

- Unemployment rate drops to 7.4% as employment growth outpaces increase in labour force
- Exports slip 8.2% in August as US-bound shipments fall for ninth time in ten months
- Building permits soar in August, rising 47.5%

## Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 7.4% (seasonally adjusted) in September.** After steadily rising for several months, the provincial unemployment rate shows signs of leveling off, decreasing or remaining stable in each of the past three months. The province's jobless rate remains well below that for Canada as a whole, which dropped 0.3 percentage points last month, falling to 8.4%. The national decrease was the result of both job growth (+0.2%) and a decline in the size of the labour force (-0.1%).

The improvement in BC's jobless rate was the result of the highest job growth among the provinces (+14,400, up 0.6% from August), which outpaced an increase in the number of people either working or looking for work (+0.2%). September marked the second consecutive month of employment gains in the province.

Following a small increase in August (+1.1%), employment in the province's goods-producing sector, which has borne the brunt of the economic downturn, rose again in September (+3.5%). For the second month in a row, job gains were also seen in other hard-hit industries, such as manufacturing (+3.6%) and construction (+2.1%). While job gains in agriculture and utilities also contributed to overall growth in the goods sector, there were fewer jobs in forestry, fishing, mining, and oil & gas extraction.

Meanwhile, employment was unchanged in the service sector. There was strong job growth in finance, insurance, real estate & leasing

(+7.2%) and health care & social assistance (+4.4%), but these gains were offset by losses in other service sector industries, namely professional, scientific & technical services (-9.8%) and information, culture & recreation (-8.6%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Most of September's job growth was attributable to part-time employment; of the 14,400 new jobs, only 2,200 were full-time.** Almost all of the employment gains in September were among women (+11,800) while employment among men rose by 2,600. As a result of job gains among women, the gap in the jobless rate between men (8.7%) and women (6.0%) widened. Youth (those aged 15 to 24) saw a slight decline in the number of jobs (-2,700).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Jobless rates improved in every region, with the exception of Vancouver Island/Coast, where the rate edged up slightly to 7.1% (3-month moving average, unadjusted).** Despite September's increase, Vancouver Island/Coast maintained the lowest rate among the regions, while the highest rate was seen in Cariboo (12.4%). The province's largest urban center, Vancouver, registered notable employment growth (+12,000), and a decrease in the jobless rate (down 0.7 percentage points to 6.7%). On the other hand, in Victoria, employment decreased by 3,300 and the unemployment rate rose 1.5 percentage points to 7.1%.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

## The Economy

- **Exports of BC products slipped 8.2% (seasonally adjusted) in August, reversing much of July's gain (+10.3%).** A 20.8% slide in ship-

## Did you know...

Three quarters (75%) of child Internet-users in Canada were online by the age of seven.

Source: Ipsos Canada

ments of energy weighed heavily on overall exports. Shipments of agriculture & fish (-10.4%), machinery & auto equipment (-6.4%) and forestry (-2.5%) products were also markedly lower. A moderate climb in the value of industrial & consumer goods exports (+1.8%) managed to temper the overall decline slightly.

Shipments to the US (-3.0%) were off for the ninth time in ten months (exports south of the border inched up 0.1% in July) as the value of exports slipped in four major commodity groups. Exports to destinations other than the US were down even more substantially (-12.8%), with the value of overseas shipments of energy (-27.1%) and agricultural (-15.9%) products plummeting.

At the national level, goods exports fell 5.1%, reflecting notable contractions in volumes shipped. Machinery & equipment (-10.4%) and agriculture & fishing products (-10.3%) were among commodities pulling exports down, but declines were widespread. Canadian exports to the US (-3.2%) decreased in August, and commodities sent to the European Union (-6.6%) and Japan (-18.3%) were also off.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities soared 47.5% (seasonally adjusted) in August.** The surge was due entirely to more planned activity in the non-residential (+131.0%) sector. Permits for institutional & government buildings more than tripled (+235.4%), and there was also increased activity in commercial (+76.4%) and industrial (+5.4%) buildings. Meanwhile, permits issued in the residential sector (-7.4%) slipped.

Planned spending was up in all four of the province's census metropolitan areas, with a 380.8% jump in the Kelowna area leading the pack. Victoria (+68.5%) and Abbotsford-Mission (+49.5%) posted double-digit increases, while the province's largest city (+8.7%) saw a more moderate increase. Vancouver accounted for over forty percent of the total value of building permits issued in the province in August.

Canadian permits climbed 7.2%, as increased activity in some of the more populous provinces, such as Ontario (+21.3%), BC and Alberta (+3.2%), outweighed declines in other parts of the country. Saskatchewan (-35.4%) recorded the most significant drop.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Year-to-date, building permits were 40.4% lower than in the first eight months of 2008, with decreases in all but one region.** Mainland/Southwest (-48.2%), where the slump in the value of permits reflected significantly lower spending on residential and commercial projects, and Kootenay (-50.9%) saw the most notable declines. The decrease in Vancouver Island/Coast (-26.3%) was concentrated in the industrial and residential sectors. Permits were also off in Nechako (-35.9%), Thompson/Okanagan (-28.1%), Cariboo (-25.4%) and North Coast (-22.3%). Only the Northeast region of the province fared favourably in the first eight months of the year, with planned spending on new projects climbing 8.7%, as the value of institutional permits surged (+530.6%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

## Air Travel

- **In 2008, Canadian air carriers reported a 1.6% boost in passenger volume compared to 2007, with the total number of enplaned/deplaned passengers reaching 108 million.** Growth in the number of passengers travelling to international destinations other than the US led the increases in scheduled travel, jumping 4.0% during the 12-month period. Meanwhile, the volume of those travelling within Canada saw more modest growth (+1.9%), while the trans-border (Canada-US) sector contracted 1.5%. Canadian airports experienced an increase in the number of flights arriving and departing (+0.9%) last year, but carriers noted a significant decline in cargo tonnage (-5.8%) transported by air.

Data Source: S.C. Cat.# 51-203-XIE

Infoline Issue: 09-40  
October 9th, 2009

## The Aboriginal Population of B.C.: Highlights from the Statistical Profiles of Aboriginal Peoples in B.C.

BC Stats has recently released Statistical Profiles of Aboriginal Peoples in B.C., based on data from the 2006 Census. These profiles can be accessed at:

[http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/abor/ap\\_index.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/abor/ap_index.asp)

Aboriginal people live in many different areas of B.C., and in each area, Aboriginal people face different circumstances. Sub-provincial profiles provide comparisons of the socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal peoples, as well as profiles of Aboriginal groups such as First Nations, Métis, and Status Indians, using data available from the 2006 Census. The topics profiled are: demography, mobility, language, education, labour, income, and housing. This article addresses some of the highlights from these profiles.

### Characteristics

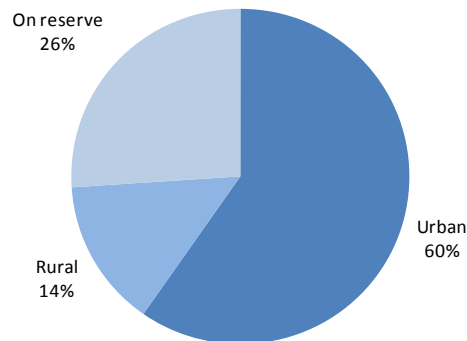
During the 2006 Census, 196,075 British Columbians (or 4.8 percent of B.C.'s total population) identified themselves as Aboriginal. The Aboriginal population is made up of those persons who self-identified with at least one Aboriginal group (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit), who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian (as defined by the Indian Act of Canada), or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

First Nations account for 66% of the Aboriginal population in B.C., followed by Métis (30%), and Inuit (0.4%). The remainder either identified with more than one group or were members of an Indian Band or First Nation and did not identify with a specific Aboriginal group.

Sixty percent of the Aboriginal population in B.C. is urban, 14% live in rural B.C., and just over a quarter of the Aboriginal population live

on-reserve<sup>1</sup>. Of those who live on-reserve, the vast majority are First Nations (97%).

### Sixty percent of the Aboriginal population is urban

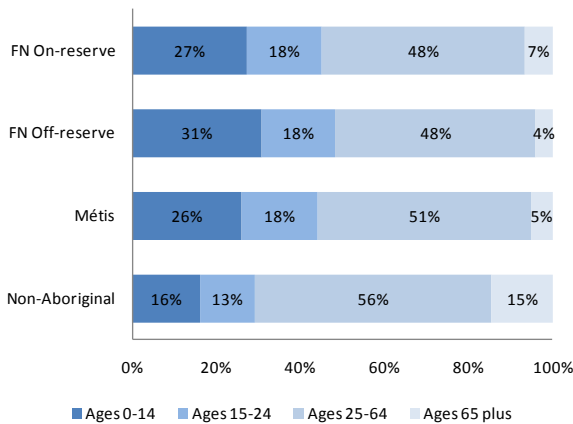


Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada

Aboriginal people are much younger, on average, than the non-Aboriginal population. The median age of the Aboriginal population in B.C. in 2006 was 28, compared with 41 for the non-Aboriginal population. In 2006, over one quarter of the Aboriginal population was under 15 years of age, compared with only 16% percent of the non-Aboriginal population. At the other end of the age spectrum, 15% of B.C.'s non-Aboriginal population was 65 and over, compared with only 5% of the Aboriginal population. First Nations people (living on-and off-reserve) and Métis have similar age structures. As a proportion of the population, there are fewer First Nations children (0-14) living on-reserve, compared to the off-reserve population—27% vs. 31%. There is also a higher proportion of seniors living on-reserve than off-reserve.

<sup>1</sup> On-reserve includes Indian Reserves and other census subdivision legally affiliated with First Nations or Indian bands. Statistics Canada does not classify reserves as urban or rural.

**Aboriginal people are younger than the non-Aboriginal population**



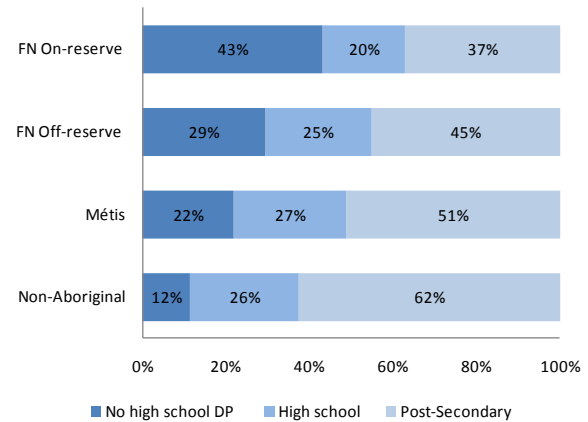
Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada

**Education Attainment**

It has been recognized that Aboriginal Peoples in B.C. lag behind the rest of the population in educational attainment. The area of greatest concern is the very low high school completion rate of Aboriginal Peoples, as we know that persons without a high school diploma are at risk of facing challenges in the labour market. The Census data show daunting inequalities between the non-Aboriginal population and the Aboriginal population, especially for First Nations people living on-reserve.

The difference in educational attainment between Aboriginal groups is considerable—43% of First Nations people (age 25 to 64) living on-reserve have not completed their high school education, compared to 29% of First Nations people living off-reserve and 22% of Métis. Only 12% of the non-Aboriginal population have not completed high school—a 31 percentage point gap with First Nations people living on-reserve. At the other end of the education spectrum, only 37% of the First Nations people living on-reserve have completed a post-secondary credential, compared to 62% of the non-Aboriginal population. The post-secondary completion rate is higher for Métis and First Nations people living off-reserve (51% and 45%, respectively), but still lower than the non-Aboriginal population.

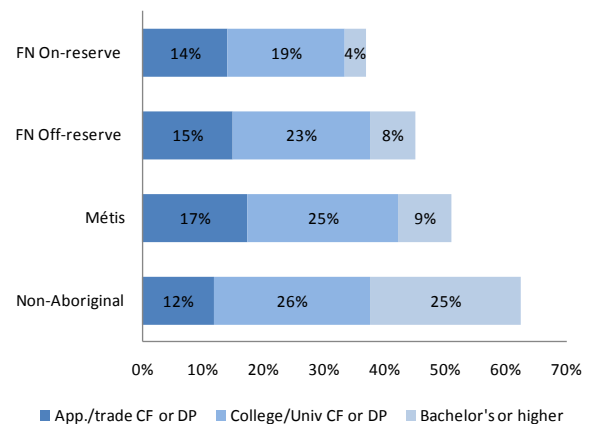
**Over 40% of First Nations people living on-reserve have not completed high school**



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 64)

Compared to the non-Aboriginal population, First Nations (on-and off-reserve) and Métis are more likely to complete an apprenticeship or trades certificate (CF) or diploma (DP). However, Aboriginal groups are less likely than the non-Aboriginal population to complete a bachelor's degree or higher, and the difference is even more pronounced among First Nations living on-reserve. For example, only 4% of the on-reserve population had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 8% of those First Nations living off-reserve.

**Aboriginal people are less likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher**



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 64)

Aboriginal females appeared to have higher levels of education than males. Forty-five percent of First Nations females age 25 to 64 completed a post-secondary credential, compared to only 38% of males. Furthermore, 8% of females obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to only 4% of males. This pattern holds true for First Nations off-reserve and Métis. That said, males (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) had higher completion rates when it came to an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma. Nineteen percent of the First Nations males completed an apprenticeship certificate or diploma, compared to 11% of their female counterparts. Twenty-three percent of Métis males completed an apprenticeship program, compared to 13% of Métis females.

**Aboriginal females have higher levels of education than their male counterparts**

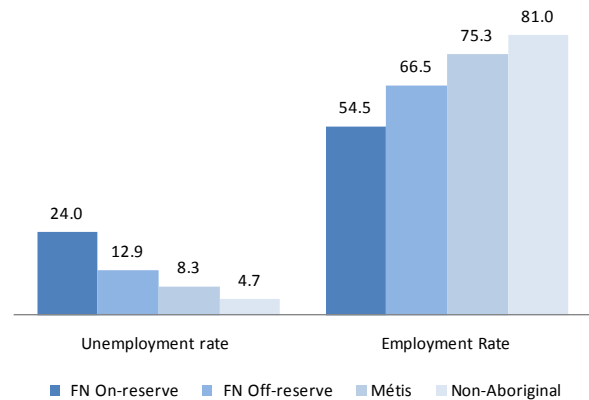
		First Nations	FN On-Reserve	FN Off-Reserve	Métis	Non-Aboriginal
<b>M</b>	No high school DP	39%	47%	33%	25%	12%
	High school	23%	19%	26%	26%	25%
	App./trade CF or DP	19%	18%	20%	23%	16%
	CF or DP	15%	14%	16%	19%	22%
	Bachelor's or higher	4%	2%	6%	7%	25%
<b>F</b>	No high school DP	31%	40%	26%	19%	11%
	High school	23%	20%	25%	27%	27%
	App./trade CF or DP	11%	11%	11%	13%	8%
	CF or DP	27%	24%	28%	30%	29%
	Bachelor's or higher	8%	5%	9%	10%	25%

Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 64)

**Labour Market Outcomes**

Employment prospects for the Aboriginal population are much bleaker than for the non-Aboriginal population. At the time of the 2006 Census, British Columbia’s labour force had been performing extremely well and B.C.’s unemployment rate among those 25 to 54 was 5.0%. However, the Aboriginal unemployment rate, at 13.9 percent, was close to three times that of the non-Aboriginal population. First Nations people show the highest incidence of unemployment (16.9%). First Nations people living on-reserve<sup>2</sup> faced the highest unemployment rate, at 24.0%.

**First Nations people on-reserve face higher unemployment rates than other Aboriginal groups**



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 54)

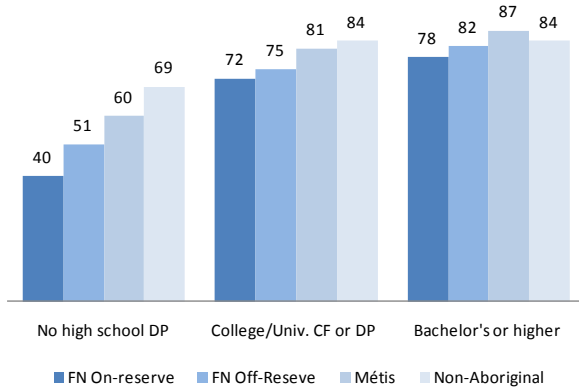
Among the Métis population, the percentage of the population who had a job was similar to that of the non-Aboriginal population—75.3% vs. 81%. However, the employment rate<sup>3</sup> was still quite a bit lower for First Nations people living on-and off-reserve.

<sup>2</sup> The on-and off-reserve variations in unemployment rates among the First Nations population may simply reflect the varying total unemployment rates in each region. Please see the regional profiles for additional comparisons.

<sup>3</sup> The employment rate is the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population.

Large gaps in educational attainment between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people persist in B.C. However, when you compare Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people who have completed post-secondary education, many of the stark differences in employment rates diminish. Eighty-one percent of First Nations people with a bachelor's degree or higher were employed in 2006, compared to 84% of the non-Aboriginal population. The employment rate for Métis with a bachelor's degree or higher (87%) was actually greater than that of the non-Aboriginal population. The employment rate of the non-Aboriginal population without a high school diploma was 69%, compared to 46% for First Nations people. First Nations people without a high school diploma living on-reserve faced the lowest employment rate of any group, at 40% (11 percentage points lower than their counterparts living off-reserve.)

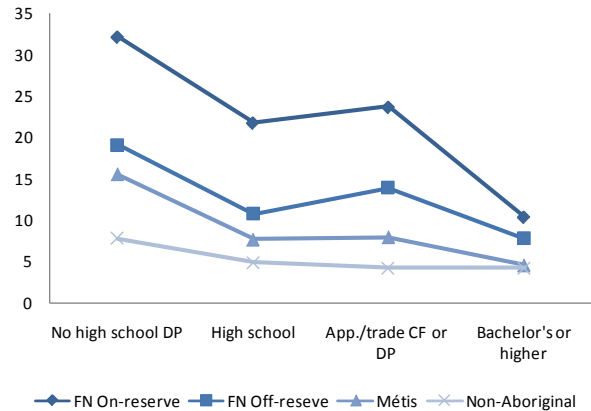
**Employment rates improve with education**



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 54)

First Nations people living on-reserve face higher unemployment rates compared to their peers living off-reserve, despite having the same educational attainment. In 2006, the unemployment rate for First Nations people living on-reserve without a high school diploma was 32.2%, compared to 19.1% for their off-reserve counterparts. The gap in the unemployment rate lessens as education levels increase.

**Unemployment rates improve with post-secondary completion**



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 54)

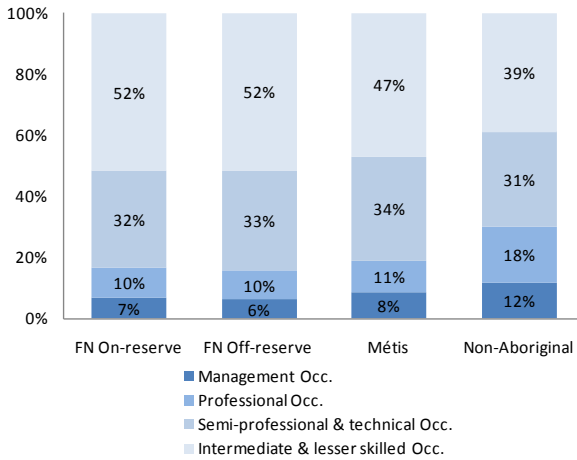
The unemployment rate for First Nations people living on-reserve with a bachelor's degree or higher was 10.4%, compared to 7.8% living-off reserve. It is interesting to note that the unemployment rate for the Métis population with a bachelor's degree or higher was very similar to the non-Aboriginal population—4.6% and 4.2%, respectively. It is very clear that education plays a significant role in improving labour market outcomes.

**Occupations, Industries and Employment Income**

Seventeen percent of First Nations people living on-reserve (age 25 to 54) were employed<sup>4</sup> in management and professional occupations in 2006. Over half of the First Nations population (on-and off-reserve) were employed in intermediate and lesser skilled occupations, compared to 39% of the non-Aboriginal population.

<sup>4</sup> Occupations are based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC refers to the kind of work persons were doing during the reference week, as determined by their kind of work and the description of the main activities in their job. If the person did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration, the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 2005.

**Aboriginal people are less likely to be employed in management and professional occupations**



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 54)

Eight of every ten non-Aboriginal people, aged 25 to 54, were employed in service industries, compared to 69% of the First Nations population living on-reserve and 73% of First Nations people living off-reserve. Almost a quarter of First Nations people living on-reserve were employed in government service industries, compared to only 9% of their off-reserve peers and 6% of the non-Aboriginal population. On the goods producing side, First Nations people living on-reserve were almost three times more likely to be employed in forestry, wood and paper production compared to the non-Aboriginal population.

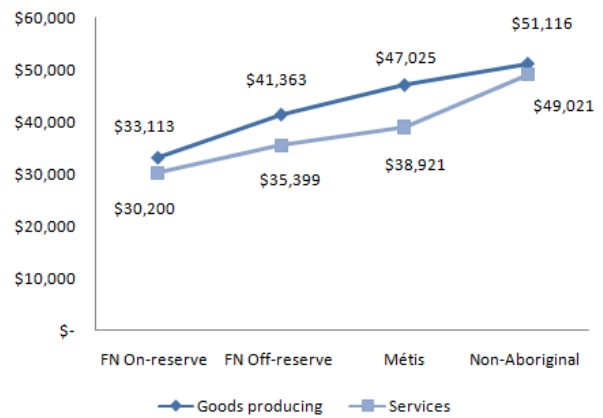
**In 2006, over 30% of First Nations people living on-reserve were employed in goods producing industries**

	First Nations	FN On-Reserve	FN Off-Reserve	Métis	Non-Aboriginal
<b>Goods producing</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Forestry & Wood & Paper	9%	11%	8%	7%	4%
Other primary	5%	8%	4%	4%	3%
Other goods producing	15%	13%	16%	17%	15%
<b>Services</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>79%</b>
Elementary & Secondary Ed.	5%	7%	4%	5%	4%
Health & Social Services	11%	10%	11%	11%	11%
Government Service Industries	14%	23%	9%	7%	6%
Other service industries	42%	29%	49%	50%	58%

Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (age 25 to 54)

Considering only those employed full-time for at least 40 weeks per year, First Nations people living on-reserve working in the goods producing industries had an average employment income<sup>5</sup> in 2005 of \$33,113; this was less than their peers living off-reserve (\$41,363) and considerably less than the non-Aboriginal population (\$51,116.) This pattern holds true for the service sector as well.

**Employment income (for those working full-time for 40 weeks or more) varied by group**



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (aged 15 years and over)

Aboriginal employees in B.C. earn less than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, even when they are employed in similar occupations and have similar levels of educational attainment. For example, First Nations people employed in management occupations (full-time for 40 weeks or more) had an average employment income of \$48,720, compared to \$72,111 for the non-Aboriginal population—a difference of \$23,000. This pattern holds true for all occupational categories.

<sup>5</sup> Average employment income is calculated for those with employment income (positive or negative)

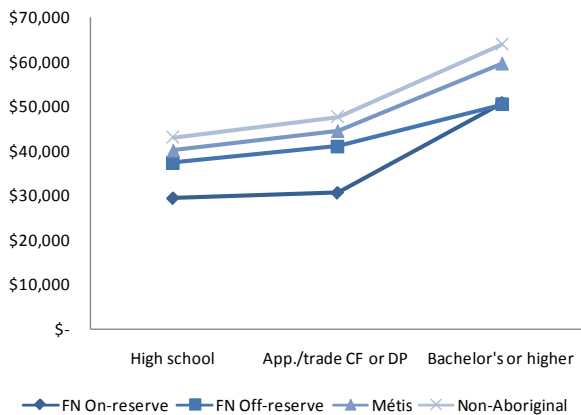
**Aboriginal people earn less than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, even when controlling for occupational category**

	First Nations	FN On-Reserve	FN Off-Reserve	Métis	Non-Aboriginal
Management Occ.	\$ 48,720	\$ 41,675	\$ 53,009	\$ 55,658	\$ 72,111
Professional Occ.	\$ 47,088	\$ 39,973	\$ 50,897	\$ 53,359	\$ 67,026
Semi-professional & technical Occ.	\$ 36,091	\$ 30,368	\$ 38,393	\$ 42,590	\$ 45,924
Intermediate & lesser skilled Occ.	\$ 29,146	\$ 26,605	\$ 30,278	\$ 34,454	\$ 35,372

Data: Employment income, 2005 (full time, minimum 40 weeks)  
 Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (aged 15 years and over)

In addition to occupation and industry, educational attainment also influences employment income. As educational attainment increases, so does employment income. This is true for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. However, even when they have the same levels of educational attainment, Aboriginal people earn less than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Non-Aboriginal people age 25 to 54 with a bachelor’s degree or higher had an average employment income of \$63,957 in 2005, compared to \$ 50,569 for First Nations people.

**Aboriginal people earn less than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, even when controlling for education**



Data: Employment income, 2005 (full time, minimum 40 weeks)  
 Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada (aged 25 to 54)

**Conclusion**

Results from the 2006 census data confirm that factors such as educational attainment, gender, regional differences (size and location of community), occupation and industry all affect labour market outcomes and other socio-economic issues. In order to improve the socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal peoples in B.C., a better understanding of these factors is required.

In addition to the highlights noted in this article, the Statistical Profiles of Aboriginal Peoples in B.C. examine mobility, language, and housing issues. For more information on Aboriginal Peoples in B.C., please visit:

[http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/abor/ap\\_index.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/abor/ap_index.asp)

or:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/facts/facts.asp>

# Aboriginal Strategies 2009



Artwork, *The Visionary*, by Chris Aquart, Cold Lake First Nation, AB.

Nov. 3, 2009 to Nov. 5, 2009

The Westin Hotel, Edmonton, AB

Share Knowledge | Empower People | Shape the Future

## Aboriginal Strategies 2009

Statistics Canada presents Aboriginal Strategies 2009, a solutions-based three-day conference on how data is being used in Aboriginal communities in the western provinces and northern territories.

Aboriginal Strategies 2009, provides a venue for Aboriginal community leaders and developers, local policy makers, decision-makers, and practitioners to share how data can be used to build vibrant, sustainable communities.

The three-day conference, will showcase successes by sharing knowledge, experiences, best practices and challenges in five different areas:

- children, families and youth;
- economic development and labour market;
- health and well-being;
- the North;
- urban Aboriginal population.

This diverse range of themes covers topics such as education, housing, culture and language, and reflects the complexity of Aboriginal communities and will serve to provide a better understanding of the quality of life for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

## Highlights

Aboriginal Strategies 2009 will feature five keynote speakers, two plenary sessions and more than 40 presenters.

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- Dr. Doug Norris, Senior Vice-President and Chief Demographer, Environics Analytics
- Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, Government of Alberta
- Dr. Evan Adams, Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

For a complete list of speakers, visit our website.

Aussi disponible en français.

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# Aboriginal Strategies 2009



Nov. 3, 2009 to Nov. 5, 2009

The Westin Hotel, Edmonton, AB

## Registration form

Share Knowledge

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### Conference Fees

Early Bird Rate: \$600.00  
+ 5% GST = \$630.00

\*\*\* Early Bird Deadline Extended to Oct. 13.

Regular Rate: \$650.00  
+ 5% GST = \$682.50

Group rates are available. For more information,  
contact the Registrar at 1-888-799-0050.

Registration includes one ticket to the Evening Gala with entertainment and keynote speaker on Wednesday, Nov. 4., 2009. Additional banquet tickets are available for an extra \$50 each, plus 5% GST (\$52.50).

- Yes, I will attend the banquet.
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Full payment must accompany this form. Please make cheques payable to the "Receiver General for Canada" and mail to Statistics Canada, 300-10158 103rd St. NW, Edmonton, AB, T5J 0X6.

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Book rooms under "Statistics Canada" and receive a special conference rate before Oct. 13.

\* Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received in writing, prior to Oct. 16, 2009 will receive a full refund less a \$75 administration fee. After that date no refunds will be made, but substitutions will be permitted.

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