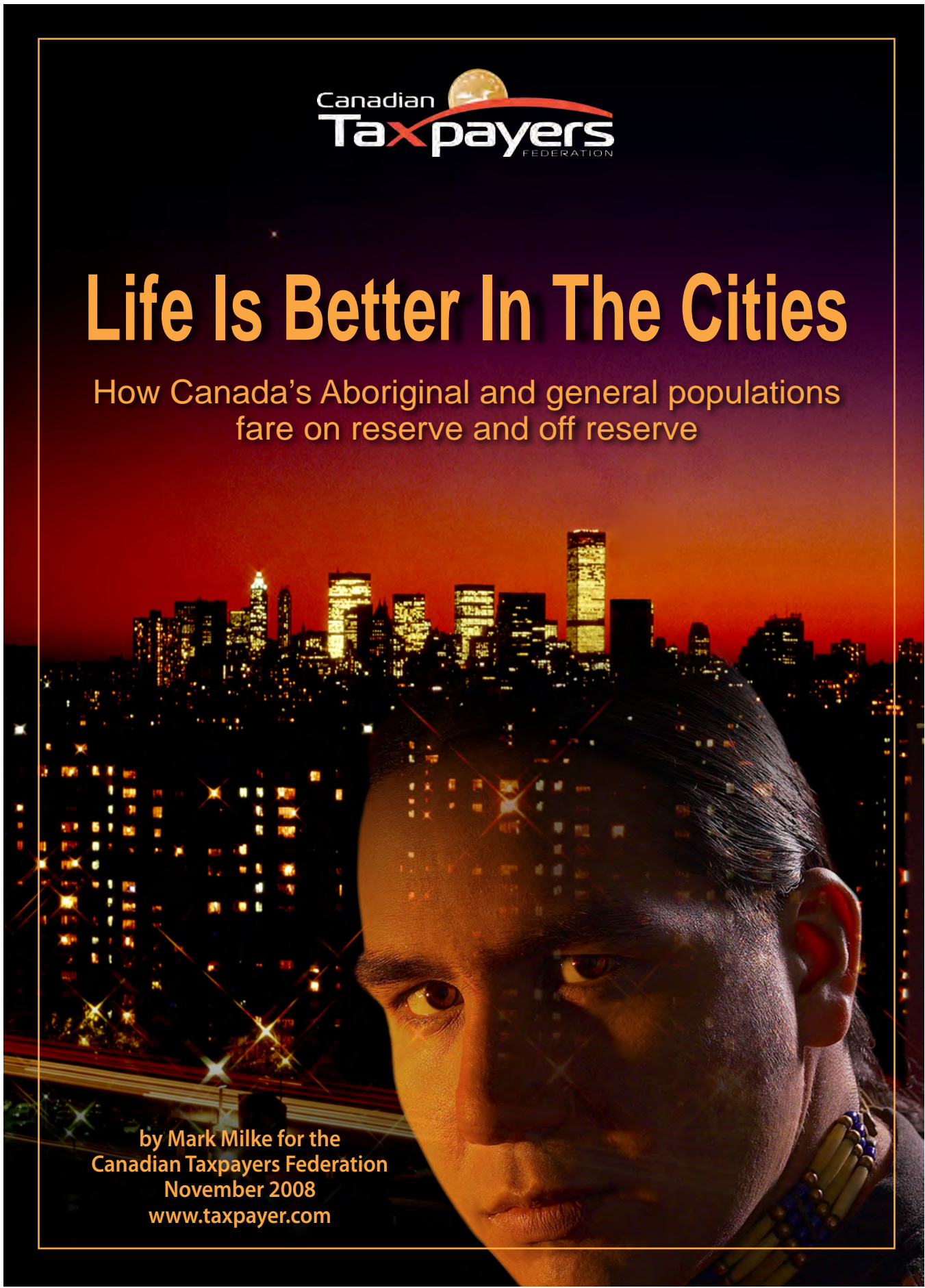




# Life Is Better In The Cities

How Canada's Aboriginal and general populations fare on reserve and off reserve

by Mark Milke for the  
Canadian Taxpayers Federation  
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[www.taxpayer.com](http://www.taxpayer.com)



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Only 26% of Aboriginals live on reserves

- Out of almost 1.2 million people who claim some sort of Aboriginal identity, 26.3% live on a reserve while 73.7% do not.

### The majority of First Nations people do not live on reserves

- The category of Aboriginals most likely to live on a reserve is North American Indians (the term Statistics Canada uses for First Nation peoples). However, out of almost 700,000 North American Indians identified by the 2006 census, just over 300,000, or 43.1%, live on a reserve. Thus, the majority of self-identified North American Indians (56.9%) do not live on reserves.

### For those who reside on reserves, 2006 census data reveal continuing poor socio-economic results

- For those who live on reserves, economic and social indicators consistently rank below those of Aboriginals in urban (non-reserve) communities and of non-Aboriginal Canadians. In general, Aboriginals on reserve fare the worst, Aboriginals off-reserve fare better, and the general population (also off-reserve) fare the best.
- For example, for North American Indians (the census category used by Statistics Canada for First Nations and the group which makes up 87.7% of the population on reserves) median earnings were \$29,014 on-reserve compared to \$37,447 off-reserve.
- On educational achievement, 49.6% of registered Indians have no university degree, trade certificate, or even a high school diploma. The percentage for the general population is 23.3%.
- On university education, 8.1% of registered Indians have a university degree, diploma, or certificate. The percentage for the general population is 22.8%.
- The problem of attaining education, career, and economic success on reserves is not likely to change soon for inhabitants given that many of Canada's reserves are far from large urban centres where educational and vocational opportunities abound.
- The national averages and medians in this review demonstrate there is a consistent statistical advantage demonstrated to *not living on a reserve*.

### Happy Exceptions: Osoyoos and Westbank Reserves

In most cases, median earnings are lower and unemployment rates are highest on reserves compared to Canadians urban centres and *also when compared to Aboriginals living in Canadian towns and cities*. For example:

- Aboriginals living on the Stoney First Nation reserve near Calgary have a participation rate of 64.1%, an unemployment rate of 37.7% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$21,265. Aboriginals living in Calgary have a participation rate of 77.2% and an unemployment rate of 7.3% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of

\$38,094. The figures for the Calgary population show a participation rate of 75.6% an unemployment rate of 4% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$46,189.

- Aboriginals living on the Peguis reserve, Manitoba's largest reserve, approximately 145 kilometres from Winnipeg, have a participation rate of 49.3%, an unemployment rate of 30.2% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$29,989. Aboriginals living in Winnipeg have a participation rate of 58.1%, an unemployment rate of 11.3% and display a median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$33,362. The figures for the Winnipeg population show a participation rate of 67.3% an unemployment rate of 5.5% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$38,773.

However, there are laudable exceptions and examples of reserves in Canada that have defied the statistical stereotype and succeeded.

- The Osoyoos Indian Band in southern British Columbia (known for its very successful NK'MIP winery) have a participation rate of 68.6%, an unemployment rate of 14.3% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$26,944. In comparison, Aboriginals who live in the south Okanagan city of Penticton have a participation rate of 65.8%, an unemployment rate of 9.4% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$30,028. The figures for the Penticton population show a participation rate of 57.4% an unemployment rate of 6.5% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$36,369.
- Similarly, The Westbank First Nations reserve near Kelowna shows a participation rate of 71.3%, an unemployment rate of 8.5% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$31,810. In comparison, Aboriginals who live in Kelowna have a participation rate of 71.1%, an unemployment rate of 8% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$31,174. The figures for the Kelowna population show a participation rate of 64% an unemployment rate of 5.1% and median earnings for full-time, full-year work of \$38,832.

## Summary

- This study is primarily based on 2006 census data (but also draws from the 2001 census for comparative purposes).
- The statistical data confirms the oft-assumed poor state of many reserves in Canada in economic and social indicators along with noting some exceptions.
- Past studies from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and others have recommended a litany of changes to reserves including their abolishment. This paper serves as a review of the reality on the ground, based on 2006 census data. It serves as a reminder to those on reserves, and those concerned about reserves, about the actual conditions and does not add additional recommendations.

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## ABOUT THIS STUDY

### The focus and organization of this study

This study is based on 2006 census data released in early 2008 by Statistics Canada. I provide only rudimentary comments to help the reader more clearly understand the data.

It is organized as follows: A variety of graphs and charts are noted with comparative indicators which start out with the “global” picture: “Aboriginal” as a catch-all category from Statistics Canada, a category that includes North American Indian, Métis, Inuit, multiple Aboriginal identity responses, and Aboriginal identity responses not included elsewhere. The study then notes other information: who lives on reserves and from what identity, median income, education and housing. It is followed by specific reserve-city comparisons.

### Terminology and identity identification

It is useful to understand the terminology employed as Statistics Canada uses a number of terms that differ from everyday discourse or media reporting.

#### **Aboriginal identity:**

This refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, **North American Indian, 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**.

#### **Registered or Treaty Indian:**

**Registered Indians** (also referred to as "status Indians") refer to those persons registered under the *Indian Act* while **Treaty Indians** refer to people who are registered under the *Indian Act* and who belong to an Indian Band or First Nation that signed a treaty with the Crown.<sup>1</sup>

This study attempts to give a sense of some of the socio-economic conditions of Aboriginals in Canada on- and off-reserve (i.e., whose Aboriginals who live in villages, towns or cities that are not designated as Indian reserves). To do that, the Aboriginal population is broken down first into those Aboriginals who live on- or off-reserve. Then, there is a further breakdown by Aboriginal identity: **North American Indian, Métis, Inuit, multiple responses, and those not recorded elsewhere**. This information is found in tables 3a and 3b. (Table 3c is provided for a comparison to 2001 census data.)

That breakdown is useful to understand *who* lives on Reserves (also referred to as First Nations; Statistics Canada used both descriptions).

Overwhelmingly, residents of reserves are North American Indian. (“North American Indian” is a category reference from Statistics Canada; it does not refer to all people of Aboriginal descent who live in North America.)

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<sup>1</sup> From *How Statistics Canada Identifies Aboriginal Peoples, 2007* (12-592-XIE).

## **Income and Earnings Comparisons:**

This study displays a number of different measurements for the income of Canadians. They are as follows:

1. Median earnings - full-year, full-time, aged 25 to 54;
2. Median earnings - full-year; full-time, 15 years and over;
3. Median earnings - all, 15 years and over;
4. Median income - total population, 15 years and over;
5. Median earnings - full year, full-time, aged 25 to 54, North American Indian.

Category 1 is for all who worked full-year, full-time and were between the ages of 25 to 54 and Category 2 is for those who worked full-year, full-time and were over the age of 15. Readers should be clear that when they see these statistics, both thus leave out any sense of participation in the labour force, the unemployment rate, and the proportion of retirees in the cohort. To get a better comparison of earnings between groups, Category 3, "median earnings- all, 15 years and over" will give the reader a better sense of the results of those other factors.

Category 4, median income for the total population 15 years and over, will give the reader a sense and also a breakdown of how the measured groups do vis-à-vis each other and on more than just earnings but on *all income*. The "income" category helps demonstrate whether a particular cohort is more or less dependent on government for income.

For example, Table 8 reveals that for Aboriginal Canadians as a cohort, earnings constitute 77 per cent of their income, with government transfers next at 18 per cent, and other income (investment income and other) at 5 per cent. That compares to the general population where 76 per cent of earnings result from income, 11 per cent from government, and 13 per cent from other income.

However, that broad measurement masks a number of disparities revealed when comparisons are made between on-reserve Aboriginals and those in cities, as well as comparisons to the general population.

For example, in Table 16, income for Aboriginals on the Stoney First Nation reserve(s) are derived from earnings (62.4 per cent), government transfers (36.9 per cent), and from other income (0.9 per cent). Aboriginals in Calgary have a significantly higher proportion of income derived from earnings (87 per cent) and are less reliant on government for income (only 8.7 per cent is derived from that source) or other income (4.3 per cent). In fact, Aboriginals in Calgary derive more of their income from earnings when compared to the general population, where 83.5 per cent of income is derived from earnings, i.e., work.

That may not be entirely positive for Aboriginals in Calgary. Insofar as that cohort has fewer sources of other income such as investments, they are more reliant on their jobs for income compared to the general population. However, what is clear and positive is that in Calgary, and as a general statement across the country, Aboriginals have higher earnings off-reserve, and are less dependent on government for their income. That is positive for all concerned, most critically, for Aboriginal Canadians themselves.

Category 5, Median earnings: Full year, full-time, aged 25 to 54, by North American Indian, will give the reader a sense of the difference between median earnings on reserve versus off-reserve for the type of Aboriginal Canadians most likely to live on reserve (a North American Indian). The difference is stark: On-reserve Indians between the ages of 25 and 54 who work full-year full-time earn \$29,014 if they reside on reserve, but \$37,477 if they live off-reserve.



## INTRODUCTION

### ***Urban life matters, including to Canada's Aboriginal population***

In his 1991 book *Tribes: How Race, Religion and Identity Determine Success in the New Global Economy*, Joel Kotkin shed light on why some people groups (and people in those collectives) succeed in diasporas around the world or at home.

Kotkin analyzed five “tribes” from around the world—Jews, British expatriates, Japanese, East Indians, and Chinese—and found three reasons why they succeeded:

1. A strong ethnic identity and sense of mutual dependence that helps the group adjust to changes in the global economic and political order without losing its essential unity;
2. A global network based on mutual trust that allows the tribe to function collectively beyond the confines of national or regional borders;
3. A passion for technical and other knowledge from all possible sources, combined with an essential open-mindedness that fosters rapid cultural and scientific development critical for success in the late-twentieth-century world economy (Kotkin 1991, 5).

In short, Kotkin argues the reason such groups succeeded, or their diasporas did when their home countries were unfriendly to habits of prosperity, was due to cultural influences which had the following effects: it made them amenable to new ideas, to work habits that fostered success, to practical useful education, and willing to imitate success they observed elsewhere (the Japanese after the Meiji reforms are an obvious example).

### ***Economic success: imitation of excellence, inter-mingling and urbanity***

Kotkin observes that that these various “tribes” were successful not because their cultures or ethnic make-ups were preserved from change—Kotkin notes that “in each case, the global tribe has grown as much through intimate contact with other civilizations as through any intrinsic cultural purity.” Rather, he writes, “Global tribes such as the British or Japanese have variously been known as imitators par excellence,” and notes that “similarly, the Jews, British and East Indians, far from pure examples of a particular genetic stock, are among the most racially diverse of peoples” (Kotkin, 1991: 6).

Kotkin notes that prosperity has made such groups no less Japanese, Jewish, or East Indian, especially when in the case of the latter two they often lived in mostly small groupings relative to much larger populations around them (in the case of expatriate examples).

That this should have relevance for Canada's Aboriginal communities should be obvious: for too long, many Aboriginal Canadians were surrounded by a population and governments that were on balance, hostile and unappreciative of the richness of Aboriginal traditions.

I would submit that is no longer than case. Rather, an over-reliance on immediate culture (one's own) and separateness now regrettably hampers success for many of Canada's Aboriginals; it is a separateness that is encouraged by some Aboriginal leaders, a point I made in a recent study on treaty-making in British Columbia in some detail (Milke 2008). It is a separateness which goes beyond the useful sense of mutual dependence and ethnic solidarity noted by Kotkin, to one that hampers the possibility of economic opportunity, higher living standards, and better social conditions.

### ***Reserves hamper educational attainment and economic opportunity***

That extreme separateness and over-reliance is evident in the reserve system. Usefully, attention has been drawn by some to the problem of Canada's reserve system of late. A former Métis director with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Tanis Fiss, drew attention to the plight of Aboriginal people on reserves in several studies (Canadian Taxpayers Federation 2002, 2004, and 2005). Others such as Tom Flanagan, an academic expert on Aboriginal life in North America, have noted problems with the reserve system and with some of the more dramatic demands made on the public consciousness (Flanagan 2000).

Flanagan and Christopher Alcantra (2002) have also offered options for improving conditions on reserves through using existing property rights tools such as Certificates of Possession (COPs) which function as roughly equivalent to fee simple and can be expanded to give North American Indians more control over their immediate land and over their own everyday lives. (North American Indians make up the vast majority of residents on reserves vis-à-vis Métis, Inuit, or non-Aboriginal).

It is no secret as to why many reserves and the inhabitants thereon suffer: many of Canada's reserves are far from large urban centres where educational and vocational opportunities abound. The result is to produce the *opposite* of what Kotkin described when he noted the various successful examples of communities in the center of a nation's economic life. Instead of flourishing communities based upon the qualities Kotkin noted, qualities which Aboriginal Canadians also possess (i.e., a strong ethnic identity and a very legitimate sense of collectivity properly understood), many of Canada's reserves have economic and social indicators consistently beneath that not only of non-Aboriginal communities but also below Aboriginals off-reserve who show higher levels of income, housing, and education.

Thus, when on-reserve North American Indians (the census category used by Statistics Canada) are compared to their counterparts off-reserve on median income, the median income for males was \$30,045 on-reserve and \$41,984 off-reserve; similarly, women do better away from the reserve: the median income for a woman (aged 25-54) is \$28,012 on reserve but \$32,862 off the reserve. For both genders combined the median earnings were \$29,014 on-reserve and \$37,447 off-reserve (Table 5).

Similarly on education levels (Table 7), registered Indians taken as a cohort, have a significantly smaller proportion of people who have completed a high school diploma or its equivalent, or have a certificate or degree when compared with the general population. Fully 49.6% of all registered Indians have no diploma, certificate or degree; that compares to just 23.3% of those Canadians who are not registered as an Indian who are in a similar circumstance.

Such statistics have consequences for North American Indian (First Nation) individuals and families and such are inextricably linked to living on a reserve in most cases. While over half of North American Indians do *not* live on reserves, as a proportion of the reserve population, North American Indians make up by far the largest cohort—at 87%.

When the vast majority of reserves are comprised of North American Indians, the corollary is that when readers see lagging economic and social indicators (on-reserve versus off-reserve statistics), they should know that the poor indicators affect North American Indians more than any other group.

### ***Happy Exceptions: Osoyoos and Westbank First Nations, among others***

The second part of the study consist of charts which provide comparative snapshots between some North American Indian reserves and towns or cities in the same province – in some cases, right across the water as is the case of Westbank First Nations and Kelowna in British Columbia.

The comparisons were provided to give a glimpse of conditions on some reserves vis-à-vis urban centers. It should be kept in mind that while large urban centres will always have advantages over more rural hamlets, be they mainly Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, readers should keep in mind that the national averages and medians in this study demonstrate there is a consistent statistical advantage demonstrated to *not living on a reserve*.

With that noted, there are happy exceptions. For example, Osoyoos First Nation runs a very successful winery and other businesses in southern B.C. and was chosen for that reason. It was compared not with neighbouring Osoyoos but with a larger urban centre—Penticton, where one would assume socio-economic indicators would be significantly higher including for Aboriginals in Penticton. However, in that case, median earnings for those who work full-year, full-time (for everyone age 15 and over) were \$26,944 on the Osoyoos reserve compared to median earnings for Aboriginals who live in Penticton at \$30,028.

However, both cohorts still lag median earnings in Penticton for all residents, where the figure is \$36,369; however, the Osoyoos First Nation is significantly close to the Penticton median.

Similarly, the median earning figure for the Westbank First Nation reserve near Kelowna for those who will full-year, full-time work is \$31,810. That's actually higher than for Aboriginals living in Kelowna where the median is \$31,174. For all residents of Kelowna, the median earning for those working full-year, full-time is \$38,832.

It is likely that the large number of non-Aboriginals on such reserves skews the figures higher. Fully 245 out of 600 residents on the Osoyoos reserve are non-Aboriginals; in Westbank, 5,405 non-Aboriginals are residents out a total population of 6,215. Thus, the statistics from the non-Aboriginal population may mask lower-than-average statistics of the Aboriginal population.

Still, even that possibility reveals two reserves better managed than most. That such reserves can attract plenty of non-Aboriginals is a testament to successful management of the resource that exists.

A caveat should be added here. Most reserves in Canada are not as fortunate as Osoyoos or Westbank. Both are blessed with their location in the “sunbelt” of British Columbia’s Okanagan-Similkameen region. The reality is that given their oft-remote locations, few reserves in Canada will be able to build wineries (as in the case of the Osoyoos band) or attract massive settlement from non-Aboriginals with a stunning view of a major lake (as in the case of Westbank). That reality points to the need for all to be cognizant and realistic about the chance of bringing prosperity to remote reserves in the manner as have Osoyoos, Westbank and a few select others. In many cases, residents of reserves will likely have to find education, careers, and prosperity far away from the reserve. That is in fact what data in this review reveals.

### ***A note on recommendations***

The reality of Canada's reserves is why this review does not contain recommendations: other studies have suggested useful reforms and should be heeded. This review is meant to note the reality of the reserve system in Canada and the woeful social effects the system produces. One remedy is to heed the recommendations noted earlier for reform; a second is for individual Aboriginals, usually of North American Indian/First Nations ancestry, to leave the reserve. Regardless of the choice made—to stay and try and reform a particular reserve or to leave for one's own sake or that of one's children and grandchildren—such choices should be informed.

## **THE COMPARISONS**

### **THE DATA, STATISTICS CANADA'S ABORIGINAL IDENTITIES, AND CONTRASTS**

## Identities

Statistics Canada sorts Aboriginal identities into North American Indian (First Nation in more common usage), Métis, and Inuit. Registered Indian status applies to North American Indians if they choose to register with the federal government.

	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Aboriginal identity population</b>	<b>North American Indian</b>	<b>Métis</b>	<b>Inuit</b>	<b>Non-aboriginal</b>
<b>Canada</b>	31,241,030	<b>1,172,785</b>	<b>698,025</b>	<b>389,780</b>	<b>50,480</b>	30,068,240
Newfoundland and Labrador	500,610	23,455	7,765	6,470	4,715	477,160
Prince Edward Island	134,205	1,730	1,225	385	30	132,475
Nova Scotia	903,090	24,175	15,240	7,680	325	878,920
New Brunswick	719,650	17,650	12,385	4,270	185	701,995
Quebec	7,435,905	108,425	65,085	27,980	10,950	7,327,475
Ontario	12,028,895	242,495	158,395	73,605	2,035	11,786,405
Manitoba	1,133,515	175,395	100,640	71,805	565	958,115
Saskatchewan	953,850	141,890	91,400	48,120	215	811,960
Alberta	3,256,355	188,365	97,275	85,495	1,610	3,067,990
British Columbia	4,074,385	196,075	129,580	59,445	795	3,878,310
Yukon Territory	30,190	7,580	6,280	800	255	22,615
Northwest Territories	41,060	20,635	12,640	3,580	4,160	20,420
Nunavut	29,325	24,915	100	130	24,635	4,405

**Source:** Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 97-558-XWE2006002.

<b>Aboriginal identity</b>	<b>Total Aboriginal</b>	<b>Registered Indian</b>	<b>Not a Registered Indian</b>
<b>Aboriginal identity population</b>	<b>1,172,790</b>	<b>623,780</b>	<b>549,005</b>
Percentage		53.2%	46.8%

**Source:** Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 97-558-XCB2006010.

### Aboriginal Canadians by location

Most Aboriginal Canadians do not live on reserves. Out of almost 1.2 million people who claim some sort of Aboriginal identity, 26.3% live on a reserve while 73.7% do not. In addition, Statistics Canada figures show that out of their category of almost 700,000 North American Indians, just over 300,000, or 43.1%, live on reserve.\* Thus, the majority of self-identified North American Indians (56.9%) do not live on reserves.

**Table 3a - Aboriginal Canadians by Location - 2006**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>On reserve</u>	<u>% of identity</u>	<u>Off reserve</u>	<u>% of identity</u>
<b>Total - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity population</b>	31,241,030	342,865		30,898,165	
<b>Total Aboriginal identity population</b>	1,172,790	<b>308,490</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>864,295</b>	<b>73.7%</b>
<b>Breakdown by Aboriginal Identity</b>					
North American Indian single response	698,025	300,755	43.1%	397,265	56.9%
Métis single response	389,780	4,320	1.1%	385,460	98.9%
Inuit single response	50,480	435	0.9%	50,045	99.1%
Multiple Aboriginal identity responses	7,740	160	2.1%	7,580	97.9%
Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere	26,760	2,825	10.6%	23,945	89.5%
Non-Aboriginal identity population	30,068,240	34,375		30,033,860	

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. Catalogue No. 97-558-XCB2006006.

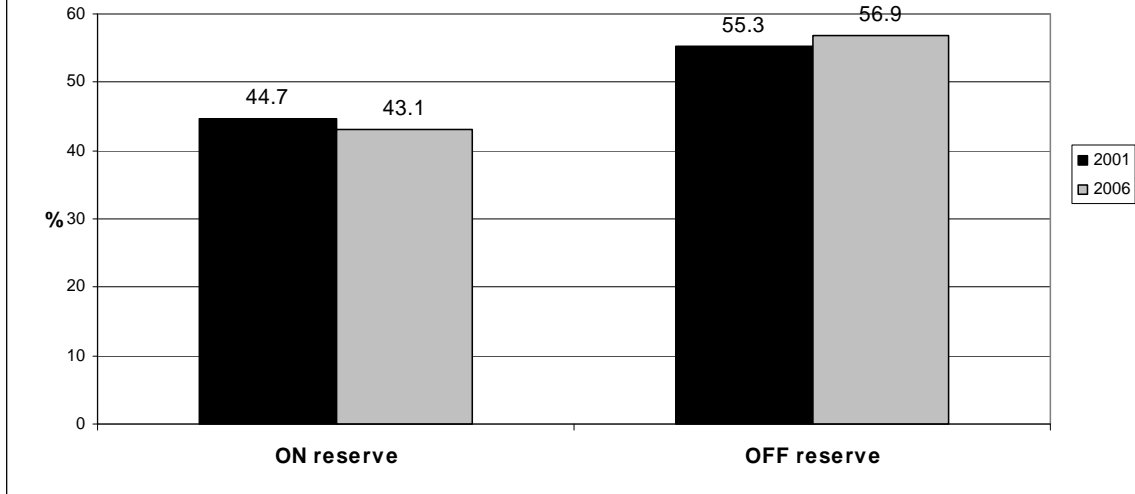
\*Note that for 2006 the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (2007, vi) lists 763,555 total registered Indians, with 428,446 On Reserve and On Crown Land, with 335,109 listed as off reserve. The difference between the higher DIAND figures and those from Statistics Canada is explained by DIAND as follows: "The 'On Reserve and On Crown Land' category does *not necessarily identify the location of registrants* [Emphasis added]. As for the Off Reserve component, the individuals may not reside in that particular region, or even inside Canada for that matter." In other words, Statistics Canada figures measure actual on- and off-reserve registrants present on census day. In contrast, DIAND's list is about people who have the potential to live there but may already be present in another reserve, in non-reserve towns and cities, or outside of Canada.

**Table 3b - Who Lives on Reserves? Proportion By Identity – 2006**

	<u>On reserve</u>	%
<b>Total - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity population</b>	<u>342,865</u>	
<b>Total Aboriginal identity population</b>	<b>308,490</b>	
<b>Breakdown by Aboriginal Identity</b>		
North American Indian single response	<b>300,755</b>	87.7%
Métis single response	<b>4,320</b>	1.3%
Inuit single response	<b>435</b>	0.0%
Multiple Aboriginal identity responses	<b>160</b>	0.0%
Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere	<b>2,825</b>	0.8%
Non-Aboriginal identity population	34,375	10.0%

**Source:** Statistics Canada - 2006 Census. Catalogue No. 97-558-XCB2006006.

**Chart 1**  
**North American Indian (First Nation)**  
**On Reserve v. Off Reserve Population - 2001-2006 Trends**  
**(%)**



**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Catalogue No. 97-558-XCB2006006 and 2001 Census, Catalogue. No. 97F0011XCB2001001.



## Earnings

This table notes the full-time, full-year median earnings for Canadians according to their identity (North American Indian/First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) and for Non-Aboriginals. Note this applies only to those who work full-time, all year, and for ages 25-54. This table does *not* break down earnings by reference to reserve but nationally and provincially.

<b>Table 4 - Full-Year, Full-Time Earnings – Comparisons</b>					
<b>Median<sup>1</sup> earnings - full-year, full-time, aged 25 to 54</b>					
<b>2005<sup>4,5</sup> For both sexes.</b>					
		\$		\$	
Canada	Aboriginal identity population	<b>36,944</b>	Manitoba	Aboriginal identity population	<b>33,351</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	<b>34,209</b>		First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	29,372
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	<b>39,784</b>		Métis <sup>3</sup>	35,951
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	<b>44,440</b>		Inuit <sup>3</sup>	F
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>43,436</b>		Non-Aboriginal population	<b>39,471</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	Aboriginal identity population	<b>36,899</b>	Saskatchewan	Aboriginal identity population	<b>33,500</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	35,717		First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	30,310
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	36,089		Métis <sup>3</sup>	36,603
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	39,006		Inuit <sup>3</sup>	F
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>38,743</b>		Non-Aboriginal population	<b>39,662</b>
Prince Edward Island	Aboriginal identity population	<b>36,429</b>	Alberta	Aboriginal identity population	<b>39,150</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	36,606		First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	33,785
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	F		Métis <sup>3</sup>	42,855
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	x		Inuit <sup>3</sup>	40,452
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>35,677</b>		Non-Aboriginal population	<b>47,497</b>
Nova Scotia	Aboriginal identity population	<b>33,624</b>	British Columbia	Aboriginal identity population	<b>36,205</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	31,807		First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	33,825
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	34,860		Métis <sup>3</sup>	39,972
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	F		Inuit <sup>3</sup>	39,133
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>38,399</b>		Non-Aboriginal population	<b>44,163</b>

New Brunswick	Aboriginal identity population	<b>30,466</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	30,043
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	30,970
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	F
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>36,948</b>
Quebec	Aboriginal identity population	<b>35,299</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	34,142
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	36,842
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	41,492
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>39,353</b>
Ontario	Aboriginal identity population	<b>39,038</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	36,741
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	42,991
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	46,608
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>46,554</b>

Yukon Territory	Aboriginal identity population	<b>44,981</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	43,879
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	52,998
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	F
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>51,185</b>
Northwest Territories	Aboriginal identity population	<b>53,101</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	50,163
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	63,639
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	45,767
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>68,066</b>
Nunavut	Aboriginal identity population	<b>49,058</b>
	First Nations people <sup>3</sup>	F
	Métis <sup>3</sup>	F
	Inuit <sup>3</sup>	48,102
	Non-Aboriginal population	<b>76,170</b>

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census.

<sup>1</sup> Median amounts: earnings or income levels that divide the population into two halves, i.e. half of the population receives less than this amount, and half more. Earnings: Total wages and salaries and net income from self-employment. Full-year, full-time earners are those who worked full time (i.e. 30 hours or more per week) for 49 to 52 weeks during the year before the Census.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons who reported one or more Aboriginal identity (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit) and those who reported being a Registered Indian and/or Band member without reporting an Aboriginal identity. Respondents self-identified as 'North American Indian'; however, the term 'First Nations people' is used throughout this table.

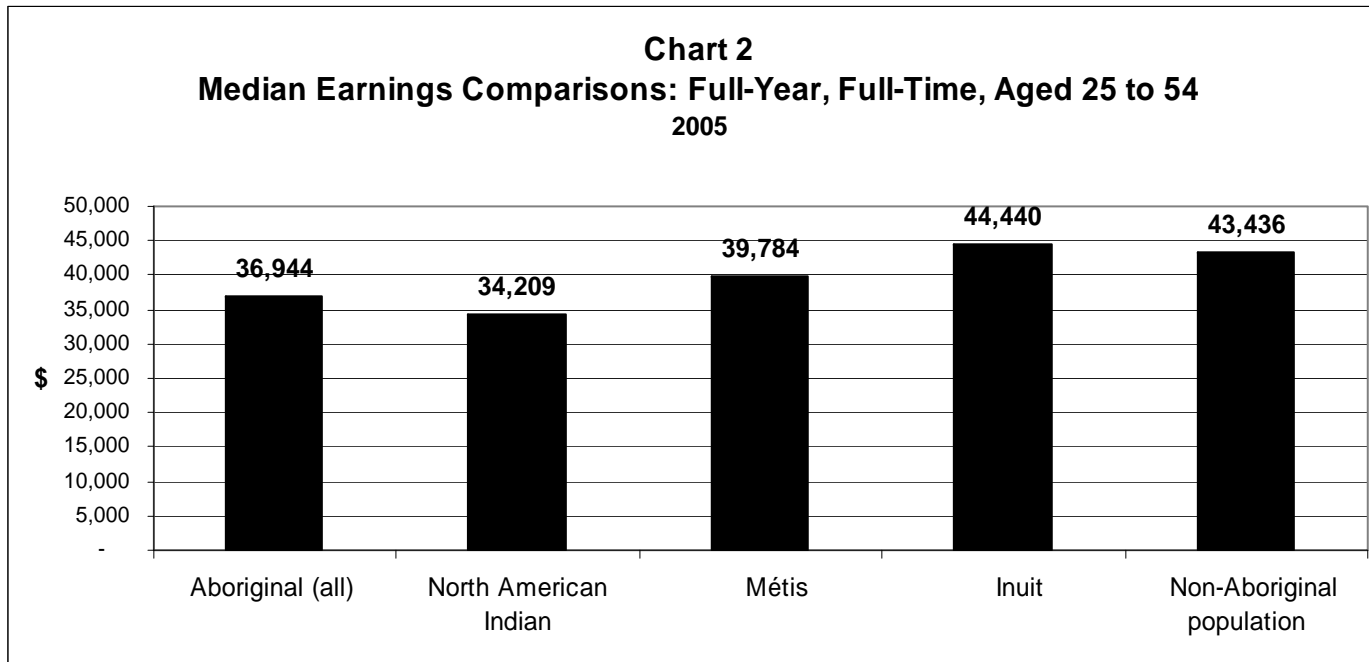
<sup>3</sup> Includes persons who reported a North American Indian, Métis or Inuit identity only.

<sup>4</sup> Earnings are expressed in constant 2005 dollars.

<sup>5</sup> Data have been adjusted to account for incompletely enumerated reserves in 2006.

F Too unreliable to be published.

x Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. First Nations people = North American Indian for Statistics Canada classification system.

***Comparisons: North American Indians (First Nations) – Median Earnings On and Off Reserve***

The following table, table 5 displays the earnings of North American Indians/First Nations people on reserve and off reserve. The latter is consistently higher with the exception of Newfoundland. Table 6 shows the earnings of *registered* Indians/First Nations people on reserve and off reserve. The latter is consistently higher with the exception of Newfoundland.

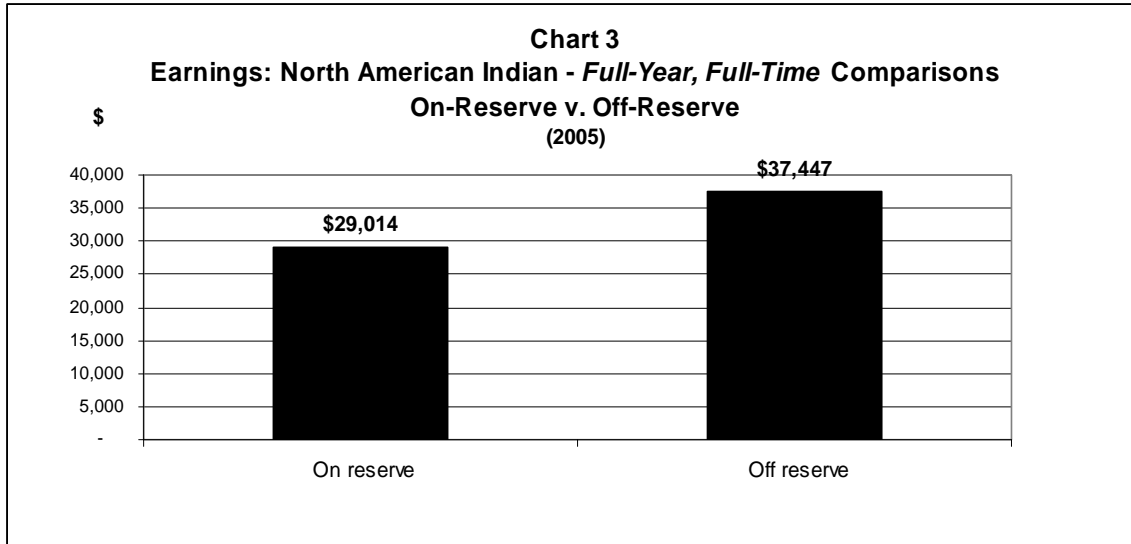
**Table 5 - Earnings: North American Indian (First Nations)  
On-Reserve v. Off-Reserve 2005**

**Median earnings: Full year, full-time, aged 25 to 54, by North American Indian  
people living on and off reserve, by sex, Canada, provinces and territories**

		2005		
		Both sexes	Men	Women
		\$	\$	\$
Canada	On reserve	<b>29,014</b>	30,045	28,012
	Off reserve	<b>37,447</b>	41,984	32,862
Newfoundland and Labrador	On reserve	40,384	41,152	40,192
	Off reserve	32,821	41,572	28,670
Prince Edward Island	On reserve	*	*	*
	Off reserve	42,132	*	*
Nova Scotia	On reserve	27,813	28,957	27,037
	Off reserve	33,598	37,657	31,162
New Brunswick	On reserve	28,612	30,484	26,906
	Off reserve	30,710	42,437	28,528
Quebec	On reserve	32,281	35,447	30,189
	Off reserve	36,019	41,068	31,367
Ontario	On reserve	28,523	29,477	27,498
	Off reserve	39,502	43,922	35,057
Manitoba	On reserve	25,874	25,068	26,133
	Off reserve	32,848	36,071	31,123
Saskatchewan	On reserve	26,310	26,339	26,272
	Off reserve	33,880	37,307	32,178
Alberta	On reserve	27,154	29,724	26,074
	Off reserve	37,704	44,128	31,537
British Columbia	On reserve	29,711	30,525	28,720
	Off reserve	36,121	40,165	32,761
Yukon Territory	On reserve	41,557	42,048	40,137
	Off reserve	45,072	50,855	40,095
Northwest Territories	On reserve	47,955	52,352	42,807
	Off reserve	54,833	53,455	55,271

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census.

\*Too unreliable to be published.



**Source:** Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006.

## Education and Housing

Table 7 notes the completed education levels of registered Indians vis-à-vis those Canadians not registered. Educational attainment is lower in the case of the former.

Table 8 notes the number of persons per room for various Statistics Canada categories. North American Indians have the most crowded of housing accommodations according to this measurement.

**Table 6 - Complete Education Levels: Registered Indian (First Nation) and Other Canadians (2006)**

	Total	Registered Indian		Not a Registered Indian	
<b>Total: Age 15 and over</b>	<b>25,664,220</b>	<b>427,495</b>		<b>25,236,730</b>	
<b>No high school certificate, diploma or degree</b>		212,060	<b>49.6%</b>	5,886,270	<b>23.3%</b>
<b>Certificate, diploma or degree</b>		215,435	<b>50.4%</b>	19,350,460	<b>76.7%</b>
<b>Breakdown of certificate, diploma or degree</b>					
High school certificate or equivalent [6]		81,700	19.1%	6,471,720	25.6%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma		43,850	10.3%	2,741,575	10.9%
College, CEGEP or other non-university cert. or diploma		55,445	13.0%	4,379,690	17.4%
University certificate, diploma or degree		34,440	8.1%	5,757,475	22.8%
			<b>50.4%</b>		<b>76.7%</b>

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, catalogue no. 97-560-XCB2006029.

**Table 7- Housing: Number of Persons Per Room (2006)**

	North American Indian		Métis		Inuit	
<b>Total number of persons per room</b>	696,310	%	388,465	%	50,340	%
One person or fewer per room	594,050	<b>85.3%</b>	375,190	<b>96.6%</b>	34,705	<b>68.9%</b>
More than 1 person per room	102,260	<b>14.7%</b>	13,275	<b>3.4%</b>	15,640	<b>31.1%</b>
	Multiple Aboriginal respondents		Aboriginal respondents not inc. elsewhere		Non-Aboriginal	
<b>Total number of persons per room</b>	7,725	%	26,585	%	29,904,970	
One person or fewer per room	7,365	<b>95.3%</b>	24,970	<b>93.9%</b>	29,031,165	<b>97.1%</b>
More than 1 person per room	355	<b>4.6%</b>	1,615	6.1%	873,800	<b>2.9%</b>

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Catalogue No. 97-558-XCB2006022.

**SOCIAL INDICATOR COMPARISONS FOR:**

- **ON-RESERVE ABORIGINALS**
- **OFF-RESERVE ABORIGINALS**
  - **ALL CITIZENS**

**SELECTED RESERVES *VIS-À-VIS*  
NON-RESERVE TOWNS AND CITIES**

## **A Bird's-Eye View of Various Indicators for Aboriginal Canadians and All Canadians**

Table 8 illustrates all Aboriginal identities grouped together and compared with all Canadians (which would include the averages from Aboriginal identities). This table will give the reader a "bird's-eye" view of average and medians for the general Aboriginal population when compared with the general Canadian population.

Tables 9-18 break down the same statistics but by reserve vis-à-vis particular towns or cities within the same province, often nearby towns or cities. There is no particular reason for the reserves and towns/cities chosen except to provide examples in most provinces of at least one reserve and an urban center. The Osoyoos and Westbank reserves in British Columbia were chosen to demonstrate that exceptions to the general rule (in Table 8) do exist.

The reader should be aware that Tables 8-18 identify only general Aboriginal statistics, not breakdowns by Aboriginal identity. However, reserve statistics will, in most cases, overwhelmingly describe the reserve conditions of North American Indians given their preponderance as a proportion of reserve populations.

### **Table 8 Explanation**

Table 8 lists a variety of economic and social indicators, first for Aboriginal Canadians, and then for all Canadians (which includes Aboriginal data). Subsequent tables make the same comparisons but by selected reserve and selected cities.

Note that as it concerns median earnings, Table 8 provides a breakdown first for everyone 15 and over who worked full-year, full-time. Median earnings are then given for everyone 15 and over. The difference is that the second group will include everyone, whether they worked full-time, part-time, or not at all. The difference between the two groups is useful to understand. Insofar as a community has a low participation rate in the workforce, as is the case on many reserves, the "full-year, full-time" statistic is not usefully relevant.

In other words, comparing full-time, full-year employment between Aboriginals and all Canadians is of limited value if many Aboriginals are out of work, as is often the case on reserves. Thus, the 15 and over median earnings measurement is a more useful comparison of median earnings for the entire population.



**Table 8  
Various Indicators: Aboriginal and All Compared (2006)**

	<b>Canada <i>Aboriginal</i></b>	<b>Canada <i>ALL</i></b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>	1,172,785	31,241,030
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>		
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>	823,890	25,664,220
No certificate, diploma or degree	359,780	6,098,325
High school certificate or equivalent	179,590	6,553,425
TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %	<b><u>65.5%</u></b>	<b><u>49.3%</u></b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	93,885	2,785,420
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	119,680	4,435,135
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	22,950	1,136,145
University certificate, diploma or degree	48,015	4,655,770
TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %	<b><u>34.5%</u></b>	<b><u>50.7%</u></b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>		
Participation rate %	63	67
Unemployment rate %	15	7
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>		
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>34,940</b>	<b>41,401</b>
Median earnings - all 15 years and over (\$)	<b>18,962</b>	<b>26,850</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>		
Median income - <i>Total population</i> 15 years and over (\$)	<b>16,752</b>	<b>25,615</b>
Composition of total income (100%)	100	100
Earnings - As a % of total income	77	76
Government transfers - As a % of total income	18	11
Other money - As a % of total income	5	13
Source: Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 92-594-XWE and Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 92-591-XWE.		

**Table 9  
Burnt Church - Moncton Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Burnt Church Aboriginal</b>	<b>Moncton (CMA) Aboriginal</b>	<b>Moncton (CMA) ALL citizens</b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
	1,130		124,055
Aboriginal	1,075	1,175	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>			
	<b>740</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>103,870</b>
No certificate, diploma or degree	405	270	23,995
High school certificate or equivalent	100	175	27,960
<b>TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %</b>	<b><u>68.2%</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>49.2%</u></b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	145	145	9,830
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	60	265	21,950
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	10	10	3,440
University certificate, diploma or degree	20	40	16,690
<b>TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %</b>	<b><u>31.8%</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>50.8%</u></b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	66	72	68.3
Unemployment rate %	<b>41.2</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>23,168</b>	<b>30,594</b>	<b>35,652</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>8,469</b>	<b>15,945</b>	<b>25,068</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>9,808</b>	<b>15,121</b>	<b>22,287</b>
Composition of total income (100%)			
Earnings - As a % of total income	49.5	78.4	75.4
Government transfers - As a % of total income	47.2	18.1	12.2
Other money - As a % of total income	3.7	3.8	12.4

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 10  
Kahnawake - Montreal Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Kahnawake Aboriginal</b>	<b>Montreal (CMA) Aboriginal</b>	<b>Montreal (CMA) ALL citizens</b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
Aboriginal	2,390		3,635,571
	2,360	17,865	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>			
No certificate, diploma or degree	1,635	14,520	2,967,715
High school certificate or equivalent	690	4,135	653,320
	335	3,300	665,330
TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %	<b>62.7%</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	150	2,685	378,130
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	345	2,195	479,555
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	25	705	168,210
University certificate, diploma or degree	95	1,495	623,175
TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>55.6%</b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	56.3	65.9	66.5
Unemployment rate %	<b>16.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>39,419</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>15,744</b>	<b>22,269</b>	<b>26,731</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>13,801</b>	<b>20,362</b>	<b>25,161</b>
Composition of total income (100%)			
Earnings - As a % of total income	69.4	74	74.8
Government transfers - As a % of total income	27.9	17.6	12.2
Other money - As a % of total income	2.7	8.4	13.0

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 11**  
**Lac la Ronge - Saskatoon Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Lac la Ronge</b> <i>Aboriginal</i>	<b>Saskatoon</b> <i>Aboriginal</i>	<b>Saskatoon</b> <i>ALL</i> <i>citizens</i>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>	6,159		230,850
Aboriginal	5,363	21,535	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>	3,735	14,060	187,695
No certificate, diploma or degree	2,695	5,460	41,495
High school certificate or equivalent	420	3,520	51,130
TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %	<b>83.4%</b>	<b>63.9%</b>	<b><u>49.3%</u></b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	180	1,375	19,440
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	245	1,770	31,615
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	100	355	7,530
University certificate, diploma or degree	80	1,580	36,485
TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>36.1%</b>	<b><u>50.7%</u></b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	45.4	63.2	70.6
Unemployment rate %	<b>28</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>26,099</b>	<b>33,339</b>	<b>39,400</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>10,171</b>	<b>17,648</b>	<b>25,702</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>9,664</b>	<b>16,480</b>	<b>26,112</b>
Composition of total income (100%)			
Earnings - As a % of total income	63.7	75.1	77.8
Government transfers - As a % of total income	34.7	19.6	9.8
Other money - As a % of total income	1.7	5.3	12.4

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 12  
Montagnais du Lac St. Jean - Quebec City Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Montagnais du Lac St. Jean Aboriginal</b>	<b>Quebec City Aboriginal</b>	<b>Quebec City ALL citizens</b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>	1,730		704,185
Aboriginal	1,555	4,000	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>	1,130	3,280	595,935
No certificate, diploma or degree	460	720	104,580
High school certificate or equivalent	140	665	133,415
<b>TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %</b>	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b><u>39.9%</u></b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	240	625	89,760
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	145	600	116,745
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	50	190	31,215
University certificate, diploma or degree	95	480	120,220
<b>TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>57.8%</b>	<b><u>60.1%</u></b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	54.6	68.2	67.4
Unemployment rate %	<b>16.9</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>32,704</b>	<b>35,023</b>	<b>38,851</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>18,475</b>	<b>21,936</b>	<b>28,192</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	15,136	20,264	27,479
Composition of total income (100%)			
Earnings - As a % of total income	75.2	74	74.2
Government transfers - As a % of total income	20.7	15.3	11.9
Other money - As a % of total income	4.2	10.8	13.9

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 13  
Membertou - Cape Breton Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Membertou Aboriginal</b>	<b>Cape Breton Aboriginal</b>	<b>Cape Breton (CA) ALL citizens</b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
	725		104,655
Aboriginal	680	4,670	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>			
No certificate, diploma or degree	450	3,090	88,000
High school certificate or equivalent	155	1,295	26,935
	65	590	20,905
TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>54.4%</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	105	500	12,380
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	60	265	13,225
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	15	100	4,295
University certificate, diploma or degree	45	340	10,260
TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>39.0%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	64.4	49.2	53
Unemployment rate %	<b>25.9</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - full year; full time, 15 years and over (\$)	<b>27,488</b>	<b>31,390</b>	<b>33,173</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>16,000</b>	<b>13,914</b>	<b>18,936</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>13,792</b>	<b>12,470</b>	<b>20,068</b>
Composition of total income (100%)			
Earnings - As a % of total income	79.4	69.9	60.5
Government transfers - As a % of total income	20.3	25.1	24.9
Other money - As a % of total income	1.1	5.1	14.6

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 14  
Osoyoos Indian Band - Penticton Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Osoyoos Indian Band</b>	<b>Penticton</b>	<b>Penticton ALL citizens</b>
	<i>Aboriginal</i>	<i>Aboriginal</i>	
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
Aboriginal	600		42,795
	345	1,765	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>	255	1,375	36,890
No certificate, diploma or degree	115	520	8,760
High school certificate or equivalent	60	410	10,825
TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %	<b>68.6%</b>	<b>67.6%</b>	<b>53.1%</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	20	160	4,895
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	40	175	6,805
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	10	45	1,790
University certificate, diploma or degree	10	60	3,810
TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>46.9%</b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	68.6	65.8	57.4
Unemployment rate %	<b>14.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>26,944</b>	<b>30,028</b>	<b>36,369</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>18,496</b>	<b>17,953</b>	<b>21,390</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>16,576</b>	<b>16,960</b>	<b>23,007</b>
Composition of total income (100%)	102.1	99.6	100
Earnings - As a % of total income	80.7	71.6	64.1
Government transfers - As a % of total income	15.7	21.5	17.6
Other money - As a % of total income	4.3	7	18.3

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 15  
Peguis - Winnipeg Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Peguis (Manitoba) Aboriginal</b>	<b>Winnipeg Aboriginal</b>	<b>Winnipeg (CMA) ALL citizens</b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
	2,520		686,040
Aboriginal	2,425	68,385	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>			
No certificate, diploma or degree	1,745	47,620	908,450
High school certificate or equivalent	940	18,785	267,745
	290	12,205	242,200
<b>TOTAL: HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS %</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	<b>65.1%</b>	<b>56.1%</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	165	4,645	88,560
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	180	6,760	136,735
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	70	1,290	36,740
University certificate, diploma or degree	95	3,940	136,465
<b>TOTAL: SOME POST-SECONDARY %</b>	<b>29.2%</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	49.3	58.1	67.3
Unemployment rate %	<b>30.2</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - full year; full time, 15 years and over (\$)	<b>26,989</b>	<b>33,362</b>	<b>38,773</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>10,593</b>	<b>20,061</b>	<b>26,624</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>3,664</b>	<b>18,620</b>	<b>26,334</b>
Composition of total income (100%)	100	100	100
Earnings - As a % of total income	63.9	77.4	76.5
Government transfers - As a % of total income	34.4	18.3	11
Other money - As a % of total income	1.3	4.3	12.5
<b>Source:</b> Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.			



**Table 16  
Stoney First Nation - Calgary Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Stoney Aboriginal</b>	<b>Calgary Aboriginal</b>	<b>Calgary ALL citizens</b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
Aboriginal	2,540		1,070,295
	2,520	26,575	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>			
No certificate, diploma or degree	1,615	19,515	871,405
High school certificate or equivalent	1,060	6,055	157,945
	195	5,075	223,710
TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %	<b>77.7%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>43.8%</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	215	2,175	74,170
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	115	3,680	156,995
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	20	705	43,035
University certificate, diploma or degree	15	1,830	215,555
TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>43.0%</b>	<b>56.2%</b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	64.1	77.2	75.6
Unemployment rate %	<b>37.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>21,265</b>	<b>38,094</b>	<b>46,189</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>13,774</b>	<b>25,318</b>	<b>31,572</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>8,555</b>	<b>24,329</b>	<b>30,831</b>
Composition of total income (100%)	100	100	100
Earnings - As a % of total income	62.4	87	83.5
Government transfers - As a % of total income	36.9	8.7	5.3
Other money - As a % of total income	0.9	4.3	11.2

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 17**  
**Westbank First Nation- Kelowna Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Westbank Aboriginal</b>	<b>Kelowna Aboriginal</b>	<b>Kelowna ALL citizens</b>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
	6,215		160,050
Aboriginal	810	6,120	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>			
	575	4,280	135,045
No certificate, diploma or degree	180	1,360	26,525
High school certificate or equivalent	115	1,255	39,595
<b>TOTAL: HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS %</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	<b>61.1%</b>	<b>49.0%</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	120	595	19,375
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	100	645	25,890
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	35	175	6,695
University certificate, diploma or degree	30	250	16,955
<b>TOTAL: SOME POST-SECONDARY %</b>	<b>49.6%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>51.0%</b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	71.3	71.1	64
Unemployment rate %	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - full year; full time, 15 years and over (\$)	<b>31,810</b>	<b>31,174</b>	<b>38,832</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>17,980</b>	<b>15,452</b>	<b>23,692</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>17,935</b>	<b>15,960</b>	<b>25,039</b>
Composition of total income (100%)	100	100	100
Earnings - As a % of total income	78.7	79.2	70.1
Government transfers - As a % of total income	16.9	14.5	12.9
Other money - As a % of total income	4.4	6.5	17

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

**Table 18**  
**Wikwemikong - Sault Ste. Marie Comparisons (2006)**

	<b>Wikwemikong</b> <i>Aboriginal</i>	<b>Sault Ste. Marie</b> <i>Aboriginal</i>	<b>Sault Ste. Marie</b> <i>ALL</i> <i>citizens</i>
<b><u>Population in 2006</u></b>			
Aboriginal	2,390		79,035
	2,360	7,760	
<b><u>Educational attainment</u></b>			
<b>Population 15 years and over</b>			
No certificate, diploma or degree	1,635	5,765	66,675
High school certificate or equivalent	690	1,930	17,035
	335	1,575	18,960
TOTAL: <u>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</u> %	<b>62.7%</b>	<b>60.8%</b>	<b><u>54.0%</u></b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	150	545	6,325
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	345	1,110	13,370
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	25	145	2,020
University certificate, diploma or degree	95	450	8,955
TOTAL: <u>SOME POST-SECONDARY</u> %	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>39.0%</b>	<b><u>46.0%</u></b>
<b><u>Labour force activity characteristics</u></b>			
Participation rate %	56.3	65.8	59.9
Unemployment rate %	<b>16.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b><u>Earnings in 2005</u></b>			
Median earnings - <i>full year; full time</i> , 15 years and over (\$)	<b>28,448</b>	<b>32,832</b>	<b>43,769</b>
Median earnings - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>15,744</b>	<b>16,845</b>	<b>23,659</b>
<b><u>Income in 2005</u></b>			
Median income - Total population 15 years and over (\$)	<b>13,801</b>	<b>17,299</b>	<b>25,493</b>
Composition of total income (100%)			
Earnings - As a % of total income	69.4	72.2	68.5
Government transfers - As a % of total income	27.9	25.2	15.1
Other money - As a % of total income	2.7	3.3	16.3

**Source:** Data derived from Statistics Canada Community Profiles and Aboriginal Population Profiles Census 2006.

## About the Author

Mark Milke is a former director (first in Alberta and then British Columbia) with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation 1997-2002 and currently the Frontier Centre's Director of Research. Mark also lectures in Political Science at the University of Calgary where he received his doctorate. He is the author of three books on Canadian politics, including the 2006 *A Nation of Serfs? How Canada's Political Culture Corrupts Canadian Values* from John Wiley & Sons. Mark has written policy papers on British Columbia's treaty process, the Canada Pension Plan, Alberta's Heritage Fund, automobile insurance, corporate welfare and the flat tax. He is writing a book on the effects of anti-Americanism on deliberative democracy in Canada and is a Sunday columnist for the Calgary Herald. In addition, his columns on politics, hiking, nature and architecture have been published across Canada including in the National Post, Globe and Mail, Reader's Digest, The Western Standard, Vancouver Sun, and Victoria Times Colonist and the Washington DC magazine on politics, The Weekly Standard.

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