

*New relationships with Aboriginal
People and Communities in B.C.:*

Measuring Outcomes

2009 - 2010



Introduction

The Province and Aboriginal communities are working together to close the socio-economic gaps that exist between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians. The [New Relationship](#) provides a vision for this work; the [Transformative Change Accord](#) and the [Métis Nation Relationship Accord](#) identify key priorities to address: Crown – Aboriginal Relationships, Education, Housing and Infrastructure, Health and Economic Opportunities. Measuring Outcomes addresses a provincial commitment to track the social and economic outcomes of Aboriginal people in B.C. in order to measure progress toward closing the gaps.

Social change generally happens over significant periods of time – sometimes even generations. Data provides important information but personal stories highlight the direct impact to people and communities of the many activities being undertaken. Examples of community-level results are available online: [New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in B.C.](#)

The Province continues to work with Aboriginal partners to create and support long-term benefits for First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal people in their communities.

Measurement Framework

The Measuring Outcomes reporting framework is made up of indicators in five key areas: Improving Crown - Aboriginal Relationships, Education, Housing and Infrastructure, Health, and Economic Opportunities.

The indicators have been chosen based on their inclusion in the Transformative Change Accord and the availability of reliable data, with the goal of keeping the framework simple. The data is consistent with information collected and reported by other ministries. For a more in-depth understanding of the sectors, themes, and data in the Measuring Outcomes report, references to other more detailed ministry reports and data sources have been provided.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is working with Aboriginal partners, other ministries and stakeholders to improve the quality and availability of data. The 2009-10 report includes more data for Métis and urban Aboriginal people, a reflection of the commitment made by British Columbia, First Nations, and Métis leadership to measure socio-economic outcomes over time, in order to improve the lives of Aboriginal people, and contribute to positive, lasting relationships around the province.

This version of Measuring Outcomes replaces the previously published version, and contains the following changes and updates:

- New public awareness indicators for Métis in the Crown – Aboriginal Relationship section
- Two new 2006 census variables for all Aboriginal identity groups: see housing and health sections
- Census breakdowns wherever data is available for Aboriginal, First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal populations

Note on Census Data: Where Census data are used the Aboriginal identity population was counted the same way in 2006, 2001 and 1996, providing comparable data for three consecutive census years. However, comparison of Aboriginal data across census years must adjust for incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements. Some Indian reserves and settlements did not participate in the census as enumeration was not permitted or it was interrupted before completion. In 2006, there were 22 incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in British Columbia compared to 30 in 2001 and 77 in 1996.

Improving Crown – Aboriginal Relationships

Historic Crown - Aboriginal relationships in British Columbia have given rise to the present socioeconomic disparity between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians. B.C.'s full potential will be realized only when Aboriginal people are an integral part of the social and economic life of the province. Improving Crown - Aboriginal relationships

requires respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights, and reconciliation of First Nations and Crown title and jurisdictions. Although measuring and tracking a relationship presents challenges, the five indicators chosen can be measured over time to show progress:

Improving Crown – Aboriginal Relationships									
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015 Target	Data Source	
1a. Number of treaties and agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation.	(2005/06) 2	8	9	14	18	N/A	2011/2012 Target 15	MARR	
1b. How aware are British Columbians of the diversity of First Nations Cultures within B.C.? % responding: Very Aware	(2007)			26%	29%	25%	30%	50%	BC Stats MARR
1c. Percentage of British Columbians who strongly agree that First Nations have made a wide range of valuable contributions to B.C.	(2007)			23%	30%	31%	27%	50%	BC Stats MARR
1d. How aware are British Columbians that Métis people represent a distinct Aboriginal population in B.C.? % responding: Very Aware	(2009)					21%	26%	50%	BC Stats MARR
1e. Percentage of British Columbians who strongly agree that Métis people have made a wide range of valuable contributions to B.C.	(2009)					14%	13%	50%	BC Stats MARR

1a: The Province enters into a large number of agreements with First Nations. For the purposes of this report, only those agreements that are negotiated by MARR and that contribute to reconciliation are counted. These include: Final Treaty Agreements (FA), Agreements in Principle

(AIP), Treaty Related Measures (TRM), Interim Measure Agreements (IMA), Cut-off Claim Settlement Agreements (CCSA), and others. In 2009/10 MARR exceeded the target set for 2011/12. The 18 treaties and agreements signed in 2009-10 are: Haida Reconciliation Agreement, Coastal Reconciliation Agreement, Treaty 8 Parks Collaborative Management Agreement, Treaty 8 Wildlife Collaborative Management Agreement, Treaty 8 Strategic Land and Resources Planning Agreement, Treaty 8 Government to Government Protocol Agreement, Treaty 8 Amended Economic Benefits Agreement, Initialing of the Yale Final Agreement, Tsay Keh Dene First Nation Final Agreement, TRM with Lheidli T'enneh – Governance, TRM with Maa-nulth – Wildlife, TRM with Yekooche – Leadership Development, Nanwakolas First Nations Strategic Engagement Agreement, Province and Stk'emlupsemc of the Secwepemc Mining and Minerals Agreement, Haida Gwaii Land Use Agreement, BC AND 'Namgis Land Management Agreement, Economic Development Agreement with the Red Bluff Indian Band, Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest Agreement. Visit MARR's [Treaties and Negotiations](#) site for further information.

1b and 1c: Since 2007, BC Stats has conducted a series of surveys on behalf of MARR to monitor public awareness of the diversity of First Nations cultures, and their level of agreement on the wide range of valuable contributions made by First Nations in B.C. In 2009, two questions were added to develop a baseline for on-going monitoring of public awareness of Métis people, and public perception of the value of Métis contributions to B.C. The survey is now referred to as the Aboriginal Awareness Survey. The survey includes two questions pertaining to First Nations: 1. How aware are you of the diversity of First Nations Cultures within B.C.? Would you say you are very aware, somewhat aware, not very aware or not at all aware? 2. Would you say you agree or disagree with the following statement: First Nations have made a wide range of valuable contributions to B.C. Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree? The 2010 proportion of those responding “very aware” was the highest in four years. The percentage of respondents reporting that they “strongly agree” that First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to B.C. went down 4 percentage points from 2009, however, the proportion of positive responses (the percentage of people reporting “somewhat aware” and “very aware”) remained constant at 75% (and represents an increase from 62% in 2007 and 68% in 2008).

1d and 1e: Since 2007, BC Stats has conducted a series of surveys on behalf of MARR to monitor public awareness of the diversity of First Nations cultures, and their level of agreement on the wide range of valuable contributions made by First Nations in B.C. In 2009, two questions were added to develop a baseline for on-going monitoring of public awareness of Métis people, and public perception of the value of Métis contributions to B.C. The survey is now referred to as the Aboriginal Awareness Survey. The survey includes two questions pertaining to Métis: 1. How aware are you that Métis people represent a distinct Aboriginal population in British Columbia? Would you say you are, very aware, somewhat aware, not very aware or not at all aware? 2. Would you say you agree or disagree with the following statement: Métis people have made a wide range of valuable contributions to B.C.? Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree? The data shows a five percentage point increase from 2009 and 2010 for those reporting they are “very aware” that Métis people represent a distinct Aboriginal population. A one percentage point decrease in those reporting they “strongly agree” that the Métis have made a wide range of valuable contributions to B.C. is reported between 2009 and 2010. The same question also received a high response rate for those who indicated “I don't know” (14.6% in 2010 and 11.8% in 2009).

Education

Improving academic success is a significant priority for Aboriginal peoples and government. Education encompasses a lifelong learning process beginning with healthy early

childhood development and early learning opportunities, through to the attainment of credentials and participation in post-secondary education.

Education							
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2009	2015 Target	Data Source
2a. BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) completion at public schools. Aboriginal Ancestry Non-Aboriginal	(2005/06) 48% 83%	47% 84%	47% 82%	49% 83%	Available end of 2010.	2013 Target 82% for all students 56% for Aboriginal students	Ministry of Education
2b. Foundation Skills Assessment Meets or Exceeds Expectations: Grade 4							Ministry of Education
Reading Aboriginal Ancestry All Students Non-Aboriginal	(2007/08) 58% 74% 76%			53% 69% 71%	51% 67% 69%	100% for all students	
Writing Aboriginal Ancestry All Students Non-Aboriginal	(2007/08) 53% 71% 73%			51% 68% 70%	54% 69% 71%	100% for all students	
Numeracy Aboriginal Ancestry All Students Non-Aboriginal	(2007/08) 52% 70% 72%			47% 66% 68%	45% 64% 66%	100% for all students	
2c. Post-secondary credential achievement rate. Proportion of the population (ages 15-64) to hold a post-secondary credential. Aboriginal Identity (off-reserve) Non-Aboriginal	(2005) 30.2% 49.1%	32.3% 49.9%	32.9% 51.0%	33.3% 51.7%	34.7% 52.1%	Credential achievement rate will be equal between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal learners	

<p>2d. Post-secondary participation rate. Proportion of public post-secondary enrolment (headcount) that is Aboriginal compared to proportion of the BC population that is Aboriginal.</p> <p>Aboriginal Enrolment Proportion Proportion of BC's Population that is Aboriginal</p> <p>Number of Aboriginal people included in the headcount each year</p>	<p>4.40%</p> <p>4.81%</p> <p>16,466</p>	<p>4.30%</p> <p>4.90%</p> <p>17,252</p>	<p>4.50%</p> <p>4.96%</p> <p>18,254</p>	<p>4.70%</p> <p>5.01%</p> <p>18,977</p>	<p>5.27%</p> <p>5.07%</p> <p>21,852</p>	<p>Proportion of Aboriginal enrolment will equal the proportion of Aboriginal people in B.C. (5.33% by 2015)</p> <p>Aboriginal enrolment will grow by 5000 learners over the 2007 numbers.</p>	<p>Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development</p> <p>Central Data Warehouse</p> <p>Student Transitions Project</p> <p>BC Stats</p>
<p>2e. Highest attainment- high school certificate or equivalent for those aged 25 to 64.</p> <p>Aboriginal Identity First Nations single response Métis single response Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal</p>	<p>(2006)</p> <p>24.4%</p> <p>23.2%</p> <p>26.8%</p> <p>25.7%</p> <p>25.9%</p>	N/A			To be determined	<p>Census</p> <p>BC Stats</p>	
<p>2g. Attainment of College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma- aged 25 to 64.</p> <p>Aboriginal Identity First Nations single response Métis single response Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal</p>	<p>(2006)</p> <p>18.3%</p> <p>17.1%</p> <p>20.7%</p> <p>19.8%</p> <p>19.6%</p>	N/A			To be determined	<p>Census</p> <p>BC Stats</p>	
<p>2f. Attainment of university certificate, diploma, degree at bachelor's level or above- aged 25 to 64.</p> <p>Aboriginal Identity First Nations single response Métis single response Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal</p>	<p>(2006)</p> <p>7.1%</p> <p>6.2%</p> <p>8.8%</p> <p>8.9%</p> <p>24.9%</p>	N/A			To be determined	<p>Census</p> <p>BC Stats</p>	
2h. Early Development Instrument	Measurement Under Review						

Note: Refer to the Economic Opportunities section for information on apprenticeships, trades and training.

2a: High school completion is a predictor of success. The data for the BC Certificate of Graduation completion is measured using the six-year Completion Rate. The six-year Completion Rate is the percent of Grade 8 students who graduate with a Certificate of Graduation. It is NOT the inverse of a "dropout rate" as students may graduate after the six-year period. Over a three year time period, there has been no reduction in the 33% gap between completion rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students since 2005/06. Aboriginal ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification and includes First Nation (both Status and Non-Status), on reserve and off reserve, Inuit and Métis students.

2b: The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well B.C. students in Grades 4 and 7 are learning foundations skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing and Numeracy. The content of the 2008 FSA was adjusted to accommodate the February administration dates therefore a new baseline for student performance was established for the 2008 FSA. As a result comparisons of performance over time prior to 2008 (the 2007/08 academic year) are not analytically sound. The percentage of non-writers influences the percent meeting and/or exceeding expectations. Consequently, it appears that student performance has declined since 2008, but if focusing on those students who wrote the exam, the results are fairly stable over time. The 2009/10 results were slightly lower than 2008/09.

2c: Post-secondary credentials include post-secondary certificate, diploma, or associate, bachelor or graduate degree. Figures may differ from previous Measuring Outcomes' Reports as previous figures excluded students still in school, while these figures include total population (off-reserve, ages 15-64).

2d: A province-wide Aboriginal data standard was implemented in 2008 by public post-secondary institutions. The 2009 data represents the first time the number of Aboriginal students has been reported under this new data standard. It is noted that the increase in participation numbers may be partly due to better data collection, partly due the Aboriginal population making up a relatively larger proportion of the post-secondary aged population (due to higher birth rates) and partly due to increases in student numbers.

Headcount enrolment figures are reported in the Academic Year, from September 1 to August 31; for example, 2005 headcount includes students enrolled in programs from September 2004 to August 2005. "Headcount" measures all students who were enrolled in a program at a B.C. public post-secondary institutions, including non-credit courses (developmental and continuing education) as well as those leading to a post-secondary credential. Program duration varies from, for example, under 15 days to full semester. Non-credit courses under 15 days in duration could include, for example, occupational safety, first aid courses, or summer camps for high school students looking to enrol in post-secondary.

Data Sources for the annual headcounts:

- 2005-2007- from the report "*Charting Our Path*", Aboriginal Report," ALMD, 2008.
- 2008- from ALMD Central Data Warehouse and research universities.
- 2009- from Student Transitions Project; total BC population from BC Stats' PEOPLE 34 population projections, July, 2009; Aboriginal population from Aboriginal Population Projection Medium Scenario, 2009 (Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundredth).

Aboriginal status is self-identified by students at any public post-secondary institution they have attended in B.C., or through a declaration of Aboriginal status at the K-12 level. The non-Aboriginal category includes students whose Aboriginal status is unknown.

2e: The 'high school certificate or equivalent' measure includes persons who are between the ages of 25 and 64 who have graduated from a secondary school or equivalent as their highest level of educational attainment. The measure excludes persons with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. Examples of post-secondary institutions include community colleges, institutes of technology, collège d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEPs), private trade schools, private business colleges, schools of nursing and universities. The 2006 census figures show little variation between the population groups for those whose highest educational attainment is a high school certificate or equivalent.

2f: 'College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma' replaces the category 'Other non-university certificate or diploma' in previous censuses. This category includes accreditation by non-degree-granting institutions such as community colleges, CEGEPs, private business colleges and technical institutes. This measure shows the percentage of people in each population group aged 25 to 64 whose highest level of educational attainment is a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma. The 2006 census shows little variation between the population groups for this level of educational attainment.

2g: The measure for university certificate, diploma, or degree at bachelor's level or above as the highest level of attainment for those aged 25 to 64 shows that there is a wide gap between each of the Aboriginal identity populations and the non-Aboriginal population. The gap ranges from 16 to 18.7 percentage points.

2h: The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a population-based tool used to measure the state of child development at Kindergarten entry in the domains of: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge. The tool was designed to provide data to help inform communities and governments about how the programs, policies and social environments we provide for young children combine to support their development. The EDI tool is a checklist that kindergarten teachers complete for each child in February, after having several months to get to know each child. The EDI remains under review for inclusion as an indicator for Aboriginal early childhood development.

Housing and Infrastructure

Many of the socio-economic disparities faced by Aboriginal peoples in B.C. are closely linked to inadequate housing and infrastructure. Approximately 70% of all Aboriginal people in B.C. do not live on-reserve. Aboriginal peoples are significantly more likely to be in “core housing need” than non- Aboriginal peoples, less likely to be owners of their own homes, and are significantly over-represented among the province’s homeless population.

The *provincial housing strategy* identifies Aboriginal housing need as a priority issue. As part of this commitment, the Province undertook an extensive engagement process with Aboriginal groups. The information gathered through this process will be used to develop ways to provide safe, affordable and culturally appropriate housing to B.C.’s Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

Housing and Infrastructure							
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2009	2015 Target	Data Source
3a. Core Housing Need (CHN). Off-reserve Aboriginal Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 28.5% 15.3%	22.3% 14.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	Equitable to non-Aboriginal population	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Census
3b. Percentage of households reporting major repairs. Aboriginal Households Non-Aboriginal Households	(2006) 17.7% 6.8%	N/A			To be Determined	Census BC Stats	
3c. Percentage of First Nations with access to broadband facilities. Number of First Nations with access to broadband facilities	(2007/08) 42% 85 of 203 Nations	61%	73%	123	148	203 with at least consumer connectivity. As many as possible will have industrial connectivity.	Ministry of Citizens' Services All Nations Trust Company
3d. Number of long-term drinking water advisories on reserves.	(2005) 19	18	23	18	23	No federal target established at this time.	Health Canada
3e. Number of people on reserves affected by long-term drinking water advisories.	(2005) 3,123	2,422	3,094	2,335	3,784	No federal target established at this time.	

3a: Core housing need integrates standards for dwelling adequacy, suitability and affordability into a single measure of the housing conditions of Canadian households. If a household falls below one or more of these three standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three standards), it is classified as being in core housing need. Between 2001 and 2006, the disparity in CHN between off-reserve Aboriginal households and non-Aboriginal households decreased from 13% to 8%.

3b: This measure provides information on the number of households that reported their dwellings are in need of major repairs (for example the home has defective plumbing or electrical wiring, is in need of structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings). Aboriginal households are those with one or more aboriginal census family. An aboriginal census family is one in which the husband, wife or lone parent reported being of North American Indian, Inuit or Métis identity and/or who reported being members of an Indian Band/First Nation and/or a Treaty Indian/Registered Indian. In the case of non-family households, at least 50% of household members reported being of North American Indian, Inuit or Métis identity and/or who reported being members of an Indian Band/First Nation and/or a Treaty Indian/Registered Indian. There is a 10.9 percentage point gap between non-Aboriginal households with dwellings requiring major repairs and Aboriginal households.

3c: The Ministry of Citizens' Services continues to support First Nations-led connectivity initiatives. Through a process of collaboration with First Nations organizations, the broader public sector, the federal government and the private sector, the provincial government will continue to support First Nations organizations as they work to ensure all First Nations have broadband access. The ministry has set a goal to provide all 203 First Nations with at least consumer connectivity by 2015. In 2009-10, 25 more First Nations had consumer connectivity than the previous year (exceeding the target set of 140), and the ministry has set a target of increasing the number of communities with consumer connectivity to 160 by end of 2010-11.

3d and 3e: The Province of British Columbia and Health Canada First Nation Inuit Health define a long term drinking water advisory as an advisory that is in place for one year or longer. The data is not cumulative, but represents the number of long term advisories at the end of the reporting period. The greatest proportion of long term advisories in British Columbia between 2005 and 2009 are those that were in effect between one and five years long. Drinking Water Advisory includes Boil Water Advisory and Do Not Consume Advisory. Advisories are relevant to two water systems: the Community Water System (CWS) and the Public Water System-Non Transient (PWS-NT). The CWS is a piped distribution system that has five or more connections or housing units. The PWS-NT is a distribution system with less than five connections or housing units, considered a "public access water system" because it has one or more buildings that are open to the public, and regularly supplies water to the same people for six or more months per year. The water advisories do not include advisories for individual water systems, such as wells serving individual households.

DWAs may occur for reasons such as routine repairs, seasonal conditions such as high spring run-off, failures of the drinking water system or inadequate operation and maintenance. Action is taken to help First Nations remediate the problems of DWAs as soon as possible, and address underlying causes of advisories to improve the management of a system, which would overall reduce the chances that a drinking water advisory might occur. Most long term advisories are in place due to unacceptable microbiological quality and require upgrades or repairs to the water system.

Health

Monitoring and reporting on health outcomes and the health status of First Nations people is a key component of the *Transformative Change Accord First Nations Health Plan: Supporting the Health and Wellness of First Nations in British Columbia*. The Health Plan identifies a number of performance indicators to be used to measure the effectiveness of programs in closing the health gap between First Nations and other British Columbians. In addition to these indicators, the parties to the *Tripartite First Nations Health Plan* are working together with First Nations communities to identify relevant wellness indicators. First Nations have expressed a desire to move from a deficits-based approach to a strength-based approach in monitoring and reporting on health status.

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) released *Pathways to Health and Healing, 2nd Report on the Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia*, a publication

produced every five years that includes indicators from the First Nations Health Plan. The data presented in the table below have been taken from this report. The recent signing of the Tripartite Data Quality and Sharing Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will enable the creation of a First Nations Client File that will significantly improve our ability to monitor and report on health outcomes for the Status Indian population.

There are currently no comparable health data for Métis and non-status Indian populations. Plans to improve data sources are under development. The Ministry of Health Services is working with the Métis Nation British Columbia to develop an Information Sharing Agreement to enable the sharing and linking of data to produce health status indicators for the registered Métis population in British Columbia.

Note: Health statistics for 2007 to 2011 will be available in the 2010-11 report.

Health				
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2015 Target	Data Source
4a. Life Expectancy (years)	(1997-2001)	(2002-2006)	Gap will be reduced to less than 3 years.	Health Canada (Status Verification File)
Status Indian	74	75		
Other B.C. population	80	81		
4b. Age Standardized Mortality (Rate per 10,000)	(1997-2001)	(2002-2006)	Reduce gap by 35%	
Status Indian	84	74		
Other B.C. Population	58	53		

4c. Youth Suicide. (15 to 24 years old, rate per 10,000)	(2001-2003)	(2004-2006)	Reduce gap by 50%	BC Client Registry BC Vital Statistics
Status Indian	4	3		
Other B.C. population	1	1		
4d. Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live births)	(1997-2001)	(2002-2006)	Reduce gap by 50%	
Status Indian	8	9		
Other B.C. Population	4	4		
4e. Prevalence of Diabetes (percent)	(2001/02)	(2006/07)	Reduce gap by 33%	Medical Service Plan Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) Pharmanet
Status Indian	6%	7%		
Other B.C. population	4%	5%		
4f. Proportion of labour force aged 15 and over in health occupations	(2006)		To be determined.	Census BC Stats
Aboriginal Identity	3.2%			
First Nations single response	2.7%			
Métis single response	4.1%			
Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	3.6% 5.6%			
4g. Childhood Obesity	Baseline and ongoing mechanism for collecting relevant data will be developed.			

4a: Life expectancy at birth is a prediction of the average number of years a newborn person can be expected to live. Status Indians born between 2002 and 2006 can expect to live approximately 75 years, while other residents can expect to live approximately 81 years.

4b: The age standardized mortality rate (ASMR) measures the number of deaths due to all causes, expressed as a rate per 10,000 people. The measure allows for comparisons in death rates between two or more populations by adjusting for differences in population age distribution. Currently the age standardized mortality rate for Status Indians is 1.4 times greater than for other British Columbians.

4c: Youth suicide rates measure deaths among 15 to 24 year-olds who deliberately take their own lives. The measure is expressed as a rate per 10,000 people. The rate of youth suicide for Status Indians is about three times that of other youth. Youth suicide is not an issue for every First Nations community. Between 1992 and 2006, more than 60 per cent of First Nations communities in British Columbia reported no youth suicides.

4d: The infant mortality rate measures the number of infants who die in the first year of life, expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births. About nine of every 1,000 Status Indian infants die in their first year, compared with a rate of about four infant deaths among other British Columbians. There is an average of 24 Status Indian infant deaths each year. The main cause of infant deaths are perinatal conditions related to maternal health, birth trauma, infections, respiratory and cardiovascular disorders.

4e: The Provincial Health Officer reports the prevalence rate of diabetes among Status Indians is 6.7% as compared to 4.8% in other British Columbians, with approximately 7,100 Status Indians having already been diagnosed with diabetes. Increased testing proposed in the First Nations Health Plan will capture existing unreported cases of diabetes. Although there is no conclusive evidence, possible explanations for the increase in the prevalence rates in the Aboriginal population and other British Columbians may be in part attributed to increased testing for diabetes, and that more people are living longer with diabetes.

4f: The measure for the proportion of labour force aged 15 and over in a health occupation is calculated by taking the number of individuals in health occupations by population identity groups, dividing by the total number of individuals in all occupations for that same identity group, represented as a percentage. For example, according to the 2006 census, there are 87,715 people identified as Aboriginal aged 15 and over represented in all occupations in B.C. and 2,800 of that population are in a health occupation. The resulting calculation tells us that 3.2% of all of the Aboriginal identity population aged 15 and over are in a health occupation. The 'all occupations' category refers to the experienced labour force population and therefore includes persons who were employed and persons who were unemployed who worked for pay or in self-employment since January 1, 2005. The 2006 Census occupation data are classified according to the [National Occupational Classification for Statistics](#) (NOC-S). Health occupations are those "primarily concerned with providing health care services directly to patients and providing support to health care delivery".

4g: There are no routinely collected measures for childhood obesity for First Nations in B.C. An ongoing mechanism for collecting relevant data is under development.

Economic Opportunities

Increased access to economic opportunities for Aboriginal peoples requires a combination of improved community economic development and supports for individuals to participate in the economy. Improved economic outcomes for communities and individuals are dependent on a number of variables (such as education, training, access to capital, etc).

The indicators attempt to measure progress towards improved economic outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Efforts are being made to include more data specific to Métis and urban Aboriginal populations. This section of the report provides data for these population groups where 2001 and 2006 census data is available.

Economic Opportunities- Aboriginal Identity							
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2009	2015 Target	Data Source
5a. Unemployment rate. Off reserve Aboriginal Identity Non-Aboriginal	(2005) 15.1% 5.6%	11.4% 4.6%	9.7% 4.1%	10.8% 4.4%	16.1% 7.3%	Differential will be reduced substantially.	Labour Force Survey- Annual
5b. Unemployment rate. Aboriginal Identity Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 22.5% 8%	15% 5.6%	N/A			Differential will be reduced substantially.	Census BC Stats
5c. Median employment income. Aboriginal Identity Non-Aboriginal	(2000) \$35,848 \$44,076	(2005) \$34,601 \$42,540	N/A			Differential will be reduced substantially.	
5d. Employment to population ratio. Aboriginal Identity Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 48.7 60	55.3 61.9	N/A			Differential will be reduced substantially.	
5e. Self-employment status. Incorporated and unincorporated Aboriginal Identity Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 11.3% 15.6%	9.6% 15.2%	N/A			Differential will be reduced substantially.	Census BC Stats
5f. Self-identified Aboriginals as percentage of those attending technical training at a public post-secondary institution.	(2005/06) 4.5%	5.4%	6.3%	7.6%	8.6%	Aboriginal participation will be increased.	Central Data Warehouse
5g. % with Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma. Aboriginal Identity Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 12.5% 10.8%	N/A			No gap currently exists.		Census BC Stats

5a: Since 2004, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through a monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market status of Aboriginal peoples aged 15+ who are living off-reserve in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. B.C. sponsored an increased sample resulting in more robust data covering the off-reserve First Nations and Métis populations living in B.C. The 2009 data show a marked departure from the previous years' data where the gap in unemployment rates between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population was narrowing. The impact of the economic recession was disproportionate on the Aboriginal population compared to the non-Aboriginal population resulting in the gap widening by 2.4 percentage points.

5b: Conducted every five years, the Census provides a statistical portrait of Canada's population, including Aboriginal peoples, at a particular point in time. While not collected as frequently as the Labour Force Survey, the Census is more comprehensive survey, with a much larger sample size. Census data also includes on reserve, off reserve and non reserve Aboriginal populations. Between 2001 and 2006, Census also reveals a decrease in the unemployment rate between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations, with an existing gap of 9.4 percentage points (down from a gap of 14.5 percentage points in 2001).

5c: The median employment income for 2001 and 2005 is for full-year, full-time, reported at 2005 constant dollars. Median employment income is the income separating the higher half of the population incomes from the lower half. The median income is used rather than an average employment income as it is less affected by unusually high or low values. The gap in employment income decreased by \$289 between 2000 and 2005.

5d: Employment to population ratio is $\text{Employment rate} = (\text{Employed}/\text{population 15 and over}) \times 100$

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. Note: In past censuses, this was called the Employment–population ratio. 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. There was an increase in the proportion of Aboriginal people 15 years and older who are employed in 2006, reducing the gap in this indicator by 4.7 percentage points since 2001.

5e: Statistics Canada defines the self-employed as persons who worked in their own farm, business or professional practice including persons who:

- Spent time in the operation or setting-up of such enterprises, whether or not goods were sold or services were rendered, and whether or not a profit was made;
- Did work on a freelance or contract basis;
- Operated a direct distributorship selling and delivering products, such as cosmetics, newspapers, brushes or cleaning products; or
- Fished, hunted or trapped, whether for profit or for maintenance of their community.

The self-employment data show that there was a decline in the proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples who are self-employed in 2006, with a greater decline experienced in the Aboriginal population.

5f: Industry Training Authority (ITA) derives its Aboriginal Status data from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development Central Data Warehouse. This data does not include individuals who attended non-public training or those who did not attend any training during the period, nor does it include those registered in Foundation or high school programs. Aboriginal headcount relies on the voluntary declaration by an aboriginal student of their status at either the K-12 level or at a public post-secondary institution. Headcounts show an increase in this report compared to previous versions due to recoding of some Welding and Aircraft Maintenance programs from Foundation to Apprenticeship. Data is reflective of 15 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions, including nine colleges, five universities, and one institute. Between 2005 and 2008, an increase of .9 percentage points and greater per year has been achieved in this indicator.

5g: Census questions relating to education changed substantially between 2001 and 2006. Therefore valid comparisons cannot be made between the two censuses. According to the 2006 Census, 12.5% of the Aboriginal population (age 15+) (representing 17,615 Aboriginal people) completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, compared to only 10.8% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Métis Population

Economic Opportunities- Métis Population							
Indicator	Baseline	2006	2007	2008	2009	2015 Target	Data Source
6a. Unemployment rate. Métis off-reserve Non-Aboriginal population	(2005) 8.7% 5.6%	8.2% 4.6%	7.3% 4.1%	6% 4.4%	14.5% 7.3%	Differential will be reduced substantially.	Labour Force Survey-Annual
6b. Unemployment rate. Métis Single Response Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 15.9% 8%	9.4% 5.6%	N/A			Differential will be reduced substantially.	Census BC Stats
6c. Median employment income. Métis Single Response Non-Aboriginal	(2000) \$39,315 \$44,076	(2005) \$38,035 \$42,540	N/A			Differential will be reduced substantially.	
6d. Employment to population ratio. Métis Single Response Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 57.8 60	64.4 61.9	N/A			No gap currently exists.	
6e. Self-employment status. Incorporated and unincorporated Métis Single Response Non-Aboriginal	(2001) 13.6% 15.6%	11.8% 15.2%	N/A			Differential will be reduced.	Census BC Stats
6f. % with Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma. Métis Single Response Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 14.4% 10.8%		N/A			No gap currently exists.	BC Stats

6a: Since 2004, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through a monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market status of Aboriginal peoples aged 15+ who are living off-reserve in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. B.C. sponsored an increased sample resulting in more robust data covering the off-reserve First Nations and Métis populations living in B.C. The 2009 data show a marked departure from the previous years' data where the gap in unemployment rates between the Métis population and non-Aboriginal population was narrowing. The impact of the economic recession was disproportionate on the Métis population compared to the non-Aboriginal population resulting in the gap widening by 5.6 percentage points.

6b: Conducted every five years, the Census provides a statistical portrait of Canada's population, including Aboriginal peoples, at a particular point in time. While not collected as frequently as the Labour Force Survey, the Census is more comprehensive survey, with a much larger sample size.

Between 2001 and 2006 the unemployment rate decreased for both the Métis and non-Aboriginal populations, with the gap in unemployment levels existing at 3.8 percentage points in 2006.

6c: The median employment income for 2001 and 2005 is for full-year, full-time, reported at 2005 constant dollars. Median employment income is the income separating the higher half of the population incomes from the lower half. The median income is used rather than an average employment income as it is less affected by unusually high or low values. The decrease in the gap in employment income between 2000 and 2005 was minimal (\$256).

6d: Employment to population ratio is $\text{Employment rate} = (\text{Employed}/\text{population 15 and over}) \times 100$

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. Note: In past censuses, this was called the Employment–population ratio. 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. There was an increase in the proportion of Métis and non-Aboriginal people 15 years and older who were employed in 2006, with the Métis population achieving a higher employment to population ratio than the non-Aboriginal population.

6e: Statistics Canada defines the self-employed as persons who worked in their own farm, business or professional practice including persons who:

- Spent time in the operation or setting-up of such enterprises, whether or not goods were sold or services were rendered, and whether or not a profit was made;
- Did work on a freelance or contract basis;
- Operated a direct distributorship selling and delivering products, such as cosmetics, newspapers, brushes or cleaning products: or
- Fished, hunted or trapped, whether for profit or for maintenance of their community.
-

The self-employment data show that there was a decline in the proportion of Métis and non-Aboriginal peoples who are self-employed in 2006, with a greater decline experienced in the Métis population.

6f: Census questions relating to education changed substantially between 2001 and 2006. Therefore valid comparisons cannot be made between the two censuses. According to the 2006 Census, 14.4% of the Métis population (age 15+) (representing 6,315 Métis people) completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, compared to only 10.8% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Urban Aboriginal Population

Economic Opportunities- Urban Aboriginal Population			
Indicator	Baseline	2015 Target	Data Source
7a. Unemployment rate. Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 12% 5.6%	Differential will be reduced substantially.	Census BC Stats
7b. Employment to population ratio. Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 59.3 61.9	Differential will be reduced substantially.	
7c. Self-employment status. Incorporated and unincorporated Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 9% 15.2%	Differential will be reduced substantially.	
7d. % with Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma. Aboriginal Identity-off reserve, urban Non-Aboriginal	(2006) 12.6% 10.8%	No gap currently exists.	

7a: Conducted every five years, the Census provides a statistical portrait of Canada's population, including Aboriginal peoples, at a particular point in time. In 2006, the unemployment rate for the urban Aboriginal population living off-reserve was higher than for the non-Aboriginal population, representing a difference of 6.4 percentage points.

7b: Employment to population ratio is $\text{Employment rate} = (\text{Employed}/\text{population 15 and over}) \times 100$

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. Note: In past censuses, this was called the Employment–population ratio. 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. As of 2006, there was a 2.6 percentage point difference between the employment to population ratio between the two population groups.

7c: Statistics Canada defines the self-employed as persons who worked in their own farm, business or professional practice including persons who:

- Spent time in the operation or setting-up of such enterprises, whether or not goods were sold or services were rendered, and whether or not a profit was made;
- Did work on a freelance or contract basis;

- Operated a direct distributorship selling and delivering products, such as cosmetics, newspapers, brushes or cleaning products; or
- Fished, hunted or trapped, whether for profit or for maintenance of their community.

Self-employment rates were lower for the urban Aboriginal population by 6.2 percentage points than for the non-Aboriginal population.

7d: Census questions relating to education changed substantially between 2001 and 2006. Therefore valid comparisons cannot be made between the two censuses. According to the 2006 Census, a larger percentage of the urban Aboriginal population (age 15+) (representing 10,580 urban Aboriginal people) completed an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, compared to the non-Aboriginal population.

Definitions

Aboriginal: The term “Aboriginal peoples of Canada” is defined in the *Constitution Act* of 1982, Part II, Section 35(2), as including “the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada”. Canada’s Aboriginal population is distinct and diverse. “First Nation” is the term generally preferred by Indian peoples of Canada. The term “Indian” is still used when referring to legislation or government statistics.

Aboriginal Ancestry: Refers to a person who can trace his or her ancestry to Aboriginal linguistic family whose traditional lands fell in total or in part in the geographic area that is now Canada. Aboriginal ancestry also refers to a person who has been accorded Aboriginal rights by legislation, for example, by marriage to an Aboriginal person.

Aboriginal Identity: Aboriginal identity refers to a person who reports he or she identifies with, or is a member of, an organic political or cultural entity that stems historically from the original persons of North America. The term includes the Indian (First Nation), Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

Aboriginal Identity- off reserve, urban: refers to the Aboriginal Identity population who live in an urban area. Does not include the Aboriginal population living on First Nation reserves.

Indian Act: The *Indian Act* is federal legislation, which dates from 1876. There have been over twenty major changes to the original Act since then. The *Act* is administered by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The *Act* deals with registered Indians, Band Councils, and the system of Indian reserves.

First Nations: Officially called Indians in the *Indian Act*, this term refers to the indigenous peoples of North America located in what is now Canada, and their descendents, who are not Inuit or Métis. For the purposes of Aboriginal identification within British Columbia, the term “First Nation(s)” is the generally preferred term in place of “Indian”. For statistical and analytical purposes, these terms are considered interchangeable and representative of the same population.

Rural: 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 Indian (SI): A person who is registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*. The *Act* sets out the requirements for determining who is an Indian for the purposes of the *Indian Act*.

Urban: 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. Urban population includes all population living in the urban cores, secondary urban cores and urban fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as the population living in urban areas outside CMAs and CAs.

Non-Status: First Nations (Indian) people who do not meet the criteria for registration, or have chosen not to be registered, under the *Indian Act*.

Métis: Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation. (*Definition adopted by the Métis National Council at their 2002 Annual General Assembly and further implemented by the Métis Nation British Columbia in 2003.*)

Métis people identify themselves, and are recognized, as distinct from First Nations (Indian), Inuit or European descendants. The

distinct Métis culture arose after contact with the first European explorer/settlers but prior to colonialism. (*General definition.*)

Métis off-reserve: Includes the Métis population living in both urban and rural areas, but not those who live on a First Nation reserve.

Métis Single Response: Includes those persons who identified as Métis only.



**Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations
and Reconciliation**

Intergovernmental and Community Relations Branch • PO Box 9100, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9B1 • Phone: 1 800 880-1022 • Email: abrinfo@gov.bc.ca

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