Urban Aboriginal Voices: A Landmark Study of Canada’s Urban Aboriginal Peoples

Toronto Findings

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2011
The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study (UAPS)...

- Landmark survey research project of national scope

- Conducted with First Nations peoples, Métis and Inuit living in major Canadian cities

- Focuses on values, experiences, identities and aspirations (vs. economic and social statistics)
Objectives of UAPS

- Use survey research to give voice to good news, positive narratives and hopeful scenarios for the future
- Provide new insights that help reframe the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people
- Build capacity to support further research and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit living in Canadian cities
The study is an initiative of the Environics Institute…

• Non-profit foundation, established in 2006 by Environics Research co-founder Michael Adams

• Dedicated to the study and execution of opinion research on issues of public importance

• Seeks to inform and stimulate dialogue by:
  • Commissioning original survey research
  • Working with media partners to disseminate results
  • Instigate public engagement to discuss implications of the research
UAPS Advisory Circle

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  Métis Nation
- John Berry  
  Queen’s University
- Ellen Bielawski  
  University of Alberta
- Lewis Cardinal  
  Cardinal Strategic Communications
- Hayden King  
  McMaster University
- Peter Dinsdale  
  National Association of Friendship Centres
- Calvin Helin  
  Lawyer, author of *Dances with Dependency*
- Calvin Hanselmann  
  Research Director, National Association of Friendship Centres
- Corinne Jetté  
  President and CEO, Mount Pleasant Educational Services Inc.
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- Evelyn Peters  
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- Mark Podlasly  
  N’laka’pmx First Nation / Harvard/Queens (fellow)
- Jennifer Rattray  
  Peepeekisis First Nation / University of Winnipeg
- John Richards  
  Simon Fraser University
- Pamela Sparklingeyes  
  Aboriginal Learning Services, Edmonton Catholic School Board
- Noella Steinhauer  
  National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation
Execution

• Toronto research conducted by Douglas Sinclair and a committed team of community interviewers

• Aboriginal organizations, agencies and Friendship centres

• Three separate research elements:
  
  ➢ Aboriginal survey, non-Aboriginal survey, survey of National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation scholars

• UAPS video archive (First Nations University)
Adapting research methods to fit

- Quota sampling based on 2006 Census profiles
  - Identity: First Nations/Métis/Inuit, Gender, Age, Education
- Range of methods to recruit eligible respondents
  - In-person interviews
    - 1-2 hours in length
    - 150 questions
## Toronto UAPS respondent profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Actual (Unweighted)(#)</th>
<th>Weighted (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuit</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-spirited</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No degree</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school completed</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College diploma</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University degree</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In-person survey with 2,614 urban Aboriginal peoples in 11 cities...the 10 main cities encompass 46% of the urban Aboriginal census population.
Why we need to pay attention

• Growing presence in our cities today

• Canada has yet to come to terms with this reality

• Our focus has been on reserve issues and on problems
Canadian population at 33 million in 2006, with nearly 1.8 million reporting Aboriginal ancestry.

Aboriginal Ancestry Population

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000 9,000 10,000
Of these, 1.2 million report Aboriginal identity, in three distinct groups.

**Aboriginal Identity Population**

- **First Nations single response**
  - 698,025

- **Métis single response**
  - 389,780

- **Inuit single response**
  - 50,480

- **Multiple and other Aboriginal responses**
  - 34,500

**Total** = 1,172,785
One in two of that Aboriginal population live in urban areas...
... and these numbers are increasing.

- Montreal: +5% (Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006), +60% (Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006)
- Halifax: +4% (Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006), +51% (Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006)
- Toronto: +9% (Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006), +31% (Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006)
- Edmonton: +10% (Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006), +27% (Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006)
- Calgary: +13% (Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006), +26% (Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006)
- Thunder Bay: +1% (Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006), +23% (Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006)
- Winnipeg: +3% (Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006), +22% (Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006)
“Canada is about to become a whole lot different in the next couple of generations...”

Waubgeshig Rice
Broadcast journalist and writer
The Globe and Mail online (July 20, 2009)
Research Findings
The majority of Aboriginal Torontonians are first generation residents.
Many feel they belong to a diverse community within Toronto.

Do you feel that the community you belong to is...?

- Exclusively Aboriginal: 4
- Mostly Aboriginal: 23
- Equally Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal: 29
- Mostly non-Aboriginal: 33
- Exclusively non-Aboriginal: 7
Definitions of the urban community for Aboriginal Torontonians.

Who or what do you consider to be a part of your community?

- Friends: 63
- Family: 61
- Aboriginal services: 42
- Aboriginal people in the city: 35
- People in my neighbourhood: 35
- People from same identity group: 32
- Aboriginal people across Canada: 28
- People at my work: 25
- People from another Aboriginal identity group: 21
- People at school: 17
- Indigenous people around the world: 15
- People in home community: 13
They move to Toronto to take advantage of the opportunities for quality of life.

What is the most important reason why you first moved to Toronto?*

- Employment opportunities, career advancement: 52
- Gain education, go to school: 38
- Family: 37
- For city life, amenities: 20
- To escape bad family situation: 10

*Subsample: Among those who were not born or raised in Toronto
And they like living in Toronto.

How much do you like living in Toronto?

- Like it a lot: 67
- Like it a little: 22
- Dislike it a little: 7
- Dislike it a lot: 4
Many enjoy big city life...

What is it you like most about living here?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amenities – convenient, accessible</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance in society, multiculturalism</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation, entertainment, always something to do</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources, support services available</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career, employment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractive city life, constant changes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity of people</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More freedom, opportunities</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly people</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
...but don’t feel safe and dislike the urban pressures that life in a big city brings.

And what do you like least about living here?

- Pollution, dirty, garbage: 18
- Crime, murders, violence: 17
- Overpopulation, too crowded: 14
- City lifestyle, fast-paced, stressful: 13
- Unfriendly people, no one cares: 10
- Higher cost of living, low wages: 9
- Bad traffic, parking: 9
- Racism, discrimination: 9
Affordable and safe housing are the main reasons for neighbourhood choice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can afford housing</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe neighbourhood</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has good public transportation</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to amenities, shopping</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to work, school</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to services for cultural, spiritual, social needs</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to family, friends</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live with family, friends</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood where I grew up</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to children's school, daycare</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to other Aboriginal people</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Despite the cost of housing, many feel that they have choice in where they live.

To what extent do you feel you have a choice about the neighbourhood you live in?

- A lot: 51
- Some: 23
- Little: 12
- No choice: 13
And many feel that they can make a difference in making Toronto a better place to live.

Overall, how much impact do you think people like you can have in making your city a better place to live?

- Aboriginal: 37 Big impact, 31 Moderate impact, 26 Small impact, 6 No impact at all
- Non-Aboriginal: 30 Big impact, 42 Moderate impact, 26 Small impact, 2 No impact at all
Aboriginal people are *not* rooted in remote communities
Most feel that the City of Toronto is home.

Where is home for you? Is it your city of residence, your home community, or somewhere else?

Métis 74%
First Nations 60%

* Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Toronto; those who have lived in Toronto all their life and whose parents/grandparents are from another place.
The connection to *home* remains strong, but there is disconnect.

How close a connection do you feel to your home community? That is *the place where your parents and grandparents are from*?

- Very close: 28
- Fairly close: 35
- Not too close: 20
- Not at all close: 15
A majority have never moved back to their community since moving to Toronto.

Since you first moved to Toronto, have you ever moved back to your home community?

- Ever: 25
- Never: 73
Only a minority plan to return to their home communities permanently.

Do you plan to go back to live in your home community/place where your parents/grandparents are from permanently one day, or not?

- Plan to go back: 21
- Do not plan to go back: 50
- Undecided/too soon to say: 28
Identity and Culture
There is strong Indigenous pride…
…and pride in Canada.

Would you say you are very proud to be...

- First Nations/Métis/Inuk: 94%
- Aboriginal (First Nations responses): 92%
- Aboriginal (Métis responses): 80%
- Canadian: 63%
And the majority has a connection to their heritage, although some do not.

How well do you know your family tree, that is, who your Aboriginal ancestors are?

- Know very well: 26
- Know fairly well: 32
- Know not very well: 25
- Know not well at all: 17
Many have been personally affected by Residential Schools.

Were you, or any member of your family, ever a student at a federal residential school or a provincial day school?

- Yes, self: 5
- Yes, family member: 62
- No, neither: 19
- dk/na: 14
And it continues to significantly impact them today.

To what extent has this experience shaped your life and who you are today?

- Significant impact: 58
- Some impact: 13
- Only a little impact: 6
- No impact at all: 4
- dk/na: 18
Those who say they are concerned about losing their cultures are in the minority…

“I am concerned about losing my cultural identity.”
… and a large majority embrace pluralism… even more so than non-Aboriginal Canadians.

“There is room for a variety of languages and cultures in this country”

Urban Aboriginal people
- Totally agree: 76
- Agree somewhat: 18
- Disagree somewhat: 4
- Totally disagree: 3

Urban non-Aboriginal people
- Totally agree: 58
- Agree somewhat: 31
- Disagree somewhat: 7
- Totally disagree: 2
There is a sense of cultural vitality among Aboriginal peoples living in cities.
A majority feel that Aboriginal culture in Toronto has grown stronger than weaker.

In the last five years, do you think that Aboriginal culture in your community has become stronger, become weaker or has not changed?

- Become stronger: 70
- Has not changed: 18
- Become weaker: 6
- dk/na: 6

National 54%
Many are aware of cultural activities within the city, although some are not.

Are there any, a lot, some, a few, or no Aboriginal cultural activities available in your community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>A lot</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Few</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: A lot, Some, Few, None
And still Aboriginal Torontonians *often* participate in cultural activities.

How often do you personally participate in these Aboriginal cultural activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Often* *Occasionally* *Rarely* *Never*
They also feel they have access to traditional healing supports.

How easy or difficult is it for you to access traditional healing practices, such as natural medicines, healing circles and other ceremonies, and the counsel of elders?

- Very easy: 52
- Somewhat easy: 22
- Somewhat difficult: 12
- Very difficult: 11
- dk/na: 2
The picture is far from perfect...
Many Aboriginal Torontonians feel that they are perceived negatively.

What do you believe are the most common stereotypes that non-Aboriginal people hold about Aboriginal people, if any?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stereotype</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction problems</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uneducated/lack intelligence/stupid</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lazy/lack motivation</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless/panhandlers/bums</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed/can't keep a job</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor/on welfare/social assistance</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savages/violent/abusive/dangerous</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminals/gang members</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live off/abuse &quot;the system&quot;</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't pay taxes/get everything for free</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
...and experience discrimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>% Agree</th>
<th>% Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“I think others behave in an unfair/negative way toward Aboriginal people”</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I have been teased/insulted because of my Aboriginal background”</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education is the enduring aspiration for urban Aboriginal peoples and their children.
Aboriginal Torontonians desire to be successful in mainstream ways…

What are the things you most want to achieve in your lifetime?

- Complete education/degree: 27
- Start/raise/provide for family: 20
- Career/job satisfaction: 14
- Financial independence/security: 14
- Give back/help out Aboriginal community/society: 11
- See children/grandchildren succeed: 9
- Be with/stay close to/healthy relationship with family/community: 9
- Home ownership: 9
… and share universal definitions of a successful life.

Are the following very important to your idea of a successful life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raising healthy, well-adjusted children who contribute to community</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living a balanced life</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being close to family, friends</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having strong connection to Aboriginal identity, background</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a good job, successful career</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial independence</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in a traditional way</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owning a home</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cultural continuity is a top priority for the next generation.

Are there ways in which you hope your childrens’ and grandchildrens’ lives will be different from yours?

- Connected to Aboriginal culture and community: 31
- Live in a society without racism/discrimination: 13
- Will make better life decisions: 13
- Learn importance of education, finish school: 12
- Supportive family life, friendship: 12
- Live in a safe environment: 12
- Pride in Aboriginal heritage: 12
- Access to more opportunities: 11
- Financial security: 11
- Live a better and balanced lifestyle: 10
Aboriginal people in Toronto have little confidence in the Canadian justice system.
Many feel that the Canadian justice system isn’t working.

In general, would you say you have a lot of confidence, some confidence, little confidence or no confidence in the criminal justice system in Canada?

- A lot of confidence: 5%
- Some confidence: 34%
- Little confidence: 36%
- No confidence: 23%
And a significant majority welcome Aboriginal methods of justice.

Do you think creating an Aboriginal justice system separate from the mainstream system is a good idea or bad idea?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Good idea</th>
<th>Bad idea</th>
<th>dk/na</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Organization and Political affiliations
The majority of Aboriginal Torontonians use and rely on Aboriginal services and organizations.

How often do you use or rely on Aboriginal services or organizations in Toronto?

- Often: 41
- Occasionally: 28
- Rarely: 18
- Never: 13
And value a variety of organizations and services.

What kinds of Aboriginal services or organizations have you found to be particularly useful?

- Health centres: 61
- Employment centres: 45
- Friendship centres: 40
- Aboriginal legal services: 34
- Child and family services: 33
- Healing centres: 30
- Counselling centres: 29
- Housing services: 29
- Aboriginal youth centres: 14
- Native Women’s Resource Centre (NWRC): 14
They identify with a diverse array of political organizations.
But a significant minority feel that no political party or organization best represents them.

- National Aboriginal Organizations: 22
- National Political Parties: 35
- Other Aboriginal Organizations: 14
- None: 22
Mainstream political parties top the political representation list.

Thinking about both Aboriginal political organizations and Canadian political parties, is there one that you feel best represents you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Democratic Party</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly of First Nations</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Party</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis National Council</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Party</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Women’s Association of Canada</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My band/band council</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-Aboriginal perspectives in Toronto
NA first impressions are generally positive.

What first comes to mind when you think of Aboriginal people?

- First inhabitants: 21
- First Nations/Métis/Inuit: 15
- Mistreatment: 12
- Culture and art: 9
- Reserves: 8
- Loss of culture: 6
- Poor living conditions: 5
- Tax breaks, special privileges: 4
- Proud people, proud of culture: 4
These impressions remain stable.

Over the past few years, has your impression of Aboriginal people gotten better or worse, or stayed the same?

- Better: 21
- Stayed the same: 67
- Worse: 8
- dk/na: 5
While many feel that current relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are mixed...

Would you describe the current relations between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people in Canada today as...?
... NA Torontonians do possess distinct perspectives, some more negative than others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perspective</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismissive Naysayers</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Tend to view Aboriginal peoples and communities negatively, i.e., entitled and isolated from Canadian society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(National, 24%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Romantics</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Idealistic and optimistic, they have a strong belief in Aboriginal peoples’ artistic and cultural contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(National, 45%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inattentive Sceptics</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Uninformed and unaware, they typically think Aboriginal peoples are no different from other Canadians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(National, 14%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connected Advocates</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>High level of contact and strong belief that Aboriginal peoples often experience discrimination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(National, 17%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A minority report a general awareness of the local urban Aboriginal community in Toronto.

Are you aware of an Aboriginal community in your city? (Either a physical area, neighbourhood, or social community.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study

Not just another study
Urban aboriginals strive to make significant difference in their communities, report says
But many first nations people feel negative preconceptions persist about addiction and poverty

Globe editorial
Canada’s urban aboriginals are gaining confidence
A detailed survey on urban aboriginals is encouraging evidence of their adaptation to contemporary society as a whole, and of eagerness to pursue education.

The city is home
The Ottawa Citizen   April 13, 2010
A funny thing happened when interviewers set out cities to talk to Metis, Inuit and First Nations residents. They discovered a sense of optimism.

The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study from the Envi a picture of aboriginal Canadians that shatters stereotypes.

Most urban aboriginal people opt to stay in city

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION
Urban natives content: study
Survey shows happiness in white society, lingering stereotype fears

CBC News
Last Updated: Tuesday, April 6, 2010 | 10:48 AM ET    Comments 290    Recommend 146

Urban Inuit aspire to the “good life,” study says
Most have no plans to return to north

Aboriginal urbanites aspire first to higher education
Environics research finds that postsecondary learning is viewed as route to empowerment.
Evidence of success

- Successful completion of the research
- Legitimacy with Aboriginal community
- Policy impact to date
- Building Aboriginal research capacity
This study is about the future, not the past.

The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study is an extensive new research study that has gone beyond the numbers to capture the values, experiences and aspirations of Aboriginal peoples living in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and Ottawa.

Speaking directly with a representative group of 2,614 First Nations peoples, Métis and Inuit living in these major Canadian cities, as well as 2,501 non-Aboriginal Canadians, the Environics Institute, led by Michael Adams, has released the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study, which offers Canadians a new perspective of their Aboriginal neighbours. Guided by an Advisory Circle, Aboriginal people designed the research themes, methodology, and executed the main survey.

Click here for the UAPS report summary, full report, or quick key findings from the study.
Some meaningful city differences exist.
City differences

Who is **most** satisfied with life in their city?

- Vancouver and Halifax

Who is **most** likely to believe they can make their city a better place to live?

- Toronto and Vancouver

Who is **least** likely to say Aboriginal cultural activities are available?

- Calgary, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina

Who is **least** confident in the criminal justice system?

- Edmonton and Toronto

Who is **most** likely to believe they are perceived negatively?

- Edmonton

Who is **least** likely to feel accepted by their non-Aboriginal neighbours?

- Saskatoon and Regina
The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study – Toronto – would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors ~ Thank-you!

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Toronto

Canada