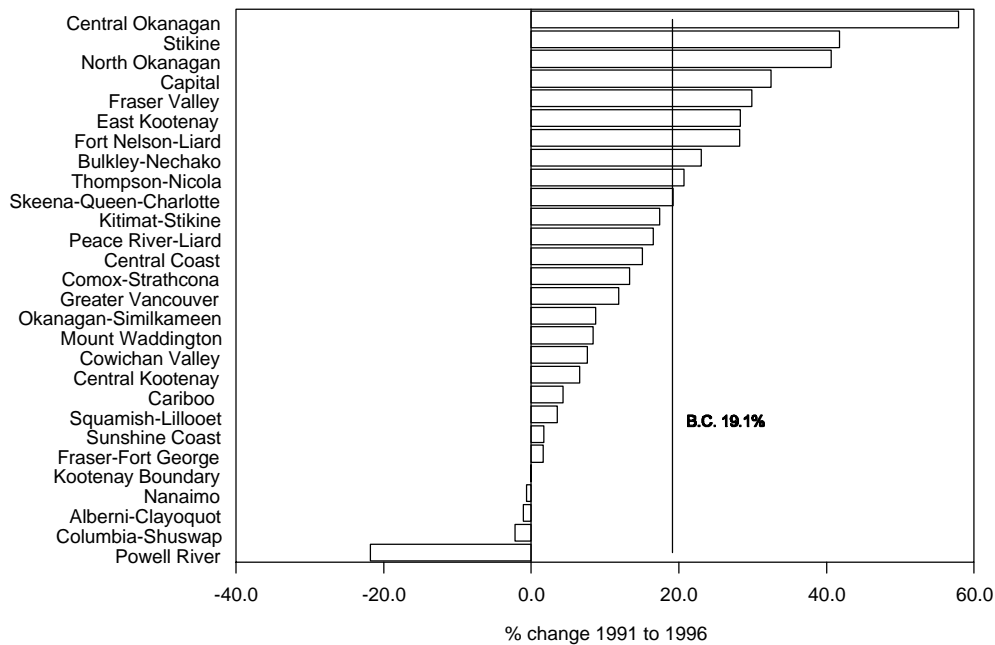


Focus on BC: *Population Living on Indian Reserves*

Between 1991 and 1996, the population living on Indian Reserves in Central Okanagan increased by 58%



BC STATS

The population living on Indian Reserves in the province, consisting of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, is of general interest but also of more specific interest in the light of land claim negotiations. Information from the 1996 Census on the total population and the number of dwellings on Indian Reserves provides an initial view of this segment of the provincial population.

Since 1981, Indian Reserves have been recorded by Statistics Canada as individual census subdivisions (CSDs). According to the 1996 Census, British Columbia had 488 Indian Reserve CSDs, three Indian Settle-

ments (S-Es) and one Indian Government District (IGD).

When using Indian Reserve population statistics, it is important to note that not all persons residing on reserves are Aboriginal peoples - in 1991 only 70% of persons living on reserves in B.C. were of Aboriginal origin. Also the majority of people of Aboriginal origin do not live on reserves - over three quarters of the people reporting Aboriginal origin in the 1991 Census were not living on Indian Reserves. Comparable information from the 1996 Census will be available in early 1998.



Provincial Population Living on Indian Reserves

In 1996, 19 Indian Reserves in B.C. were incompletely enumerated because of the refusal of some residents to participate in the Census. This is comparable to the 18 incompletely enumerated reserves in the 1991 Census, but down substantially from 64 reserves in the 1986 Census. There were 7 reserves that did not participate in all three censuses, 6 in Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and one in Capital Regional District.

The 1996 incompletely enumerated population living on B.C. Indian Reserves was estimated by BC STATS at 2,348, down 5% from the comparable 1991 estimate of 2,478.

The population residing on B.C. Indian Reserves in 1996 was 64,891, including the estimate for the unenumerated reserves. This represented an increase of 19.1% since 1991. The growth in the reserve population was stronger than the 13.5% growth in the total provincial population over the five year period.

Almost one third (21,084) of those living on Indian Reserves in 1996 resided on large reserves in urban areas. According to the 1991 Census, slightly more than a third of the people on the urban reserves were Aboriginal. The population of the urban reserves (27.7%) grew much faster than the rural reserves (15.4%) between 1991 and 1996, although the growth of both groups of reserves was stronger than for the population of the province as a whole.

Regional Districts

According to the 1996 Census, the Central Okanagan Regional District had 7,221 people living on Indian Reserves, the

greatest number of any regional district. Kitimat-Stikine Regional District had almost as many people (7,209) living on Indian Reserves but the ethnic characteristics of the two areas are quite different. The 1991 Census indicated that in Kitimat-Stikine, 98% of the people living on Indian Reserves were of Aboriginal origin, as compared to only 12% in Central Okanagan.

In terms of growth between 1991 and 1996 in the population living on Indian Reserves, the Central Okanagan Regional District had the largest increase (58%), followed by Stikine (42%) and North Okanagan (41%). Four regional districts experienced declines in the population living on Indian Reserves between 1991 and 1996: Nanaimo (-0.6%), Alberni-Clayoquot (-1.1%), Columbia-Shuswap (-2.2%) and Powell River. It is difficult to accurately estimate the magnitude of the decline in Powell River between 1991 and 1996, since the largest reserve was incompletely enumerated in 1991. However, between 1986 and 1996 the population living on Indian Reserves in Powell River fell by 7.4%.

The following table presents the total population and dwelling counts for regional districts, while the data for individual Indian Reserves, including the estimates for the incompletely enumerated reserves, are available in the 1996 Census section of the BC STATS web site:

(<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>).

Forthcoming 1996 Census releases over the next year will provide additional information on the social and economic characteristics of the population residing on Indian Reserves within the province. The release of Aboriginal information is scheduled for January 1998.

**British Columbia Indian Reserve Census Figures
Including Estimates for Unenumerated Reserves**

Name	Census Population		Growth Rate	Private Dwellings 1996 (2)	Land Area Square km 1996	Population/ Square km 1996
	1991 (1)	1996				
Alberni-Clayoquot	1,729	1,710	-1.1	488	19.61	87.2
Bulkley-Nechako	2,803	3,449	23.0	901	86.15	40.0
Capital	3,397 (4)	4,501 (5)	32.5	1,825	14.80	304.1
Cariboo	2,634 (4)	2,746 (5)	4.3	707	259.99	10.6
Central Coast	1,868 (4)	2,150	15.1	643	26.26	81.9
Central Kootenay	106	113	6.6	39	7.67	14.7
Central Okanagan	4,574	7,221	57.9	2,849	10.26	703.8
Columbia-Shuswap	811	793	-2.2	298	73.33	10.8
Comox-Strathcona	1,090 (4)	1,235 (5)	13.3	377	16.46	75.0
Cowichan Valley	2,895 (4)	3,116	7.6	762	64.12	48.6
East Kootenay	466	598	28.3	211	164.43	3.6
Fort Nelson-Liard	351	450	28.2	119	87.60	5.1
Fraser-Fort George	122	124	1.6	45	6.81	18.2
Fraser Valley (3)	3,413	4,432 (5)	29.9	1,579	94.78	46.8
Greater Vancouver (3)	5,222	5,842 (5)	11.9	2,621	13.54	431.4
Kitimat-Stikine (3)	6,140	7,209	17.4	1,934	107.67	67.0
Kootenay Boundary	0	0	0.0	0	0.00	0.0
Mount Waddington	1,629	1,766 (5)	8.4	519	46.74	37.8
Nanaimo	690	686	-0.6	211	3.48	197.1
North Okanagan	1,515	2,130	40.6	921	113.63	18.7
Okanagan-Similkameen	1,638	1,781 (5)	8.7	805	350.10	5.1
Peace River-Liard	800	932	16.5	230	113.14	8.2
Powell River	765 (4)	598	-21.8	242	17.32	34.5
Skeena-Queen-Charlotte (3)	2,527	3,012	19.2	889	158.02	19.1
Squamish-Lillooet	2,428 (4)	2,514 (5)	3.5	771	149.66	16.8
Stikine	275	390	41.8	138	15.06	25.9
Sunshine Coast	751 (4)	764	1.7	311	11.10	68.8
Thompson-Nicola	3,833 (4)	4,628	20.7	1,569	626.24	7.4
British Columbia	54,472 (4)	64,891 (5)	19.1	22,004	2,657.97	24.4

Source: Census Figures: Statistics Canada - 1991 and 1996 Census of Canada, Cat. No 93-304, 93-357-XPB
Estimates: BC STATS.

Prepared by: BC STATS

- Notes:
- (1) 1991 Census population figures are based on 1996 boundaries.
 - (2) Includes all private dwellings occupied by usual residents, temporary and/or foreign residents.
 - (3) Population for 1991 adjusted due to a boundary change between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, or to sub-areas included in totals.
 - (4) Provincial, Regional District and Reserve populations for 1991 include estimates of the population of Indian Reserves that were incompletely enumerated in the 1991 Census.
 - (5) Provincial, Regional District and Reserve populations for 1996 include estimates of the population of Indian Reserves that were incompletely enumerated in the 1996 Census.