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

Vancouver Findings

Monday, June 20th, 2011
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 Vancouver, led by Chris Atchison
- Three separate research elements:
  - Aboriginal survey, non-Aboriginal survey, survey of National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation scholars
- UAPS video archive (First Nations University)
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
  – Identity, Age, Gender, Education

• Range of methods to recruit eligible respondents

• In-person interviews
  – 1-2 hours in length
  – 150 questions
## Vancouver UAPS respondent profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Actual (Unweighted)(#)</th>
<th>Weighted (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuit</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No degree</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school completed</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College diploma</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University degree</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>9</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:

- 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Aboriginal Population Change 2001-2006</th>
<th>Overall Population Change 2001-2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>+60%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>+51%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>+31%</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>+27%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>+23%</td>
<td>+13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>+22%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“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 Vancouver participants are first generation residents.

First, second and third generation Vancouver residents

- First generation: 67
- Second generation: 20
- Third generation: 12

Legend:
- First generation
- Second generation
- Third generation
Many feel they belong to a diverse community.

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

- Exclusively Aboriginal: 4
- Mostly Aboriginal: 34
- Equally Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal: 31
- Mostly non-Aboriginal: 25
- Exclusively non-Aboriginal: 4
Definitions of the urban community for Vancouverites.

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

- Friends: 62
- Family: 61
- People in my neighbourhood: 46
- People from same identity group: 43
- People at my work, job: 41
- Aboriginal people in the city: 39
- Aboriginal services: 31
- People from my band, First Nation: 29
- People from another Aboriginal identity group: 28
- People in home community, where born, raised, on reserve: 26
- Aboriginal people across Canada: 25
- People at school: 23
- Indigenous people around the world: 19
They move to Vancouver to pursue an education and to be amongst family.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education, to go to school</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For city life, amenities</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work, to find a job</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To escape bad family situation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need change, new beginning</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career advancement</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better quality of life</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subsample: Among those who were not born or raised in Vancouver.*
And the majority like living in Vancouver a lot.

How much do you like living in your city?

- Like it a lot: 80
- Like it a little: 14
- Dislike it a little: 4
- Dislike it a lot: 2
They like that they have family and friends who live here, but there is no clear consensus on what they like most.

What is it you like most about living here?

- Family, friends live here: 17
- Acceptance, less racism, multiculturalism: 13
- Career, employment: 12
- Climate, weather: 10
- More freedom, opportunities: 9
- Diversity of people, city: 8
- Born, grew up in area: 8
- Friendly people, know community: 8
There is no agreement on what they like least about living in Vancouver.

What do you like least about living here?

- Bad traffic, car conditions, parking services: 14
- Inflation, higher cost of living, taxes, low wages: 11
- Weather, climate: 8
- Drugs, alcohol: 8
- Crime, murders, violence, vandalism: 7
- Poverty, hunger, homelessness: 7
- Too big, urbanized, developed, materialistic: 7
- Pollution, dirty, garbage: 7
- Overpopulation, too crowded: 7
Neighbourhood choice is influenced primarily by cost.

**Why do you live in the neighbourhood you do?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can afford housing</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live with family, friends</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to work, school</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to amenities, shopping</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to family, friends</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe neighbourhood</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to other First Nations/Métis/Inuit Aboriginal people</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has good public transportation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to services for cultural, spiritual, social needs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood where I grew up</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to children's school, daycare</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aboriginal Vancouverites feel like 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: 44
- Some: 29
- Little: 19
- No choice: 7
And a majority feel they can make Vancouver 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: 35
- A moderate impact: 34
- A small impact: 24
- No impact at all: 6
Aboriginal people are *not* rooted in remote communities
Many feel that Vancouver is home.

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

First Nations 54%  
Métis 74%

City 63  
Community of origin 21  
Somewhere else 15

* Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Vancouver; those who have lived in Vancouver 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: 41 (50 total)
- Fairly close: 21 (16 + 23)
- Not too close: 21 (22 + 17)
- Not at all close: 12 (11 + 13)

*Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Vancouver; those who have lived in Vancouver all their life and whose parents/grandparents are from another place.*
A majority have never moved back to their community since moving to Vancouver.

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

* Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Vancouver.
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: 27
- Do not plan to go back: 49
- Undecided/too soon to say: 17

* Subsample: Those who were not born or raised in Vancouver; those who have lived in their city of residence all their life and whose parents/grandparents are from another place.
Identity and Culture
There is strong Indigenous pride...
...and pride in Canada.

Are you very proud to be...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal (First Nations responses)</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal (Métis responses)</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A majority have a connection to their heritage, but many do not.

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

- 36 Know very well
- 33 Know fairly well
- 22 Know not very well
- 9 Know not well at all
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: 13
- Yes, family member: 67
- No, neither: 15
- dk/na: 6
And it continues to impact them today.

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

- Significant impact: 60
- Some impact: 24
- Only a little impact: 11
- No impact at all: 3
- dk/na: 2
Those who say they are concerned about losing their cultures are in the minority.

“I am concerned about losing my cultural identity.”

- Totally agree: 17
- Agree somewhat: 22
- Disagree somewhat: 15
- Totally disagree: 44
There is a sense of cultural vitality among Aboriginal peoples living in cities.
A majority feel that Aboriginal culture in Vancouver has grown stronger, rather than weaker.

In the last five years, do you think that Aboriginal culture in your community has become…?

- Become stronger: 70
- Has not changed: 18
- Become weaker: 6
- dk/na: 7

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>A lot</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Few</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And Aboriginal Vancouversites *often and 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>
While some feel they have access to traditional healing practices, others 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: 33
- Somewhat easy: 34
- Somewhat difficult: 20
- Very difficult: 10
- dk/na: 3
The picture is far from perfect...
Many Aboriginal Vancouverites feel they are perceived negatively.

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

- Addiction problems: 68
- Lazy, lack motivation: 34
- Uneducated, lack intelligence, stupid: 26
- Poor, on welfare, social assistance: 21
- Live off, abuse "the system": 18
- Don't pay taxes, get everything for free: 16
- Unemployed, can't keep a job: 11
- Child neglect, abuse, poor parenting: 10
- Racism, discrimination: 7
- Savages, violent, abusive, dangerous: 7
- Hollywood Indian, traditional media portrayal: 7
### 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>Location</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>

Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study
...and experience discrimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></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>84</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I have been teased/insulted because of my Aboriginal background”</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>27</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”

- Urban Aboriginal Vancouverites: 86% totally agree, 12% agree somewhat, 2% disagree somewhat.
- Urban non-Aboriginal Vancouverites: 51% totally agree, 32% agree somewhat, 9% disagree somewhat, 6% totally disagree.
Education is the enduring aspiration for urban Aboriginal peoples and their children.
Aboriginal Vancouverites desire to be successful in mainstream ways...

What do you most want to achieve in your lifetime?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desire</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start, raise, provide for family</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete education, degree</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, vacation</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career, job satisfaction</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial independence, security</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home ownership</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happiness, live good life</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good health, longevity</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give back, help out Aboriginal community, society</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace, balance, prosperity</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
...and share universal definitions of a successful life.

People define a successful life in many different ways. Are the following important to your idea of a successful life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not so important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being close to family/friends</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living a balanced life</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising healthy, well-adjusted children who contribute to community</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having strong connection to Aboriginal identity/background</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a good job/successful career</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial independence</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owning a home</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in a traditional way</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cultural continuity is a top priority for the next generation...

Turning now to the future, are there ways in which you hope your children’s and grandchildren’s lives will be different from yours?

- Aware, involved, connected to cultural community: 25
- Learn importance of education, finish school at young age: 18
- Equal society, lack of racism, discrimination: 17
- Safe environment, no gangs, crime, abuse, violence: 14
- Prevent, avoid addictions: 13
- Better living, happier, healthier: 10
- Financial security, access to funding: 9
- Better/more support, resources, opportunities: 9
- Stable, strong, supportive family: 9
...yet there is very little cultural transmission in schools.

Would you say you have learned a lot, a little or almost nothing about Aboriginal people, history and culture in ... ?

- In elementary school: 11 (A lot), 23 (A little), 64 (Almost nothing)
- In high school*: 9 (A lot), 34 (A little), 54 (Almost nothing)
- In college/university**: 43 (A lot), 21 (A little), 34 (Almost nothing)
Aboriginal people in Vancouver have little confidence in the Canadian justice system.
The majority have little to no confidence in the Canadian criminal justice system.

In general, how much confidence do you have in the criminal justice system in Canada?

- A lot of confidence: 2
- Some confidence: 32
- Little confidence: 45
- No confidence: 19
And 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>
Organization and political affiliations
The majority of Aboriginal Vancouverites use and rely on Aboriginal services and organizations.

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

- Often: 39
- Occasionally: 29
- Rarely: 18
- Never: 12
Many Aboriginal specific services are seen as valuable, some more so than others.

How important do you think it is that the following Aboriginal services exist in addition to non-Aboriginal ones?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not so Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal child and family services</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal addiction programs</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal housing services</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal child care or daycares</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal employment centres</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal health centres</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal elementary and secondary schools</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal colleges and universities</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Friendship Centre and employment services are singled out as being very useful.

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

- Friendship centres: 52
- Employment centres: 46
- Health centres: 30
- Aboriginal youth centres: 29
- Counselling centres: 26
- Healing centres: 20
- Child and family services: 18
- Housing services: 18
- Education/school/scholarship programs: 18
- Aboriginal legal services: 15
- AHRDA: 10

*Subsample: Those who have used Aboriginal services in their city.*
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>Organization/Party</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly of First Nations</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Democratic Party/NDP</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Party</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis National Council</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Women’s Association of Canada</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Party</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dk/na</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Still, there is a small majority who do not belong to any Aboriginal political organizations.

Do you belong to any Aboriginal political organizations?

- Yes: 36
- No: 64
- dk/na: 1
And a small number who belong to a Canadian political party.

Do you belong to any Canadian political parties?

- Yes: 87
- No: 11
- dk/na: 3
Many still turn out to vote in general elections.

How often do you vote in Canadian elections at either the federal, provincial or municipal level?

- Always/often: 54
- Occasionally: 11
- Rarely: 12
- Never: 21
Non-Aboriginal perspectives in Vancouver
NA impressions are mostly positive, but there is no common impression.

- First Inhabitants: 16
- First Nations/Metis/Inuit: 14
- Culture and Art: 13
- Reserves: 9
- Mistreatment: 8
- Alcoholism, Substance Abuse: 7
- Tax Breaks, Privileges: 5
- Poverty, Poor Living Conditions: 5
- Segregation, Refusal to live in Canadian society: 5
- Lazy, minimal contributions to society: 4
These impressions remain stable, with some positive change taking place.

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

- Better: 22
- Stayed the same: 67
- Worse: 5
- dk/na: 7
More feel that relations across Canada are growing positive, though this view is not widely shared.

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

- Very positive: 1
- Somewhat positive: 56
- Somewhat negative: 33
- Very negative: 5
A small majority recognize Aboriginal rights, yet there are still many who do not.

Which of the following two statements best represents how you think about Aboriginal people?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Have unique rights/privileges as first inhabitants of Canada</th>
<th>Just like any other cultural/ethnic groups</th>
<th>Both/neither/dk/na</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some still say they see these relations as improving.

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

- Improving: 41
- About the same: 48
- Deteriorating: 7
... but, they do possess distinct perspectives, some more negative than others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dismissive Naysayers (25%)</th>
<th>Cultural Romantics (45%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tend to view Aboriginal peoples and communities negatively, i.e., entitled and isolated from Canadian society. (National 24%)</td>
<td>Idealistic and optimistic, they have a strong belief in Aboriginal peoples’ artistic and cultural contributions. (National 45%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inattentive Sceptics (10%)</th>
<th>Connected Advocates (20%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uninformed and unaware, they typically think Aboriginal peoples are no different from other Canadians. (National 14%)</td>
<td>High level of contact and strong belief that Aboriginal peoples often experience discrimination. (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 aboriginals strive to make significant difference in their communities, report says

But many first nations people feel negative preconceptions persist about addiction and poverty

BY KIM PEMBERTON, VANCOUVER SUN APRIL 7, 2010

Canada’s urban aboriginals are gaining confidence

A detailed survey on urban aboriginals is encouraging evidence of their adaptation to contemporary society as a whole, and of eagerness to pursue education.

The city is home

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN APRIL 13, 2010

A funny thing happened when interviewers set out cities to talk to Metis, Inuit and First Nations residents they discovered a sense of optimism.

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

Most urban aboriginal people opt to stay in city

CANADA Hope in the city

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

CANADIAN HOPE IN THE CITY

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
Environics would like to thank our sponsors, without whom this study would not be possible!