TORONTO ABORIGINAL PERSONS
DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT
2006

City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008
Aboriginals in the Toronto Region

- According to the 2006 Census, there were 31,910 persons of Aboriginal Identity living in the Greater Toronto Area.

- This represents nearly 3% of Aboriginals in Canada and 13% of Aboriginals in Ontario.

- From 2001 to 2006 the Aboriginal population in the GTA went from 23,950 to 31,910 persons, an increase of 33%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

The Toronto Metropolitan Area had the fourth largest Aboriginal population among major CMA’s in Canada, ranking ahead of Montreal and Ottawa.
Aboriginals in the City of Toronto

- 13,605 persons of Aboriginal identity lived in the City of Toronto in 2006.
- Aboriginals in Toronto comprised 0.5% of the total city population and 43% of the Aboriginal population in the GTA.
- From 2001-2006, the number of Aboriginals in Toronto grew by 2,235 persons, an increase of 20%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008
ABORIGINAL POPULATION BY TYPE

67% of Toronto Aboriginals were North American Indians, 27% were Métis and 1.4% were Inuit.

41% were Registered under the Indian Act

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006
Population by Sex

The City of Toronto Aboriginal Population included 6,220 Males and 7,390 Females.

The ratio of females to males among Aboriginals in Toronto and the GTA is greater than the population as a whole and Aboriginals living in the rest of Ontario and Canada.

City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008
In 2006, the Toronto Aboriginal population was younger than the population as whole with a much lower proportion of seniors and higher proportion of children and youth.
Population by the Numbers

• Toronto’s Aboriginal population included:
  ✓ 935 pre-school age children
  ✓ 1,845 school-age children
  ✓ 1,975 youth
  ✓ 8,190 persons of working age
  ✓ 655 seniors

• There were 1.5 times as many Aboriginal women ages 65 and over than men. (395 vs 260).
Households and Families

- There were 5,930 Aboriginal households in Toronto in 2006, comprising 0.6% of the city total.
- Seventy-five percent of Aboriginal households were renters.
- Twenty-seven percent of Aboriginal households were couple families, 15% single parent families, 2% multiple family and 50% non-family individuals.
- Aboriginals are more likely to live in single-parent families and non-family households.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008
Households and Families

- In 2006, thirty-percent of aboriginal persons and 19% of all Torontonians were not in families.

- Among Aboriginals not in families, 63% lived alone, 27% lived with unrelated individuals and 9% lived with relatives.

- Nearly one-half of Aboriginal seniors lived alone as compared to 27% of all Toronto seniors.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008
Mother Tongue and Home Language

- Ninety percent of Toronto Aboriginal persons reported English as his/her mother tongue, 4% French and 3% a native language.

- The most frequently noted native mother tongue was Objiway (1.7%), followed by Cree (0.5%), M’kmaq (0.1%) and Mohawk (0.1%)

- Less than 1% regularly spoke a native language at home.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

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**Educational Attainment**

- **Toronto Aboriginals** had a significantly smaller percentage of population with University degrees, and a significantly higher percentage who had not completed High School.

- In 2006, twenty-one percent of Aboriginal persons ages 25-64 had no certificate, diploma or degree, 24% had H.S. diplomas, 11% had apprenticeship certificates, 20% had community college degrees and 24% were university graduates.

*City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008*
Educational Attainment

• The gap in educational attainment is also evident among Aboriginal youth.

• Among the 1,700 Aboriginal university graduates, 60% had a Bachelor’s degree, 2% had a degree in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine or Optometry, 24% had a Master’s degree and 7% a PHD.

• The most frequent area of study for male post-secondary graduates was Architecture, Engineering and related disciplines (30%), followed by Visual and Performing Arts and Communications Technology (14%).

• Women were divided between Social and Behavioural Science and Law (21%), Business Management and Public Administration (18%), and Health, Parks, Recreation and Fitness (17%).
**Income**

- Aboriginal households of all types had lower income than non-Aboriginal households.

- In 2006, median income for Aboriginal households in Toronto was 2/3 that of non-Aboriginal households.

- Median income for Toronto Aboriginal households was 10% less than Aboriginal households in Canada, 15% less than Aboriginals in Ontario and 45% less Aboriginals in the rest of the GTA.

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*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006*

*City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008*
Income

- This gap is also reflected in low income rates.
- 37% of Toronto Aboriginal persons, 47% of children and 31% of seniors were living with low income in 2006.
- The Low Income Rate for Aboriginals in Toronto was $1 \frac{1}{2}$ times that of Toronto non-Aboriginals in Toronto and $2 \frac{3}{4}$ times that of Aboriginals in the rest of the GTA.
- 44% of Aboriginal households and 37% of non-Aboriginal households spent more than 30% of their income for shelter.

![Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Households Income Rates in Toronto](image1)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

![Aboriginal Low Income Rates in Canada, Ontario and GTA](image2)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006
Labour Force and Occupation

- 65% of Aboriginal people ages 15 and over were in the Labour Force in 2006.
- Labour Force participation rates for Aboriginal males was higher than females (68.5% vs 63.7%)
- Unemployment rates for Aboriginal youth and persons ages 25 and over were higher than non-Aboriginals.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006
Labour Force and Occupation

- 87% of working Aboriginals were paid employees and 11% were self employed.

- The percent of Aboriginal men who were self employed was higher than that of women. (13% vs 9%)

- In 2006, 52% of Aboriginals worked full-time for the full year, while 43% worked part-time or part of the year.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

City of Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, 2008
Labour Force and Occupation

- The most common occupations for Aboriginal men were sales and service (10%), clerical (7%), technical occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport (5%), construction trades (5%), trade helpers and labourers (5%).

- Most frequent occupations for women were clerical (19%), sales and service (7%), lawyers, psychologists, social workers (6%), teachers (6%) and retail salespersons and clerks (6%).

- Median income from employment for Aboriginals was $26,332, eight percent less than Toronto workers as a whole.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

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...But Who’s Missing?

- In contrast to the census, agencies serving the Aboriginal community estimate that the number of Aboriginal people living in Toronto area to be between 60,000 and 70,000.

- To reconcile this difference, the Aboriginal Health Roundtable is proposing research to determine the level of undercount for Aboriginal persons in Toronto.
For more information contact:

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