CANADIAN ABORIGINAL POPULATION... in numbers

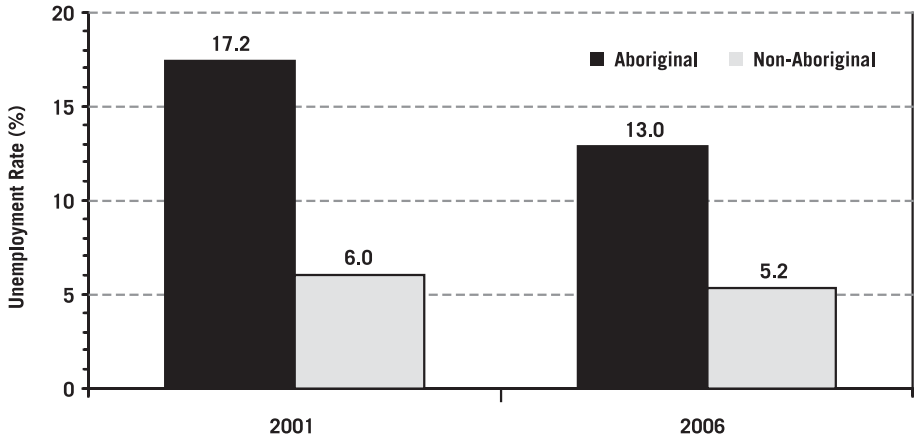
Labour, Income and Housing

Labour

The working-age Aboriginal population (i.e., 15-64 years old) is growing. Between 1996 and 2001, this population increased by 25.0% (from 490,280 to 612,670) for the Aboriginal population compared with an increase of only 4.3% for the non-Aboriginal population. Between 2001 and 2006, it increased further by 25.3% (from 612,670 to 767,420) for the Aboriginal population, about four times the increase for the non-Aboriginal population (5.9%).

The Aboriginal population is young and represents a wealth of future labour resources. With the aging Canadian population the Aboriginal population will become a substantial source of labour in the future providing education and training is sufficient for them to compete adequately in the labour market. Between 2001 and 2026, more than 600,000 Aboriginal youth will come of age to enter the labour market. The 15-29 age group, in particular, is projected to grow by 37% compared with 6% for the general Canadian population (Hull J. 2008, "Aboriginal Youth in the Canadian Labour Market, " *Hope or Heartbreak: Aboriginal Youth and Canada's future, Horizons*).

FIGURE 1: Figure 1: Unemployment rate, Population 25-64 years, Canada, 2001 and 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 and 2006 Censuses, INAC tabulations.

Since 2001, the employment rate for the working age Aboriginal population has increased from 58.5% to 63.0% but it still remains much lower than for non-Aboriginal people (76.3%).

Despite substantial gains between 2001 and 2006, Aboriginal people continue to be three times more likely to be unemployed then non-Aboriginal people (13.0% vs 5.2%).

Income

In 2006, the median income for Aboriginal people (aged 15 years and over) was $16,752 compared to $25,955 for non-Aboriginal people. For Registered Indians living on-reserve, median income was less than half that of non-Aboriginal people at $11,229.

Housing

A rapidly growing population comes with opportunities, but also with challenges. As Aboriginal youth grow older and start forming households and families, additional pressure can also be expected on existing resources, such as the demand for housing. Recent household and family projections indicate that the demand for housing could be expected to be most prevalent on-reserves and in urban areas (Aboriginal Population, Household and Family Projections, INAC, 2007).

Aboriginal households are four times more likely to experience crowding compared to non-Aboriginal households (4.3% vs. 1.4%). Almost one-quarter (22.8%) of Inuit households in the Inuit land claim regions (Inuit Nunaat) experience crowding. on-reserve, 12.5% of Registered Indian households experience crowding.

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