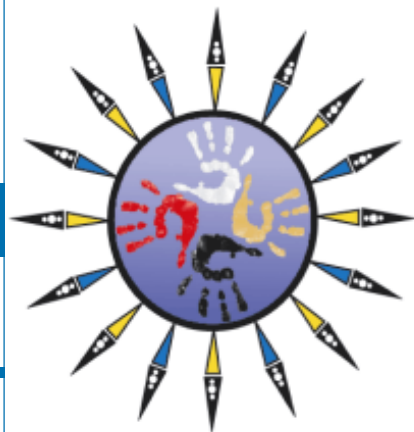


aboriginal network

N E W S L E T T E R

Statistics Canada Western Region and Northern Territories
Statistique Canada Région de l'Ouest et des territoires du Nord



CONTACT US

Statistics Canada Western Region & Northern Territories

Jerry Potts Jr.

Manager, Aboriginal Liaison Program
Box 936
Suite 212, 2210 2nd Avenue
Fort McLeod, AB T0L 0Z0
P: (403) 553-2767
E: jpotts2@telus.net

British Columbia and Yukon Mikelle Sasakamoose

Advisor, Aboriginal Liaison Program
Suite 600, 300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7
P: (604) 666-4996
E: mikelle.sasakamoose@statcan.gc.ca

Alberta and Northwest Territories Connie LeGrande

Advisor, Aboriginal Liaison Program
Suite 300, 10158 103rd Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 0X6
P: (780) 495-5145
E: connie.legrande@statcan.gc.ca

Saskatchewan

Tracey Pascal

Advisor, Aboriginal Liaison Program
Suite 701, 1783 Hamilton Street
Regina, SK S4P 2B6
P: (306) 780-8855
E: tracey.pascal@statcan.gc.ca

Manitoba and Nunavut

Kelsey Manimtim

Advisor, Aboriginal Liaison Program
Suite 200, 123 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V9
P: (204) 983-7218
E: kelsey.manimtim@statcan.gc.ca

www.statcan.gc.ca

Labour Force Survey in Siksika First Nation

For the first time ever, Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) will be conducted in a First Nations community.

Starting in January 2010, the household survey will be conducted on-reserve in Siksika First Nation in partnership with the Alberta band, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and the Government of Alberta.

"For many years we've been concerned with the general lack of information about Aboriginal people living in First Nations communities," said Labour Statistics Division Director Geoff Bowlby, adding, he has frequently referred to the sad irony that exists around this issue.

"Perhaps the group in Canada who is in the most need of data, has the least," he said.

Among the many complicated reasons why the LFS and other major household surveys have not gone on-reserve are obviously the small size and isolation of many First Nations communities, but also a general lack of funding and willingness on behalf of First Nations to participate.

Recognizing the need, however, to challenge those barriers, Bowlby enlisted the help of StatsCan Aboriginal Liaison Program advisors (previously known as aboriginal communications officers), and past Alberta advisor Kathleen Crowe found a willing participant in Siksika.

The recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in early September was the conclusion of a year's worth of planning. The MOA is non-financial and confirms some key responsibilities between Statistics Canada and Siksika.

In addition to the Siksika LFS, Statistics Canada is now conducting a new thematic pilot survey in selected First Nations communities in both Alberta and Ontario. The goal of this pilot survey is to identify best methods and practices for surveying First Nations communities.

"We see the LFS and thematic survey pilots as part of the same project to determine the best strategy for conducting household surveys on-reserve," Bowlby said.

"The LFS would provide monthly statements at the community level for a narrower range of data, while the thematic survey would focus on producing comprehensive data on specific topic areas, but less frequently and at a higher geographic level.

"In either case, we will learn a lot about how to improve statistics for Aboriginal people."

New Name and Program Identifier



Statistics Canada's Aboriginal Communications Program changed its program name to the Aboriginal Liaison Program and the

Aboriginal Communications Officers became Advisors. In addition to the the new name and working title, a new program identifier was also designed and will be slowly introduced on our promotional materials.

First Nations Women and Post-Secondary Education in Canada: Snapshots from the Census

This article explores the post-secondary educational attainment of First Nations women in Canada. While many do not complete high school, there is evidence that First Nations women return to school later in life and as such, have a different path to postsecondary education than women in the overall Canadian population.

Over four in ten First Nations women completed some form of post-secondary education in 2006. According to the 2006 Census, 44% of First Nations women aged 25 to 64 had completed some form of post-secondary education. Of these graduates, 21% had obtained a college diploma. An additional 9% had a university degree, 9% had a trades certificate, and 5% had a university certificate or diploma below the bachelor's level.

Post-secondary educational attainment is on the rise for First Nations women, but the gap when compared to women overall has increased at the university level. The gap between First Nations women and women in the total Canadian population at the college level narrowed from 2001 to 2006. In 2001, 17% of First Nations women and 21% of women in the overall population had college credentials. By 2006, these proportions were 21% and 23%, respectively, narrowing the gap in attainment of college credentials.

First Nations women were more likely to have college and university credentials than First Nations men. According to the 2006 Census, First Nations women were more likely to have college and university credentials than their male counterparts in both 2001 and 2006. In 2006, 21% of First Nations women and 14% of First Nations men had college credentials, while 9% of First Nations women and 5% of First Nations men had university degrees.

First Nations women and women in the total Canadian population studied in similar fields of study at the trades, college, and university

(Continued on page 3)

Risk factors and chronic conditions among the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population

This analysis compares several major risk factors and chronic conditions in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations not living on reserves in the North (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut) and in southern Canada in 2000/2001 and 2005/2006.

In Canada, the prevalence of behavioural risk factors and chronic conditions differs for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations, but little research has examined changes over time. This study compares several major risk factors and chronic conditions in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations not living on reserves in the North (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut) and in southern Canada at two time points.

In 2000/2001, Aboriginal people in the North were more likely than those in southern Canada to be obese, smoke daily and have infrequent physical activity, but less likely to report a number of chronic conditions. Between 2000/2001 and 2005/2006, the odds of reporting risk factors increased among Aboriginal people in the North, and differences in the prevalence of chronic diseases were less pronounced. Few differences between non-Aboriginal respondents in the North and in southern Canada were observed.

In Canada, the prevalence of behavioural risk factors and chronic conditions varies between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations, with Aboriginal people generally having less favourable outcomes. For example, obesity and overweight are more common among Aboriginal people than among other groups. Also, the likelihood of having at least one chronic condition and specific conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes is higher among Aboriginal people, even when differences in sociodemographic characteristics are taken into account.

For further information please visit: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2009004/article/10934-eng.htm>

New Advisors for the Aboriginal Liaison Program at Statistics Canada



Born and raised in the Interior of British Columbia, **Mikelle Sasakamoose** is a Cree, Shuswap and Okanagan mix registered with the Ahtakakoop First Nation in Sandy Lake, Saskatchewan.

She has long worked with First Nations throughout B.C. in various capacities and holds a degree in journalism. With this degree, Mikelle worked as a journalist in the Thompson Valley for four years before coming to work in the Aboriginal Liaison Program at Statistics Canada.

Mikelle is the Advisor for British Columbia and the Yukon.



Tansi! **Connie LeGrande** nisihkason. Bigstone Cree Nation ohci niya.

Connie LeGrande, from Bigstone Cree Nation, graduated with a degree in Native Studies from the University of Alberta. She has had the great privilege to continue her education as an Aboriginal Student Advisor and project co-ordinator for the University of Alberta and for MacEwan University. Connie's areas of interest are in Aboriginal governance and language retention.

Being able to fluently speak her native language, Cree, with its innate principles of respect, humility and humour, has been a tremendous communication tool. Connie feels that these three principles are key in fostering healthy relationships in all cultures and she is happy to say that she has the proven ability to take the skills of mainstream society and constantly adapt them to complement the evolution of Aboriginal communication practices.

Connie looks forward to the growth and knowledge she will gain as the Advisor for Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

For further information, please contact your regional Advisor for the Aboriginal Liaison Program at Statistics Canada.

Incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services



In 2007/2008, Aboriginal adults accounted for 22% of admissions to sentenced custody, while representing 3% of the Canadian population.

Age, level of education, and employment status can only partially explain the representation of Aboriginal adults incarcerated in Canadian prisons, according to a new study that used data from the Integrated Correctional Service Survey and the 2006 Census to analyze factors that could be contributing to the representation of Aboriginal adults in custody.

The provincial incarceration rate for Aboriginal adults in the jurisdictions studied was higher than the rate for non-Aboriginal adults. The gap in the incarceration rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults narrowed when age was considered, but Aboriginal adults continued to have consistently higher rates across all age groupings.

Analysis based on available data for Saskatchewan and Alberta showed that young adults without a high school diploma and without a job had the highest rates of incarceration.

For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 20 to 34, incarceration rates declined as the education and employment situation improved. However, the decreases were greater for non-Aboriginal young adults.

When comparing persons of similar employment status and education level, the ratio between incarceration rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young adults in Saskatchewan and Alberta decreased by about half.

The analysis suggests that other factors, such as income, housing and rehabilitative needs, may be involved in the representation of Aboriginal offenders in custody.

Note: Rates of incarceration were calculated as of May 16, 2006, the day the census was taken. The rate represents the number of persons in remand, sentenced custody or other temporary detention that day for every 1,000 persons in the general population. Jurisdictions included in the analysis are: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Correctional Service of Canada.

The **Juristat** article *The incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services*, Vol. 29, no. 3 (85-002-X, free), is now available <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=85-002-XIE&lang=eng#formatdisp> under the “Publications” tab of our website, under “All subjects”, choose “Crime and Justice”, then *Juristat*.

(Continued from page 2:
First Nations Women and Post-secondary Education in Canada)

levels: In 2006, the three most common fields of study in the trades for First Nations women were health professions (25%), personal and culinary services (21%), and business (21%). Women with trade credentials in the overall Canadian population studied in the same top three fields as First Nations women.

First Nations women obtain college credentials later in life: In 2006, the proportion of First Nations women with a post-secondary education was highest among those aged 35 to 39 (48%), whereas for women in the overall Canadian population, this proportion was highest for adults aged 30 to 34 (72%).

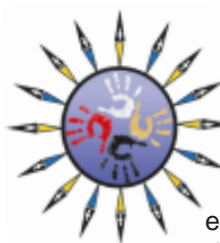
Post-secondary education associated with employment: There is a strong relationship between post-secondary education and employment rates. According to the 2006 Census, the employment rate for First Nations women with a high school diploma was 58%, compared to 63% for those with trade credentials, 72% for women with a college diploma, and 80% for those with a university degree.

Overall, there is little difference in the employment rates of First Nations women, First Nations men, and women in the total population once education at the college and university levels is taken into account. However, First Nations women with high school as their highest level of education appear to face a disadvantage in the labour market when compared to First Nations men and women overall with the same level of education (with employment rates of 58%, 69% and 68%, respectively). This is also the case when comparing the employment rate for First Nations women and women overall with trades credentials (63% and 72%, respectively).

The October 2009 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 6, no. 4 (81-004-X, free), is now available <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/091028/be091028a-eng.htm> under the “Publications” Waiting List - Introduction to Basic Statistical Techniques. From the Publications tab on our website, choose *Education Matters*.

For further information please see “*First Nations Women and Postsecondary Education: Findings from the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey*”, please use Catalogue no. 81-004-X200900411018.

our logo



Our logo, which was designed for Statistics Canada’s Aboriginal Communications Program by Velma Day Chief from the Piikani Nation of Alberta, is a unique symbol representing the continuous cycle (circle) of data collection. It represents equal opportunity (hands) within all nations in the sharing of data to provide an overview of every aspect relating to everyday needs. The sun represents the birth or a new beginning of data collection.



Aboriginal Strategies 2009 a tremendous success

The sum of Aboriginal Strategies 2009, a three-day conference focusing on how data are being used in the Western Region and Northern Territories, was a total success. Approximately 200 participants registered for the solutions-based conference that boasted upwards of 40 breakout sessions facilitated by expert presenters focusing on five different thematic areas: children and families; economic development and labour market; health and well being; the North; and urban Aboriginal population. Seven high-profile keynote speakers also addressed participants.

From urbanization of the Aboriginal population in Alberta to Aboriginal communications technology to comprehensive community planning as a guide for treaty making in B.C., the gamut of topics covered within those areas was myriad.

For example, James Ross shared his knowledge and experience operating a successful First Nations business in the North with conference participants. Ross, who also participated in the 2003 Aboriginal Strategies conference, said he sees the Statistics Canada event as a worthwhile endeavor.

“It’s safe to say the majority of the population doesn’t realize the importance of statistics, especially in regards to programming and the allocation of funding,” Ross said, adding the conference was an opportunity to facilitate that knowledge.

In addition to learning about how data are being used, however, participant Cindy Tom-Lindley commented on an underlying conference theme and noted she found the networks she made at her first Aboriginal Strategies conference to be just as invaluable.

“We all need to get over the lack of trust, because we need to know about the past in order to move into the future . . . in order to make changes,” she said.

Aboriginal Strategies 2009, held Nov. 2 to Nov. 5 at The Westin Edmonton, brought together Aboriginal community leaders and developers, local policy makers, decision-makers and practitioners to share how data is being used to build vibrant, sustainable Aboriginal communities in the western provinces and northern territories.

The conference was presented in partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada; Aboriginal Relations, Government of Alberta; Health Council of Canada; and Service Canada.

2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles for Selected Cities and Communities: Quebec and Atlantic provinces

The Aboriginal Statistics Program released the *2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles for Selected Cities and Communities: Quebec and Atlantic provinces* (catalogue no.89-638-X2009002). This product is a series of profiles for a number of census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations and communities across Canada with a large Aboriginal population, either in numbers or share of the area’s total population. The series aims to present a demographic and socio-economic profile of the total Aboriginal population living in these areas. Demographic data as well as information on living arrangements of children, education, labour, income, mobility, housing, and health are highlighted. While most of the focus is on adults, there is also some information provided on children. Data are presented by Aboriginal group for selected variables, along with comparisons with the non-Aboriginal population. Findings are based on the 2006 Census and the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. Please follow the link: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-638-x/89-638-x2009002-eng.htm>

Mortality of Métis and Registered Indian adults in Canada: An 11-year followup study

Little information has been published about the mortality of the Métis people of Canada. This study describes mortality patterns among Métis and Registered Indian adults, compared with the non-Aboriginal population.

Compared with non-Aboriginal members of the population, life expectancy at age 25 was 3.3 and 5.5 years shorter for Métis men and women, respectively, and 4.4 and 6.3 years shorter for Registered Indians. For both Aboriginal groups, mortality rate ratios were highest at younger ages. Mortality rate differences among Métis men were particularly elevated for external causes and circulatory, respiratory and digestive

system diseases; among Métis women, for circulatory system diseases, cancers, and digestive and respiratory system diseases. Generally, rate differences for Registered Indian men and women were further elevated.

In conclusion, it was found that Métis adults had higher mortality rates compared with non-Aboriginal members of the population, but lower rates than did Registered Indians.

For further information please visit:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2009004/article/11034-eng.htm>

**Do you know someone who would be interested in receiving our newsletter?
Call or email your regional Aboriginal Liaison Program Advisor at Statistics Canada.**