course on how statistical tools are used, and somehow abused, in policy analysis.

This course has been offered over the last 3 years in Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver. It was well received. Customized versions were recently conducted for the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Employment and Social Services division of the City of Toronto. The scheduling and structure are very flexible so I can customize a course to meet client requirements.

I am looking for participants for my course for Toronto and Ottawa sessions sometime from February to June 2016 (exact timing will depend on participant availability).

This course has 4 half-day sessions. My plan is for 2 full days for the Toronto session and 4 half-day sessions in Ottawa.

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### ***The Course:***

**Statistical Analysis for Public Policy** which covers the use of data analysis and statistics in a policy environment. The emphasis is on the interpretation of analyses conducted by others rather than conducting your own analysis. It does not assume any statistical training.

Participants have found the components on Data Analysis within Excel very useful; they are now incorporated into the course. This covers conducting data and statistical analysis within Excel.

### ***What are my qualifications?***

I have a Ph.D. in Statistics and have taught courses on statistics at universities. I spent time as a civil servant for the Ontario, Saskatchewan and Canadian governments. Since 1984 I have been a self-employed consultant conducting statistical analyses of policy issues related to health, economic policy and human rights. I have given expert testimony before human right tribunals. I have worked for many municipal, provincial and federal government departments as well as commissions of inquiry.

Many of my course examples will come from many years of experience working for federal and provincial commissions and departments. I have spent years publishing research on poverty, income inequality and the design of income support. My efforts have been to encourage programs which are of greater assistance to lower-income Canadians.

### ***Where will it be conducted?***

The policy course will take place at a meeting room: ***To Be Determined***

### ***How do you pay?***

The fee is to be paid by (or at) the first class.

**Statistical Analysis for Public Policy - \$750 + HST**

A reduction can be negotiated for participants paying their own fee.

### ***What if I don't attend? Can I get my money back?***

If the course is not started, money will be refunded.

### ***Need more information?***

Contact me at: [richard@shillington.ca](mailto:richard@shillington.ca)

This flyer is posted in my DropBox; the link for downloading is:

[https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/41504159/Flyer\\_Jan\\_2016.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/41504159/Flyer_Jan_2016.pdf)

The following is an outline for the course.

<b>Course Overview</b>		
<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	
<b>Session 1</b>	History - Uses and Abuses - Examples	Probability - Central Limit Theorem, Statistical Tests
<b>Session 2</b>	Measures of Typical or Representative Values	Statistical Tests: Sorting out Signal from White Noise
<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>Session 3</b>	Measuring Trends in Data, Growth Rates	Regression
<b>Session 4</b>	Percentages, Distributions, Rates and Proportions	Excel Hints & ResearchTools (Data Sources and Software)