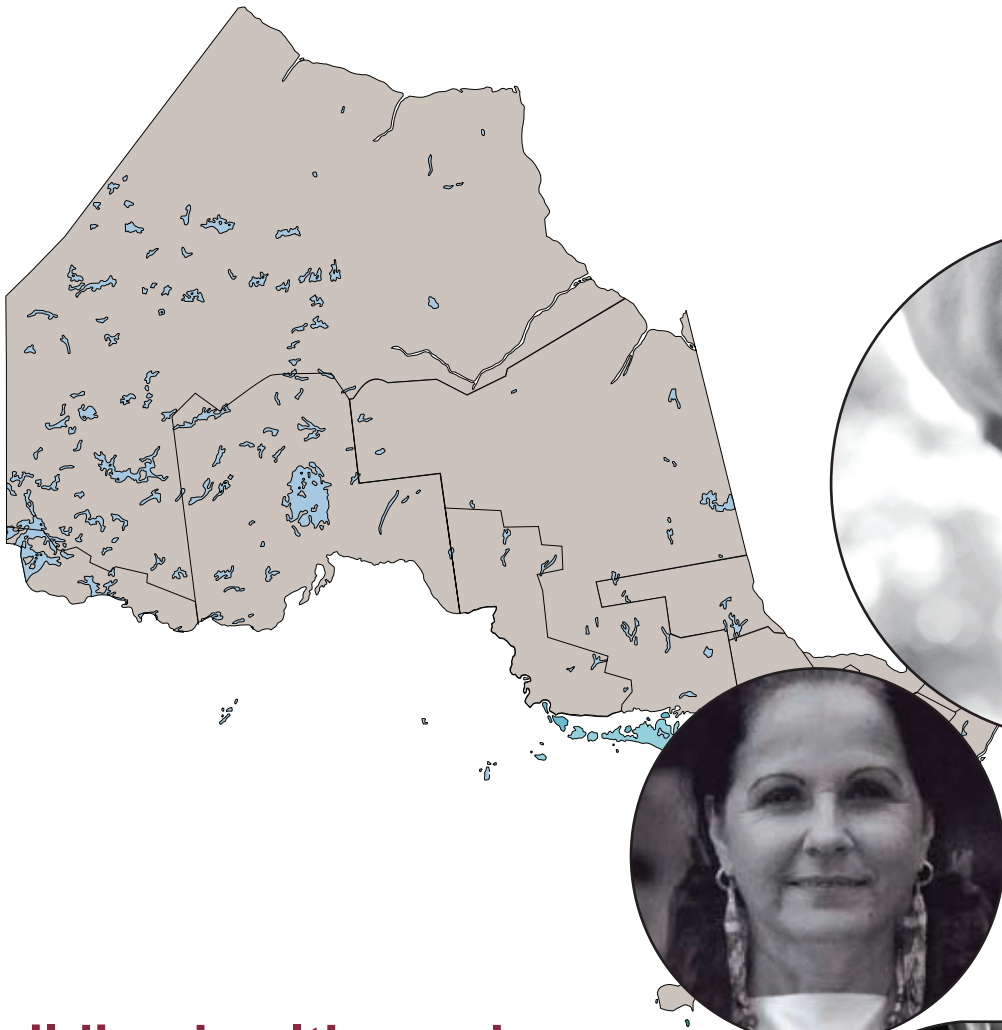


# Aboriginal Communities in Profile: Ontario

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DE L'ONTARIO



**Building healthy and  
vibrant communities**



Ontario

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Métis Elder photo courtesy of Métis Nation of Ontario

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# Aboriginal Communities in Profile: Ontario

## Introduction

Vibrant and complex, the Aboriginal community in Ontario comprises First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples—three distinct and diverse groups with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

The well-being and success of the Aboriginal community is of great importance to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and we feel that sharing recent and pertinent information is beneficial to all of Ontario's people and communities. This provincial profile provides a closer look at the demographic trends in Aboriginal communities in Ontario between 2001 and 2006.

To better understand the trends in Aboriginal communities in Ontario, we have asked Statistics Canada to use the most recent census information to prepare five profiles of Aboriginal communities: one for the Province overall, and one for each of four OTF regions that, for reasons of size, growth, proportion, or other distinct features, invited deeper analysis. The four OTF regions are:

- Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin and Sudbury (ACMS)
- Champlain
- Northwestern
- Quinte, Kingston, Rideau (QKR)

OTF appreciates the work of Statistics Canada in analyzing the data and helping to produce these reports.

*Aboriginal Communities in Profile: Ontario* has been customized to reflect Aboriginal peoples' unique circumstances, provincial characteristics and trends. For convenience, a glossary has also been included to provide definitions for the technical terms used in this document.

### A note about terminology

This report on Aboriginal peoples in Ontario relies on the information collected by Statistics Canada in the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, where people self-identify with at least one of Canada's three Aboriginal groups<sup>1</sup>.

Throughout this report, the terms "Aboriginal people" or "Aboriginal population" are used when referring to all people who identified with at least one Aboriginal group as part of the census.

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<sup>1</sup> For more details see [Methodology and Data Sources](#) section

## **A note about the census**

Each census is a snapshot of the people who took part in the survey on Census Day in that year. Some First Nations groups chose not to participate in the census or enumeration was interrupted before completion<sup>2</sup>. Over the past 10 years Statistics Canada has made a consistent effort to improve enumeration with direct outreach to First Nations communities. Greater outreach, and a greater openness among Aboriginal peoples to self-identify as part of the survey, means that the information from the 2006 Census is the most robust and accurate census to date to better understand the demographic trends among Aboriginal communities in Ontario.

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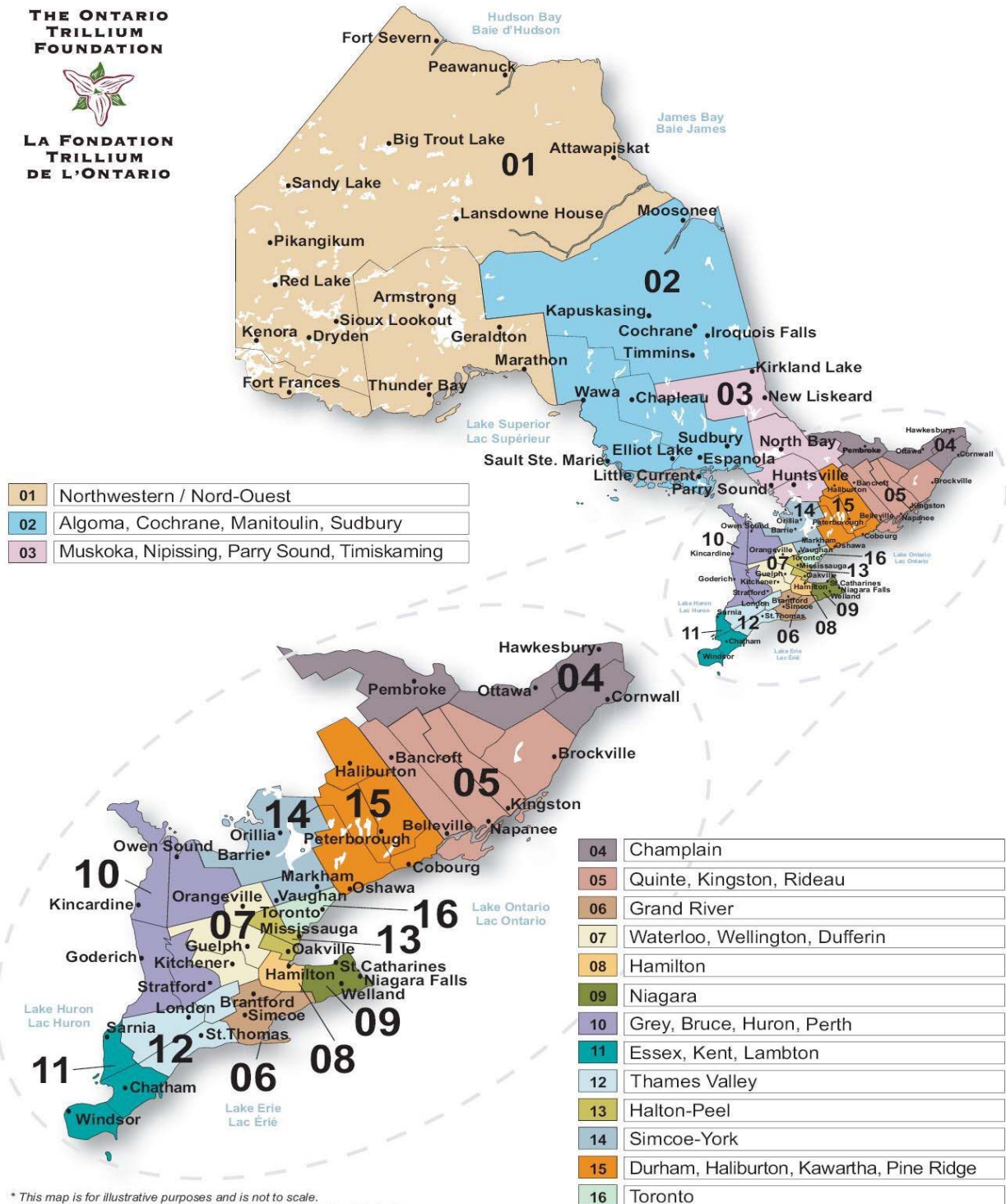
<sup>2</sup> See [Geographic Context for Ontario](#) section for more information

# Ontario Trillium Foundation Granting Areas Map

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\* This map is for illustrative purposes and is not to scale.

\* Cette carte est fournie à titre d'illustration et peut ne pas être à échelle.

# Highlights of Aboriginal Communities in Profile: Ontario

## Aboriginal Communities in Ontario:

### A growing, young population faces unique challenges

- The Aboriginal community in Ontario is younger and growing at a much faster rate than the overall population
- Lower educational attainment, employment and income levels pose major challenges to the community's well-being
- Knowledge and use of Aboriginal languages are at risk

### Growth

Across Ontario and Canada, the Aboriginal community **is growing at a much faster rate when compared to the overall population**. Between 2001 and 2006, this community grew by 28.8% while Ontario's total population increased by 6.6%.

### Distribution

In 2006, there were **242,490 Aboriginal people in Ontario**. About 41% live in the north of the province, with the largest share of people in the Northwest area. Across southern Ontario, **the Aboriginal community is highly urban**, with considerable numbers of people in the cities of Ottawa, Greater Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and London.

Excluding people living on-reserve, more than three-quarters live in urban communities. **Most First Nations people live off-reserve** (70%) and in urban areas.

### Composition

About two-thirds of Aboriginal people in Ontario are First Nations. The Métis are the second largest group (30.4%). Ontario has a **small Inuit population**—just over 2,000 people—and less than 1% of the total Aboriginal population. In 2006, **one in three Inuit people in Ontario lived in the Champlain<sup>3</sup>** area, primarily in the City of Ottawa.

The **Aboriginal community is younger** than the total population overall—there are proportionately more young people and fewer seniors. About **half of all First Nations and Inuit people are under the age of 25 years** (45.8% for First Nations and 55.6% for Inuit people).

### Education, Employment and Income

In Ontario in 2006, **the unemployment rate in the Aboriginal community (12.3%) was nearly double** that of the total population (6.4%). Unemployment rates were particularly high among Inuit (14.9%) and First Nations (13.8%) people.

Aboriginal people in Ontario have **lower educational attainment levels and lower incomes** compared to the non-Aboriginal population. There is a **substantial income gap** for Aboriginal peoples—in 2005 the average income for individuals was **\$12,000 lower** than for non-Aboriginal people. One in three Aboriginal children in Ontario is living below the low-income cut-off.

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<sup>3</sup> Located in Eastern Ontario, Champlain encompasses the City of Ottawa and the counties of Renfrew; Prescott and Russell; and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.



## Aboriginal Languages

Overall, the **knowledge and use of Aboriginal languages is declining** across generations. About one in twenty people use an Aboriginal language at home. **Older Aboriginal people have held onto traditional languages** and are the age group most likely to speak an Aboriginal language at home.

## Ontario Trillium Foundation—responding to trends across the province

Findings like these help provide valuable insight into the Aboriginal community within Ontario, offering communities, volunteers and not-for-profit organizations direction on priority areas where there is need for additional programs and services.

OTF is proud to have supported initiatives that help address these priorities and strengthen Aboriginal communities across the province. Here are a few examples of how OTF funding has supported local organizations across Ontario:

The **National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation** (NAAF) has begun a youth mentoring initiative involving First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth (age 15-30). Beginning with a 2009 research and framework development phase that engages youth as well as potential mentees and partners, the NAAF expects to create a youth mentoring initiative that matches young adults with local role Aboriginal models to help them identify their educational or employment goals.

Educational attainment is often a reliable predictor of future employment or income stability. The **Métis Nation of Ontario** is partnering with Frontier College to establish a literacy program that incorporates Métis culture and history. The program involves volunteers from the Métis community and local university students affiliated with Frontier College to deliver culturally-relevant literacy training to approximately 300 mostly urban Métis people in Toronto, Hamilton, North Bay and Sudbury.

With a desire to provide home-grown, locally generated economic opportunities for its youth, **Moose Cree First Nation** is providing entrepreneurship training and mentoring to youth in Moose Factory and surrounding areas. Local mentors will provide support to budding business men and women. Organizers are projecting up to 10 youth enterprises will be created annually beginning in 2009-2010.

A relatively new Ontario organization is laying the groundwork so that First Nations peoples can have more opportunity to learn, speak and actively use their heritage languages. The **Anishinaabek Mushkegowuk Onkwehonwe Language Commission of Ontario** has begun groundbreaking work to build the capacity of all 134 First Nations in Ontario to speak, understand and use at least one of 13 Aboriginal languages. The commission is helping communities take inventory of existing language programming, and develop action plans for preserving and revitalizing their language.

Helping communities keep heritage languages alive and vibrant goes beyond teaching, documenting and speaking those languages. It can also mean creating new words and agreeing on common terms and meanings. The **Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre**, based in Timmins, has developed and published a glossary of educational terms for use by language interpreters, teachers, and community members who speak Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway. First Nation educators, elders and Ministry of Education staff created a lexicon of new words and phrases in Cree, Oji-Cree or Ojibway for English words that previously had no equivalent.

# Demographics

## Overview

### ***The Aboriginal population in Ontario is growing at a very fast rate***

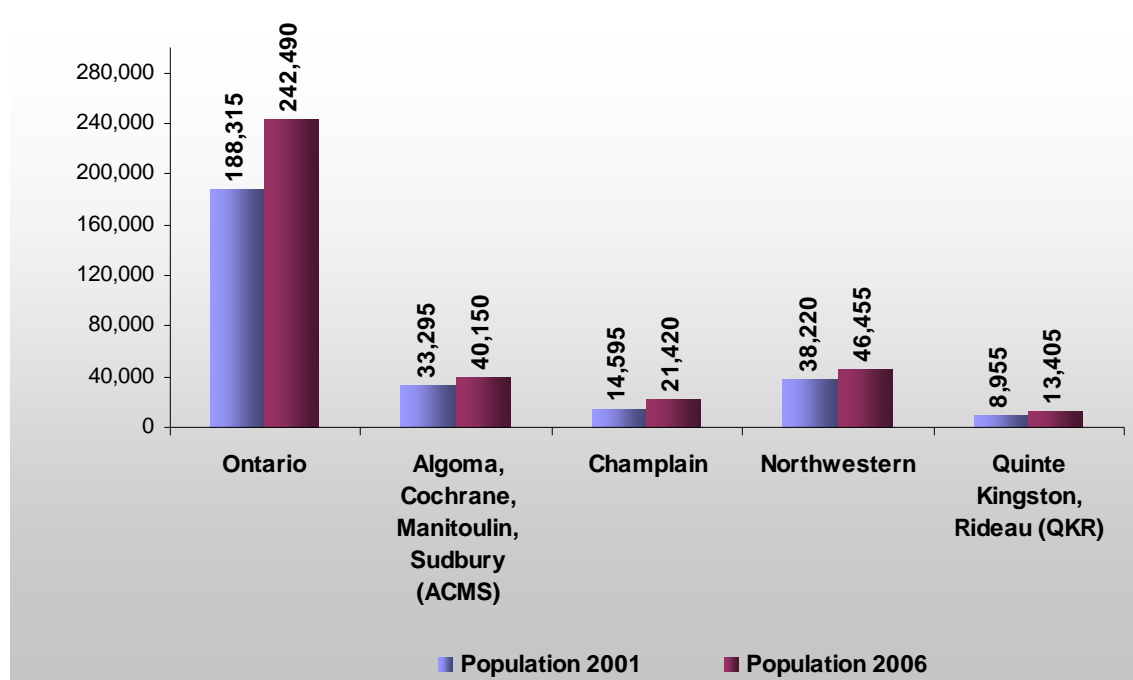
The Aboriginal community in Ontario—First Nations, Métis and Inuit people—grew from 188,315 people in 2001 to 242,490 people in 2006. At that time, Aboriginal peoples were 2.0% of Ontario's total population, up from nearly 1.7% in 2001. The growth rate of this community far outpaced the overall provincial growth rate in that period (28.8% compared to 6.6%). The Métis had the greatest population increase (59.5%), followed by the Inuit (32.4%) and then First Nations people (20.4%).

There are several factors that contribute to this strong growth rate including high birth rates, a greater number of individuals identifying themselves as Aboriginal, and a reduction in the number of incompletely enumerated First Nations Reserves since the 2001 census.

### ***About one-third of Aboriginal people in Ontario live in the North***

In 2006, about 41% of all Aboriginal people lived in Northern Ontario—the part of the province that is north of the French River and Lake Nipissing. To the south, many Aboriginal people live in urban centres, including Ottawa, Greater Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and London. Eastern Ontario, has a substantial number of Aboriginal people across the Champlain<sup>4</sup> and Quinte, Kingston and Rideau areas. [Map](#) and Chart 1.

**Chart 1 – Aboriginal Population 2001 and 2006 – Ontario and Selected Areas**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 2006

<sup>4</sup> Located in Eastern Ontario, Champlain encompasses the City of Ottawa and the counties of Renfrew; Prescott and Russell; and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

### ***Population by Gender***

In 2006, there were 242,490 Aboriginal peoples in Ontario, of which 124,905 were female and 117,590 were male. With slightly more females than males (51.5% compared to 48.5%) the proportion by gender is similar to that of the general Ontario population. Table 1.

**Table 1 – Aboriginal Population by Gender – Ontario and Selected Areas**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Ontario	117,590	124,905
Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Sudbury (ACMS)	19,820	20,330
Champlain	10,400	11,025
Northwestern	23,010	23,445
Quinte, Kingston, Rideau (QKR)	1,540	1,345

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2006

### **Aboriginal groups**

Approximately two in three (65.3%) Aboriginal people in Ontario are First Nations. This includes people living on and off-reserve.

Three in ten Aboriginal people are Métis (30.4%)—slightly lower than the proportion for Canada overall where Métis people make up one-third of all Aboriginal peoples. Few Inuit people in Ontario

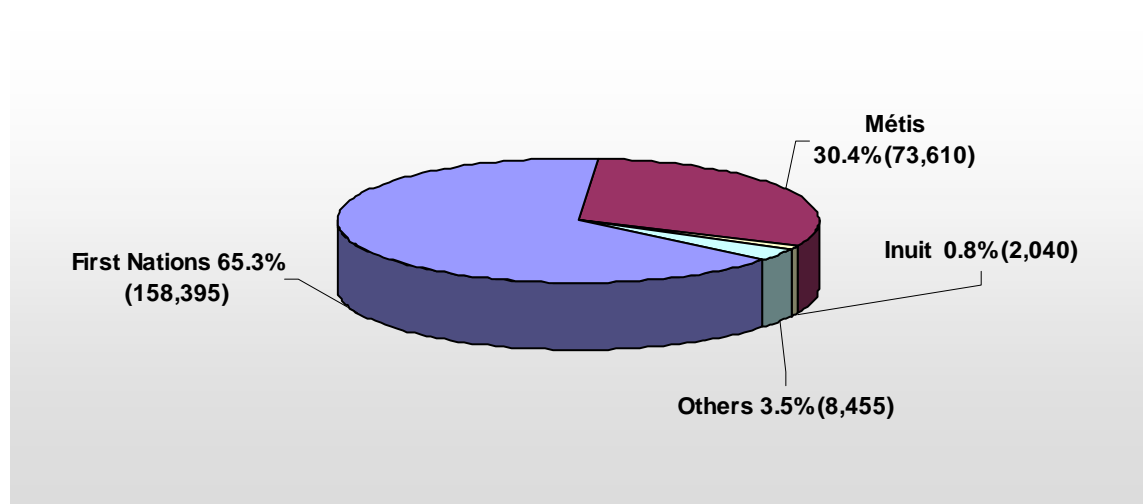
In 2006, Inuit people made up less than 1% percent (2,040 people) of all Aboriginal people in the province. More than one-third lived in the Champlain region, primarily in Ottawa. About 4.3% of all Inuit people in Canada live in Ontario.

Additionally, there are 8,445 individuals<sup>5</sup> in an “Others” group making up 3.5% the total provincial Aboriginal population. Chart 2.

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<sup>5</sup> “Others” includes 1,905 people self-identifying with more than one Aboriginal group and 6,540 people who self-identified as Aboriginal but did not specify the group. “Others” will be included in charts where feasible

**Chart 2 – Aboriginal Groups Population – 2006**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

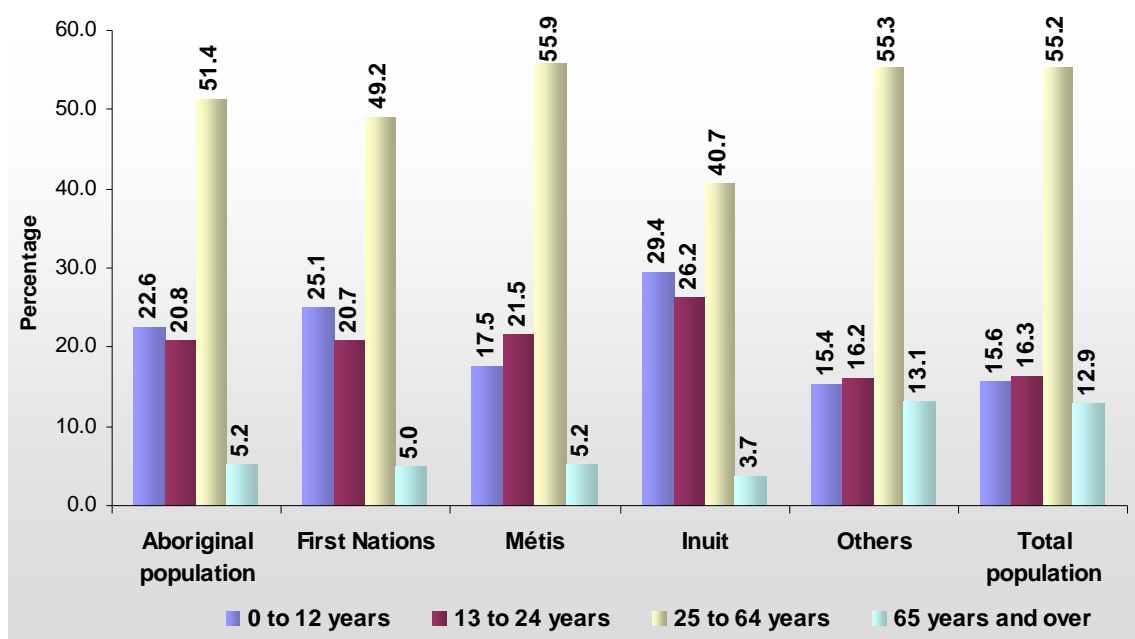
## **Age groups**

### ***A younger population***

The Aboriginal community in Ontario is significantly younger than the overall population; there is a higher proportion of children and youth under 25 years. Though the majority of Aboriginal people are in the 25 to 64 year range, children and youth make up a larger portion (43.4%) than in the total provincial population (31.9%). Chart 3.

In contrast, there are proportionately fewer seniors aged 65 and over (5.2%) compared to the total population (13.6%). Chart 3.

**Chart 3 – Children, Youth, and Adult Age Groups**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

***Inuit population predominately children and youth—few over the age of 65***

The Inuit community is particularly young. In Ontario, more than half of the Inuit people are under 25 years old. By age group, 29.4% are 12 years old or younger and 26.2% are aged 13 to 24 years. Chart 3.

Among all Aboriginal peoples, there are proportionately fewer seniors than in the overall population (5.2% to 12.9%). This is most striking among the Inuit people where 3.7% are people were 65 years and over. This is a lower proportion than for either First Nations (5.0%) or Métis people (5.2%).

In 2001, the estimated life expectancy for Inuit people was 63 years for men and 72 years for women. Notably, Inuit people<sup>6</sup> have shorter life expectancy than Canadians overall—63 years for men and 72 years for women, compared to 77 years and 82 years.

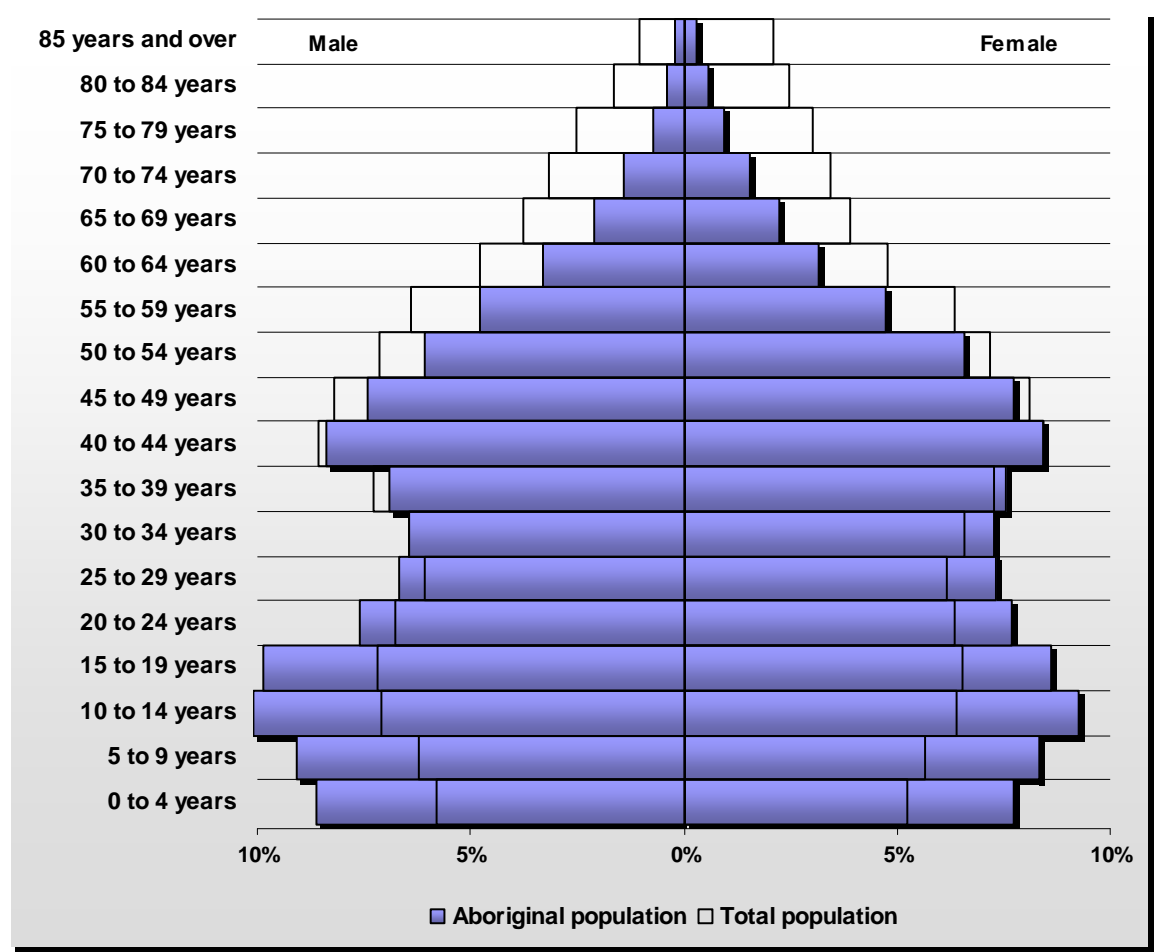
It is not fully understood why the life expectancy of the Inuit population is so much lower than the general population. Analysis<sup>7</sup> of the 2001 Census data revealed lower levels of education, income and poorer housing conditions for Inuit-inhabited areas compared with Canada as a whole. Any or all of these, in addition to other factors and environmental conditions, could contribute to the lower life expectancy in those areas.

<sup>6</sup> Statistics Canada. 2005. Projections of the Aboriginal Populations, Canada, Provinces and Territories. Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91- 547- XIE

<sup>7</sup> Stats Can “The Daily” January 23 2008. From the study “Life expectancy in the Inuit-inhabited areas of Canada, 1989 to 2003” Statistics Canada Health Reports Vol. 19 no. 1 (82-003-XWE)

The age pyramid for Ontario illustrates in more detail the differences between the Aboriginal community and the overall provincial population in terms of age distribution. Unlike the total population, there are proportionately more Aboriginal people in all age categories under 30 years of age and proportionately fewer in the older categories. The pyramid also shows that there are more males than females in all age groups less than 20 years. Chart 4.

**Chart 4 – Age Pyramid for Ontario**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

## On-reserve and off-reserve

### ***Most First Nations people in Ontario live off-reserve***

Only First Nations have reserves—therefore this section is primarily<sup>8</sup> about this group alone. Within Ontario, three in ten (29.7%) First Nations people<sup>9</sup> lived on-reserve while 70.3% lived off-reserve.

Though people living on-reserve in Ontario are predominately First Nations (93.3%), residents also include non-Aboriginal people (5.7%), Métis (0.5%) and those from the Others group (0.5%).

Not all First Nations reserves or settlements participated in the 2006 census so no population counts are available for those areas<sup>10</sup>.

## Urban and rural

### ***Aboriginal people in Ontario are highly urban***

Métis, Inuit and off-reserve First Nations people in Ontario are increasingly urban. In 2006, over three-quarters (77.2%) of this group lived in urban centres.

First Nations and Inuit people are most likely to reside in urban areas. Over half (57%) of off-reserve First Nations people live in large metropolitan areas<sup>11</sup>. Inuit people in Ontario are particularly likely to live in larger urban centres.

Proportionately more Métis live in rural areas than do First Nations or Inuit people.  
Chart 5.

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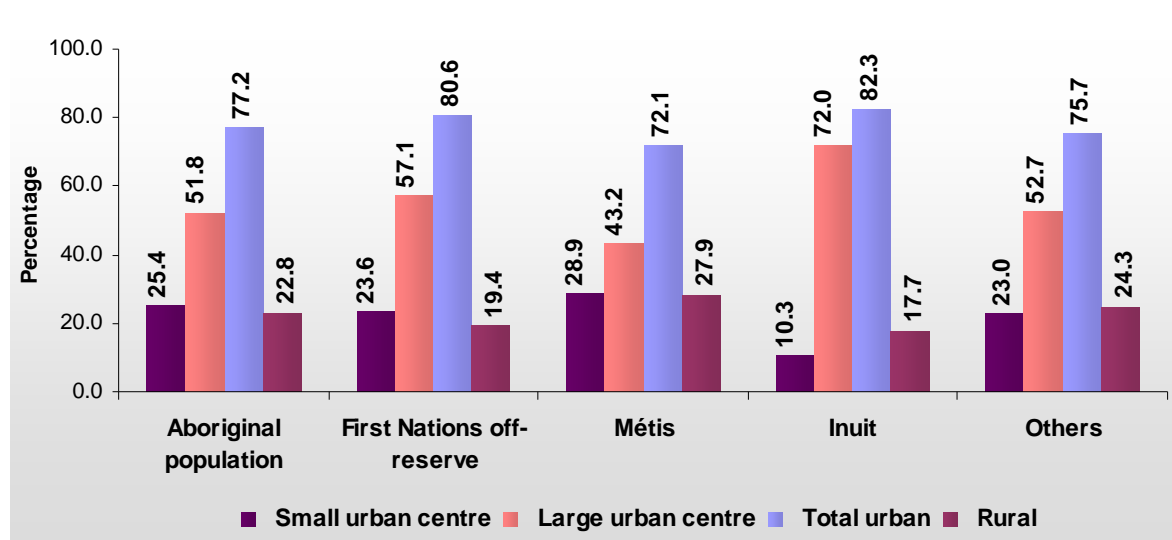
<sup>8</sup> Additionally, 3.2% of people in the Others group indicated that they lived on-reserve

<sup>9</sup> Proportions include both registered and non-registered First Nations people

<sup>10</sup> See [Geographic Context for Ontario](#) section for more information

<sup>11</sup> An area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. Refer to [Concepts and Definitions](#) section—Census metropolitan areas (CMAs)—for more details

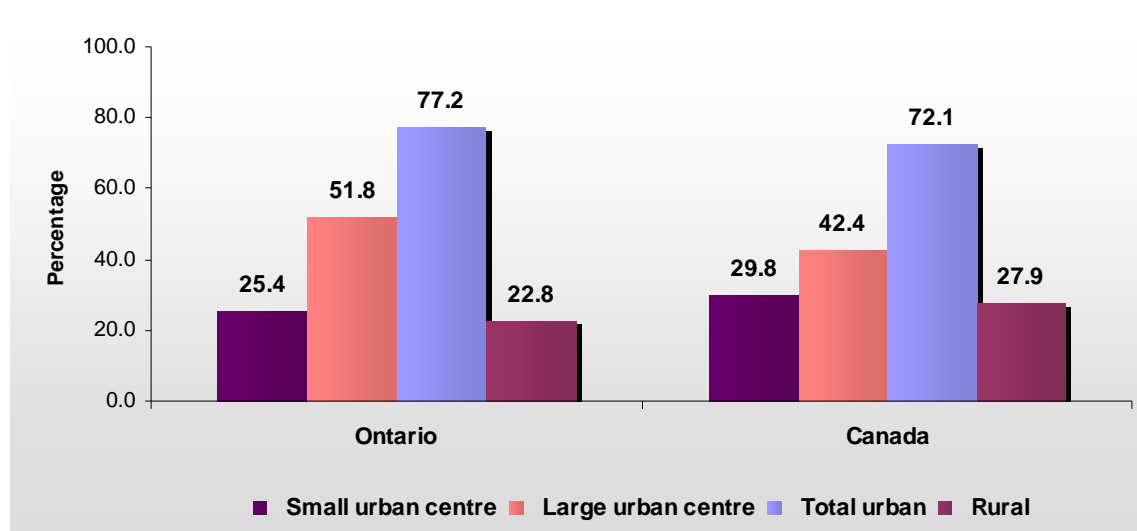
**Chart 5 – Area of Residence for Aboriginal Groups**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

When comparing the degree of urbanization for Métis, Inuit and off-reserve First Nations people in Ontario and Canada overall—those in Ontario are more likely to live in urban centres (77.2% compared to 72.1%). Chart 6.

**Chart 6 – Area of Residence for Aboriginal Population**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006



## Mobility

### ***Greater mobility in the Aboriginal community compared to overall population***

Many Aboriginal people move back and forth between urban and rural communities—as well as reserve communities for some First Nations people. Factors that may contribute to a higher mobility within this community include: being younger, and being concentrated in more remote rural areas<sup>12</sup>, as well as the need for access to post-secondary schooling, employment or health services, and housing affordability.

In Ontario in 2006<sup>13</sup>, 45.8% of Aboriginal people had changed address from where they lived five years before—slightly more than the general population where 41.3% moved in the same period. Of the Aboriginal people who moved, most moved within the same community<sup>14</sup> (26.5%) and very few came in from a different province or country.

As a group, Inuit people have higher levels of mobility—more than half (56.2%) moved in the five years prior to the census. Inuit people are more likely to move between different provinces or territories than Aboriginal people overall (14.4% compared to 2.7%)—not surprising as Inuit Nunaat—Inuktitut for ‘Inuit homeland’—stretches from Labrador to the Northwest Territories.

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<sup>12</sup> Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada 2006 and 2006. Statistics Canada 91-209-XIE

<sup>13</sup> The census counts people where they are living on one particular day—for the 2006 Census this was May 16, 2006

<sup>14</sup> Community in this context refers to Census subdivision (CSD). This may be a reserve, a rural area or a municipality

# Languages

## Aboriginal languages in Ontario

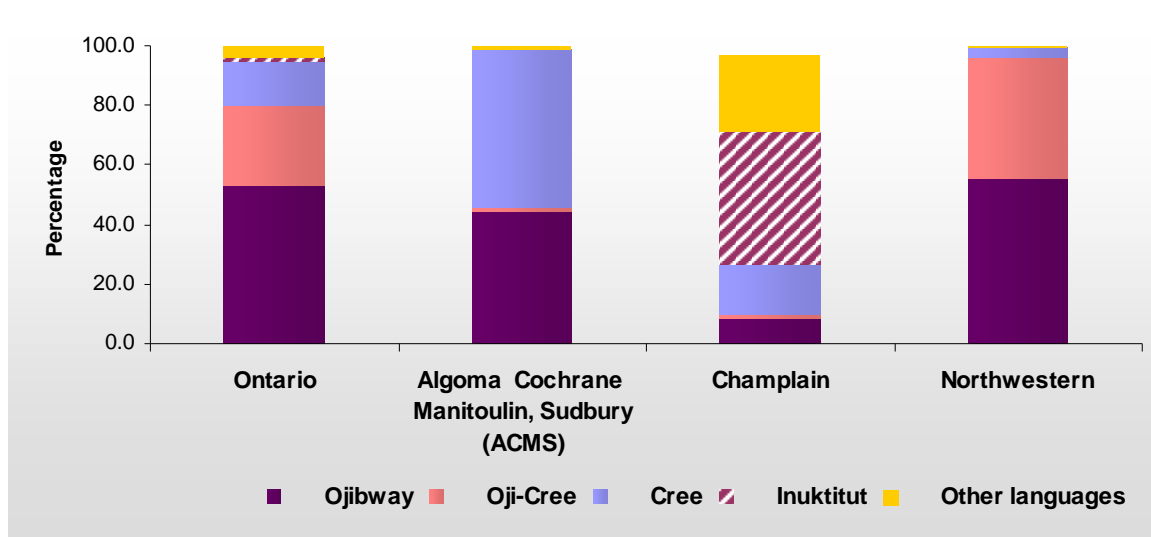
### *Decline in use and knowledge of Aboriginal languages in Ontario*

The use and knowledge of Aboriginal languages within the Aboriginal community has declined between 2001 and 2006. In 2006, 9.8% of all Aboriginal people in Ontario reported that their mother tongue was an Aboriginal language, down from 11.5% in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

Part of this decrease can be attributed to the growing tendency on the part of the individual to identify themselves as Aboriginal—especially among those of Métis heritage, where only a small proportion report being able to speak an Aboriginal language. Other factors influencing the erosion of intergenerational transmission of languages<sup>16</sup> include the prevalence of English and French in daily life; linguistic intermarriage; increased migration between Aboriginal communities as well as to and from cities and reserves; and the legacy of the residential school system.

In Ontario, the most common Aboriginal mother tongue is Ojibway, followed by Oji-Cree and Cree. Regionally there is some variation—in ACMS, Cree is the most prevalent Aboriginal mother tongue while in Champlain it is Inuktitut, though only a small number of people there report an Aboriginal mother tongue. Chart 7.

**Chart 7 – Major Aboriginal Mother Tongue Languages<sup>17</sup>**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

<sup>15</sup> From the 2001 Census Aboriginal Population Profiles

<sup>16</sup> Adapted from Aboriginal languages in Canada: Emerging trends and perspectives on second language acquisition. Mary Jane Norris. Stats Canada–Canadian Social Trends Catalogue No. 11–008-XIE

<sup>17</sup> Total Aboriginal Population by Mother Tongue–Non-Official Languages Single Responses

## Mother tongue

### ***Few off-reserve First Nations people have an Aboriginal language mother tongue***

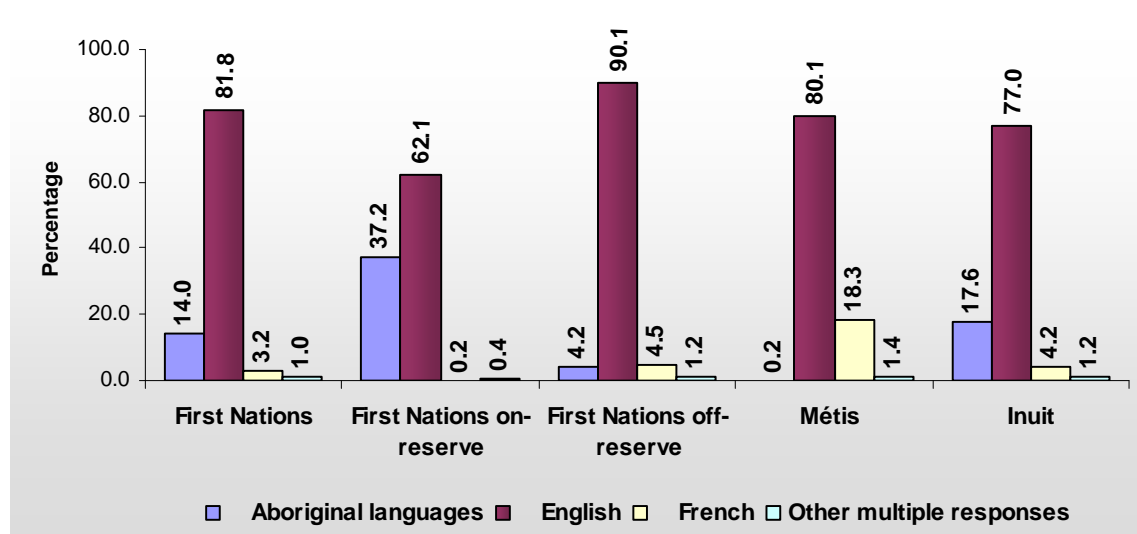
Nearly everyone (98.5%) whose mother tongue is an Aboriginal language is First Nations or Inuit.

In Ontario in 2006, 14.0% of First Nations people had an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue. The rate varies by generation and area of residence. While over a third (37.2%) of people living on-reserve had an Aboriginal mother tongue, it was less than 5% for those living off-reserve. Chart 8.

Generationally, older First Nations people are more likely to have an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue—one-third (32.4%) of seniors said this compared to 16.4% of people 25 to 64 years, 10.5% of people 15 to 24 and 8.8% of children under 15 years.

Proportionately more Inuit people had an Aboriginal mother tongue than First Nations people (17.6% compared to 14.0%). Like First Nations people, having an Inuit language as mother tongue is most prevalent among older generations. Chart 8.

**Chart 8 – Mother Tongue Spoken by Aboriginal Group**



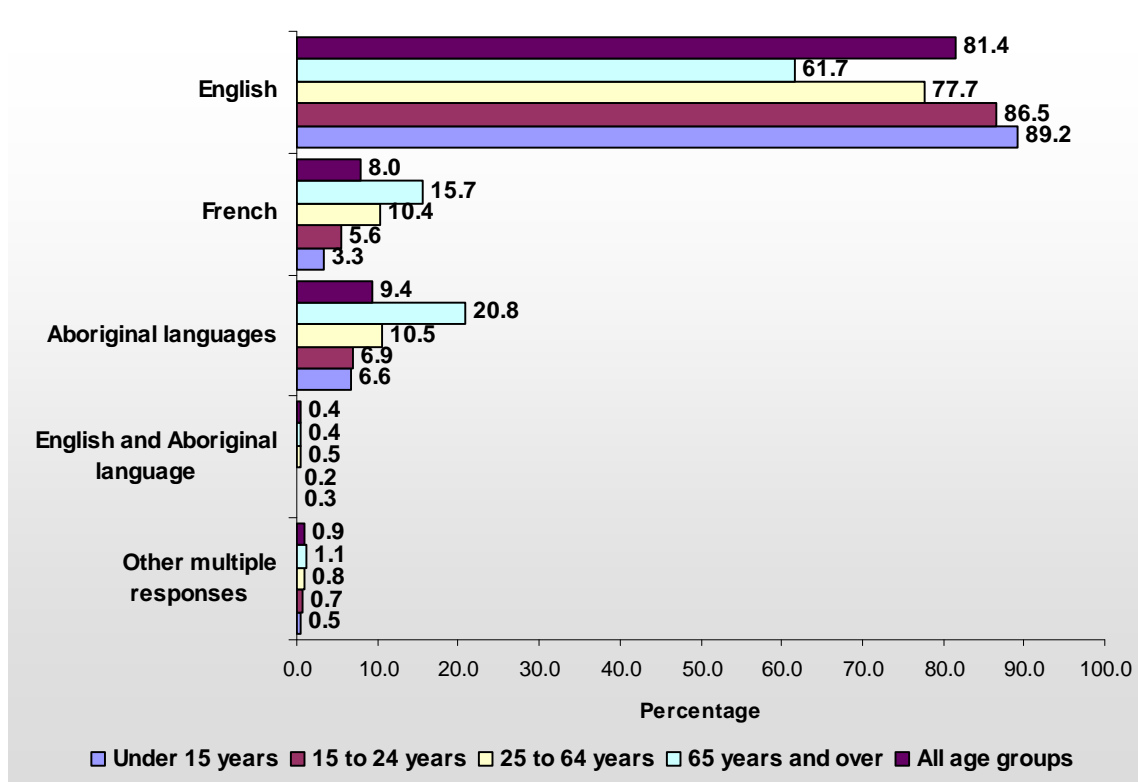
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

### ***Mother tongue for most young Aboriginal people is English***

The mother tongue for the majority of Aboriginal people in Ontario (81.4%) is English. Younger people are much more likely to say English is their mother tongue than are older people. In 2006, nine in ten (91.2%) Aboriginal people under 15 years of age had an English mother tongue compared to six in ten for seniors (61.7%). Chart 9.

A small portion (8.0%) have a French mother tongue—and similar to the trend with Aboriginal languages—older generations are more likely to say this than are the younger generations. Chart 9.

**Chart 9 – Mother Tongue Spoken by Age Group**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

## At home language

### ***Majority of Aboriginal people speak English at home***

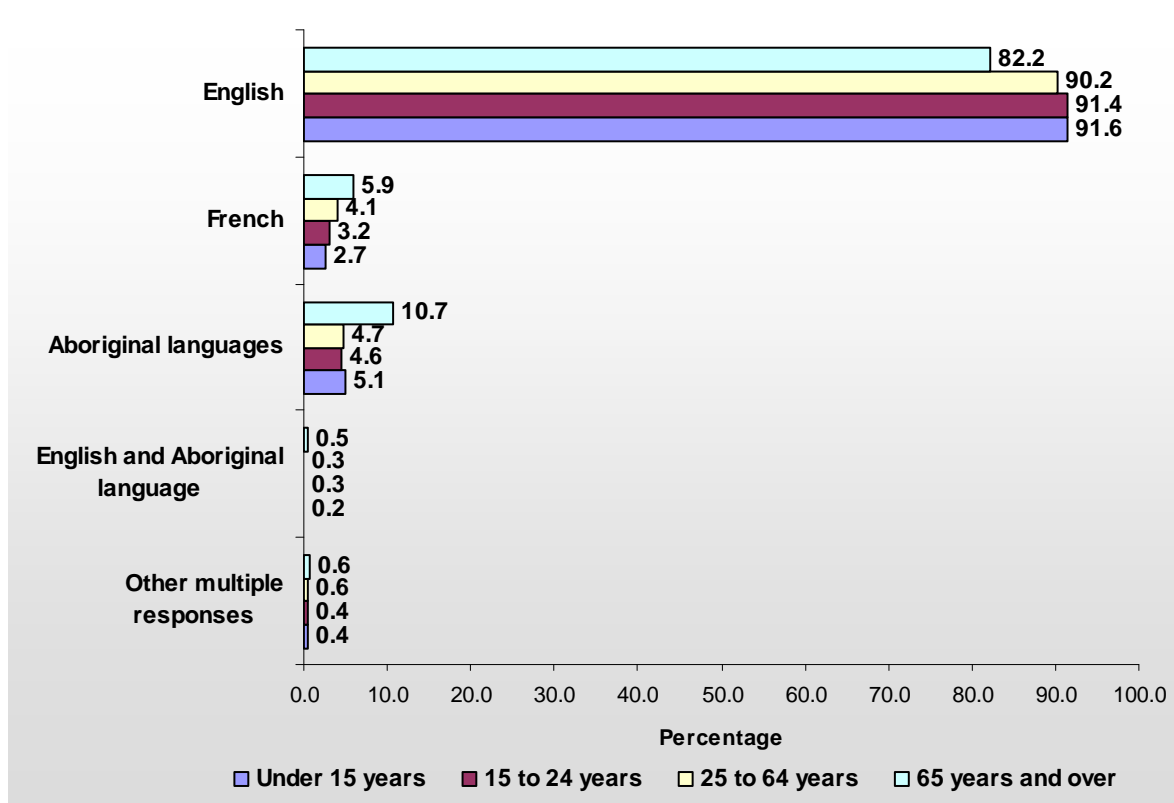
English is by far the most frequent language spoken at home in the Aboriginal community. Seniors are the group most likely to speak an Aboriginal language or French at home. Very few people report speaking more than one language at home. Chart 10.

### ***One in four on-reserve First Nations people speak an Aboriginal language at home***

Overall, 90.2% of First Nations people in Ontario speak English at home, and of the remaining, 8.1%<sup>18</sup> speak an Aboriginal language and about 1% speak French. However, there are differences when considering where people live. About one in four (24.0%) people living on-reserve speak an Aboriginal language at home compared to 1.3% for people living off-reserve.

<sup>18</sup> Includes those who speak Aboriginal languages only and those who speak either English or French and an Aboriginal language at home

**Chart 10 – Home Language Spoken by Total Aboriginal Population by Age Group**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

## Education

The Education section profiles the highest level of schooling that has been attained by Aboriginal people. While the overarching picture of educational attainment for Aboriginal people in Ontario is that fewer complete high school or beyond than the general population, there are significant differences in attainment depending upon a person's age group, where they live or which Aboriginal group they identify with.

In the sections below, the educational attainment for two broad age groups—all people 15 years and over, and people who are aged 25 to 64 years (the working age group)—is presented.

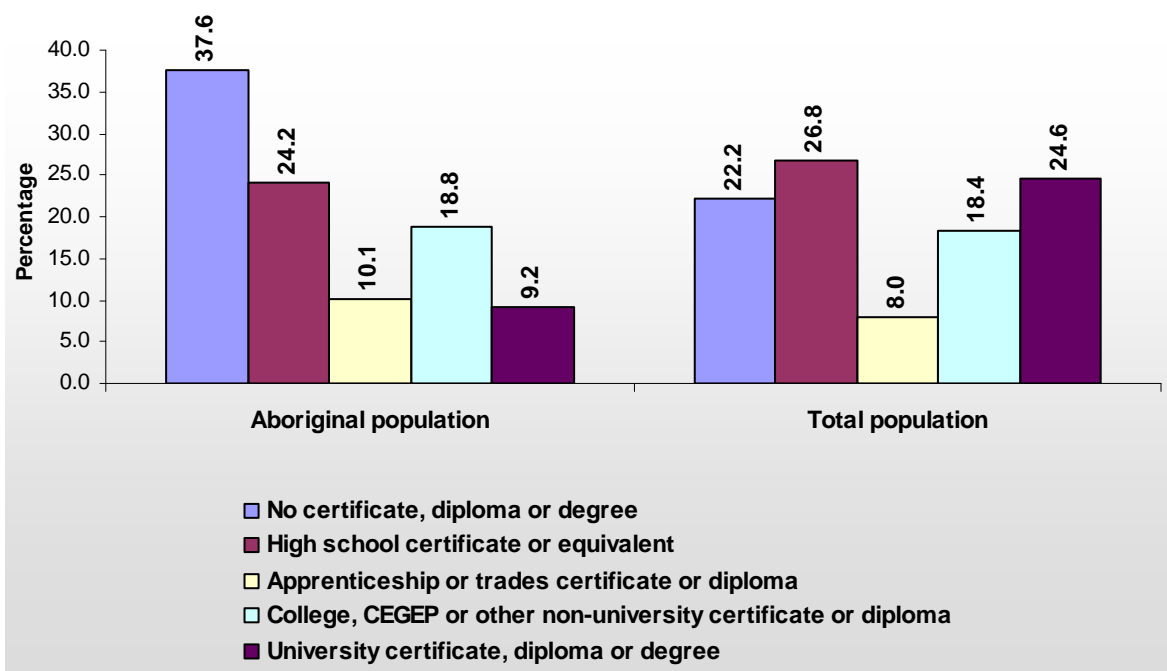
Across both groups, fewer Aboriginal people have completed high school or university than in the general population. However, Aboriginal people in Ontario are completing college and other non-university certificates at rates comparable to the general population, and are slightly more likely to attain apprenticeship or trades certificates than the overall population.

Across Aboriginal groups, First Nations people have lower levels of educational attainment. In particular, on-reserve First Nations people are most at risk of not completing high school. Métis people as a group are completing high school and college at levels close to the overall Ontario population and are more likely to complete apprenticeship and trades certificates than Aboriginal people overall or the general population. Charts 11 and 12.

### Aboriginal people 15 years and over

About 38% of Aboriginal people 15 years and older in Ontario have no certificate, diploma or degree. This is about 15 percentage points above the rate for Ontario overall (22.2%). This may not adequately reflect educational accomplishment as a large proportion of this group may still be students, and because a high proportion of Aboriginal people age 65 years and over are without a certificate, diploma or degree. Chart 11.

**Chart 11 – Highest Educational Attainment 15 Years and Over**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

### ***First Nations and Inuit***

First Nations and Inuit people are less likely of the Aboriginal groups to complete some level of education. Almost 42% of First Nations people and 41% of Inuit people in Ontario have no certificate, diploma or degree—nearly double the rate for the total Ontario population (22.2%). Charts 11 and 12.

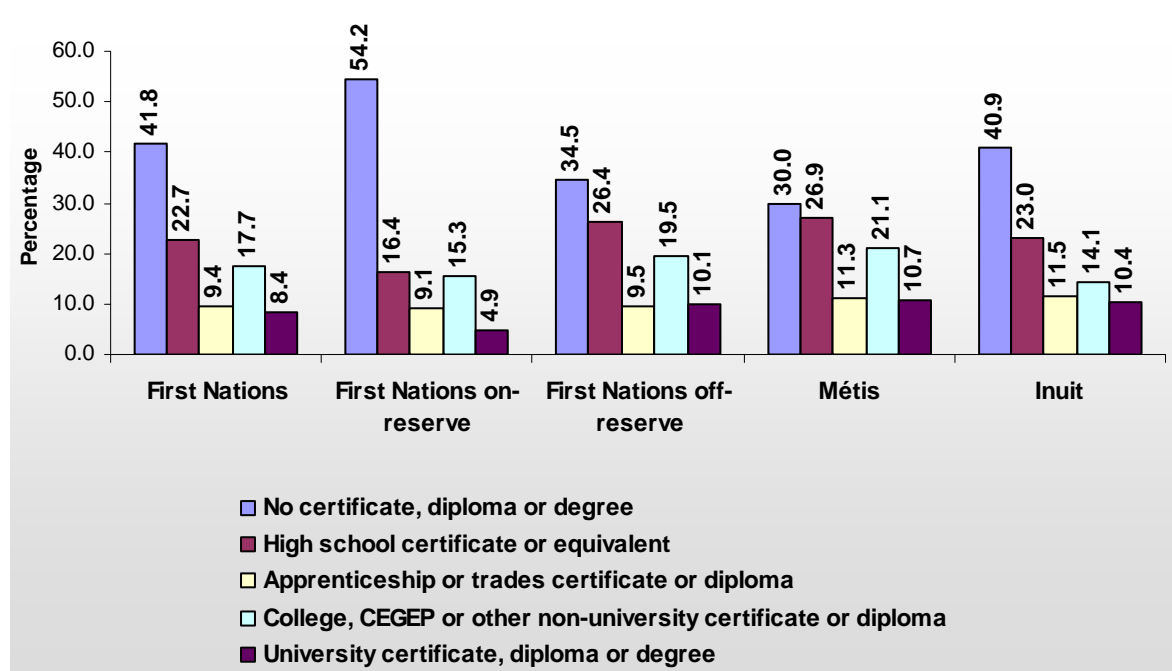
### ***First Nations people living on or off-reserve most at risk for not completing school***

In 2006, more than half (54.2%) of on-reserve First Nations people had no certificate, diploma or degree, compared to about one-third (34.5%) for those living off-reserve. In all categories for completing high school, apprenticeship, college or university, the proportion of on-reserve people with a certificate, diploma or degree was lower than off-reserve people. Chart 12.

### ***Métis***

Three in ten (30%) Métis people have not completed high school. This may be due in part to the higher proportion of Métis people aged 25 to 64, which is the group most likely to have completed some level of education. Chart 12.

**Chart 12 – Highest Educational Attainment 15 Years and Over – by Aboriginal Group**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

## Aboriginal people 25 to 64 years old

Approximately 72% Aboriginal people between the ages of 25 and 64 in Ontario have completed some level of schooling, including high school, college, or university. This is about 14 percentage points lower than the total population (86%). Chart 13.

### ***More likely to have apprenticeship, trades or college***

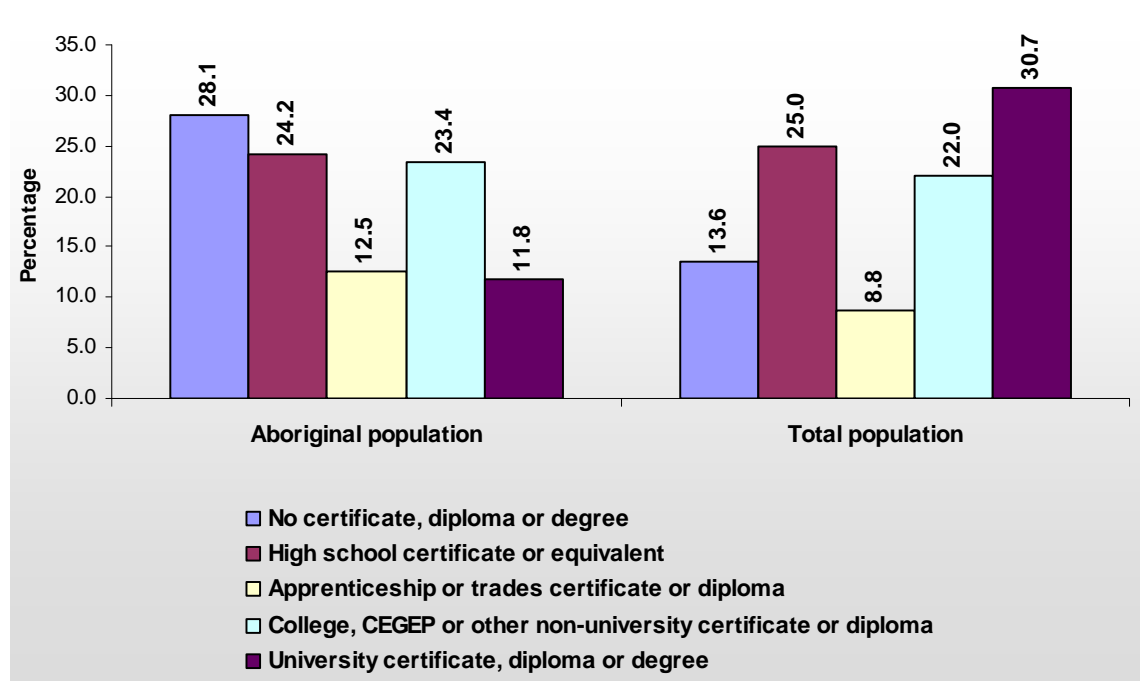
Within this age group, people at the lower end of the range (i.e. those who are youngest) are attaining higher levels of education than those who are older. As noted earlier, Aboriginal people in Ontario are commonly completing apprenticeship, trades or college certificates or diplomas, and at higher rates than the general population. Chart 13.

### ***On-reserve and off-reserve makes a difference in educational attainment***

Even with increases in educational attainment for working-age Aboriginal people overall, First Nations people living on-reserve are much less likely to complete high school or to attain higher education than those living off-reserve. Nearly half (45.6%) of First Nations people living on-reserve had no certificate, diploma or degree compared to 26.6% for those living off-reserve. Off-reserve First Nations people achieve university degrees (12.6%) at nearly twice the rate of people living on-reserve (6.7%). Chart 14.

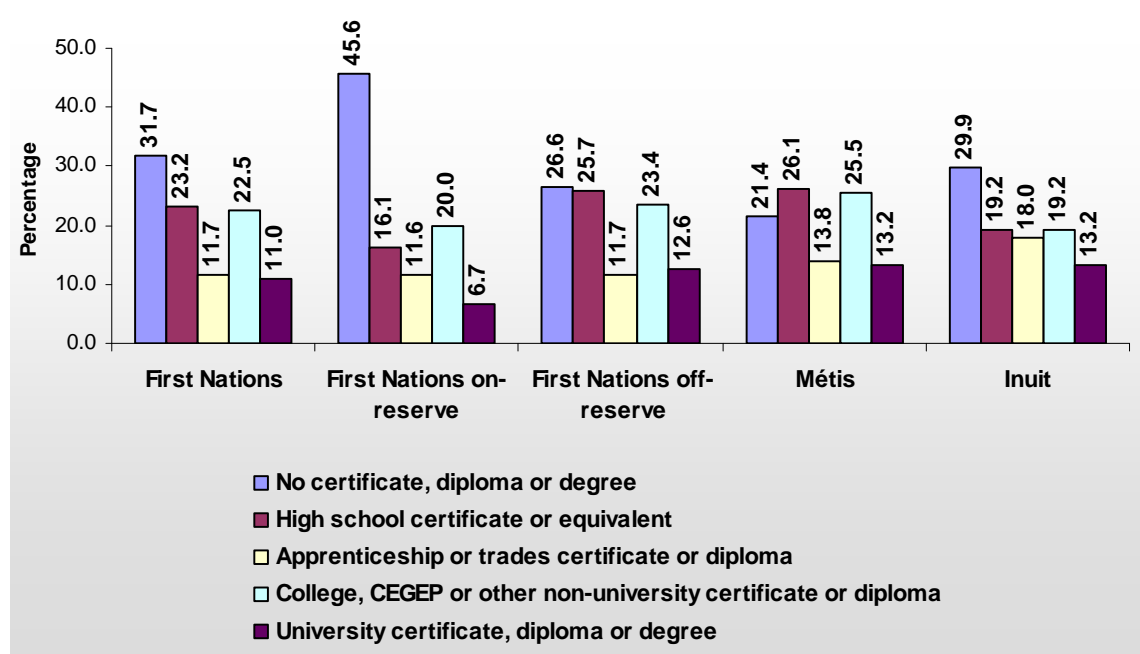


**Chart 13 – Highest Educational Attainment 25 to 64 Years**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

**Chart 14 – Highest Educational Attainment 25 to 64 Years – by Aboriginal Group**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

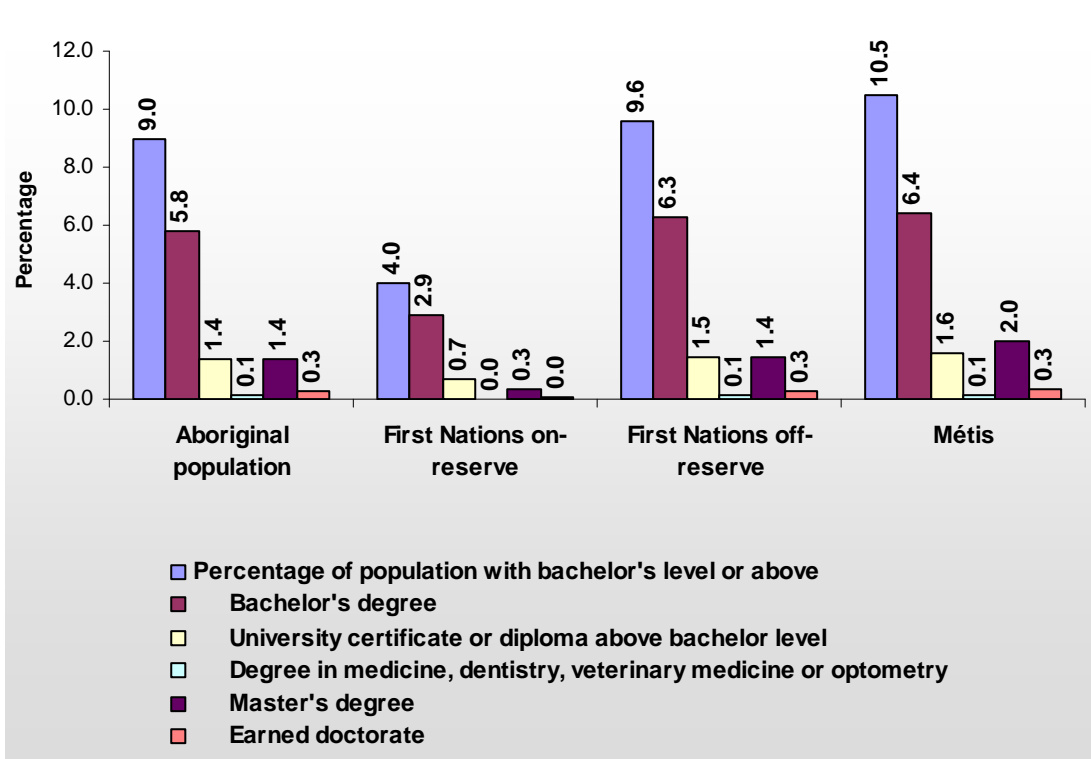
## Undergraduate and graduate degrees

Fewer Aboriginal people obtain undergraduate or graduate degrees than in the general population. Similar to overall educational attainment, First Nations people living on-reserve have the lowest proportion of people with degrees. Chart 15.

### *More women graduates*

Unlike the general population where graduates overall are evenly distributed by gender, a greater proportion of Aboriginal women hold undergraduate or graduate degrees (10.6%) than Aboriginal men (7.1%). Again, there is substantial difference when comparing where people live. While 11.2% of off-reserve First Nations women have at least a bachelor's degree, the rate for on-reserve First Nations women is 5.6%. The highest proportion of Aboriginal women with at least a bachelor's degree is in the Métis community (12.2%).

**Chart 15 – Aboriginal Population 25 To 64 Years with at least a Bachelor's Degree by Group**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

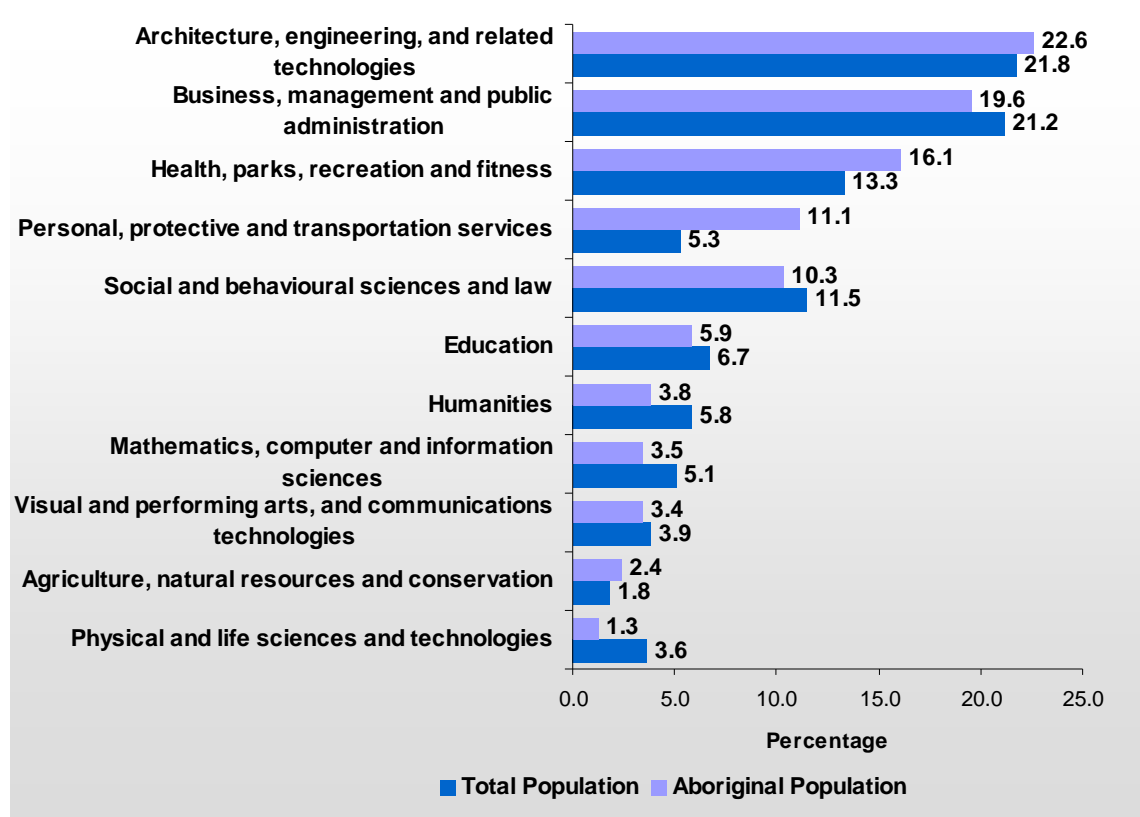
## Major fields of study

### *Aboriginal students in Ontario pursue studies in two major fields*

In Ontario, about four in ten (42.1%) Aboriginal students who were pursuing post-secondary education reported their major field as architecture, engineering, and related technologies, or business, management and public administration. This is similar to the total Ontario population (42.9%).

Compared to the overall Ontario population, a higher proportion of Aboriginal students pursue studies in health, parks, recreation and fitness, and in personal, protective and transportation services. Proportionately fewer Aboriginal students pursue studies in the areas of physical and life sciences and technologies; mathematics, computer and information services; or business, management and public administration than in the total Ontario population. Chart 16 and Table 2.

**Chart 16 – Major Field of Study for Population 15 Years and Over**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

**Table 2 – Major Field of Study for Population 15 Years and Over**

<b>Field of Study</b>	<b>Aboriginal Population</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	15,375	1,089,310
Business, management and public administration	13,310	1,061,215
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	10,980	665,490
Personal, protective and transportation services	7,585	264,625
Social and behavioural sciences and law	7,045	576,100
Education	3,985	335,715
Humanities	2,610	292,845
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	2,350	254,440
Visual and performing arts and communications technologies	2,330	193,790
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,620	91,965
Physical and life sciences and technologies	880	181,250
Other fields	-	480

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

## Labour Force

Labour force information in this section uses responses that refer to the period of time preceding the May 2006 census. Since that time there have been significant changes in the state of the economy in Ontario including increased unemployment rates, loss of full time jobs, and a downturn in the automotive and related manufacturing. Information in this section is only for population 15 years of age and over who were either employed or looking for work during the week prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006).

Aboriginal people in Ontario experience lower employment, higher unemployment and fewer full-time jobs than in the general population—factors that may contribute to lower income levels and impact community well-being overall. Similar to other trends in this report, First Nations and Inuit peoples experience this to a greater degree than Métis people.

## Employment

### ***Lower employment for the Aboriginal community in Ontario***

Overall in 2006, the Aboriginal community in Ontario had lower rates of employment than the total population. First Nations and Inuit peoples had the lowest employment rates of the Aboriginal groups (54.1% and 54.8% respectively). The Métis community had the highest employment rate of Aboriginal people at 61.6%, close to that of the total population in Ontario (62.8%). Chart 17.

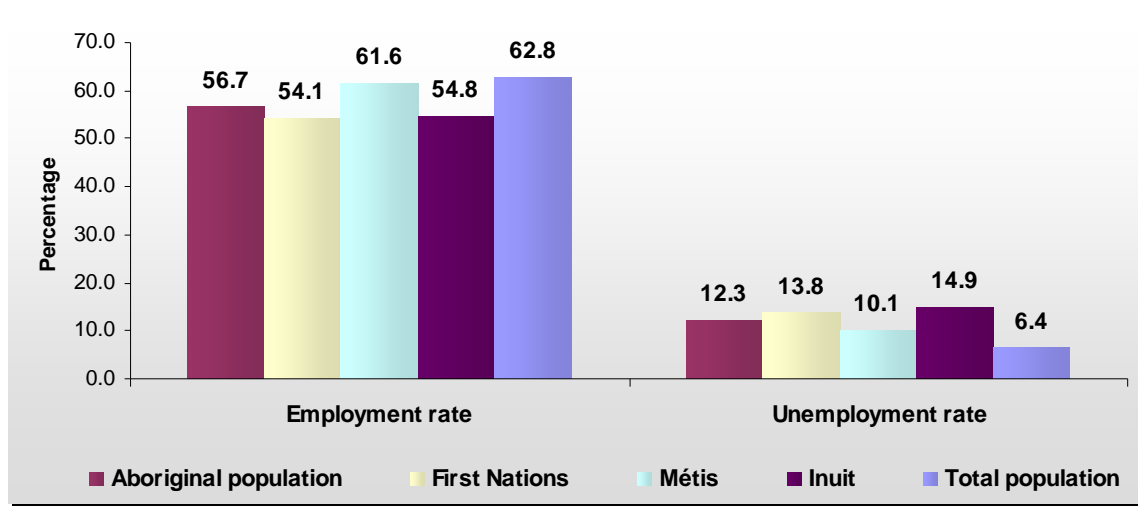
## Unemployment

### ***Aboriginal unemployment rate nearly double the provincial rate***

In 2006, 12.3% of the Aboriginal community in Ontario were unemployed—nearly double the rate for the total population (6.4%). Highest unemployment occurred within the Inuit (14.9%) and First Nations communities (13.8%). Although the Métis community had less unemployment (10.1%) than other Aboriginal people, they still experienced more unemployment than found in the total Ontario population. Chart 17.

Though not depicted in the chart, First Nations people in the northern areas of Ontario (Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin and Sudbury, and Northwestern) experienced the highest regional rates of unemployment (19.4% and 17.8% respectively).

**Chart 17 – Labour Force Activity for Aboriginal Population**

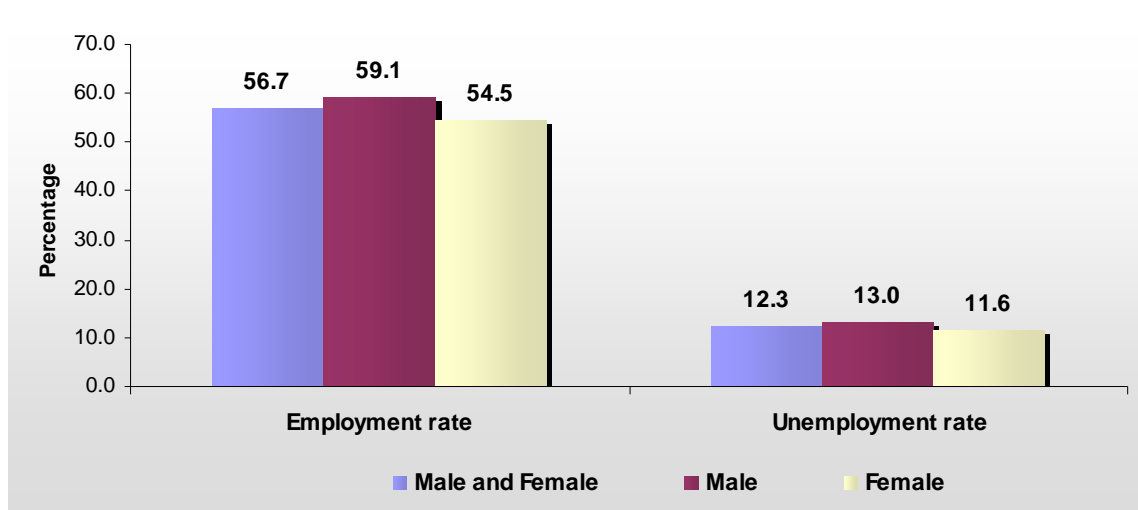


**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

***More unemployment among Aboriginal men***

Aboriginal men in Ontario in 2006 had a higher unemployment rate (13%) than Aboriginal women (11.6%). Fewer Aboriginal women were employed (54.5%) compared to Aboriginal men (59.1%). Chart 18.

**Chart 18 – Labour Force Activity by Gender for Aboriginal Population**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

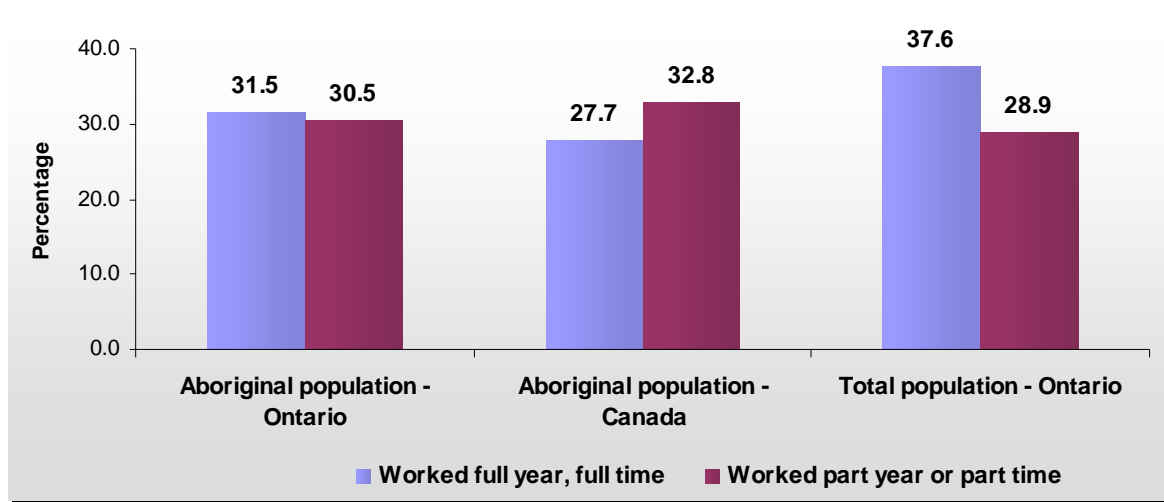
## Work activity

### ***Aboriginal people in Ontario more likely to work part-year or part-time***

Aboriginal people in Ontario are more likely to work part of the year (e.g. seasonal) or part-time than are all people in Ontario. In fact, they are about equally likely to be working all year or full-time as they are to be working part of the year or part-time, unlike the total Ontario population where full year/full time work is more prevalent.

Aboriginal people in Ontario are more likely to have full year or full-time work than are Aboriginal people for Canada overall. Chart 19.

**Chart 19 – Work Activity for Aboriginal and Total Population**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

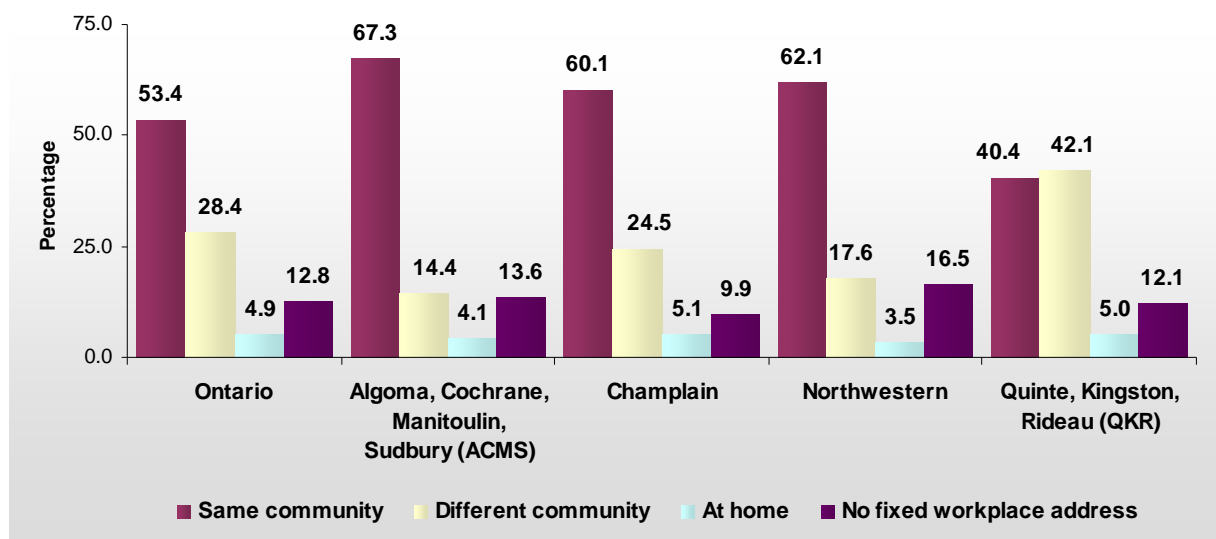
## Place of work

### *In Ontario, the majority of the Aboriginal workforce worked and live in the same community*

In Ontario in 2006, about half (53.4%) of all Aboriginal people<sup>19</sup> worked within the same community<sup>20</sup> that they resided in. Chart 20.

Aboriginal people in Quinte, Kingston, Rideau were less likely to work and live in the same community as those in other areas contained in Chart 20. People in the northern areas of Ontario were more likely to have no fixed workplace address<sup>21</sup> compared to Ontario overall, which may be reflective of occupations and industries common to those areas.

**Chart 20 – Place of Work for Aboriginal Population – Ontario and Selected Areas**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

<sup>19</sup> Employed labour force 15 years of age and over

<sup>20</sup> Community in this context refers to Census subdivision (CSD). This may be a reserve, a rural area or a municipality

<sup>21</sup> No fixed workplace address includes building and landscape contractors, travelling salespersons, independent truck drivers, etc. (Statistics Canada Census Dictionary 2005)



## Industry

### ***Health care and social assistance, and manufacturing were the top two industries for employment of Aboriginal peoples in Ontario***

In Ontario in 2006, the health care and social assistance and manufacturing industries employed the largest number of Aboriginal people—followed closely by retail trade. These are in a different order than the overall ranking for the total Ontario population. The ranking by industry was also slightly different for First Nations people and Métis. Public administration ranked second for First Nations people and sixth for Métis people. Table 3.

The profile for employed Aboriginal people by industry is not the same as the profile for the total population. By proportion of employment, Aboriginal people, and particularly First Nations people, were less likely to be employed in the manufacturing industry even though this was the top ranked employment industry in Ontario. Fewer First Nations and Métis people worked in professional, scientific and technical service—the fourth top industry in Ontario in 2006 but 11<sup>th</sup> overall for Aboriginal people. Proportionately more First Nations people work in the public administration, and health care and social assistance industries than the total population overall. More Métis people work in public administration and accommodation and food services industries than the general population. Table 3.

**Table 3 – Top Ten Industries of Employment for Aboriginal Groups**

Rank	Industry	Aboriginal population	First Nations	Métis	Total population
1	Health care and social assistance	13,070	8,420	4,160	611,745
2	Manufacturing	12,515	7,045	4,840	899,670
3	Retail trade	11,885	6,715	4,485	720,235
4	Public administration	11,730	8,245	3,150	350,070
5	Accommodation and food services	9,275	5,635	3,295	414,970
6	Construction	8,605	5,290	2,965	384,780
7	Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	6,555	4,045	2,185	314,005
8	Educational services	6,350	3,950	2,145	433,485
9	Transportation and warehousing	5,905	3,500	2,135	307,480
10	Other services (except public administration)	5,300	3,015	1,995	303,510

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

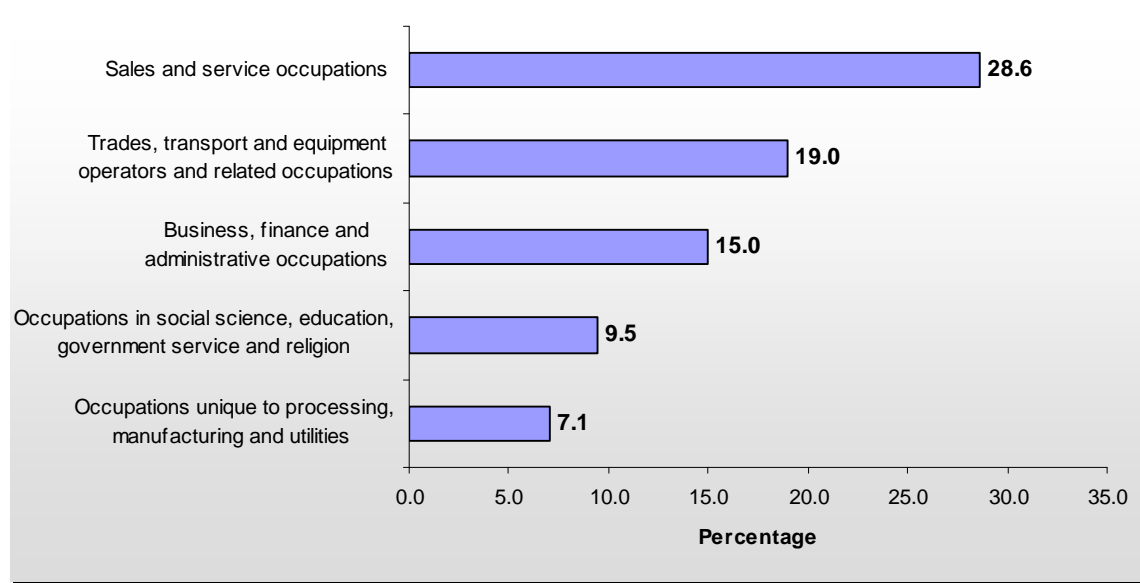
## Occupation

### ***Sales and service were the most frequently reported occupations in Ontario***

Most Aboriginal people in Ontario were employed either in sales and service, or trades, transport and equipment operator's occupations (47.6%). Chart 21.

The lists of top five occupations for Aboriginal people were generally comparable across the four regions. A few variations were seen in Champlain and Northwestern, where people were more likely to be employed in management occupations. In ACMS, more people were employed in primary industries (fishing, logging, oil and gas, agriculture, etc.).

**Chart 21 – Top Five Occupations for Aboriginal Population**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

## Income

The Income section compares and highlights differences in income levels between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population; among Aboriginal groups; by gender, and finally, across geographic areas.

Overall, Aboriginal people have lower income levels compared to the non-Aboriginal population—on average one-third less. Across Aboriginal groups, Métis people have the highest average income while First Nations people have the lowest, possibly indicative of the differences in educational attainment and employment levels between these groups—and in the case of people living in remote areas, the availability of work.

Aboriginal people in Champlain have higher income levels than in other areas, which may be reflective of Ottawa's prominence in government, education and research.

There is less of a gap in income level between Aboriginal men and women than in the non-Aboriginal population—which may be influenced by factors such as greater unemployment among Aboriginal men than women; more women with higher educational attainment; and substantially lower income levels for Aboriginal men compared to non-Aboriginal men.

In 2005<sup>22</sup>, Aboriginal people in Ontario had slightly higher average income levels compared with Aboriginal people for Canada overall. While the average income for Aboriginal people in Canada was \$23,888, in Ontario it was about \$2,000 higher.

### ***Over \$12,000 income gap***

There is a substantial income gap between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginals. In Ontario in 2005, the average annual income of Aboriginal people was \$25,963—about \$12,000 less than the non-Aboriginal population (\$38,318). Chart 22.

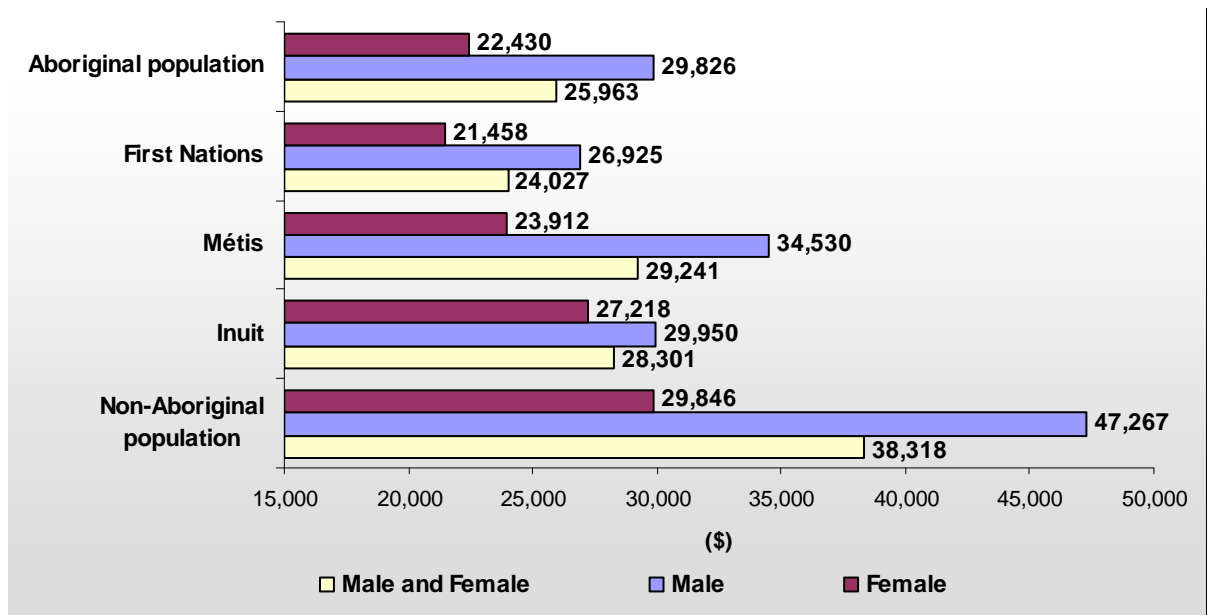
### ***Income disparity among Aboriginal groups***

In 2005, Métis people reported the highest average annual income (\$29,241) for all Aboriginal peoples. Inuit people reported the next highest average at \$28,301 per year and First Nations people reported \$24,027. Chart 22.

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<sup>22</sup> Refers to 2005 before-tax annual income levels as reported in the 2006 Census

**Chart 22 – Average Before-tax Income by Gender**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

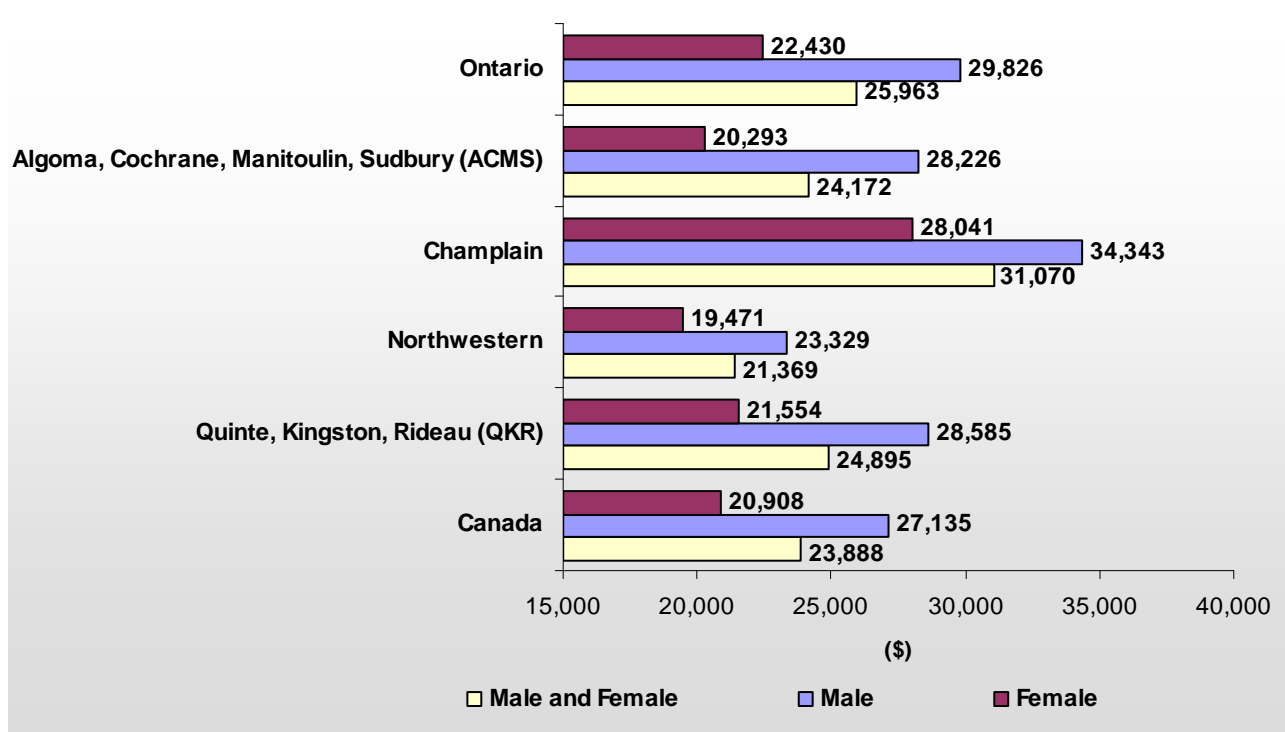
***Gender wage gap is smaller***

In 2005, the average income for Aboriginal men in Ontario was \$7,396 higher than that for women—less than half the gap between non-Aboriginal men and women (\$17,421). The income gap of \$2,732 between Inuit men and women and the gap of \$5,467 between First Nation men and women were smaller than that for Métis people (\$10,618). Chart 22.

### ***Regional variations in average incomes***

Aboriginal people living in the North have lower average income levels, while people living in Champlain, and Ottawa in particular, have higher levels compared to Aboriginal people for the province overall. Chart 23.

**Chart 23 – Average Before-tax Income for Aboriginal Population – Ontario and Selected Areas**

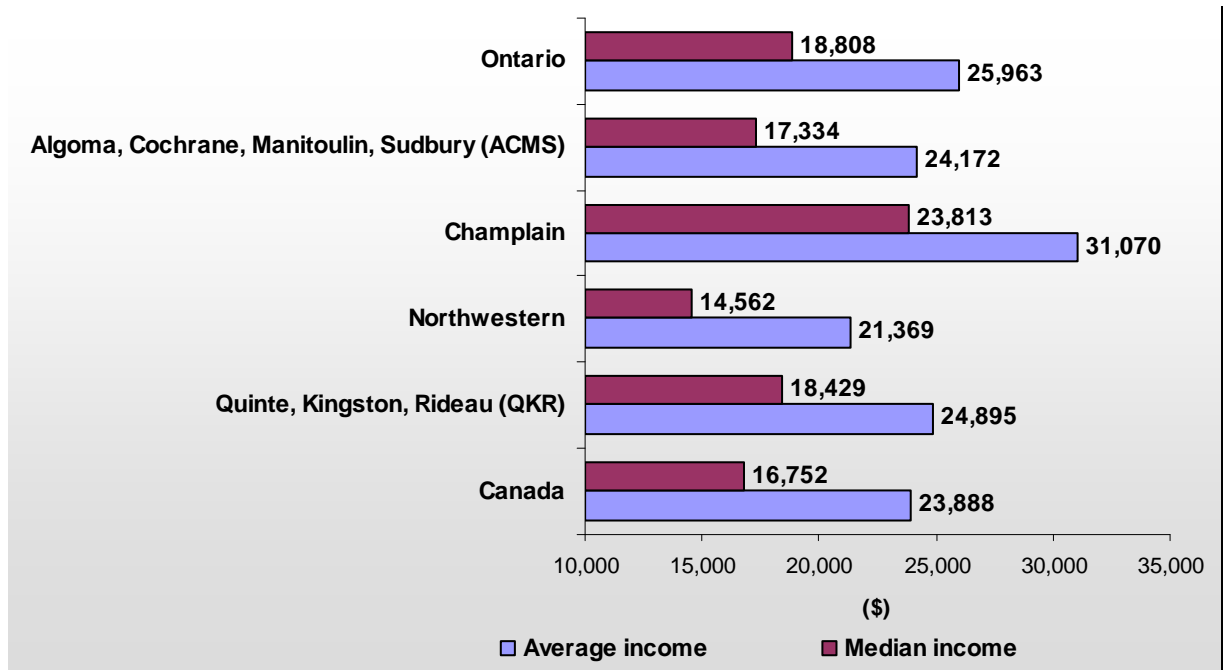


**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

***Aboriginal people in Ontario had higher average and median incomes compared to Canada overall***

As Chart 24 shows, Aboriginal people in Ontario had higher incomes than their counterparts in the rest of Canada, whether looking at median or average.

**Chart 24 – Average and Median Before-tax Income for Aboriginal Population**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

## Low-Income

The next section looks at Aboriginal people<sup>23</sup> living below the low-income cut-off from three perspectives—all Aboriginal people, those who are youngest and those who are oldest.

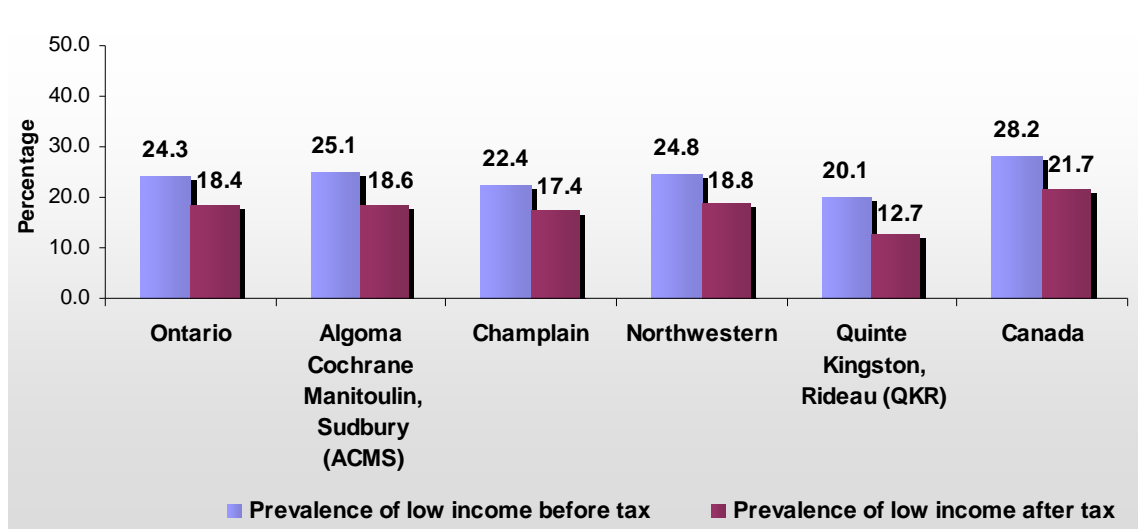
The low-income cut-off is one way of expressing a degree of poverty for individuals or families. The cut-off measures which families or unattached individuals spend 20% more on average on food, shelter and clothing than comparable families or individuals. The cut-off in income levels is differentiated by family size and whether people live in urban or rural communities.

The information in the charts below is provided in two forms, before and after tax. After-tax income better reflects what families have available to spend and is more equally distributed than before-tax income since those with higher incomes pay taxes at a higher rate.

### ***Incidence of living below the low-income cut-off is greater in the Aboriginal community***

In Ontario in 2005<sup>24</sup>, 14.7%<sup>25</sup> of the provincial population were living below the low-income cut-off. In the Aboriginal community, it was substantially higher (24.3%). Chart 25.

**Chart 25 – Prevalence of Low-Income for Aboriginal Population – Ontario and Selected Areas**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

<sup>23</sup> Persons in private households

<sup>24</sup> Refers to 2005 before-tax annual income levels as reported in the 2006 Census

<sup>25</sup> Source: Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-563-XCB2006028. Persons in private households and before-tax income

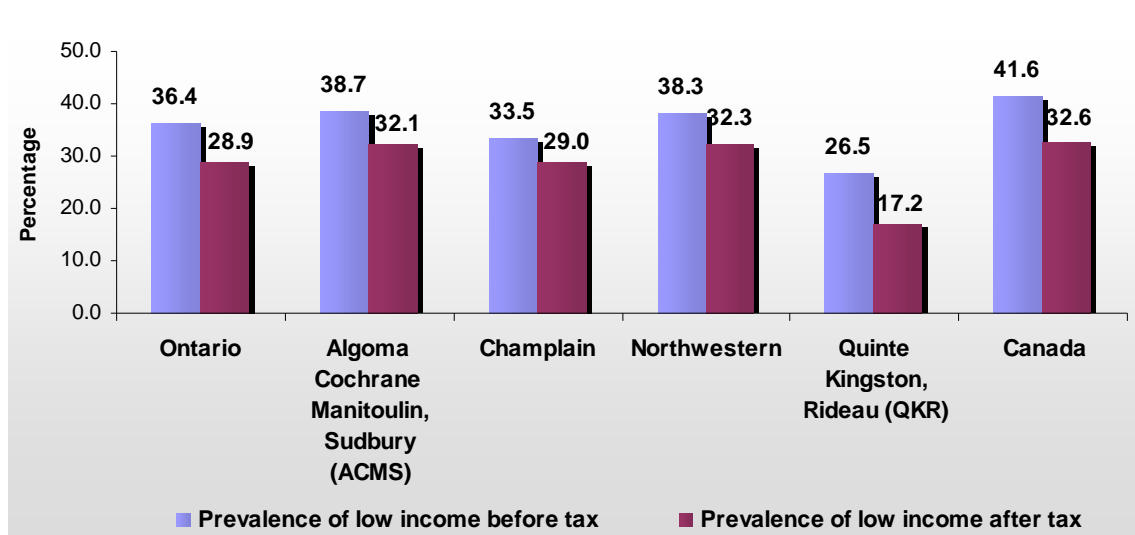
## Children under six

### ***More than one-third of Aboriginal children live below the low-income cut-off***

In 2005 in Ontario, more than one-third (36.4%) of Aboriginal children less than six years of age lived below the low-income cut-off<sup>26</sup>. In contrast, 19.3% of all children in this age group provincially were living in low-income. Aboriginal children under six years in Ontario are less likely to live in low-income than are the corresponding group for Canada overall.

Aboriginal children in northern communities (ACMS and Northwestern) had the highest prevalence of low-income (38.7% and 38.3% respectively) among the areas charted. Chart 26.

**Chart 26 – Prevalence of Low-Income for Aboriginal Children Under Six Years of Age**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

<sup>26</sup> As measured using Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs before-tax

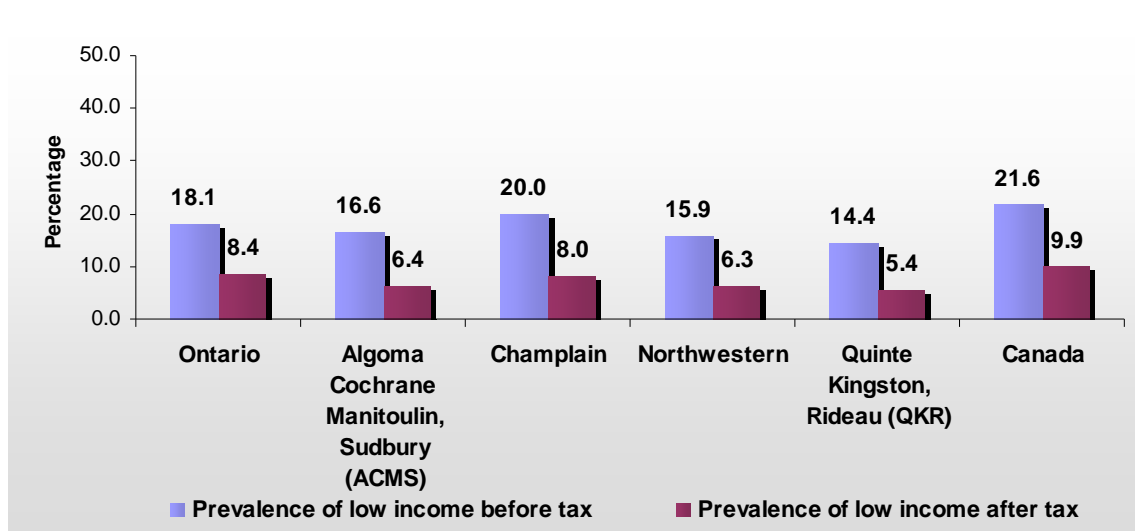


## Seniors

***The proportion of low-income Aboriginal seniors in Ontario was lower than in Canada as a whole***

In 2005, 18.1% of Aboriginal seniors (65 years of age and over) in Ontario were considered as low-income<sup>27</sup>, which is lower than the proportion in Canada overall (21.6%). Chart 27.

**Chart 27 – Prevalence of Low-Income for Aboriginal Seniors 65 Years and Over**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

<sup>27</sup> As measured using Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs before-tax

# Aboriginal Community in Ontario: Links and Resources

## Government:

Aboriginal Canada Portal (Government of Canada):

<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/community/site.nsf/en/on-all-b.html>

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Peoples and Communities:

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ap/index-eng.asp>

Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs:

<http://www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca/english/default.asp>

Statistics Canada 2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles:

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-594/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Statistics Canada 2006 Profile of Aboriginal Children, Youth and Adults:

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/89-635/index.cfm?lang=eng>

Statistics Canada Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS): [http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3250&lang=en&db=imdb&adm=8&dis=2)

[bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3250&lang=en&db=imdb&adm=8&dis=2](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3250&lang=en&db=imdb&adm=8&dis=2)

Statistics Canada Aboriginal Children's Survey (ACS):

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/aboriginal/acs/5801793-eng.htm>

## First Nations:

Chiefs of Ontario: <http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/Default.aspx>

Anishinabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians): <http://www.anishinabek.ca/>

Association of Iroquois and Associated Indians: <http://www.aiai.on.ca/>

Grand Council Treaty #3: <http://www.gct3.net/>

Independent First Nations Alliance: <http://www.ifna.ca/>

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN): <http://www.nan.on.ca/>

List and links to Tribal Councils in Ontario:

<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/ao26462.html>

K-Net (The Kuhkenah Network)—First Nations Communities Directory:

<http://www.firstnation.ca/>

List and links to Friendship Centres and other provincial and regional organizations:  
<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/ao34778.html>

## **Métis**

The Métis Nation of Ontario: <http://www.metisnation.org/>

## **Inuit**

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)—National Inuit organization: <http://www.itk.ca/> Note: ITK represents the Inuit community in four regions—Nunatsiavut (Labrador), Nunavik (northern Quebec), Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the Northwest Territories.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit—Community based organization that aims to empower and enhance the lives of Inuit residing in Ontario: <http://www.tungasuvvingatinuit.ca/>

## HGeographic Context for Ontario

Some First Nations reserves and settlements did not participate in the 2006 Census as enumeration was not permitted, or it was interrupted before completion. In 2006, there were 22 incompletely enumerated First Nations reserves in Canada, compared to 30 in 2001 and 77 in 1996.

Most of the people living on incompletely enumerated First Nations reserves and settlements have Registered status. Consequently, the impact of incomplete enumeration will be greatest on data for First Nations people registered under the *Indian Act*.

### **For the Ontario Trillium Foundation regions:**

ACMS region contained 32 First Nations reserves. Factory Island 1 was the only reserve within the region that was incompletely enumerated in 2006.

QKR region contained one First Nations reserve, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory which was incompletely enumerated during the 2006 Census.

Northwestern region contained 78 First Nations reserves and five First Nations settlements. Five reserves were incompletely enumerated during the 2006 Census: Marten Falls 65, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (Savant Lake), Pikangikum 14, Whitefish Bay 32A, and Whitesand. Two reserves did not participate in the 2006 Census: Attawapiskat 91A and Fort Severn 89.

Champlain region area contained two First Nations reserves or settlements, one of which, Akwesasne (Part) 59, was incompletely enumerated.

## Methodology and Data Sources

Throughout this report we refer to Aboriginal people. This information is based on what Statistics Canada refers to as the Aboriginal Identity population, which refers to those people who report identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian (First Nation), Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the *Indian Act of Canada*, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2001 and 2006.

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## Concepts and Definitions

Additional concepts and more detailed definitions may be found in the [Statistics Canada Census Dictionary](#).

### **Aboriginal ancestry**

Refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal ancestry including First Nations, Métis or Inuit to the ethnic origin question. 'Ethnic origin' refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors.

### **Aboriginal identity**

Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty or a Registered First Nations person, as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada, and/or those who reported they were members of a First Nation. Multiple responses are permitted.

### **After-tax income**

Refers to total income minus federal, provincial and territorial income taxes paid for calendar year 2005. After-tax income is the total income from all sources minus income tax, which better reflects what families have available to spend. After-tax income is also more equally distributed than before-tax income since those with higher incomes pay taxes at a higher rate. Total income refers to income from all sources, including employment income, income from government programs, pension income, investment income and any other money income. Federal, provincial and territorial taxes paid refer to taxes on income, after taking into account exemptions, deductions, non-refundable tax credits and the Quebec abatement. These taxes are obtained from the income tax files for persons who allowed access to their income tax data and from direct responses on the questionnaire for others.

### **Average Income**

Average income of individuals refers to the weighted mean total income of individuals 15 years of age and over who reported income for 2005. Average income is calculated from unrounded data by dividing the aggregate income of a specified group

### **Census division (CD)**

Census division (CD) is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province/territory level and the municipality (census subdivision).

### **Census metropolitan area (CMA) and census agglomeration (CA)**

Area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. A census agglomeration must have an urban core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data.

### **Census subdivision (CSD)**

Census subdivision (CSD) is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as city, town, and township) or their equivalents for statistical reporting purposes (e.g. a reserve or an unorganized territory). Census subdivisions are the lower geographic areas

and are usually part of a Census Division. These areas may also be referred to as municipality, community, and area of residence.

### **Employment rate**

Refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over.

$$\text{Employment rate} = \frac{\text{Employed}}{\text{Population 15 years and over (excluding institutional residents)}} \times 100$$

The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number of employed persons in that group, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over, in that group.

### **First Nation (Government)**

A First Nation is a group of people for whose collective use and benefit lands have been set apart or money is held by the Crown, or declared to be a First Nation for the purposes of the *Indian Act*. Each First Nation has its own governing council, usually consisting of one chief and several councillors. Community members choose the chief and councillors by election, or sometimes through custom. The members of a First Nation generally share common values, traditions and practices rooted in their ancestral heritage. (Definition from INAC—Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)

### **First Nations People**

First Nations people are one of the three Aboriginal groups recognized in the Canadian Constitution. This term is used to describe the group of all Aboriginal people who are not Inuit or Métis. A First Nations member is an individual who is recognized as being a member of a First Nation as defined either by the First Nation itself or the *Indian Act*.

### **Home Language**

Refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.

### **Highest certificate, diploma or degree**

Information indicating the person's most advanced certificate, diploma or degree. This is a derived variable obtained from the educational qualifications questions, which asked for all certificates, diplomas and degrees to be reported. There is an implied hierarchy in this variable (secondary school graduation, registered apprenticeship and trades, college, university) which is loosely tied to the 'in-class' duration of the various types of education. However, at the detailed level a registered apprenticeship graduate may not have completed a secondary school certificate or diploma, nor does an individual with a master's degree necessarily have a certificate or diploma above the bachelor's degree level. Therefore, although the sequence is more or less hierarchical, it is a general rather than an absolute gradient measure of academic achievement.

### **Income—collection methodology in 2006**

For the first time in 2006, the Census offered respondents the option to have Statistics Canada access their tax records rather than complete the census income questions.

82.4% of all respondents completing the census long form chose the tax option. There are some differences between tax data and self-reported income data—the former are generally more precise and small amounts are better reported. Additionally, the use of tax data means that the census can produce estimates of after-tax income.

**Income status after-tax**

Refers to the position of an economic family or persons not in economic families 15 years of age and over in relation to Statistics Canada's low-income after-tax cut-offs.

**Income status before-tax**

Refers to the position of an economic family or a person 15 years of age and over not in an economic family in relation to Statistics Canada's low-income before-tax cut-offs.

**Indian Act**

The Canadian federal legislation first passed in 1876 that sets out certain federal government obligations, and regulates the management of First Nations reserve lands. The act has been amended several times, most recently in 2000.

**Inuit**

"Inuit" means "people" in Inuktitut, the language of Inuit people. Most Inuit people live in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Northern Quebec and Labrador.

**Labour force**

Refers to persons who were either employed or unemployed during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006). Includes only population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

**Low-Income (Incidence of)**

The incidence of low-income is the proportion or percentage of economic families or unattached individuals who spend 20% more than average on food, shelter and clothing in a given classification below the low-income cut-offs. These incidence rates are calculated from unrounded estimates of economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over.

**Low-Income Cut-offs (LICOs)**

Income levels at which families or unattached individuals spend 20% more than average on food, shelter and clothing. Measures of low-income known as low-income cut-offs (LICOs) were first introduced in Canada in 1968 based on 1961 Census income data and 1959 family expenditure patterns. At that time, expenditure patterns indicated that Canadian families spent about 50% of their total income on food, shelter and clothing. It was arbitrarily estimated that families spending 70% or more of their income (20 percentage points more than the average) on these basic necessities would be in straitened circumstances. With this assumption, low-income cut-off points were set for five different sizes of families.

Subsequent to these initial cut-offs, revised low-income cut-offs were established based on national family expenditure data from 1969, 1978, 1986 and 1992. These data indicated that Canadian families spent, on average, 42% in 1969, 38.5% in 1978, 36.2% in 1986 and 34.7% in 1992 of their total income on basic necessities. Since 1992, data from the expenditure survey have indicated that this proportion has remained fairly stable. By adding the original difference of 20 percentage points to the basic level of expenditure on necessities, new low-income cut-offs were set at income levels differentiated by family

size and degree of urbanization. Since 1992, these cut-offs have been updated yearly by changes in the consumer price index. Below is the 2005 matrix of low-income cut-offs:

Low-income before-tax cut-offs (1992 base) for economic families and persons not in economic families, 2005

Family size	Size of Area of Residence				
	Rural (farm and non-farm)	Small urban regions	30,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 499,999	500,000 or more
1	14,303	16,273	17,784	17,895	20,778
2	17,807	20,257	22,139	22,276	25,867
3	21,891	24,904	27,217	27,386	31,801
4	26,579	30,238	33,046	33,251	38,610
5	30,145	34,295	37,480	37,711	43,791
6	33,999	38,679	42,271	42,533	49,389
7+	37,853	43,063	47,063	47,354	54,987

Source: Statistics Canada. Income Research Paper Series, *Low-Income Cut-offs for 2006 and Low-Income Measures for 2005*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75F0002MIE, no. 004.

### Major Field of study

Main subject area of the person's highest certificate, diploma or degree after high school. The major field of study classification structure consists of 10 broad or major categories: educational, recreational and counselling services; fine and applied arts; humanities and related fields; social sciences and related fields; commerce, management and business administration; agricultural, biological, nutritional, and food sciences; engineering and applied sciences; applied science technologies and trades; health professions and related technologies; and mathematics, computer and physical sciences.

### Median Income

The median income of a specified group of income recipients is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of individuals are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median. Median income is calculated from the unrounded number of individuals (e.g. men 45 to 54 years of age) with income in that group.

### Métis

People of mixed First Nations and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis people, as distinct from First Nations people, Inuit or non-Aboriginal people. The Métis have a unique culture that draws on their diverse ancestral origins, such as Scottish, French, Ojibway and Cree.

### Mother tongue

Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.

### Non- Registered or Non-Status persons

A non-status person is one who identifies as First Nation but is not registered under the *Indian Act*.



**Proportion**

A proportion refers to how many responses fall into a given response category in relation to the total responses. It is calculated by dividing the frequency of the response category by the total number of responses to the question.

**Registered or Status persons**

A Status or Registered person is one who identifies as First Nation and is registered under the *Indian Act*. The act sets out the requirements for determining who has status.

**Reserve**

A reserve is a tract of federally owned land with specific boundaries that is set apart for the use and benefit of a First Nation group and that is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

**Rural area**

Rural areas include all territory lying outside urban areas. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Rural population includes all population living in the rural fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as population living in rural areas outside CMAs and CAs.

**Status person**

See Registered Status.

**Treaty Indian**

A Status or Registered person who belongs to a First Nation that signed a treaty with the Crown.

**Tribal Council**

A Tribal Council is an organization established by a number of First Nations with common interests who voluntarily join together to provide advisory program and/or services to Member First Nations. (Definition from INAC—Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)

**Unemployment rate**

Refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006).

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed}}{\text{Labour force}} \times 100$$

The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the unemployed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the labour force in that group, in the week prior to enumeration.

**Urban area**

An urban area has a minimum population concentration of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre, based on the current census population count. All territory outside urban areas is classified as rural. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.