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

Edmonton Findings
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
Approaching the initiative as an independent actor.

- No previous profile or position on Aboriginal issues
- Contacted and consulted a wide range of stakeholders, early and often

Non-profit model featured:
- Hands-off involvement by sponsors
- Full public release of research
- No position on study implications for policy
- Commitment to making results useful to Aboriginal community, other stakeholders
About the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study
Objectives of UAPS

• Understand the experiences, identities, values, and aspirations of urban Aboriginal peoples

• 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
Execution

• The research team in Edmonton, led by Dr. Maisie Cardinal (Harvard Fellow)

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

• UAPS video archive (First Nations University)

• Study design and interpretation guided by an Advisory Circle of recognized experts from academia and the Aboriginal community
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allan Benoit</td>
<td>Métis Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Berry</td>
<td>Queen’s University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Bielawski</td>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Cardinal</td>
<td>Cardinal Strategic Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayden King</td>
<td>McMaster University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Dinsdale</td>
<td>National Association of Friendship Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin Helin</td>
<td>Lawyer, author of <em>Dances with Dependency</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin Hanselmann</td>
<td>Research Director, National Association of Friendship Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corinne Jetté</td>
<td>President and CEO, Mount Pleasant Educational Services Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Krause</td>
<td>Former principal Grandview Elementary School, Faculty of Educ., UBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Menzies</td>
<td>Centre for Addiction Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Minich</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Newhouse</td>
<td>Trent University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Parkin</td>
<td>Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John G. Paul</td>
<td>Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn Peters</td>
<td>University of Saskatchewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Podlasly</td>
<td>N’laka’pamx First Nation / Harvard/Queens (fellow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Rattray</td>
<td>Peepeekisis First Nation / University of Winnipeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Richards</td>
<td>Simon Fraser University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Sparklingeyes</td>
<td>Aboriginal Learning Services, Edmonton Catholic School Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noella Steinhauer</td>
<td>National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adapting research methods to fit

- Quota sampling based on 2006 Census profiles
- Range of methods to recruit eligible respondents
- In-person interviews
### UAPS Edmonton respondent profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Actual (Unweighted)(#)</th>
<th>Weighted (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuit</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No degree</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College diploma</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University degree</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In-person survey with 2,614 urban Aboriginal peoples in 11 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
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
- Total = 1,172,785
- Multiple and other Aboriginal responses: 34,500
One in two of that Aboriginal population live in urban areas...
... and these numbers are increasing.

- Montreal: +60%
- Halifax: +51%
- Toronto: +31%
- Edmonton: +27%
- Calgary: +26%
- Thunder Bay: +23%
- Winnipeg: +22%

Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006

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 UAPS Edmonton participants are first generation residents.
Many feel that they belong to a diverse community.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exclusively Aboriginal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Aboriginal</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equally Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly non-Aboriginal</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusively non-Aboriginal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definitions of the urban community for Edmontonians.

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

- Family: 49
- Friends: 43
- People in my neighbourhood: 29
- People from same identity group: 16
- People at my work/job: 14
- Aboriginal people in the city: 11
- People at school: 11
- People from another Aboriginal identity group: 10
- Aboriginal services: 9
- People in home community/where born/raised/on reserve: 6
- People from my band/First Nation: 5
- Church/Christian/spiritual/religious community: 5
Building a life for one’s family is the main reason for moving to Edmonton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/to go to school</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work/to find a job</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For city life/amenities</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need a new beginning</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better place to raise children</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To escape bad family situation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subsample: Among those who were not born or raised in Edmonton.*
Many enjoy the big city life...

What do you enjoy most about life in Edmonton?

- Family/friends live here: 28
- Amenities vary/convenient/accessible/centralized: 25
- Recreation/entertainment: 22
- Career/employment: 19
- Resources/support/services available: 15
- Education/training: 12
- More freedom/opportunities: 12
- Friendly people/know community: 11
- Born/grew up in area: 9
...but do not feel particularly safe.

What do you like least about living here?

- Crime/murders/violence/vandalism: 29
- City lifestyle/fast-paced/stressful/too busy: 10
- Drugs/alcohol: 9
- Inflation/higher cost of living/taxes/low wages: 8
- Bad traffic/car conditions/parking services: 7
- Racism/discrimination: 7
- Far from family/friends/home: 7
Neighbourhood choice is influenced primarily by cost.

Why do you live in the neighbourhood you do?

- Can afford housing: 28
- Live with family/friends: 16
- Close to amenities/shopping: 15
- Safe neighbourhood: 14
- Close to work/school: 11
- Quiet/peaceful/secluded area: 10
- Close to family/friends: 7
- Close to children's school/daycare: 6
- Has good public transportation: 6
Aboriginal people are not rooted in remote communities
Most feel that the city of Edmonton is home...

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

- Métis, 77%
- First Nations, 61%

* Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Edmonton; those who have lived in Edmonton 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? How close a connection do you feel to the place where your parents and grandparents are from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connection Level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>1st Generation</th>
<th>2nd Generation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very close</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairly close</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too close</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all close</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total
1st generation
2nd generation
A majority have never moved back to their community since moving to Edmonton.

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

- 31 Ever
- 67 Never

Note: 2% said dk/na

* Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Edmonton.
Only a minority plan to return to their home communities permanently.

Do you plan to go back to live in your home community/community of origin permanently one day, or not?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan to go back</th>
<th>Do not plan to go back</th>
<th>Undecided/too soon to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subsample: First and second generation UAPS participants.*
They feel they can make Edmonton a better place to live.
Identity and Culture
There is strong Indigenous pride…

...and pride in Canada.

Are you very proud to be…

- First Nations (status and non-status) 85
- Métis 78
- Aboriginal – Métis responses 81
- Canadian 78
And the majority has connection to their heritage, although some do not.

Knowledge of family tree

- First Nations: 16%
- Métis: 35%
- Know very well: 27
- Know fairly well: 25
- Know not very well: 30
- Know not well at all: 17
Residential schools have had a lasting effect.

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

- Yes, self: 13
- Yes, family member: 58
- No, neither: 29
- dk/na: 5

First Nations:
- 21%

Métis:
- 71%
- 48%
And many still feel its impact today.

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

- Significant impact: 43
- Some impact: 26
- Only a little impact: 11
- No impact at all: 17
- dk/na: 2
Those who say they are concerned about losing their cultures are in the minority...

“I am concerned about losing my cultural identity”

Urban Aboriginal people: 10% Totally agree, 19% Agree somewhat, 23% Disagree somewhat, 45% Totally disagree

Urban non-Aboriginal people: 10% Totally agree, 15% Agree somewhat, 17% Disagree somewhat, 57% Totally disagree

National: 40% Totally disagree 21% in Calgary
There is a sense of cultural vitality among Aboriginal peoples living in cities.
Aboriginal Edmonton residents are more likely to think that Aboriginal culture has grown stronger than weaker ...but not by much.

In the last five years, do you think that Aboriginal culture in your city has become...

- **Become stronger**: 42
- **Has not changed**: 33
- **Become weaker**: 11
- **dk/na**: 14

National: 54%
Vancouver: 68%
Toronto: 72%
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?
And the majority participate in these cultural activities at least occasionally.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</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>

*Inuit only
Perceptions of others
Many Aboriginal people feel they are perceived negatively...

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

- Addiction problems: 78
- Lazy/lack motivation: 36
- Unemployed/can't keep a job: 24
- Uneducated/lack intelligence/stupid: 23
- Poor/on welfare/social assistance: 22
- Criminals/gang members: 17
- Homeless/panhandlers/bums: 16
- Poor hygiene/dirty: 11
- Live off/abuse "the system": 11
...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>91</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I have been teased/insulted because of my Aboriginal background”</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aboriginal Edmontonians are more likely to think that perceptions are negative.

Do you think non-Aboriginal people’s impression of Aboriginal people is generally positive or negative?

- Ottawa: 32% General positive, 18% Neither positive/negative, 42% Generally negative, 7% dk/na
- Vancouver: 23% General positive, 10% Neither positive/negative, 62% Generally negative, 5% dk/na
- Halifax: 20% General positive, 21% Neither positive/negative, 52% Generally negative, 7% dk/na
- Calgary: 18% General positive, 12% Neither positive/negative, 65% Generally negative, 5% dk/na
- Toronto: 17% General positive, 10% Neither positive/negative, 70% Generally negative, 3% dk/na
- Saskatoon: 17% General positive, 9% Neither positive/negative, 71% Generally negative, 3% dk/na
- Thunder Bay: 13% General positive, 15% Neither positive/negative, 67% Generally negative, 6% dk/na
- Montreal: 12% General positive, 17% Neither positive/negative, 68% Generally negative, 3% dk/na
- Regina: 11% General positive, 13% Neither positive/negative, 71% Generally negative, 5% dk/na
- Edmonton: 10% General positive, 6% Neither positive/negative, 80% Generally negative, 5% dk/na
- Winnipeg: 9% General positive, 12% Neither positive/negative, 75% Generally negative, 4% dk/na
But still a large majority embrace pluralism... even more so than non-Aboriginal Edmontoners’.

“There is room for a variety of languages and cultures in this country”
Aboriginal people in Edmonton 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 slim majority would 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?

- **Toronto**: 79% Good idea, 15% Bad idea, 6% dk/na
- **Halifax**: 72% Good idea, 14% Bad idea, 14% dk/na
- **Ottawa**: 64% Good idea, 20% Bad idea, 16% dk/na
- **Vancouver**: 64% Good idea, 21% Bad idea, 15% dk/na
- **Saskatoon**: 63% Good idea, 19% Bad idea, 18% dk/na
- **Montreal**: 54% Good idea, 21% Bad idea, 25% dk/na
- **Calgary**: 54% Good idea, 32% Bad idea, 14% dk/na
- **Thunder Bay**: 53% Good idea, 29% Bad idea, 18% dk/na
- **Regina**: 49% Good idea, 41% Bad idea, 10% dk/na
- **Edmonton**: 42% Good idea, 39% Bad idea, 19% dk/na
- **Winnipeg**: 79% Good idea, 15% Bad idea, 6% dk/na
Organization and Political affiliations
Half of urban Aboriginal people in Edmonton use and rely at least occasionally on Aboriginal services and organizations...

How often do you use or rely upon Aboriginal services or organizations in Edmonton?

- Often: 22
- Occasionally: 28
- Rarely: 25
- Never: 24
... and value a variety of services and organizations.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Useful Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendship centres</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment centres</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis association/Nation</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling centres</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/school/scholarship programs</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing services</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centres</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healing centres</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
They identify with a diverse array of political organizations.
But a significant minority feels that no political organization or party best represents them.

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

- National Aboriginal Organizations: 15
- National Political Parties: 24
- Other Aboriginal Organizations: 13
- None: 33
Mainstream political parties top the list among those named that best represent them.

- New Democratic Party/NDP: 9
- Liberal Party: 9
- Métis National Council: 8
- Assembly of First Nations: 7
- Conservative Party: 6
- My band/band council: 4
- None: 33
Aspirations for a good life
Aboriginal peoples in Edmonton desire to be successful in mainstream ways...

What are the things that you most want to achieve in your lifetime? (top mentions)

- Complete education/degree: 31
- Start/raise/provide for family: 26
- Home ownership: 23
- Career/job satisfaction: 21
- Travel/vacation: 17
- See children/grandchildren succeed: 12
- Financial independence/security: 12
- Happiness/live good life: 12
- Good health/longevity: 10
- Own/start business/be own boss/self-employment: 10
- Stay close to family/community: 8
... and share universal definitions of a successful life.

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

- Living a balanced life: 92%
- Raising healthy, well-adjusted children who contribute to community: 90%
- Being close to family/friends: 86%
- Having a good job/successful career: 79%
- Financial independence: 71%
- Owning a home: 64%
- Having strong connection to Aboriginal identity/background: 62%
- Living in a traditional way: 30%

[National data: 63%, Toronto: 76%, Halifax: 77%]
Education is the enduring aspiration for urban Aboriginal peoples and their children.
Education is a top priority for the next generation...and so is a society free of racism.

Are there ways in which you hope your children’s and grandchildren’s lives will be different from yours?

- Importance of education, finish school: 23
- Live in a society without racism and discrimination: 19
- Connected to Aboriginal culture: 17
- Live a happier, healthier, stable life: 17
- Avoid addictions: 13
- Financial security: 9
- Will make better decisions: 9
...and there is very little cultural transmission in schools.

Exposure to Aboriginal culture

In Elementary school
- A lot: 5
- A little: 25
- Almost nothing: 67
- dk/na: 3

In High school
- A lot: 8
- A little: 26
- Almost nothing: 60
- dk/na: 6

In College or university
- A lot: 16
- A little: 14
- Almost nothing: 33
- dk/na: 37
Non-Aboriginal perspectives
NA first impressions are generally positive.

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

- First inhabitants: 14
- First Nations/Metis/Inuit: 11
- Reserves: 11
- On welfare, "ask for handouts": 8
- Lazy, minimal contributions to society: 7
- No different than others: 7
- Cultural and artistic traditions: 6
A majority view current relations with Aboriginal people as being negative...

Would you describe the current relations between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people in Canada today as very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative?

![Bar Chart]

- Very positive: 2
- Somewhat positive: 32
- Somewhat negative: 56
- Very negative: 6
Over the past few years, has your impression of Aboriginal people gotten...

- Better: 21
- Stayed the same: 60
- Worse: 16
- dk/na: 2

...and the impressions are not changing too much...
...the attitude in Edmonton is largely negative.

Do you think relations between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people in Canada are improving, deteriorating or staying about the same?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Improving</th>
<th>The same</th>
<th>Deteriorating</th>
<th>dk/na</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Improving
- The same
- Deteriorating
- dk/na
... but, they do possess distinct perspectives, some more positive than others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismissive Naysayers</td>
<td>(36%) Tend to view Aboriginal peoples and communities negatively, i.e., entitled and isolated from Canadian society.</td>
<td>(24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inattentive Sceptics</td>
<td>(5%) Uninformed and unaware, they typically think Aboriginal peoples are no different from other Canadians.</td>
<td>(14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Romantics</td>
<td>(41%) Idealistic and optimistic, they have a strong belief in Aboriginal peoples’ artistic and cultural contributions.</td>
<td>(45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connected Advocates</td>
<td>(18%) High level of contact and strong belief that Aboriginal peoples often experience discrimination.</td>
<td>(17%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study
And there is a general awareness of the local urban Aboriginal community in the city.

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>Awareness 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>
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
BY KIM PEMBERTON, VANCOUVER SUN APRIL 7, 2010

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 stereotypically fears

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

NEWS: Nunavut April 06, 2010 - 2:58 pm
Urban Inuit aspire to the “good life,” study says
Most have no plans to return to north

Aboriginal urbanites aspire first to higher education
Environs 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?

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

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

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

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

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

Vancouver and Halifax

Toronto and Vancouver

Calgary, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina

Edmonton and Toronto

Edmonton

Saskatoon and Regina
Thanks to the support of our generous local funders, with whom this study is made possible.