Urban Aboriginal Voices:
A Landmark Study of Canada’s Urban Aboriginal Peoples
Thunder Bay 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 Thunder Bay led by Shelley Knott, Acosys Consulting

• Three separate research elements:
  
  ➢ Aboriginal Peoples survey: 250 per city, in-person interviews
  
  ➢ non-Aboriginal survey: 250 per city, telephone interviews
  
  ➢ survey of National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation scholars: 180 scholars, online survey

• UAPS video archive (First Nations University): 50 video interviews
UAPS Advisory Circle

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

• Quota sampling based on 2006 Census profiles

• Range of methods to recruit eligible respondents

• In-person interviews
### UAPS Thunder Bay respondent profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Actual (Unweighted) (#)</th>
<th>Weighted (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No degree</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school completed</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College diploma</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University degree</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In-person survey with 2,614 urban Aboriginal peoples in 11 cities …the 10 main cities encompass 46% of the urban Aboriginal census population.
Why we need to pay attention

• Growing presence in our cities today

• Canada has yet to come to terms with this reality

• Our focus has been on reserve issues and on problems
Canadian population at 33 million in 2006, with nearly 1.8 million reporting Aboriginal ancestry
Of these, 1.2 million report Aboriginal identity, in three distinct groups

**Aboriginal Identity Population**

- First Nations single response: 698,025
- Métis single response: 389,780
- Inuit single response: 50,480
- Multiple and other Aboriginal responses: 34,500

**Total = 1,172,785**
One in two of that Aboriginal population live in urban areas...

- Rural: 46%
- Urban: 54%
... and these numbers are increasing.

- Montreal: Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006: +60%
  Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006: +5%
- Halifax: Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006: +51%
- Toronto: Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006: +31%
  Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006: +9%
- Edmonton: Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006: +27%
  Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006: +10%
- Calgary: Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006: +26%
  Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006: +13%
- Thunder Bay: Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006: +23%
  Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006: +1%
- Winnipeg: Aboriginal Population Change 2001 - 2006: +22%
  Overall Population Change 2001 - 2006: +3%
“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 Thunder Bay participants are first generation residents.

First, second and third generation Thunder Bay residents

- First generation: 61
- Second generation: 25
- Third generation: 14
Many feel that they belong to a diverse community.

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

- Exclusively Aboriginal: 4
- Mostly Aboriginal: 27
- Equally Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal: 43
- Mostly non-Aboriginal: 22
- Exclusively non-Aboriginal: * (Less than one percent)
Definitions of the urban community for Thunder Bay’ers.

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

- Family: 65
- Friends: 55
- People in my neighbourhood: 25
- People in home community/where born, raised, on reserve: 20
- Aboriginal people in the city: 18
- People at my work, job: 18
- People from same identity group: 18
- People from my band/First Nation: 17
- Aboriginal services: 11
- People at school: 9
- People from another Aboriginal identity group: 7
- Aboriginal people across Canada: 6
They move to Thunder Bay to further their education and for family connections.

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

- Education, to go to school: 49
- Family: 37
- Work, to find a job: 27
- Better place to raise children, give them opportunities: 14
- Better health care, health reasons: 8
- To escape bad family situation: 8

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

How much do you like living in Thunder Bay?

- Like it a lot: 61
- Like it a little: 28
- Dislike it a little: 6
- Dislike it a lot: 3
Many enjoy the sense of community in Thunder Bay...

What is it you like most about living here?

- Family, friends live here: 28
- Size, bigger city, small city feeling: 13
- Career, employment: 10
- Education, training: 10
- Best of both worlds, close to city, nature, reserve: 7
- Born, grew up in area: 6
- Friendly people, know community: 5
...but do not feel there are opportunities for employment.

What do you like least about living in Thunder Bay?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of employment/poor economy</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of opportunity/resources/services</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism/discrimination</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too small/spread out/amenities too far</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime/murders/violence/vandalism</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs/alcohol</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None/nothing</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neighbourhood choice is influenced primarily by cost.

Why do you live in the neighbourhood you do?

- Can afford housing: 28
- Safe neighbourhood: 24
- Live with family/friends: 17
- Close to work/school: 17
- Close to amenities/shopping: 16
- Close to family/friends: 12
- Close to children's school/daycare: 7
- Quiet/peaceful/secluded area: 6
- Has good public transportation: 5
A small majority feel that they have a lot of choice in where they can live in the city.

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

- A lot: 39
- Some: 34
- Little: 16
- No choice: 12
Many feel that they can make a difference in making Thunder Bay a better place to live.

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

- A big impact: 17
- A moderate impact: 39
- A small impact: 34
- No impact at all: 8
Aboriginal people are *not* rooted in remote communities.
A majority feel that the City of Thunder Bay is home.

Where is home for you? Is it Thunder Bay, your home community, or somewhere else?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community of origin</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhere else</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Thunder Bay; those who have lived in Thunder Bay 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? (The place where your parents and grandparents are from?)

- Very close: Total 30, 1st generation 31, 2nd generation 28
- Fairly close: Total 29, 1st generation 30, 2nd generation 28
- Not too close: Total 27, 1st generation 27, 2nd generation 28
- Not at all close: Total 12, 1st generation 10, 2nd generation 16
A majority have never moved back to their community since moving to Thunder Bay.

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

- Ever: 33
- Never: 65

Note: 2% said dk/na

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

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

- Plan to go back: 26
- Do not plan to go back: 53
- Undecided/too soon to say: 18
Identity and Culture
There is strong Indigenous pride...

...and pride in Canada.

Are you very proud to be...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal (First Nations responses)</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal (Métis responses)</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And there is a small majority who have a connection to their heritage, and many who do not.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Know very well</th>
<th>Know fairly well</th>
<th>Know not very well</th>
<th>Know not well at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many have been personally affected by Residential Schools.

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

- Yes, self: 14
- Yes, family member: 49
- No, neither: 33
- dk/na: 5
And it continues to impact them today.

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

- Significant impact: 39
- Some impact: 29
- Only a little impact: 18
- No impact at all: 12
- dk/na: 3
Those who say they are concerned about losing their cultures are in the minority...

“I am concerned about losing my cultural identity.”

- Totally agree: 19
- Agree somewhat: 23
- Disagree somewhat: 23
- Totally disagree: 33
There is a sense of cultural vitality among Aboriginal peoples living in cities.
A majority feel that Aboriginal culture in Thunder Bay has grown stronger than weaker.

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

- Become stronger: 59
- Has not changed: 31
- Become weaker: 6
- dk/na: 4
Many are aware of cultural activities within the city, although some are not.

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

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

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

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

Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study
Many also feel that they have access to traditional healing, although some do not.

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

- Very easy: 27
- Somewhat easy: 30
- Somewhat difficult: 32
- Very difficult: 6
- dk/na: 5
The picture is far from perfect...
Many Aboriginal Thunder Bay’ers feel they are perceived negatively.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stereotype</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction problems</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uneducated, lack intelligence/stupid</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lazy, lack motivation</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed, can't keep a job</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live off, abuse &quot;the system&quot;</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't pay taxes, get everything for free</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminals, gang members</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor, on welfare, social assistance</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism, discrimination, non-Aboriginals think they are better</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor hygiene/dirty</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Perceptions of non-Aboriginal peoples' impressions

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>General positive</th>
<th>Neither positive/negative</th>
<th>Generally negative</th>
<th>dk/na</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General positive | Neither positive/negative | Generally negative | dk/na
...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>86</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I have been teased/insulted because of my Aboriginal background”</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
... and a large majority embrace pluralism... even more so than non-Aboriginal Canadians.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban Aboriginal T Bay’ers</th>
<th>Urban non-Aboriginal T Bay’ers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Totally agree</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree somewhat</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree somewhat</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totally disagree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Totally agree
- Agree somewhat
- Disagree somewhat
- Totally disagree
Education is the enduring aspiration for urban Aboriginal peoples and their children.
Aboriginal Thunder Bay’ers desire to be successful in mainstream ways...

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

- Start, raise, provide for family: 32
- Complete education, degree: 30
- Career, job satisfaction: 25
- See children, grandchildren succeed: 14
- Good health, longevity: 14
- Happiness, live good life: 11
- Financial independence, security: 11
- Home ownership: 10
- Give back, help out Aboriginal Community, society: 8
...and share universal definitions of a successful life.

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

- Raising healthy, well-adjusted children who contribute to community: 93%
- Being close to family, friends: 92%
- Living a balanced life: 84%
- Having a good job, successful career: 75%
- Financial independence: 68%
- Owning a home: 62%
- Having strong connection to Aboriginal identity, background: 61%
- Living in a traditional way: 38%
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?

- Learn importance of education, finish school at young age: 20
- Equal society, lack of racism/discrimination: 17
- Aware, involved, connected to cultural community: 16
- Better decisions, less struggle: 15
- Better living, happier, healthier: 11
- Prevent, avoid addictions: 9
- Better, more support, resources, opportunities: 8
- Financial security/access to funding: 8
...and there is very little cultural transmission in schools.

Exposure to Aboriginal culture

In Elementary school
- A lot: 7
- A little: 22
- Almost nothing: 68
- dk/na: 3

In High school
- A lot: 9
- A little: 31
- Almost nothing: 47
- dk/na: 12

In College or university
- A lot: 17
- A little: 24
- Almost nothing: 20
- dk/na: 39
Aboriginal people in Thunder Bay have little confidence in the Canadian justice system.
Many feel that the Canadian justice system isn’t working.

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

- A lot of confidence: 7
- Some confidence: 53
- Little confidence: 27
- No confidence: 12
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Good idea</th>
<th>Bad idea</th>
<th>dk/na</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values represent the number of respondents who chose each option.
Organization and political affiliations
The majority of Aboriginal Thunder Bay’ers use and rely on Aboriginal services and organizations.

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

- Often: 26
- Occasionally: 30
- Rarely: 30
- Never: 13
And there are many valued organizations and services in Thunder Bay.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendship centres</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centres</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment centres</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child and family services</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal legal services</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing services</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal youth centres</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healing centres</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Aboriginal Organizations</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Political Parties</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dk/na</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The AFN tops the list among those that best represent them.

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

- Assembly of First Nations: 18
- New Democratic Party/NDP: 13
- Liberal Party: 7
- Métis National Council: 4
- Conservative Party: 3
- Native Women’s Association of Canada: 3
- Green Party: 2
- Other: 6
- None: 22
- dk/na: 21

Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study
Non-Aboriginal perspectives in Thunder Bay
NA first impressions are somewhere between both positive and negative.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations/Métis/Inuit</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First inhabitants</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity of cultures</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mistreatment</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and culture</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of culture</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These impressions remain mostly stable, with some change taking place.

Over the past few years, has your impression of Aboriginal people gotten…?

- Better: 21
- Stayed the same: 45
- Worse: 25
- dk/na: 9
More feel that relations across Canada are growing more negative than positive.

Would you describe the current relations between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people in Canada today as…?

- Very positive: 5
- Somewhat positive: 38
- Somewhat negative: 48
- Very negative: 7
Some will still say that they see these relations improving.

Do you think relations between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people in Canada are…?

- Improving: 32
- About the same: 43
- Deteriorating: 20
... but, they do possess distinct perspectives, some more negative than others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perspective</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dismissive Naysayers</strong></td>
<td>(31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to view Aboriginal peoples and communities negatively, i.e., entitled and isolated from Canadian society.</td>
<td>National (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Romantics</strong></td>
<td>(40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idealistic and optimistic, they have a strong belief in Aboriginal peoples’ artistic and cultural contributions.</td>
<td>National (45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inattentive Sceptics</strong></td>
<td>(12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninformed and unaware, they typically think Aboriginal peoples are no different from other Canadians.</td>
<td>National (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connected Advocates</strong></td>
<td>(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High level of contact and strong belief that Aboriginal peoples often experience discrimination.</td>
<td>National (17%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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</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 indigenous peoples 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 stereotypes.

Most urban aboriginal people opt to stay in city

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

CBC News

Urban natives content: study

Survey shows happiness in white society, lingering stereotype fears

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

Urban Inuit aspire to the “good life,” study says

Most have no plans to return to north

Aboriginal urbanites aspire first to higher education

Environics research finds that postsecondary learning is viewed as route to empowerment.
Evidence of success

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

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

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

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

Who is **most** satisfied with life in their city?  
Vancouver and Halifax

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

Who is **least** likely to say Aboriginal cultural activities are available?  
Calgary, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina

Who is **least** confident in the criminal justice system?  
Edmonton and Toronto

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

Who is **least** likely to feel accepted by their non-Aboriginal neighbours?  
Saskatoon and Regina
The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study – Thunder Bay – would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors ~ Thank-you!