

CLIENT SEGMENT PROFILE

Aboriginal Peoples

Atlantic Canada



January 2014

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Acronyms

NHS	National Household Survey
CSP	Client Segment Profile
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
PEI	Prince Edward Island
NS	Nova Scotia
NB	New Brunswick
APS	Aboriginal Peoples Survey
PIAAC	Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

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About the Client Segment Profile

Each year, the Labour Market and Strategic Analysis Directorate of Strategic Services Branch, Atlantic, produces Client Segment Profiles (CSPs) for the Atlantic Region. The CSPs provide provincial and local demographic and labour market information, trends and prospects for selected socio-demographic groups of the labour force, including youth, older workers, Aboriginal people, newcomers, persons with disabilities, seniors and official language minority communities.

CSPs are mainly intended to support regional Service Canada operations, especially with regard to the delivery of services and programs to specific client groups. However, they may also be of interest to those who seek to know more about the demographic and labour market trends for specific segments of the population.

Facts and statistics presented in this document reflect information available as of December, 2013.

Key Points

In comparison to Atlantic Canada's non-Aboriginal population:

- Aboriginal people have higher fertility rates;
- Fewer Aboriginal people live in urban areas;
- The Aboriginal population is much younger;
- Overcrowding and inadequate housing are more prevalent for Aboriginal people;
- The level of educational attainment is lower for Aboriginal people;
- Aboriginal people have higher school drop-out rates;
- Aboriginal people have less successful labour market outcomes, lower employment earnings and higher unemployment rates;
- Median income is lower;
- Government transfer payments account for a larger share of total income; and
- The incidence of low income is more pronounced for Aboriginal people.

In comparison to the Aboriginal population nationally, Atlantic Canada's Aboriginal population:

- Increased by a higher percentage than nationally between 2006 and 2011;
- Is less likely to live on reserves;
- Has fewer lone-parent families;
- Is less likely to living in overcrowded dwellings;
- Has a smaller share of individuals with no certificate, diploma, or degree;
- Has lower school drop-out rates.

Introduction

"Aboriginal peoples" is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. The Canadian constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people: First Nations, Métis and Inuit. These are three distinct peoples with unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.¹ This profile provides an outline of the primary demographic and labour market characteristics for the Aboriginal Identity population in Atlantic Canada.² The variables analysed are the demographic characteristics by age, mother tongue, living arrangements, education, labour market participation and income for the Aboriginal population. Comparisons with the non-Aboriginal population in the Atlantic Region, which comprises the four provinces of New Brunswick (NB), Nova Scotia (NS), Prince Edward Island (PEI) and Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), and with the rest of Canada are also provided.

The data in this report are from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) and, for comparative purposes, the 2006 Census. The NHS replaced the long form of the census. It canvasses, on a voluntary basis, close to one-third of all households. Even though the survey goes to more households than the census, completion of the survey was voluntary, which makes it difficult to compare census and NHS data.¹ Further, the definition and questions related to Aboriginal identity are also slightly different than in past censuses.

The information presented in this Profile will be updated as more recent statistical information and research findings become available.

Section 1: Demographical Information

According to the 2011 NHS, the population of Atlantic Canada was recorded at 2,286,655. Of this population, 94,495 people identified themselves as Aboriginal. The Aboriginal population accounts for a small, but growing share of the Region's total population. The number of Aboriginal people in the Region represents 4.1% of Atlantic Canada's total population, up from less than 3% in 2006 and 2.4% in 2001. As with the non-Aboriginal population, females account for a marginally higher share of the Aboriginal population (51%). According to 2011 NHS, approximately 40% of the Region's Aboriginal people are Status Indian.³

The Region's Aboriginal population increased by 27,490 people, or 41% between 2006 and 2011, compared with 0.07% for the non-Aboriginal population. By comparison, the Atlantic Canadian Aboriginal population grew by 24% between the 2001 and 2006 census periods. Nationally, the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations rose by 20% and 5%, respectively, during the same time periods. Higher fertility rates relative to non-Aboriginals, an increase in life expectancy, and an increasing trend toward self-identification by Aboriginal people may account for the growth in the Aboriginal population.

Since the late 1960s, the fertility of Aboriginal populations has declined substantially. Nonetheless, the fertility of Aboriginal populations remains higher than that observed among the rest of the Canadian population. In 2005/2006, the total fertility rate was estimated at approximately 2.7 children for women of Inuit identity, 2.4 for those of First Nations identity and 1.8 for women of Métis identity, compared to 1.6 for the rest of the population.⁴ These fertility levels are similar to those for 2000/2001 for the three

¹ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

² Aboriginal Identity refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group and/or who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada and/or who reported they were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

³ Registered or Treaty Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada.

⁴ Statistics Canada, *Population Projections by Aboriginal Identity in Canada, 2006 to 2031*.

Aboriginal groups which indicates that the decline in recent decades did not continue into the most recent period. The growth rate of the Aboriginal population is expected to continue to outpace that of the non-Aboriginal population, but at a slower pace in future decades.

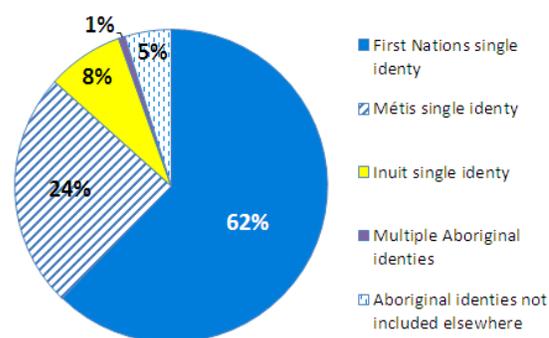
Within the Region, the largest share of Aboriginal people lived in NL and NS. Approximately 38% resided in NL while another 36% lived in NS. Approximately one quarter lived in NB. At just over 2%, PEI was home to the smallest share of the Region's Aboriginal population.

Aboriginal Groups – First Nations people make up the largest Aboriginal group in Atlantic Canada

Of the 94,495 people in the Region who identified themselves as an Aboriginal person, First Nations account for the largest identity group with approximately 62% of the total Aboriginal population. Close to 5% of Aboriginal people report Registered or Treaty Indian status and/or membership in a First Nation or Indian band, but did not identify themselves as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

Of the three Aboriginal groups in the Region, First Nations people experienced the greatest growth between 2006 and 2011. This population group grew by 61% compared to the 22% increase in the Métis population. While small in absolute numbers (7,500), the Region's Inuit population rose by 2,245 or 43%.

Figure 1: Composition of Aboriginal Peoples in Atlantic Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-011-X2011027

Area of Residence – An increasing share of Aboriginal people live in urban areas

In the NHS, area of residence is categorized as either on reserve or off reserve. In Atlantic Canada most reserves are located in rural or remote parts of the region. For the purpose of this report, a rural area is defined as living outside of a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and/or a Census Agglomeration (CA), which constitute urban areas.

In 2011, the number of Aboriginal people living on reserves in Atlantic Canada was estimated at just under 20,000, an increase from 17,000 five years earlier. However, the proportion living on reserves has declined from approximately 25% at the time of the 2006 Census, to close to 21% in 2011. Nationally, the share of Aboriginal people on reserves also declined during the same period.

Table 1: Area of Residence of Aboriginal Population, Atlantic Canada, 2011

Aboriginal population	Atlantic	NL	PEI	NS	NB
Population	94,495	35,800	2,230	33,845	22,620
Urban	42,325	10,145	1,010	19,465	11,705
Rural	52,170	25,655	1,220	14,380	10,915
On reserve*	19,690	2,970	440	8,955	7,325
	44.8%	28.0%	45.0%	57.0%	52.0%
	55.2%	72.0%	55.0%	43.0%	48.0%
	21.0%	8.0%	20.0%	26.0%	30.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Numbers: 99-011-X2011028 & 99-011-X2011027. *Note, some reserves are located in urban locations while others are located in rural areas. As such, the on-reserve population are already counted in the urban/rural estimates

Two factors which may be contributing to the decline in the number of Aboriginal people recorded living on reserves are the change in the definition of reserves in the NHS, as well as the increasing trend in the number of individuals moving to urban areas. Within the Region, NB had the highest share of Aboriginal people residing on reserves while NL had the lowest.

A growing share of the Aboriginal population, as well as of the non-Aboriginal population, is taking up residence in urban areas. From 2006 to 2011 the share of Aboriginal people residing in urban areas of the Region rose from 36% to 45%. By comparison, between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, the rate of urbanization was virtually unchanged. In contrast, almost six out of ten of the Region's non-Aboriginal population were urban dwellers in 2011, up two percentage points from the time of the 2006 Census.

NL had the lowest share of its Aboriginal people living in urban areas, while NS had the highest (28% versus 57%). Approximately 45% of PEI's Aboriginal population are urban dwellers as compared to 52% of NB's Aboriginal population. Within Atlantic Canada, First Nations peoples were the most likely Aboriginal group to reside in urban areas, whereas the Inuit were the least likely. Approximately 49% of First Nations people resided in urban areas, while fewer than 24% of Inuit lived in an urban area.

Age Distribution – The Aboriginal population is much younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts

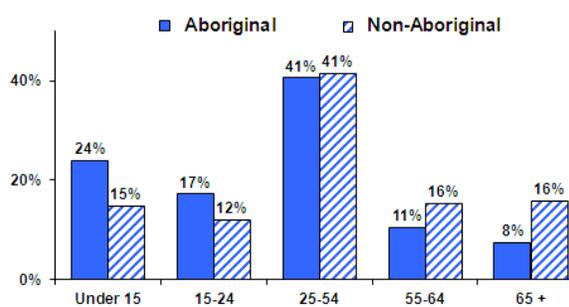
The Aboriginal population is relatively young compared with the non-Aboriginal population. First Nations and Inuit people tend to have higher fertility rates than the non-Aboriginal population, while Métis people have a slightly higher fertility rate than the non-Aboriginal population.⁵ Children and youth aged 24 and under make up 41% of Aboriginal people in the Region. By comparison, less than three in ten (27%) of their non-Aboriginal counterparts are in this age category. Among the three Aboriginal groups, both First Nations and Inuit had a higher share of children and youth as compared to the Métis population, at 44%, 43% and 37%, respectively. Nationally, a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal people, 46%, are aged 24 and under. Over one-half of those under 25 years of age in Atlantic Canada live in a rural area.

At the other end of the age continuum, seniors made up a much lower proportion of the total Aboriginal population. Twice as many non-Aboriginal Atlantic Canadians are seniors (65+) compared with Aboriginal people.

The Region's on-reserve population has an even larger representation of children and youth. In 2011, just over half (51%) of on-reserve Aboriginal people were aged 24 and under. The age distribution of Atlantic Canada's on-reserve population is similar to the national distribution. Rapid population growth and population, as well as the corresponding youthful age structure, are demographic trends that are expected well into the future.

In 2011, the median age of the Aboriginal population nationally was 28 years; 13 years younger than the median of 41 years for the non-Aboriginal population.⁶ Across the Region, Aboriginal people are younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts in each of the Atlantic Provinces. NL has the highest median age for Aboriginal people whereas PEI recorded the lowest.

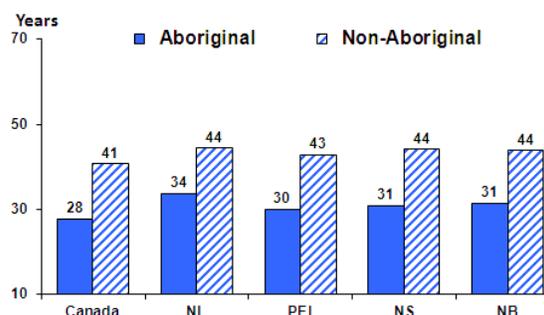
Figure 2: Age Distribution of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations, Atlantic Canada 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-011-X2011027

a shorter life expectancy within the Aboriginal

Figure 3: Median Age of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations, Atlantic Canada 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-011-X2011027

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The median age is the age where exactly one-half of the population is older and the other half is younger.

Languages – The vast majority of Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada report English as mother tongue

Despite an increase in Atlantic Canada's Aboriginal population, the portion of this population with an Aboriginal mother tongue has declined.⁷ In 2011, 11% of the Aboriginal population in Atlantic Canada reported an Aboriginal language as mother tongue, down from approximately 15% in 2006. Mother tongue refers to the language first learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the survey. When the on-reserve population is considered separately, less than half (46%) report an Aboriginal language as mother tongue; this share has not changed from 2006.

In Atlantic Canada, First Nations people were more likely to have an Aboriginal mother tongue than the Métis or Inuit. Mi'kmaq was the most frequently reported language among those with an Aboriginal language as mother tongue in the Maritime Provinces, and in NL it was Innu/Montagnais.

The majority of Aboriginal people, specifically 76,410 or 81%, reported English as their mother tongue. Those with French as mother tongue numbered 7,555 or 8% of the Region's Aboriginal population. In 2011, the vast majority (98%) of the Region's Aboriginal people responded that they were able to conduct conversation in English; 15% reported they could converse in French.

Education

– Aboriginal people are more likely to have no certificate, diploma or degree than non-Aboriginal people

– The gap in educational attainment is lower in Atlantic Canada than in Canada overall

The levels of educational attainment in the Aboriginal population lag behind those of the non-Aboriginal population of Atlantic Canada. The population aged 15 to 24 is excluded from the analysis as many in this age category would still be in high school or completing their first diploma or degree. The results from the 2011 NHS report approximately 28% of Atlantic Canada's Aboriginal people aged 25 and over had no certificate, diploma or degree, while the proportion of the non-Aboriginal people in the same age group was 22%, a gap of six percentage points. Nationally, the gap between Aboriginal people with no certificate, diploma or degree and their non-Aboriginal counterparts was more pronounced. Close to 32% of the Aboriginal population nationally had this level of educational attainment as compared to 17% of Canada's non-Aboriginal population.

Although the gap in the level of educational attainment narrows for those with postsecondary education (PSE), a higher proportion of the Aboriginal population in the Region had a trades certificate or diploma (15.4%) than the non-Aboriginal community (12.9%). In contrast, their university completion rates lag behind those of the non-Aboriginal population. The share of the population who are university graduates at the bachelor level or above is higher for the Region's non-Aboriginal population (18% versus 12%). Nationally, the gap in attainment at the university level was significant. The percentage reaching this level of attainment was 24% or 15 percentage points higher than that of the Aboriginal population.

⁷ Estimates for those reporting an Aboriginal language as mother tongue in this profile include those who reported a single response of an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue, as well as those who gave multiple responses of an Aboriginal language with English and/or French as their mother tongue.

Table 2: Educational Attainment, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations aged 25 and over in Atlantic Canada, 2011

Highest educational attainment	Aboriginal Population	Non-Aboriginal Population
No certificate, diploma or degree	28.3%	21.9%
High school certificate or equivalent	19.4%	26.2%
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree ⁸	52.3%	55.6%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	15.4%	12.9%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	21.6%	21.0%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	3.3%	3.6%
University cert., diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	12.1%	18.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-012-X2011039

While there was little difference in the share of males or females with a high school certificate or less, whether Aboriginal or not, at the other end of the education continuum a higher proportion of females were university graduates. In 2011, almost 14% of Aboriginal females had graduated university at the bachelor or above level as compared to 10% of their male counterparts. Nineteen per cent of non-Aboriginal, Atlantic females had this level of educational attainment compared with 17% of the non-Aboriginal male population.

Within Atlantic Canada, the provinces of NL and PEI had the largest proportion of Aboriginal people (32%) with no certification, diploma or degree, while NS had the smallest (23%). NB had just over 29% of its Aboriginal community at this level of educational attainment. At approximately 14%, the proportion of Aboriginal university graduates, whether below, at, or above the bachelor level, was similar across the provinces within the Region in 2011.

The levels of educational attainment have increased over time. According to the 2001 Census, close to 38% of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over in Atlantic Canada reported having less than a high school graduation certificate. By 2011, the share of the Aboriginal population with no certification, diploma or degree decreased to 28% or 10 percentage points. Conversely, there was a sizeable improvement in the PSE rates over the same time period. The proportion with PSE rose by almost nine percentage points to reach 52.3% at the time of the 2011 NHS.

Educational attainment rates vary significantly between age groups. For example, younger members of the Aboriginal community in Atlantic Canada, those aged 25 to 34, were more likely to have completed high school relative to Aboriginal people aged 45 to 54 (25.7% versus 17.6%). In 2011, there were 20% of the Region's Aboriginal people aged 25 to 34 who were university graduates as compared to 12.6% of their counterparts aged 45 to 54. The proportion of Aboriginal people with no certificate, diploma or degree rises significantly when the senior population, aged 65 and above, is considered. The majority (55.5%) of Aboriginal seniors both nationally and in the Region had this level of educational attainment in 2011. In comparison, 42% of non-Aboriginal people in the same age group in the Region had less than a high school diploma. Twice as many non-Aboriginal seniors had university qualifications as compared to their Aboriginal counterparts (13.3% versus 6.3%).

Since the Aboriginal population is comprised of the very diverse groups of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people, it is important to disaggregate the data to see if any noteworthy distinctions in terms of levels of educational attainment exist. Data from the 2011 NHS shows that the Métis population in the Atlantic Region has the highest share of individuals (57.1%) who had completed some level of PSE. Nationally, a slightly lower share of Métis people (52.8%) report having attained PSE. Similarly, First Nations people in the Region report a higher share of individuals with postsecondary qualifications (50.5%) than is the case nationally at 43.1%. Survey results suggest that people in the Inuit community in Atlantic Canada were much more likely to have postsecondary qualifications than in the Inuit population nationally, with an

⁸ Includes any level of educational attainment above high school.

average of 51.6% versus 34.2%. This translates into a 17 percentage point gap between the Inuit people in Atlantic Canada and nationally.

Table 3: Educational Attainment for Population aged 25 plus, by Aboriginal group, Atlantic Canada, 2011

Highest educational attainment	First Nations	Métis	Inuit
No certificate, diploma or degree	29.1%	25.9%	31.3%
High school certificate or equivalent	20.5%	16.9%	18.2%
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	50.5%	57.1%	51.6%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	15.1%	17.1%	15.4%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	20.7%	24.0%	20.7%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	3.5%	3.5%	2.3%
University cert., diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	11.2%	12.8%	13.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-012-X2011039

The levels of educational attainment of Aboriginal people also varies considerably by area of residence, with those living in urban parts of the Region being more likely to have high school completion or higher than rural dwellers. In 2011, 21% of Aboriginal people aged 25 and over in urban areas of Atlantic Canada had no certification, diploma or degree while approximately one-third of Aboriginal people living in rural area had this level of educational attainment.

The proportion of the on-reserve Aboriginal community in Atlantic Canada with no certification, diploma or degree is marginally higher at 34.7%. However, a significantly higher percentage of the on-reserve Aboriginal population had no certification, diploma or degree nationally (49.2%).

Table 4: Educational Attainment for the Aboriginal Population aged 25 plus by Area of Residence, Atlantic Canada, 2011

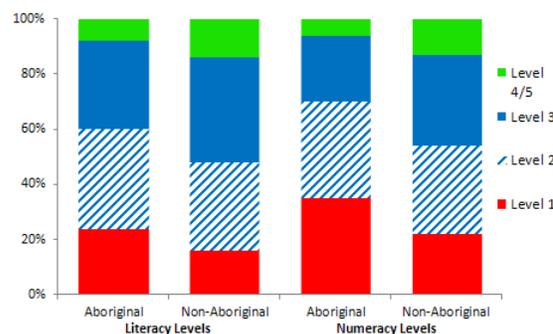
Highest educational attainment	Urban	Rural	On Reserve	Off Reserve
No certificate, diploma or degree	20.9%	33.7%	34.7%	26.9%
High school certificate or equivalent	21.0%	18.3%	19.6%	19.4%
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	58.7%	47.5%	45.5%	53.7%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	15.0%	15.7%	16.8%	15.1%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	23.3%	20.3%	15.8%	22.8%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	3.6%	3.1%	4.1%	3.1%
University cert., diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	16.6%	8.8%	8.7%	12.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Numbers: 99-012-X2011039 & 99-012-X2011044

Literacy and Numeracy – Aboriginal people in Canada have lower levels of proficiency in literacy and numeracy than non-Aboriginals

Results from the 2012 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) indicate that Aboriginal people have lower scores in literacy and numeracy than non-Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people surveyed in the PIAAC are composed of First Nations people living off-reserve, Métis, and Inuit people. Significant differences in proficiency scores are evident between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in both domains.

Figure 4: Levels of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations' Literacy and Numeracy Proficiency, Canada 2012



Source: Statistics Canada, "First Results from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)" 2013.

At the national level, 8% of Aboriginal people score at Level 4 or 5, the highest levels, compared to 14% for non-Aboriginal people.⁹ At the other end of the proficiency scale, a larger proportion of the Aboriginal population (24%) is at Level 1 or below compared to the non-Aboriginal population (16%). Approximately 60% of the Aboriginal population is estimated to have literacy proficiency levels below Level 3. This compares to the non-Aboriginal population's share which stands at 48%. Level 3 proficiency scores are considered to be the "desired level" of competence for coping with the changing skill demands of a knowledge-based economy and society.

On the numeracy scale, almost seven in ten Aboriginal adults do not have the desired level of numeracy skills of Level 3, compared to the non-Aboriginal population where 54% of the population is below this level. Nationally, the proportion of those scoring at Level 4 or 5 is lower among the Aboriginal population at 6%, than among the non-Aboriginal population at 13%. At the other end of the scale, 35% of the Aboriginal population across Canada score at Level 1 or below. Given the high correlation between education and literacy proficiency, it is important to note that the Aboriginal results are potentially worse than reported since the on-reserve Aboriginal population is excluded from the survey sample.

The results portray one of the tangible consequences that may carry with them significant lifetime social and economic costs for individuals with scores below Level 3. Lower levels of educational attainment tend to be associated with lower levels of literacy and essential skills. In turn, this is linked with persistent labour market difficulties and weaker employment outcomes, such as lower wages.

Families – *The share of lone-parent families is higher among Aboriginal people*

Regardless of Aboriginal status, the vast majority of people in Atlantic Canada live in a census family.¹⁰ In 2011, 84% of Aboriginal people in the Region lived in census families, one percentage point higher than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Close to 16% of the Region's Aboriginal people lived on their own or with non-relatives at the time of the survey.

While married spouses form the majority of Aboriginal census families, they account for a smaller share compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts (63% versus 76%). Common-law families make up 21% of Aboriginal families; six percentage points higher than the share of non-Aboriginal, common-law families in the Region.

Lone-parent families make up a higher share of Aboriginal families than in non-Aboriginal families. Just over 15% of Aboriginal families in Atlantic Canada were headed by a lone parent as compared to close to 8% of non-Aboriginal families. When the on-reserve population is considered by itself, the proportion of Aboriginal families headed by a lone parent rises to almost 32% in the Region as compared to 12% of off-reserve Aboriginal families. Lone-parent families account for a smaller share of Aboriginal families in Atlantic Canada than nationally (15% versus 19%). Between 2006 and 2011, the share of Aboriginal census families headed by a lone parent declined by one percentage point both within the Region and nationally. Among the three Aboriginal groups, the incidence of lone parenthood is highest among the First Nations population.

Children aged 14 and under live in a variety of arrangements, primarily families with either both parents or with lone-parents. Other children in that age group are stepchildren, grandchildren living with grandparents with no parent present, foster children or children living with other relatives. According to the 2011 NHS, there were 22,660 Aboriginal children aged 14 and under in Atlantic Canada. Over one-half of these children (55%, or 12,100) were living in a family with both of their parents (biological or adoptive), compared with close to 70% of non-Aboriginal children.

⁹ Data for Aboriginal peoples in the Atlantic Provinces are not available.

¹⁰ A census family is composed of a married or common-law couple, with or without children, or of a lone parent living with at least one child in the same dwelling. Couples can be of the opposite sex or of the same sex.

Just over one-third of Aboriginal children (35% or 7,755) lived in a lone-parent family compared with 22% of non-Aboriginal children. Among these Aboriginal children and non-Aboriginal children living in a lone-parent family, the majority lived with a female lone parent. At 39%, the incidence of children living in a lone-parent family was highest for the First Nations community. Within the Métis and Inuit populations, the share of children aged 14 and under living with a lone parent were both at approximately 27%. There are no noteworthy differences observed in the living arrangements of Aboriginal children in this age category between Atlantic Canada and nationally.

Crowding and Condition of Dwelling

– A higher proportion of Aboriginal people live in crowded quarters and in homes needing major repairs

– The proportion of Atlantic Canada's population, whether Aboriginal or not, in overcrowded dwellings is considerably less than the national averages

The proportion of Aboriginal peoples living in dwellings in need of major repair is substantially higher than the proportion for the non-Aboriginal community. In 2011, almost 19% of Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada reported living in homes needing major repairs, which is below the national average (21.5%) among Aboriginal people.¹¹ By comparison, less than 9% of the Region's non-Aboriginal population reported living in homes requiring major repairs. The need for major repairs was the judgement of the respondents.

Aboriginal people living in a rural setting had homes in slightly worse conditions, with 20% requiring major repairs. Urban Aboriginal persons occupied dwellings in the best condition, with 18% requiring major repairs. The on-reserve population were the most likely population to live in dwellings in need of major repairs. The proportion of the Region's on-reserve population living in homes requiring major repairs is significantly less than the share who are doing so nationally (33% versus 43%). First Nations peoples in the Region report the highest incidence of homes in need of major repairs at 21.4%; whereas, the Métis community report the lowest share (15.8%).

Table 5: Aboriginal population by place of residence and condition of dwelling, Atlantic Canada 2011

	On Reserve	Aboriginal Urban	Aboriginal Rural	Non-Aboriginal Urban	Non-Aboriginal Rural
Condition of dwelling					
Regular maintenance only	34.5%	50.0%	47.7%	64.8%	60.1%
Minor repairs needed	32.8%	31.8%	32.2%	27.3%	29.6%
Major repairs needed	32.8%	18.1%	20.2%	7.9%	10.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-011-X2011036

Exacerbating the housing problems that some Aboriginal people encounter is the issue of overcrowding in homes. Crowding is defined as more than one person per room. In 2011, crowding rates for Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada were more than three times greater than for the non-Aboriginal population (4.3% versus 1.2%). The proportion of Atlantic Canada's population, whether Aboriginal or not, in overcrowded dwellings is considerably less than the national averages (11% and 4%). Living in crowded conditions was more common within the Inuit population than in any other Aboriginal group either in Atlantic Canada or nationally. In 2011, approximately 8.5% of Inuit people in the Region reported living in crowded conditions. The share of Inuit people nationally in overcrowded homes was reported at 30%.

¹¹ Major repairs include things such as defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings, etc.

Crowding is especially common on reserves. When the on-reserve Aboriginal population is considered separately, close to 11% are living in crowded conditions in Atlantic Canada as compared to 27% at the national level.

As noted in a 2008 report by Statistics Canada, health experts maintain that inadequate housing can be associated with a host of health problems.¹² For example, crowded living conditions can lead to the transmission of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis A, and can also increase the risk of injuries, mental health problems, family tensions and violence.

Section 2: Labour Market Analysis

Labour Force Participation – *There is little difference between the labour force participation rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people*

The Aboriginal population in Atlantic Canada are as likely as their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be in the labour force.¹³ In 2011, 61.5% of Aboriginal peoples in the Region participated in the labour market, slightly below the rate for the non-Aboriginal population (62.8%). Nationally, the gap between the labour force participation rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people was wider (61.3% versus 66.2%) at the time of the NHS.¹⁴

Table 6: Labour Force Activity of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations aged 15 and over, Atlantic Canada, 2011

Labour Force Activity	Aboriginal Population	Non-Aboriginal Population
Population	71,840	1,863,905
In the labour force	44,165	1,169,785
Employed	35,805	1,039,290
Unemployed	8,365	130,505
Participation Rate	61.5%	62.8%
Unemployment Rate	18.9%	11.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-012-X2011039

Within the Region, labour force participation rates of Aboriginal people ranged from a low of 60.8% in NL to a high of 66% in PEI. For NS and NB, the NHS reports participation rates of 62.1% and 61.2% respectively. Whether Aboriginal or not, males have higher participation rates as compared to females. Approximately 64% of Aboriginal males aged 15 and over in Atlantic Canada were in the labour force in 2011, compared to 59% of Aboriginal females. By comparison, 67% of non-Aboriginal males in the Region were labour force participants. There was no notable difference between the participation rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal females.

The First Nations community reports the lowest participation rates while the Métis people register the highest rate, at 59% versus 67%, a gap of eight percentage points. The rate for the Inuit community was similar to the participation rate for the overall Aboriginal population in the Region.

¹² Statistics Canada. *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis and First Nations, 2006 Census*.

¹³ The labour force includes the civilian, non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who are employed or unemployed.

¹⁴ The labour force participation rate is the percentage of working-age people (15 years of age and over) in the population who are part of the labour force. This is calculated by taking the size of the labour force, and dividing it by the population (15+).

Area of residence, in terms of urban versus rural, is a factor in determining labour market engagement and outcomes. Labour force participation rates in urban parts of the Region are higher than in rural areas. In 2011, 64.8% of Aboriginal urban dwellers in the Region participated in the labour market, which is six percentage points higher than their rural counterparts (58.8%). Across the Atlantic Region, participation rates of urban Aboriginal dwellers were highest in NL at 67.8% and lowest in PEI where the participation rate was recorded at 60.8%.

Labour force participation rates are lowest for the on-reserve population. In 2011, approximately 55% of the Region's on-reserve Aboriginal population participated in the labour market, down from 58% at the time of the 2006 Census. By comparison, the off-reserve participation rate was almost 63% in 2011. Within the Region, the on-reserve population in NL had the highest participation rate at 66.8% while NS had the lowest (50.8%). In NB, 54% of the province's on-reserve population were labour force participants.

The Aboriginal participation rates have changed little between the 2001 and 2006 Census periods or between 2006 and 2011. During these time periods they have remained within the 61% to 62% range.

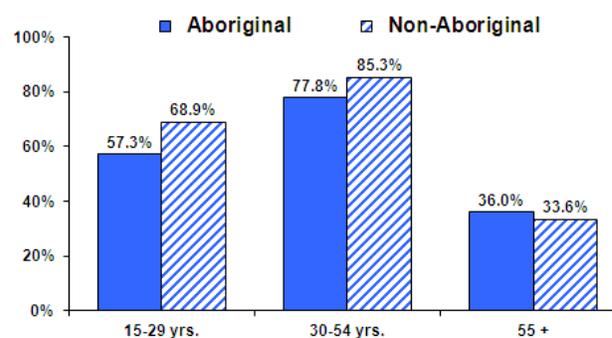
Whether Aboriginal or not, participation rates are highest for individuals aged 30 to 54, both nationally and in Atlantic Canada. Approximately 85% of the Region's non-Aboriginal community in this age category participated in the labour force, according to the 2011 NHS. In comparison, close to 78% of their Aboriginal counterparts were labour force participants. While the overall youth participation rates were significantly lower than those for the population in the 30 to 54 age category, the participation rates for older youth (25-29) were much higher. There was no difference in the participation rates of older, non-Aboriginal, youth and the non-Aboriginal community aged 30 to 54. In comparison, a small gap in participation rates was observed between older Aboriginal youth and their counterparts in the 30 to 54 age group (75.2% versus 77.8%). Older workers, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, aged 55 and over, were the least likely group to be in the labour market.

Labour force participation rates increase as the level of educational attainment increases. In 2011, the participation rate for Aboriginal peoples in the Region was lowest for those with no certificate, diploma or degree at 37%, rising to 65% for high school graduates and to almost 80% for those with university certification at or above the bachelor level. Similar differences in participation rates are present by level of educational attainment within the non-Aboriginal community. For comparison purposes, the participation rate for the non-Aboriginal population with university certification was two percentage points lower than that for Aboriginal peoples with the same certification; whereas, they were identical to the Aboriginal community at lower levels of education.

Unemployment Rates – Aboriginal people have significantly higher unemployment rates compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts

Atlantic Canada's Aboriginal population had less successful outcomes in the labour market in 2011 than did the non-Aboriginal population. At approximately 19%, the average unemployment rate for Aboriginal people in the Region was significantly higher than the rate for their non-Aboriginal counterparts (11%).¹⁵ Whether Aboriginal or not, men had higher unemployment rates than women; however, the gap in unemployment rates was notably larger between Aboriginal males and their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Figure 5: Labour Force Participation Rates by Age Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations, Atlantic Canada 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-012-X2011039

¹⁵ The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

In 2011, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal males in Atlantic Canada was 23% or almost 10 percentage points higher than the rate for non-Aboriginal males (12.4%). At 14.8%, the difference between the unemployment rate for Aboriginal women and non-Aboriginal females (9.8%) was less acute. The unemployment rates reported for the First Nations and Inuit communities were similar at 20.4% and they had higher rates of unemployment than the Métis community (16%).

Table 7: Unemployment Rates of Aboriginal Population, Atlantic Canada, 2011

Aboriginal population	Atlantic	NL	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.
Total	18.9%	21.6%	17.9%	15.0%	20.8%
Urban	14.8%	12.3%	17.2%	14.9%	16.9%
Rural	22.5%	25.6%	18.4%	15.2%	25.4%
On reserve	30.6%	30.4%	...	27.6%	34.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-012-X2011039 & 99-012-X2011044.

Unemployment rates across the Region are consistently higher for Aboriginal peoples residing in rural areas than for urban dwellers. Unemployment rates are particularly high among the on-reserve population. In 2011, the unemployment rate was just over 30% for Aboriginal people in the labour force aged 15 and over living on reserves in Atlantic Canada, as compared with 25% nationally. Low levels of economic activity in rural areas and on reserves in remote areas, coupled with their isolation from larger labour markets, are contributing factors to higher unemployment rates.

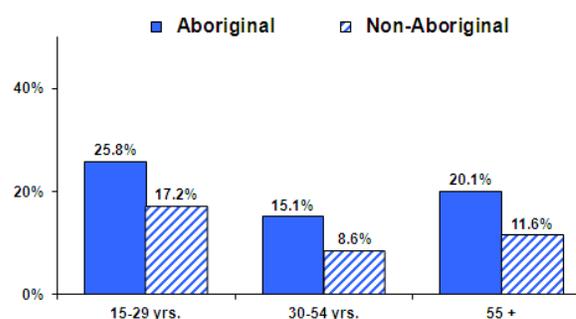
As with the non-Aboriginal population, unemployment rates among Aboriginal people are highest for youth aged 15 to 29 across Atlantic Canada. At 25.8%, the rate was 10 percentage points higher than that of population aged 30 to 54 years. In addition, the Aboriginal youth rate was 8.6 percentage points higher than that of the Region's non-Aboriginal youth population.

The youngest youth cohort aged 15 to 24, as would be expected, had higher unemployment rates than their peers of 25 to 29 years (28.4% versus 21%). Further, there were no significant differences in their unemployment rates across the Atlantic Provinces.

The adult Aboriginal population aged 30 to 54 years had the most success in the labour market. They had the highest participation rate and the lowest unemployment rate. Regardless of age group or Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal identity, unemployment rates are higher in the Atlantic region relative to national levels.

The likelihood of being unemployed is highest for those with the lowest levels of education. In 2011, the unemployment rate in Atlantic Canada for Aboriginal peoples with no certification, diploma, or degree was estimated at 31.5%, and it decreased to 21.5% for those with a high school diploma or equivalent. For university graduates at or above the bachelor level, the unemployment rate declined to 6.5%.

Figure 6: Unemployment Rates by Age Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations, Atlantic Canada 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-012-X2011039

Income

– **Aboriginal people are more likely to live in low-income situations**

– **Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada derive a higher percentage of their incomes from employment and from government transfer payments than non-Aboriginals, and a lower percentage from “other” sources.**

Income can be classified into two broad categories: income from private sources and income from government sources.¹⁶ In 2010, between 78% and 80.8% of total income reported by the Region's Aboriginal population was derived from market income (which includes employment income and “other” money¹⁷), and the remaining income was in the form of government transfer payments.

The median income from all income sources for the non-Aboriginal population was significantly higher than that of the Region's Aboriginal community.¹⁸ In 2010, the median total income of non-Aboriginal people ranged from \$25,454 in NL to \$27,858 in PEI. Regardless of the province of residence in the Region, the median total income of Aboriginal peoples was lower than that of the non-Aboriginal population.

Whether Aboriginal or not, employment income was the principal component of the total income of Atlantic Canadians aged 15 and over. However, employment income contributed to a marginally higher share of the Region's Aboriginal population's total income relative to the non-Aboriginal population. Within the Region, employment income as a share of total income ranged from 68.9% in PEI, 69.4% in NS to approximately 71.2% in both NL and NB for non-Aboriginal people. Nationally, there was little difference between the share of income from employment for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Table 8: Composition of income: Aboriginal Population, Atlantic Canada 2010

Aboriginal population	Canada	NL	PEI	NS	NB
Aboriginal population 15 years and over					
Median income	\$20,701	\$22,669	\$21,158	\$19,708	\$18,156
Median employment income full-time, full-year workers	\$42,896	\$43,948	\$37,042	\$39,766	\$35,178
Composition of total income (100%)					
Employment income - As a % of total income	75.3%	73.2%	...	74.1%	71.6%
Government transfers - As a % of total income	18.5%	21.2%	...	19.2%	22.0%
Other money income - As a % of total income	6.1%	5.6%	...	6.6%	6.5%
Incidence of low Income	25.3%	21.1%	...	23.7%	29.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Numbers: 99-014-X2011032, 99-014-X2011041 & 99-014-X2011043

Aboriginal people receive a relatively large share of their total income from government transfer payments. In 2010, between 19% and 22% of the total income of Aboriginal people in the Region came from these sources, compared with 15% to 19% for the non-Aboriginal population. Among the Aboriginal groups, government transfer payments accounted for a larger share of total income for First Nations people than for either the Métis or Inuit population. Government transfer payments constitute a higher

¹⁶ Income from private sources, or market income, includes employment income, investment income and private retirement income, etc. Income from government sources refers to any form of government transfer payments.

¹⁷ Other money includes, for example, investment income, retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities severance pay and retirement allowances, alimony, child support, scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and study grants etc.

¹⁸ Median income is the amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.

share of total income of Atlantic Canada's population, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, compared with the rest of Canada. Nationally, government transfer payments represent 18% of Aboriginal peoples' total income as compared with 12% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

In contrast to total income from employment, the other three components of market income combined constitute 'other money' contributed a larger share to the total income of the Region's non-Aboriginal population in 2010 than to their Aboriginal counterparts. For example, "other money" accounted for almost 10% of NL non-Aboriginal population's total income, rising to 12.4% of their counterpart's income in NB and to 15.3% in NS.

Income data from the NHS suggest an earnings gaps between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. For full-time, full-year workers, median employment income was estimated at slightly above \$35,000 for NB's Aboriginal population, the lowest earnings across the Region, rising to almost \$44,000 for their counterparts in NL. For the Region's non-Aboriginal population, their median employment income was close to \$43,000 in each of the Maritime Provinces and highest in NL at \$47,343.

Low income can be measured in several different ways in household surveys. For the standard products of the NHS, the line chosen is a relative measure: the after-tax low-income measure (LIM-AT).¹⁹ Statistics Canada does not release low-income estimates for the population, Aboriginal or not, living in the territories or on reserves, As such, the discussion which follows refers to the off-reserve Aboriginal population living in one of Canada's 10 provinces.

Aboriginal people are more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be living in low-income situations. According to estimates from the NHS, 17,910 or 23.9% of Aboriginal peoples in Atlantic Canada lived in households with income below the LIM-AT in 2010, as compared to approximately 17% of the Region's non-Aboriginal community. Nationally, the prevalence of low income was marginally higher for the Aboriginal population (25.3%) and lower for their non-Aboriginal counterparts (14.5%) when compared to the Atlantic levels. Within the Aboriginal community in Atlantic Canada, First Nations people had the highest proportion of people living in low-income households (27%) while Métis people had the smallest share (20.5%). The estimated share of Inuit people living in low- income situations was similar to that of the overall Aboriginal population (23.9%).

Median employment income varies considerably by highest level of educational attainment. High-income Atlantic Canadians tend to be highly educated. University graduates, working full-time, full-year, had the highest median incomes compared to persons with other levels of educational attainment. However, given the same level of education, the Aboriginal population had lower median employment income compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts, with the exception of those in NL who had no certification, diploma or degree. In 2010, the median employment income of Aboriginal people in the Atlantic Provinces was lowest for individuals in NB without any certification and highest for university graduates in NL.

¹⁹ Individuals are defined as having low income if the after-tax income of their household falls below 50% of the median adjusted household after-tax income in 2010

Table 9: Median Employment Income by Level of Education, full-time, full-year workers, Atlantic Provinces 2010

Aboriginal population	NL	PEI	NS	NB
Aboriginal population, full-time, full-year				
No certification, diploma or degree	\$30,484	...	\$30,779	\$20,805
High school	\$35,098	...	\$32,208	\$27,259
Postsecondary	\$51,412	...	\$44,865	\$34,944
University at or above bachelor level	\$67,418	...	\$60,732	\$52,214
Non-Aboriginal population				
No certification, diploma or degree	\$32,281	\$34,297	\$33,434	\$32,617
High school	\$34,944	\$34,229	\$36,512	\$35,468
Postsecondary	\$54,460	\$47,333	\$50,341	\$49,674
University at or above bachelor level	\$71,770	\$62,120	\$64,228	\$65,910

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-014-X2011041

Section 3: Issues and Challenges

The Aboriginal population face a variety of issues and challenges which can create barriers to social and economic inclusion. One such barrier, dropping out of school, is the topic featured in this section. Education is one of the most significant determinants of labour market outcomes. Finishing high school is tied to success in the labour market and, more often than not, leaving school with no certification, diploma or degree creates barriers to employment. Those who have not completed school are usually employed in low-skill, low-wage positions. This also places them at greater risk of becoming unemployed, especially when the economy is weak.

Information on youth dropping out of school varies between studies. This leads to differing rates due to different definitions and calculations. For this profile, the school dropout rate indicates the percentage of individuals aged 20 to 24 who might be at risk of reduced opportunities in the workforce and in society. This rate is calculated as the percentage of those aged 20 to 24 who were not attending school, college, CEGEP or university at any time during the nine-month period between September 2010 and May 10, 2011 and have no certification, diploma or degree.

The decision to drop out of school can be influenced by a variety of both economic and social factors. Some people may consider that the potential benefits of dropping out more than offset the costs associated with remaining in school. The decision can be driven by, for example, poor academic performance or ability, low expectations about the returns to further education, and the presence of attractive labour market opportunities. In addition, studies have shown that individuals who dropout are more likely to come from a single-parent household, from a low-income family and/or from a family where the parent does not have a postsecondary diploma or degree.²⁰ However, it should be noted that most provinces offer “second chance” programs where dropouts can re-enter the education system and graduate. As such, it is possible that a percentage of those who are presently categorized as a school dropout will one day re-enter the school system and graduate with some form of certification.

²⁰ Statistics Canada, *High School Dropouts Returning to School*, 2008.

Regardless of gender, Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada are less likely to dropout relative to the Aboriginal population nationally. Close to 16.5% of Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada can be categorized as having dropped out of school, according to the 2011 NHS, down from 23% at the time of the 2006 Census. Nationally, the school dropout rate also declined over this five-year period, from 32% in 2006 to 28% in 2011. Therefore, regardless of time period, the Aboriginal dropout rates in Atlantic Canada are lower than the national averages. By comparison, there are no notable differences in the share of the Region's non-Aboriginal population who are school dropouts to the national rate for the non-Aboriginal community. At the time of the 2011 survey, the share of the non-Aboriginal population who had dropped out of school stood at 8%, down two percentage points from 2006.

Aboriginal males in Atlantic Canada were twice as likely to dropout as compared to non-Aboriginal males. In 2011, almost 20% of Aboriginal males in Atlantic Canada had dropped out of school as compared to close to 10% of non-Aboriginal males. At the national level, there was a significant difference in the dropout rates between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal male populations at 30.8% and 9.6%, respectively, a gap of 21 percentage points. While the dropout rates among the Region's female population are lower than that for their male counterparts, a wide divide remains between the female Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals (12.7% versus 6.6%). As was the case for Aboriginal males, the dropout rate for Aboriginal women nationally was almost double the rate for the Atlantic Region.

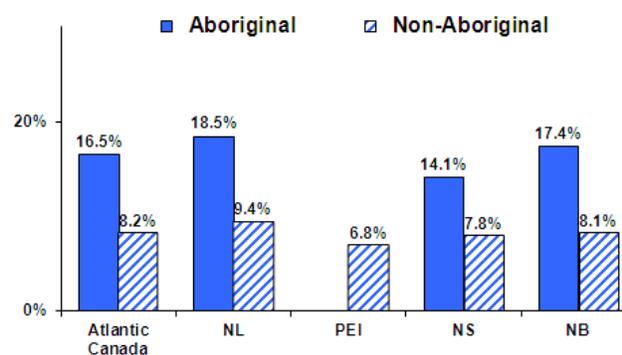
Within the Region, the data indicate the dropout rates for the Aboriginal community range from a low of 14% in NS to 18.5% in NL; the rate for NB was estimated at 17.4%. Sample size restrictions prevent the estimation of a reliable statistic for PEI.

The dropout rate for the First Nations community in Atlantic Canada was lower than the overall rate for First Nations peoples nationally (18.8% versus 33%), a gap of almost 14 percentage points. At the national level, the dropout rate is highest for Inuit people and lowest for the Métis population, at approximately 46% and 16%, respectively. Due to sample size limitations, that is, the small number of Inuit and Métis peoples who recorded in the survey that they were not attending school and had no certification, diploma or degree in the Region, it is not possible to determine their associated dropout rates.

Results from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) capture the main reasons for dropping out of school cited by the off-reserve Aboriginal population in the 18 to 44 age group.²¹ Among Aboriginal men nationally who did not complete high school, reasons given for dropping out included a desire to work, money problems, school problems, or lack of interest. Pregnancy or childcare responsibilities were reported by one-quarter of First Nations women living off reserve and Métis women, and by 38% of Inuit women who did not complete high school. Family characteristics are also correlated with the decision to drop out. The APS reports that leavers were more likely to have one or more siblings who had dropped out of school. For example, among off-reserve First Nations people, 68% of drop outs had at least one sibling who did not finish high school. The comparable numbers for Inuit and Métis people were 81% and 57% respectively.

Young Aboriginal people (aged 15-19) with no certification, diploma or degree are also less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to attend school. In 2011, close to 11% of Aboriginal youth in this age

Figure 7: Dropout Rates of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS, Table Number: 99-012-X2011046

²¹ Statistics Canada, *The education and employment experiences of First Nations people living off reserve, Inuit, and Métis: Selected findings from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey*.

category were not attending school on either a full- or part-time basis during the school year, compared to 9% of non-Aboriginal youth in Atlantic Canada. Nationally, there was a sizable gap of 10 percentage points in the non-attendance rate between the Aboriginal population aged 15 to 19 (17.5%) and their non-Aboriginal counterparts (7.8%). At the national level, the share of youth not attending school was lowest within the Métis community (13%) and highest within the Inuit community (28%). Just under 20% of First Nations peoples with no certification, diploma or degree in this age group did not attend school between September 2010 and May 2011.

For many, dropping out of school does not necessarily mean they are done with their studies. Results from the APS indicate that among those who have completed high school, 14% of off-reserve First Nations people, 15% of Inuit people, and 9% of Métis people had left school at least once, before returning to obtain a high school diploma. The main reason cited for returning was that they "realized the value of an education/wanted a diploma."²²

Service Preferences and Attitudes

Based on results from the 2006 Client Satisfaction Survey, Service Canada has identified the following trends with regard to Aboriginal people nationally.²³

- Most Aboriginal clients reported using the telephone (60%) to communicate with the government in the past six months; while very few (10%) reported using e-mail. These trends mirror those of the total population, where 63% used the phone and 9% used e-mail.
- Aboriginal people also used mail/fax (35%), the Internet (34%), and in-person visits (30%) to contact Service Canada. Rates for the total population were 21%, 38% and 39% respectively.
- Nearly half (48%) of Aboriginal clients used more than one medium to communicate with the federal government in the six months prior to the survey.
- Aboriginal people listed quality of staff and speed of access as the two principal drivers of client satisfaction.
- Fewer Aboriginal clients (74%) expressed satisfaction with the overall quality of service from Service Canada than did clients in general (84%). Similarly, fewer Aboriginal clients (49%) than clients as a whole (55%) said they were "very satisfied" with the quality of service.

Conclusion

People who identify themselves as Aboriginal, account for a small, but growing, share of Atlantic Canada's total population. High birth rates, an increase in life expectancy, and an increasing trend toward self-identification by Aboriginal people may account for the growth in the Aboriginal population. The growth rate of the Aboriginal population is expected to continue over the next several decades, but at a slightly slower pace. This growing population, and the government that serves them, will face numerous challenges and opportunities. Many of these will depend on where they live, their language, education, income, health and lifestyles. In addition, much will depend on the changing service options available to Aboriginal people and their ability to adapt to such changes.

It is anticipated that as education levels among Aboriginal people continue to increase, they will have greater success in the labour market in future years. With a young and growing population, Aboriginal people could be well positioned to take advantage of future labour market opportunities.

In contrast to the non-Aboriginal population, the Aboriginal population will continue to have a higher share of youth well into the future. Understanding future trends of the Aboriginal population is a powerful

²² Ibid.

²³ Phoenix Strategic Perspectives Inc., *Client Satisfaction Research 2006 Baseline Survey* – 2006.

planning tool for Service Canada and the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada. With a young and growing population, Aboriginal people are well-positioned to take advantage of future labour market opportunities. Improving educational outcomes is an important programming objective. Skills-focused training initiatives and essential skills development will be essential in order to make the most of economic and employment prospects.

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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For information on the Labour Force Survey, the National Household Survey, and the 2001/2006 Census please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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ⁱ Data quality note: When comparing estimates from the 2006 Census long form and estimates from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) it is necessary to take into account the fact that the two sources represent different populations. The target population for the 2006 Census long form includes usual residents in collective dwellings and persons living abroad whereas the target population for the NHS excludes them. Moreover, the NHS estimates are derived from a voluntary survey and are therefore subject to potentially higher non-response error than those derived from the 2006 Census long form. Data comparability over time is thus an issue.