



## eBulletin no1

### **Businesses Encouraged to Participate in Survey of Regulatory Compliance Costs**

A key component of the Paperwork Burden Reduction Initiative is a Statistics Canada *Survey of Regulatory Compliance Costs*. We encourage all members of the small business community who are contacted to respond to the survey. The short-term effort on the part of respondents will lead to long-term savings in time and resources for Canadian small businesses.

The survey, which is currently being distributed to approximately 30 000 small and medium-sized businesses across Canada, measures the time, salary cost and frequency involved in preparing and submitting information relating to selected regulations. A larger response rate will provide greater accuracy in assessing the cost for small businesses to comply with key regulatory requirements and in identifying key priorities for burden reduction.

The survey will help us to examine this issue from the small business' perspective, to ensure that the changes make a difference for SMEs. By spending less time and resources complying with government regulations, entrepreneurs will have more time and resources to grow their businesses.

Preliminary results from this benchmark survey are scheduled for release in summer 2006 in Statistics Canada's *The Daily*. A summary of the results will also be posted on the PBRI website (<http://reducingpaperburden.gc.ca>), and key findings will be included in the 2006 Annual Progress Report of the Advisory Committee on Paperwork Burden Reduction to the Minister of Industry.

We will repeat the survey in 2008-2009 in order to measure the government's progress in reducing the costs associated with selected regulations.

Paperwork burden or "red tape" remains a significant concern for small businesses in Canada. Small businesses claim they are spending too much time and resources complying with regulations. In a 2003 survey, members of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business rated government regulation and paper burden second among the most important issues they are facing.

Although all businesses face red tape, the effect of regulations imposed by three levels of government falls disproportionately on smaller businesses. The Government of Canada is responding to these concerns and has committed funding to the Paperwork Burden Reduction Initiative (PBRI) as announced in the 2004 Budget.

For more information about the *Survey of Regulatory Compliance Costs* or the PBRI, please visit the PBRI website (<http://reducingpaperburden.gc.ca>).