

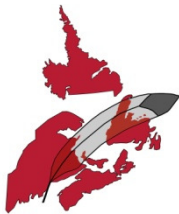


The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development
Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP

***Baseline Data for Aboriginal Economic Development:
An Informed Approach for Measuring Progress and Success***

November 2010

*Prepared by David Bruce with Patti Doyle-Bedwell
and W. Kevin An-Jager*



Atlantic Policy Congress
Of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
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The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP

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Baseline Data for Aboriginal Economic Development: An Informed Approach for Measuring Success is one of five new research reports on Aboriginal economic development released by Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Program, (AAEDIRP) in 2010.

The AAEDIRP is a unique research program formed through partnerships between the 38 member communities of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs (APCFNC), plus the Inuit, 12 Atlantic universities and 4 government funders, both federal and provincial. AAEDIRP funders include Indian and North Affairs Canada, the Atlantic Cooperative Opportunities Agency, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Aboriginal Affairs, Nova Scotia. The AAEDIRP conducts research on Aboriginal economic development that is relevant to communities, builds Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal research capacity, conducts workshops on Aboriginal economic development and is developing a database on this topic. ***The main purpose of the AAEDIRP is to improve the knowledge base concerning Atlantic Aboriginal economic development in order to improve the lives of the Aboriginal people in the region.***

The APCFNC is a policy research organization that analyzes and develops culturally relevant alternatives to federal policies that impact on the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Innu Aboriginal communities and peoples.

Maliseet Artist Arlene Christmas (Dozay) created the AAEDIRP logo

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Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the baseline information for a variety of indicators measuring economic development progress in Aboriginal communities in Atlantic Canada. Progress is reported primarily for the reference period 2001 to 2006. The input of Aboriginal experts (including Aboriginal community members) in focus groups and working group settings was used to identify and select a range of possible indicators that are potentially useful to Aboriginal communities, and to provide an interpretation of the data for those indicators.

This report is the primary document for the **Baseline Data For Aboriginal Economic Development** project of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs. The main objectives of this project are:

- To provide the Atlantic Aboriginal community (broadly defined) with a tool to measure progress in its economy; and
- To build the capacity of the Atlantic Aboriginal community to collect, analyse, and report on indicators of socio-economic progress.

The indicators of economic development discussed in this report represent a starting point for a potentially larger set of indicators that have relevance for Aboriginal people and communities. A wide range of possible indicators were identified over the course of the project in the focus group and working group activities. This report focuses only on those indicators for which there is free and reliable secondary data. This report identifies additional indicators which were selected but which require primary data collection, special (and costly) tabulations of existing data, or removal of barriers to access existing administrative data.

Methodology

The first phase of this project involved project organization, literature review, and identification of indicators. The second phase involved the collection data to populate the indicators, as well as the analysis and interpretation of the results. The third phase, beyond the scope of this report, involves the long term strategy for further indicator development, data accessibility, and maintenance of the data base over time.

An Indicators Working Group (consisting of eight Aboriginal experts) was established, to provide input on selecting the indicators of greatest significance for measuring economic development progress. Agreement was reached on indicators in the following categories:

- Those which allow for a comparison between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and communities, and which allow for measuring progress over time;
- Those which are specific to Aboriginal people and communities only, which allow for measuring progress over time;
- Those which would be useful to include as indicators but for which there is no current data available or for which it would be costly or difficult to obtain the data.

The data for the selected indicators was assembled from a variety of data sources (e.g., census, administrative data, and special surveys). Data was assembled into an EXCEL spreadsheet for organization and manipulation purposes. The data was collected and organized at the individual community level for each First Nation community in the region, if available. In addition, collective data for each province and the Atlantic region as a whole, was organized for each of the following subpopulations: Aboriginal, Registered Indian, Aboriginal on-reserve, Aboriginal off-reserve, Registered Indian on-reserve, Registered Indian off-reserve, First Nation off-reserve, Inuit, Métis, non-Aboriginal, non-Registered Indian).

The geographic territory of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs includes all of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Gaspé region of Québec. Data for each of the four provinces and the Listuguj First Nation were added together for the purpose of reporting for the Atlantic Canada region as a whole.

Indicators of (Economic) Development: A Review of the Literature

The literature review focused on two issues: the general notion of indicators of economic development; and the special issues concerning indicators for Aboriginal communities and their economic development.

Community economic development (CED) is defined as:

Action by people locally to create economic opportunities and better social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged. CED is an approach that recognizes that economic, environmental and social challenges are interdependent, complex and ever-changing. To be effective, solutions must be rooted in local knowledge and led by community members. CED promotes holistic approaches, addressing individual, community and regional levels, recognizing that these levels are interconnected. (CCEDNET, 2010)

It is recognized in the literature that Aboriginal community economic development is clearly rooted in the concepts of community-based decision making, participation from the whole community, and taking a holistic approach to development which incorporates more than just pure economic activity to include social, health, environmental, and organizational concerns and outcomes. Furthermore, this place-based approach which roots Aboriginal development in place (development which meets the needs of a distinct community in a distinct geographical and cultural setting), is significantly different than the prevailing model for economic development influenced by globalization that envisions a homogenous national or global economy.

In addition to the broader concept of community economic development, development can also be thought of in the context of any of three additional frameworks: development

as freedom; development as increasing capacities and decreasing vulnerabilities; and development as building on community assets.

An indicator is a statistic that facilitates the measurement of a broader category of interest. Collectively, indicators are quantitative measurements of specific aspects of an issue or subject, within a community or population. Economic development indicators can measure inputs and/or outcomes to the economy and, in this sense, indicators need not be the cause of what is measured but instead may measure something caused by or even a side effect of economic development. Input indicators reflect public or collective resources being put into advancing community well-being or addressing community well-being challenges while outcome indicators measure conditions or trends in the community or environment.

Indicators are often nested within models or frameworks which provide structure and provide a means for communities to organize their issues (and, by extension, the indicators and associated data). The simple provision of data on the broad concepts of sustainability, quality of life, or livability is meaningless without a structure or model within which to organize the information. Frameworks help organise the issues that the indicators inform. A framework serves to tell a story based on the information provided by the indicators.

Many of the goals of economic development, such as a sense of well-being, are difficult to measure. Indicators are quantifiable measurements that provide insight into development goals. Indicators promote an understanding of a community's strengths and weaknesses.

Indicators inform policy action and therefore they should be linked to potential action items. The information from an indicator allows for an understanding of what changes or inputs could be made to improve the result measured by the indicator.

Common indicators in the literature and in various specific indicator projects include those which report on the following themes or issues: employment; income; education attainment; dependency on government transfer payments; transparency of governance; democracy; gender equality; health; and ecological impact.

From an Aboriginal or Indigenous perspective, development indicators are interdependent and interconnected: "This is usually given expression through the choice of a circle as an organizing method and the various directions as a method of grouping selected indicators. This display allows one to obtain an overview of the progress towards or movement away from various goals" (Newhouse, 2005: 1). Furthermore, the notion of (economic) development in the Aboriginal context, from his perspective, is rooted in the importance of ensuring balance among economic, social, psychological, and spiritual elements.

The literature identifies the pros and cons of using an index (a rollup of results from many indicators into a single number), such as the United Nations Human Development

Index (HDI) or the Registered Indian Human Development Index (RIHDI) developed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. While an index can be helpful for providing a succinct summary of the economic development progress, there are challenges and limitations to employing an index. A single number or index can mask what is happening or what is the current status of economic development with respect to individual indicators. There are also value judgments that must be made with respect to how to weight each indicator in the index.

Organizing Framework

Members of the Advisory Committee and Indicators Working Group concurred that a Four-Directional Model was a useful, general organizing framework for indicators of economic development progress. The most important feature of the Model is that it demonstrates the highly interconnected nature of all elements of life for a community and for individuals. It reinforces the highly circular and evolutionary approach to thinking about life. Economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects are intimately linked and are related to one another. Furthermore, these have direct connections to how individuals live their lives, and are influenced by the forces or determinants of health (broadly conceptualized) which impact individuals and communities. How these interact and how they impact individuals, changes over time as people grow from early childhood to becoming an elder in their communities. It was recognized that while reporting on individual indicators would be useful for this project, the indicators are interconnected. This interconnectedness has implications for the interpretation of the data and the choice of actions to improve conditions.

The following criteria (in no particular order of importance or relevance) were applied to the selection of indicators:

- Meaningful and relevant (they must connect to the *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy* in some manner).
- Measurable (must be quantifiable in some way (percentage, per capita, absolute number, etc.,)).
- Rigorous and reliable (data must be drawn from a credible and reliable source with confidence in the accuracy of the data).
- Comparable (data must be available for all communities or all individuals, with relatively few or no gaps, to allow comparisons among sub-populations and over time).
- No cost to obtain (must be freely available in the public domain and available at no cost).
- Secondary data only (no provision was made for new data collection activities in this project).
- Culturally appropriate (indicators which resonate with and are specific to Aboriginal culture, communities, and individuals are important).
- Standalone indicators (no index will be created, since this would require value judgments about the weighting of each indicator).

Baseline Indicators: The Findings

The report discusses the findings in two main parts: indicators which compare Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and individuals; and indicators which are specific to Aboriginal communities and individuals. Within each of these two parts, the indicators are grouped into each of the following themes/domains:

- Economic
- Environmental
- Social
- Cultural/Spiritual

For each indicator, there are two tables. The first table concerns the Aboriginal population (includes all of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Gaspé region of Québec; data for each of the four provinces and the Listuguj First Nation were added together for the purpose of reporting for the Atlantic Canada region as a whole). The first table shows the results for **all Aboriginal** persons and then for all Aboriginal persons in **each of on-reserve and off-reserve** locations. This is followed by a **breakdown of the results for the Aboriginal off-reserve population into First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, and Inuit**. Finally, we show the results for the **non-Aboriginal population**.

The second table concerns the **Registered Indian** population. Results are reported for all Registered Indians, then for all Registered Indians in each of **on-reserve and off-reserve** locations, and then for the **non-Registered Indian population**.

The year 2001 is used as the initial “baseline” year against which progress over time is measured. For indicators for which data is only available for a later year, that year is used as the “baseline”. The year 2006 is used as the first year against which progress over time is measured and reported. For indicators for which data is only available for an earlier year, that year is used as the progress reporting year. If additional new data since 2006 is available for a given indicator, progress is also reported for those indicators and for those years.

Indicators of Economic Development Progress among Aboriginal People and Communities

There have been improvements or progress on many indicators between 2001 and 2006 for Aboriginal people and communities. The **employment rate** has improved from 44% to 49% and the **unemployment rate** has declined from 28% to 22%. The reliance on **government transfer payments** has declined from 27% to 22% of total income. Average **employment income** has increased from \$18,000 to \$20,700, while average **individual income** increased from \$16,700 to \$21,800. The **incidence of low income** (the percentage of individuals in families, and unattached individuals, spending 70% of their total income on food, shelter and clothing) fell from 31% to 21%. **Education attainment** improved: those with a university certificate or degree increased from 6.7% to 10.3%.

The number of **children attending band operated schools** has increased as well, from 2,831 in 2002-03 to 3,004 in 2008-09.

Indicators of Economic Development Regression among Aboriginal People and Communities

The primary area of regression between 2001 and 2006 for Aboriginal people and communities concerns **language**. There has been a decline in the number and percent reporting that they have an Aboriginal mother tongue, that they speak an Aboriginal language most frequently at home, and that they have knowledge of an Aboriginal language.

Gaps between On-Reserve and Off-Reserve Aboriginal Populations

Many indicators demonstrate important differences between the on-reserve and off-reserve Aboriginal populations. For each of the following indicators, the economic development progress among the on-reserve Aboriginal population between 2001 and 2006 was less than it was for the off-reserve Aboriginal population. Furthermore, the data for 2006 showed that the on-reserve Aboriginal population had outcomes which were below the off-reserve Aboriginal population on each of the following indicators:

- Labour force participation
- Employment
- Full time employment
- Unemployment
- Employment in “higher end” and growing sectors of the economy (employment in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management)
- Self-employment
- Dependence on government transfer payments as a percent of total income
- Average employment income
- Average individual income
- People living in dwellings in need of major repair
- Education attainment
- Adults living in households headed by a lone parent
- People living in crowded conditions

With respect to the three indicators concerning Aboriginal languages, there were far more people living on-reserve than off-reserve in 2006 who reported that they have an Aboriginal mother tongue (46% of the on-reserve population compared with 5% of the off-reserve population), that they speak an Aboriginal language most frequently at home (28% compared to 3%), and that they have knowledge of an Aboriginal language (49% compared to 6%).

Further Indicator Development

The indicators presented in this report are only those for which there was freely available and reliable secondary data. For most of the indicators there was some degree of data calculation and manipulation required. Furthermore, in this report, a large number of additional preferred indicators were presented and discussed. These indicators require data which are currently not available, costly to obtain, or require special permissions to access. There is much work to be done to address these data collection and access issues. At the time of preparing this report, there were some initial efforts underway to pilot test primary data collection activities in some communities for some indicators. These potential additional indicators include:

- Economic
 - Average household income
 - Incidence of low income (before tax) for all persons 0-14 years of age
 - Percent of individuals receiving social assistance (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
 - Number of registered businesses (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
 - Number of new business starts (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
 - Number of business closures or failures (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
 - Disposable income
 - Percent of land set aside for economic development purposes
 - Number of band owned businesses
 - Band debt to business revenue ratio (band owned businesses)
 - Information technology adoption by bands
- Environmental
 - Value of community-owned assets (a new data collection process for both municipalities and bands is being implemented in the next few years which will adhere to Public Sector Accounting Board principles and standards)
 - Number of new housing starts
 - Number of housing units needed
 - Expenditures on housing repair and renovation
 - Access and use of natural resource lands outside the reserve
- Social
 - Number of persons registered in apprenticeship programs
 - Completion rates by Aboriginal persons attending post-secondary education
 - Extent to which individual communities are able to retain their students who complete post-secondary education
 - Crime rates
 - Social cost of dependence

- Percent of school-aged children participating in Aboriginal language immersion programs
- Cultural/Spiritual
 - No potential additional cultural or spiritual indicators were identified by the Working Group for potential inclusion

Sustaining the Baseline Indicators and their Use

The information in this report serves as a baseline for economic development progress for Aboriginal people and communities between 2001 and 2006, for most indicators. Further investments of time and staff resources are required to update the information for these indicators as they become available. This includes collecting and reporting on the indicators which have annual data, and a major effort concerning the retrieval, manipulation, and use of 2011 Census data when it is released.

1 Introduction

Communities and organizations use information to make decisions about which policies, programs, and initiatives to implement which will contribute to an improvement in conditions over time. A key component of “information” is to have a baseline of the situation as a starting point from where to measure progress (as defined by the community or organization). Baseline information allows us to know where we are on specific issues at a particular point in time, and permits a basis from which to assess which courses of action to take.

This report provides a summary of the baseline information for a variety of indicators for economic development progress in Aboriginal communities in Atlantic Canada. Progress is reported primarily for the reference period 2001 to 2006. The input of Aboriginal experts (including Aboriginal community members) in focus groups and working group settings was used to identify and select a range of possible indicators that are potentially useful to Aboriginal communities, and to provide an interpretation of the data for those indicators.

This report is the primary document for the **Baseline Data For Aboriginal Economic Development** project of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs. The main objectives of this project are:

1. To provide the Atlantic Aboriginal community (broadly defined) with a tool to measure progress in its economy; and
2. To build the capacity of the Atlantic Aboriginal community to collect, analyse, and report on indicators of socio-economic progress.

Achieving these objectives will contribute to important longer term outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. There is an opportunity to provide new insights into potential new policy and program directions which may lead to enhanced economic outcomes and performance over time. Furthermore, the ability to measure progress will lead to more effective and strategic investment of resources to address issues and areas where measures indicate lagging performance or outcomes.

The indicators of economic development discussed in this report represent a starting point for a potentially larger set of indicators that have relevance for Aboriginal people and communities. A wide range of possible indicators were identified over the course of the project in the focus group and working group activities. Additional indicators may be identified and developed over time and included in subsequent reports. This report focuses only on those indicators for which there is free and reliable secondary data. This report identifies additional indicators which were selected but which require primary data collection, special (and costly) tabulations of existing data, or removal of barriers to access existing administrative data.

This report provides important information to assist the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs and individual communities to work strategically on issues in most need of attention. Measuring changes over time for the key indicators of economic development will provide the evidence required to make the best decisions about policy changes and program investments that will support success for Aboriginal people of all ages, especially youth and young adults. Investing in programs and services which create a more positive environment for the many Aboriginal youth who are preparing to enter the workforce and to become the next generation of leaders is critical. As noted in Table 1, Aboriginal youth make up a much larger share of the Aboriginal population, compared with non-Aboriginal youth in relation to the total non-Aboriginal population. Aboriginal youth 9 years of age and under make up 15.6% of the Aboriginal population in Atlantic Canada; and Aboriginal youth 19 years of age and under make up 34.8% of the Aboriginal population. This compares with just 9.9% and 22.7%, respectively, in the non-Aboriginal population.

Table 1: Total Atlantic Canada population, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population, by age group, 2006

	Aboriginal identity population	Non-Aboriginal identity population
Total - Age groups	67005	2190540
Under 5 years	7.1%	4.6%
5 to 9 years	8.5%	5.3%
10 to 14 years	9.4%	6.1%
15 to 19 years	9.8%	6.7%
20 to 24 years	7.7%	6.2%
25 to 34 years	13.0%	11.7%
35 to 44 years	15.5%	15.1%
45 to 54 years	14.6%	16.6%
55 to 64 years	8.4%	13.4%
65 to 74 years	4.0%	8.0%
75 years and over	1.9%	6.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002.

Note: The geographic territory of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs includes all of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Gaspé region of Québec. Data for each of the four provinces and the Listuguj First Nation were added together for the purpose of reporting for the Atlantic Canada region as a whole.

2 Methodology

In order to complete this project, three phases of activity were implemented. The first phase involved project organization, literature review, and identification of indicators. The second phase involved the collection data to populate the indicators, as well as the analysis and interpretation of the results. The third phase, beyond the scope of this report, involved the preparation of a long term strategy for further indicator development, data accessibility, and maintenance of the data base over time. These are discussed below.

2.1 Phase One

1. Project Startup

An Advisory Committee for the project was established, to provide oversight and guidance for the work, and to provide a link to the Research Subcommittee of the AAEDIRP.

An Indicators Working Group for the project was established, to provide input on the most appropriate indicators that should be selected for measuring progress. The Working Group met February 11, 2009 in Sackville NB, and July 15, 2009 in Millbrook NS. Some members of the Working Group provided further input through telephone conversations with members of the research team over the course of the project.

Research Ethics approvals were sought from and obtained from Dalhousie University and Mount Allison University Research Ethics Boards, and the Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch.

Advisory Committee Members

- Louis Bernard, Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- Eric Christmas, Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative
- John Paul, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs
- Fred Wien, Dalhousie University

Indicators Working Group Members

- Jaime Battiste, Eskasoni
- Joe Johnson, Eskasoni
- Cheryl Maloney, Native Women's Association of Canada
- Tracy Menge, Eskasoni
- Beaver Paul, National Centre for First Nations Governance
- Penny Polchies, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs
- Mark Sark, Gespe'qewag Mi'gmaq Resource Group

2. Literature Review

An extensive literature review was conducted to outline the current state of knowledge about indicators and reporting, and various models and approaches which have been employed in various circumstances (nationally, sectorally, etc.). The review identified specific examples relevant to First Nations communities and Aboriginal people. In addition to reviewing peer reviewed journals, the work of various Aboriginal organizations (such as the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, Ulnooweg), government departments and agencies (such as Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), research think tanks (such as the Institute of Urban Studies, Pembina Institute) and international organizations (such as the

OECD) were reviewed. The literature review is summarized later in this report, and served to inform potential options concerning the range and types of indicators, the availability of data sources, and their uses and interpretations.

3. Indicator Working Group Input

This activity was a key component of the project, since the perspective of Aboriginal persons representing the views of their communities, their cultures, and their organizations made the discussion of which indicators to choose much more meaningful and relevant. Although there are many theoretical approaches to establishing indicators and measures, they only have value if they are discussed, debated, and ultimately chosen by those who will actually make use of them. The discussions were especially important for identifying indicators which would have the greatest significance for measuring economic development progress over time but for which there is no current data available or for which the data might be particularly challenging or costly to obtain. These are discussed later in the report.

The invitation to participate on the Indicators Working Group was based on the knowledge of individuals who could provide both specific and broad perspectives on the discussion, and who collectively would represent the diversity of Aboriginal communities, cultures and organizations in the region. Every attempt was made to strike a balance among genders (roughly equal numbers of men and women), geography (participation from all four provinces), age (a mix of elders, mature adults, young adults), and work experience (a mix of those working in the private sector, for Aboriginal organizations, for Aboriginal communities, and for government). A total of eight Aboriginal persons participated on the Working Group.

Members of the Working Group met in two separate sessions to provide their input into the selection of indicators which would be most significant for measuring economic development progress, and this activity was supplemented with telephone calls to solicit input from those who were unable to attend either meeting. At the second meeting, members of the Advisory Committee for the project also participated. In both meetings, the researchers facilitated a dialogue among the members for the purpose of gathering insights and input. At the second meeting an attempt was made to build consensus on the most appropriate indicators. Agreement was reached on indicators that are organized into the following categories:

- Those which allow for a comparison between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and communities, and which allow for measuring progress over time;
- Those which are specific to Aboriginal people and communities only, which allow for measuring progress over time;
- Those which would be useful to include as indicators but for which there is no current data available or for which it would be costly or difficult to obtain the data.

2.2 Phase Two

1. Data Assembly

The data for the selected indicators was assembled from a variety of sources. These are discussed later in the report. In the course of searching for data, it was discovered that data for some of the selected indicators was not available, was confidential, or did not exist. These circumstances are discussed later in the report. Data was assembled into an EXCEL spreadsheet for organization and manipulation purposes. The data was collected and organized at the individual community level for each First Nation community in the region, if available. In addition, collective data for each province and the Atlantic¹ region as a whole, was organized for each of the following subpopulations: Aboriginal, Registered Indian, Aboriginal on-reserve, Aboriginal off-reserve, Registered Indian on-reserve, Registered Indian off-reserve, First Nation off-reserve, Inuit, Métis, non-Aboriginal, non-Registered Indian).

Where necessary, the data was manipulated to “calculate” the desired measures for each indicator. Furthermore, the data was “rolled up” to provide overall results or measures for each province and for the Atlantic region as a whole.

2. Validate and Interpret the Measures

A draft report was prepared for review by a subgroup comprised of some members from each of the Advisory Committee and the Indicators Working Group. This subgroup met February 4, 2010 in Cole Harbour NS to validate the selected indicators and to provide interpretation of the results including the presentation of several report cards. Some members provided additional written feedback on the draft report.

Furthermore, the subgroup provided input on a number of items for Phase Three completion, including data acquisition needs, maintenance and upkeep of the data, and database access.

3. Prepare Report on Current State of Aboriginal Economic Outcomes

The draft report was finalized based on the input provided.

2.3 Phase Three

The purpose of the final phase of the project was to recommend a long term plan/strategy for ongoing use and maintenance of the data so that progress can be measured against the

¹ The geographic territory of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs includes all of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Gaspé region of Québec. Data for each of the four provinces and the Listuguj First Nation were added together for the purpose of reporting for the Atlantic Canada region as a whole.

initial baseline data and economic status of the Aboriginal communities, collectively. Specific issues discussed in this separate report include:

- What to do about “gaps”. This addresses issues such as lack of data for desired indicator as identified later in this report; lack of timely or frequent data availability for chosen indicator(s); data suppression issues; uneven data availability at the community level; etc.
- Working with secondary data collection partners. Suggestions for working with INAC, Statistics Canada, and others involved in data collection will be discussed, to ensure that the most appropriate data are collected and made available in a timely manner. This may include, for example, financing or introducing new surveys or activities to obtain data that is not presently collected; resolving data sharing concerns; etc.
- Resources to maintain the ongoing data collection and indicator reporting. These activities require human resources (someone or some people must be responsible for doing the work), technical abilities (there are specific skills required), and appropriate hardware and software. Specific recommendations will be made on each of these issues.
- Capacity building strategy to maintain and use the system. Although the initial baseline data has been collected and prepared so that it can be used as a starting point, there is a need to address how this will be maintained over time and how the time series data can and should be used. There will need to be specific recommendations concerning reporting options, sharing with communities and stakeholders, using the media, ongoing support and training for a “someone” to continue the work, and so on.

The above issues are discussed in a separate report.

2.4 Aboriginal Research Capacity Building

A key objective of the research strategy of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs through its AAEDIRP is to provide opportunities for Aboriginal researchers (including university faculty and students) to participate in meaningful ways in the research projects. For this project Dr. Patricia Doyle-Bedwell, an Aboriginal faculty member at Dalhousie University, participated in the early stages of the project design and development. However, it was not possible to identify an available Aboriginal graduate or senior undergraduate student to work on the project with the team.

A total of eight Aboriginal persons served on an Indicators Working Group for this project. They participated very much as co-researchers in the project: they articulated the key principles by which indicators would be selected; they recommended specific indicators of importance to Aboriginal communities and people; and, in some cases, they assisted with the identification of data sources for some of the indicators.

A total of three Aboriginal persons served on the Advisory Committee for this project. They provided guidance and insight, helped to identify data sources, and together with several members of the Indicators Working Group, provided interpretation of the data for the indicators.

2.5 Research Ethics

This project adhered to the research ethics guidelines established by the AAEDIRP and by the respective institutions of the co-investigators. Research ethics approval was granted by Mount Allison University, Dalhousie University, and the Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch (based at Cape Breton University). The research ethics concerns for this project focused primarily on the engagement of Aboriginal persons on the Indicators Working Group and the need to ensure that their involvement was respected and treated appropriately. Members of the Working Group were provided with consent forms explaining the basis of their participation, how their ideas and suggestions would be used and acknowledged, and their rights as research participants.

This project did not involve the collection of any new primary data or any community-based research activities. Only secondary data available in the public domain and for its general original purpose and intent was used.

2.6 Research Challenges and How They Were Addressed

In this section we briefly discuss some of the research challenges in this project and how they were addressed. The specific issues and challenges concerning access to data for specific indicators are discussed later in the report in each of the theme sections.

1. Indicators Working Group membership and participation.

It was our original intention to have up to 12 members on this group, to ensure the widest possible diversity of perspectives. We relied on recommendations from the Advisory Committee members and on the personal networks and contacts of Dr. Doyle-Bedwell, in order to develop a working list of possible participants. Initial contacts revealed many challenges in scheduling potential meeting dates, and some who initially agreed to participate had to withdraw prior to the first opportunity to meet because of other commitments. It became clear that some of the individuals with the most to offer to the discussions were also among the busiest.

We found eight individuals who were willing and able to participate. It turned out, however, that only four were able to attend the first meeting and only three were able to attend the second meeting. Those who were unable to attend were offered the opportunity to provide input through individual telephone conversations with the research team members. Although we achieved relative gender balance (five men, three women) we did not achieve representation from Newfoundland and Labrador nor from Prince Edward

Island. These challenges led to a slightly re-defined role for the Advisory Committee members. They played a more hands-on role in terms of providing specific input on preferred indicators, and participating in the review of the draft report including the validation of the indicators and the interpretation of the findings.

2. Aboriginal student researcher participation.

A number of efforts were made to secure the participation of an Aboriginal graduate student to assist in the research project. Our project competed with a number of other research project opportunities available to Aboriginal students at the same time, and we were unable to identify either a graduate or undergraduate student. To address our need for research assistance, we hired a recent graduate (a non-Aboriginal person) who had studied under Dr. Doyle-Bedwell and who was familiar with Aboriginal development issues and challenges.

3. Consensus on appropriate indicators.

Given the diversity of interests and participants in the project on both the Advisory Committee and the Indicators Working Group, it is not surprising that there was a wide range of suggestions and opinions about which indicators would be most appropriate and useful. In order to manage the discussion and move to consensus, we employed a number of strategies. The first was to listen to and acknowledge the validity of all suggestions. The second was to develop, refine, and adhere to a series of principles concerning indicators to guide our collective discussion and consensus building on which ones to include. These principles are discussed in a later section of the report. The third was to assign indicators into four “bins” or types in order to facilitate their inclusion. These four were:

- Indicators which would be applicable to all communities or all individuals and allow for comparison between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities or individuals.
- Indicators which are specific to Aboriginal communities or individuals.
- Indicators which require substantial resources in order to obtain the data (such as new surveys or commitments from all communities to gather specific information on a regular basis), or for which there is currently no data available.
- Indicators which are not easily measurable or quantifiable (such as access to resources).

Employing these strategies facilitated the discussion in a meaningful manner.

4. Access to administrative data.

In the discussions about which indicators to include, it was noted that for several of them, access to administrative data held by government departments and agencies (and which may not be readily available in the public domain) would be required. After initial inquiries about specific data, it was determined that in most cases, an official letter from

the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs was required in order to provide permission to grant access to the data. In some cases access could not be granted because the data (particularly financial data) about individual First Nations communities was deemed to be confidential. For non-Aboriginal administrative data, particularly data about water advisories or boil orders, it was found that on-line access was available for some provinces but formal requests for information were required in others. These issues are discussed in more detail for each specific indicator later in the report.

5. Variability in date of data collection activities, releases, and reporting.

A wide variety of indicators have been identified, and each has its own unique source of data. The range of data sources include, for example, the national census, special surveys such as the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RLHS), and administrative data such as that collected by INAC and individual provincial government departments and agencies. Each of these has a different timeframe in terms of frequency of data collection and the release of the data into the public domain. For example, the census is completed only every five years, so indicators with this as its data source can only be updated and reported on every five years once the data are released.

Administrative data is typically collected or submitted annually and would allow for annual reporting by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs on progress for those indicators. Special surveys may have been completed only once or irregularly but could be arranged to be completed on a more cyclical basis. In order to overcome this “timing” issue a decision was made that for the initial baseline reporting it would be best to adopt the notion of “use what is most recently available for each indicator” as a starting point. That means, for example, that reporting on indicators dependent on the census will show for the 2006 year, with reference to the 2001 year for initial reporting on progress. For other indicators where data is available in an earlier or later year than the census, the reporting will be for that year with an appropriate notation about the year.

6. Community Profiles and Aboriginal communities in the census.

Statistics Canada provides a useful tool for quickly accessing data about individual communities, known as “Community Profiles”. Summary data for a wide range of census variables is made available in short tabular format. In addition to being included in these Community Profiles, reserve communities and others with a high proportion of Aboriginal persons are also included in a second tool called “Aboriginal Population Profiles”. While there is a high degree of similarity between the two, there are some differences. The first is that many, but not all, of the exact same census variables are included in both. The second is that for the smaller communities, and for those whose members chose not to participate in sufficient numbers in the census, there is limited or no data released in the Aboriginal Population Profiles. The third is that within the Aboriginal Population Profiles, the data is presented only for those who self-identify as Aboriginal. That means that in any given community, the results that one would find for a specific variable in the two different sources would be slightly different because the non-Aboriginal population living on-reserve (however small that number might be) would not be included in the Aboriginal Community Profiles.

For the purpose of constructing the individual community data for each indicator in the master database, we use census data found in the Aboriginal Population Profiles. In cases where data is not available or suppressed for any given variable, we use the data from the Community Profiles if available, as a reasonable proxy measure.

7. Defining Aboriginal for the purpose of extracting census data.

In the Census of Canada, data is made available for various groups of Aboriginal persons. There are two primary classification schemes used to present the data. The first is to provide the data for Aboriginal persons and some of the sub-populations within the Aboriginal classification, and to provide the data for non-Aboriginal persons as well. The census definitions² are as follows:

- **Aboriginal identity population:** Included in the Aboriginal identity population are those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian (First Nation), Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation.
- **Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere:** Includes those who identified themselves as Registered Indians and/or band members without identifying themselves as North American Indian, Métis or Inuit in the Aboriginal identity question.

The second is to provide the data for Registered Indians and for non-Registered Indians. A Registered (or Treaty) Indian refers to those persons who reported they were registered under the Indian Act of Canada. Treaty Indians are persons who are registered under the Indian Act and can prove descent from a band that signed a treaty.

It is important to note that Registered Indian counts may differ from the administrative counts maintained by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, with the most important causes of these differences being the incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements as well as methodological and conceptual differences between the two sources. Furthermore, there may be variability between the two sources with respect to where individuals choose to register themselves as Registered Indians, and where they actually live. The Indian Registry maintained by INAC counts Registered Indians on the basis of their band affiliation, regardless of where they live. The census counts band members (Registered Indians) for each of on-reserve and off-reserve. Thus the two counts may be very different.

In the 2006 Census of Canada there were 1,172,790 persons of Aboriginal identity; within that group there were 623,780 Registered Indians³. In Atlantic Canada there were 67,005 persons of Aboriginal identity, and within that group there were 30,720 Registered Indians. Almost all of the on-reserve Aboriginal population are also

² Statistics Canada, 2006 Census Dictionary, Catalogue 92-566-XWE.

³ Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006010.

Registered Indians. Aboriginal people living off-reserve are a more diverse group. Registered Indians comprise less than half of the Aboriginal off-reserve population, which includes First Nation, Métis, Inuit, people with multiple or other Aboriginal identities.

Table 2: Aboriginal identity and Registered Indian Population Counts, by Province, Atlantic Canada, 2006

		Aboriginal identity population	Registered Indian	Not a Registered Indian
Newfoundland and Labrador	On-reserve	1435	1380	55
	Off-reserve	22015	5225	16790
Prince Edward Island	On-reserve	400	390	10
	Off-reserve	1330	535	795
Nova Scotia	On-reserve	7980	7850	130
	Off-reserve	16195	5570	11625
New Brunswick	On-reserve	7005	6860	145
	Off-reserve	10645	4005	6650

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006010.

For the purpose of this **Baseline Data For Aboriginal Economic Development** project, we report the data from the census for both groups – Aboriginals and Registered Indians – where possible, to illustrate any variations that may be present.

3 Indicators of (Economic) Development: A Review of the Literature

The nature of economic development depends largely upon the communities it is considered within. Aboriginal populations and communities within Canada have been faced with historic and present day injustices that have contributed to a lower level of economic progress than the non-Aboriginal populations in Canada. For this reason, it is important to realise that economic development in the Aboriginal context will differ from so-called mainstream approaches and, as suggested by significant literature (for example, Deloria and Wildcat, 2001; Natarajan, 2005; Blaser, 2004), must be viewed through the lens of justice. Justice, or injustice, is most significantly understood in the context of two key areas: first, the existing and persistent inequality between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in health, education, income and well-being; second, the freedom of self-determination over land, education, and policy that comes through successful completion of comprehensive claims processes (INAC, 2003; INAC, no date, a).

There is enormous economic opportunity for Aboriginal communities of the Atlantic region which can be realized through such comprehensive processes. An optimistic approach to development must be taken. Characteristics such as the size of the land base, population growth, and business and community structures will influence the nature of economic development. The *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy* (APCFNC, 2008) identifies five principles to be at the heart of economic development and therefore to guide the construction of any tools designed to measure and promote economic development. These five principles are:

1. Self-sufficiency, self-sustainability
2. Self-determination
3. Long term stability
4. Integration with environmental outcomes,
5. Based on the determinants of health. (APCFNC, 2008, p.4)

This literature review informs the development of Aboriginal economic development indicators while keeping in mind the principles, as stated above, that form the mandate for this project. The first section reviews the concept of economic development demonstrating that it is an evolving concept in need of re-defining for specific communities and goals. Additionally, the first section addresses the various conceptual and technical qualities that must be considered when choosing and defining indicators to measure economic development. The second section describes indicators as a concept. The third section reviews various indicators frequently used by government and others to measure economic development. The fourth section reviews various frameworks for rolling indicators together for the purpose of creating an index to measure economic development *en masse*. The fifth section addresses specific Aboriginal considerations for these frameworks as well as highlights indicators that have been important to other composite indices measuring progress in Aboriginal communities.

This exercise contributes to one of the four goals of the *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy* (APCFNC, 2008). The fourth goal is “to establish and maintain sound baseline information on the Atlantic Aboriginal economy, that provides evidence of progress.” The purpose of this baseline information is to know “where we are” and to facilitate our “being ready to adapt.” In other words, to measure and enable development through efficient and effective use of economic and other resources, and to compare, contrast and learn from development in other communities. The specific activities within this goal include, among others:

- Identify assets (people, land, resources, land claims, treaty rights, etc.);
- Identify baseline information and indicators for Labour, business, employment and the Aboriginal Economy; and
- Refine quantitative basis of the Strategic Plan and ensure Integrated Communications.

Given this context, it is evident that there are unique and specific development goals for Atlantic Aboriginal communities and therefore unique indicators are necessary to measure and inform this development.

3.1 Economic Development

The first step in considering indicators for Atlantic Aboriginal economic development is to define economic development. Economic development is a changing concept. From the Keynesian theories of employment and fiscal policy to Solow’s economic growth model, to the United Nations *Brundtland Report*’s definition of sustainable development and to Nobel Laureate, Amartya Sen’s *Development as Freedom*, the understanding of development has been constantly evolving from simplistic economic indicators to webs of interconnected frameworks encompassing concepts as diverse as human rights, the preservation of culture, security and peace and environmental sustainability. Assessing the economic development of Aboriginal communities demands a diversity of frameworks and their accompanying perspectives.

Economic growth and economic development are not synonymous. Economic growth represents the expansion of a country’s potential GDP or national output. Alternatively, economic development, in addition to the expansion of the economy and an increase in its output, is also concerned with sustainability of growth encompassing such features as equitable income distribution, empowerment, social justice and environmental responsibility to present and future generations. Even simply as an indicator of economic growth, GDP is not a perfect indicator. GDP does not account for goods or services that are not paid for. This means that the work involved in caring for children, preparing meals or housework is not included if one does it themselves. If this work is done by a child daycare, a restaurant or a hired maid this work is then counted within the national income. GDP also misses the potential harm and cost involved in certain economic decisions. For example, GDP does not account for the negative effects of harm suffered from industrial pollution or the health effects of a polluted water system when they

should be accounted for as debits to the national income (Kleiner, 2009). Additionally, the health costs resulting from a polluted environment or the cost to clean a polluted river would actually be counted as an increase in national income. Conversely the benefits of a clean water and environment do not get counted within GDP. Frameworks for assessing economic development have consequently evolved to encompass this more comprehensive understanding of economic development. The real goal for a wiser, more sophisticated and comprehensive approach to measurement of economic development is to understand how the vision for economic development can be of maximum relevance to society.

A well-entrenched concept of development in Canada is community economic development (CED). Community economic development (CED) is defined as:

Action by people locally to create economic opportunities and better social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged. CED is an approach that recognizes that economic, environmental and social challenges are interdependent, complex and ever-changing. To be effective, solutions must be rooted in local knowledge and led by community members. CED promotes holistic approaches, addressing individual, community and regional levels, recognizing that these levels are interconnected. (CCEDNET, 2010)

In this context, the concept of “community” is as much a geographical reference as it is a designation referring to the interconnectedness between people – a community of people with like-minded interests and affiliation. With a focus on local knowledge, CED as an approach is in contrast to the trickle down model of economic development in which the development of larger centres presumably spread to other communities (Schmidt et al., 1993; CCEDNET, 2010).

Some of the principles of CED include: improving social conditions for those most disadvantaged; recognition that social, economic and environmental challenges are interdependent; self-reliance and community control; capacity building; and recognition of interdependence with other communities (Lewis, 1991; Fagence, 1993; Laurer, 1993; SFU, 2010; CCEDN, 2010).

Traditional economic development has typically been associated with the development of industrial parks, use of incentive programs to attract large scale outside investments, and community promotion. All of these are measured in terms of employment and income indicators – a quantitative approach to assessing progress (i.e., concentrating on numbers, not people). CED demands other indicators, such as quality of life, the viability of the community, and stability in the community – all of which are much more qualitative in nature (Seasons, 1988; Schmidt, 1993).

Further to this way of thinking, “the major focus in economic development must not be on business development but on building the institutions – the organisational capacity – to do business development which builds greater community self-reliance” (Lewis, 1991: 3). Built into the concept of community economic development is the understanding that

development progresses over time as the number and capacity of community leaders grow (Cameron, 1997; Lotz, 1999). The community based development process contributes “to the ability and willingness of community members to initiate projects, programs, and businesses, to organise ventures, and to keep them running. Over time, the community develops a pool of leaders and followers with organisational talent, as well as hard skills” (Lewis, 1991: 11).

Aboriginal community economic development is not well-defined or highlighted in the general community economic development literature as a separate or distinct theme or subcategory of activity. However, it is well-recognized that (community) economic development in the Aboriginal context is clearly rooted in the concepts of community-based decision making, participation from the whole community, and taking a holistic approach to development which incorporates more than just pure economic activity to include social, health, environmental, and organizational concerns and outcomes.

There are three key frameworks which have recently led to significant global and local (Atlantic Canada) reformations in the thinking about economic development and the appropriate indicators which could be used to measure change. The first is *development as freedom* (as promoted by Sen, 1999). The second is *development as increasing capacities and decreasing vulnerabilities* (the Anderson-Woodrow framework, 1989). The third is *development as building on community assets* (Asset Based Community Development, as developed by Kretzmann and McKnight, 1993). Each of these is discussed in more detail below.

1. Development as Freedom

Can development be defined outside the boundaries of economic, political, social and environmental policies? Is there an overarching definition of development that can satisfy and unite socialists, free-market advocates, and differing social theorists? Amartya Sen has reframed development theory within the context of freedom. His research on famines, social choice theory, and economic philosophy provide insight into development policy and frameworks for development. In his seminal work, *Development as Freedom*, Amartya Sen defines development as economic, social and political freedom. Sen frees development from the hands of parochial economics and politics and gives it a philosophical base. Sen describes two possible approaches to development. One approach requires “toughness and discipline” and is marked by “blood sweat and tears”. The other approach, Sen calls a “much more ‘friendly’ process” (Sen, 1999, 36). One of the distinguishing characteristics of the above two development approaches is the use, or lack, of coercion.

The use of coercion in economic reform and development has always had a following. Examples of such are the socialist revolution in Russia, the communist revolution in China, and, arguably, the “democratic” revolution being waged by the USA in Iraq. There is, however, significant evidence that this is not the best means to development. As an example, consider China’s low birth rate, often considered a positive repercussion of heavy handed government planning. In fact, Sen (2004) says that there is some empirical

evidence that the drop in fertility in China may have less to do with its heavy-handed policy and more to do with its economic growth and increased employment opportunities for women. For example, Kerala has achieved a lower fertility rate than China through similar economic growth and female employment increases but without coercion. These examples seem far removed from our Canadian context and yet the fiduciary relationship between the Canadian federal government and the First Nations lends itself to top-down development programming. It is essential to consider that there are both economic freedoms (e.g. property rights – the right to own land and use for your own purposes) and political freedoms (e.g., the right to vote) are implied in the fiduciary responsibility. Though there are complex connections between political and economic freedoms, and the line between political versus economic freedom can be subtle, it has been found that economic freedoms have a much greater effect upon economic growth than do political freedoms (Ali and Crain, 2001). In trying to understand the roots of economic growth and development, further studies have demonstrated that economic freedoms are significantly affected by culture (Johnson and Lenartowicz, 2000).

The complexity of human and community development is rarely something that can be linked to a simple set of causal relationships; however, the above findings strongly correlate to individual and economic freedom with positive economic growth much more than heavy handed politics or any particular governance system. These economic freedoms are influenced, molded and expressed by the culture they are in. One of the most significant economic freedoms correlated with economic growth is property rights (Ali and Crain, 2001). Seemingly contrary to the literature on economic growth, the Indian Act states that the Crown owns reserve lands in trust for First Nations, limiting the freedom of use of the land for First Nations communities. The policy lag and distance of the federal government from the community and its needs and culture has restricted economic development in First Nations reserve communities. The lack of trust that persists as an inheritance of the residential school programme and as a result of continuing injustices of the Indian Act makes a non-coercive, community-owned plan for economic development the only possible route. Aboriginal communities are understandably attentive to any amount of top-down development programming. The road to economic growth will necessarily be one in which economic freedoms are increasingly sought and experienced. These economic freedoms will include increasing freedom in how land is used by First Nations as opposed to restricted terms of use as dictated by colonially influenced legislature.

2. Anderson-Woodrow Framework (Increasing Strengths, Decreasing Vulnerabilities)

Are economic development plans transforming communities, or are they harnessed by communities who are transforming themselves? Mary Anderson and Peter Woodrow of Harvard University have redefined development through a framework built upon reducing vulnerabilities and increasing capabilities.

Figure 1: Anderson-Woodrow Framework

	Vulnerabilities	Capacities
Physical/Material		
Social/Organizational		
		Motivational/Attitudinal

Source: Anderson and Woodrow as cited by McAllister, 2004, p. 9.

Rising from the Ashes (Anderson and Woodrow, 1989), offers an alternative definition of development: “the process by which vulnerabilities are reduced and capabilities increased” (Anderson & Woodrow, 1989, pg.12). Conspicuously absent in this definition is any mention of GDP, GNP, or other financial indicators. This definition of development opens new horizons for development theory. It indicates a means to seeing local traditions and cultures preserved, and even strengthened, through development.

The Anderson-Woodrow Framework helps distinguish sustainable development from relief work. Development work, and the indicators that measure development, are not to be confused with temporary relief of a community’s symptoms of under-development. An example of relief work would be the federal government’s response to the flooding in the community of Kashechewan in 2005. The response was a mass evacuation until the flooding subsided and the waters could be pumped from the homes. Though immediate measures were taken to alleviate and mitigate suffering, the government’s response was not actually development work as the community was no less vulnerable to future flooding. The definition of development offered by the Anderson-Woodrow Framework encourages a use of development indicators that would not just measure symptoms of under-development (e.g., crime, disease, etc.,) and rather, it encourages the use of indicators that would measure the very vulnerabilities (e.g., lack of access to meaningful employment, poor access to clean water, etc.,) that have caused such symptoms.

3. Asset-Based Community Development

Complimentary to the Anderson-Woodrow framework is the development framework of Kretzmann & McKnight (1993), called Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), builds upon the concept of enhancing the capabilities of a community from the Anderson-Woodrow framework. ABCD offers insight into why community capabilities (or assets) are important for development and how to understand these capabilities.

At the heart of the Kretzmann & McKnight model is the idea that development starts within a community as opposed to being applied solely by external forces. To begin the

development process one must assess the community's assets, capabilities, and strengths, upon which the development process will build. This distinctly contrasts many classical economic development theories, which focuses upon the needs of a community which policies aim to meet by externally conceived solutions.

3.2 Understanding What We Mean by “Indicators”

1. What is an Economic Indicator?

An indicator is a statistic that facilitates the measurement of a broader category of interest. Collectively, indicators are quantitative measurements of specific aspects of an issue or subject, within a community or population. Indicators essentially tell you how many people, or what proportion of people, have a particular condition or feature that is being measured.

For example, in schools, the grades of a student indicate the knowledge gained by the student. An economic development indicator is a statistical measure that gives an indication of progress made in economic growth and development of the region represented by the statistical data (OECD, 2010). In the case of economic development an indicator measures an end such as an increase in average income as opposed to performance measurements which measure the workings of a program, a means to an end. As identified by Lewis and Lockhart (2002), there are occasions in which a particular program, meant as a means to economic development, may prosper and yet the actual economic development, the end, is not achieved.

Economic development indicators can measure inputs and/or outcomes to the economy and, in this sense, indicators need not be the cause of what is measured but instead may measure something caused by or even a side effect of economic development. Indicators can be linked to inputs such as the increase in building permits, yet they may also be linked to outcomes such as an increase in general well-being. Input indicators reflect public or collective resources being put into advancing community well-being or addressing community well-being challenges while outcome indicators measure conditions or trends in the community or environment (Tomalty et al., 2005).

Hard indicators are indicators that focus upon data representative of the final goals or 'hard outcomes'. In the case of economic development this may be goals, such as increased employment or increased equality. Soft indicators recognise progress towards a 'hard outcome' (Johnstone and Johnstone, 2008). For example, in the case of a desired hard outcome of increased employment, soft outcomes, such as motivation, skills, confidence, measure the progress towards the hard outcomes (Johnstone and Johnstone, 2008). Johnstone and Johnstone claim that the use of soft indicators contributes to providing a "more rounded and truer" perspective on development projects. A challenge to using soft indicators is that these indicators often require primary data collection on subjective qualitative issues as opposed to objective data.

Indicators can be used to focus on negative issues such as measuring changes in poverty or deprivation. They may focus on positive issues such as measuring changes in strengths and assets. A combination of negative and positive indicators are incorporated into several frameworks such as those recommended by the Anderson-Woodrow framework previously introduced.

Indicators can be standalone items for measuring a specific goal; however, in the case of measuring economic development, indicators are usually elements of a greater framework representing the multiple objectives and facets of development such as health, the environment, economic and social goals. Two or more indicators can be rolled up into an index or a series of composite indices which attribute specific weighting to the indicators and the various greater categories within the framework in order to produce a single value as demonstrated by the United Nation's Human Development Index (United Nations, 2008).

2. Why Use Indicators?

Indicators are nested within models or frameworks which provide structure and provide a means for communities to organize their issues (and, by extension, the indicators and associated data). The simple provision of data on the broad concepts of sustainability, quality of life, or livability is meaningless without a structure or model within which to organize the information (Tomalty et al., 2005, p. 9).

Models need to have a set of principles at their base. The models examined by Tomalty et al (2005) found that the common starting points are the foundations of sustainability, well-being, or livability. They found that the local interpretation of the exact definition of these terms varied from place to place. The most common frameworks adopted within these broader concepts are issue-based, domain-based, and goal-based. The framework used by a community depends on the overall purpose of the model.

The major benefit gained from the use of indicators is a quantifiable result which can facilitate cross comparisons across regions and over time. For example, it would facilitate comparing one community's growth to another community's within the same time span, and across time. In addition, it would allow a community to compare its economic development progress from one year to another.

The quantifiable characteristic of indicators allows for insight into broader and less tangible goals such as that of a sense of well-being. In doing so, indicators also promote an understanding of where a community's development weaknesses and strengths lie.

Indicators inform policy action and therefore they should be linked to potential action items. The information from an indicator allows for an understanding of what changes or inputs could be made to improve the result measured by the indicator.

Indicators that measure economic development are an important tool enabling measurement and analysis of economic trends. There are however three important issues to be considered.

First, economic development is commonly confused with business development. In fact, a recent analysis of economic development programming (Lewis and Lockhart, 2002) found that budgets are primarily focused upon business growth and ignore other economic development goals such as increasing access to capital, job training and other key economic infrastructure items.

Second, economic indicators can end up driving the very process of development which means that the indicators must be carefully selected to represent the goals of the desired economic development. “What you measure affects what you do” said Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz after releasing a report on why GDP was not a sufficient indicator for economic growth (Kleiner, 2009, p.30). Stiglitz went on to say: “If you don’t measure the right thing, you don’t do the right thing.” It must be acknowledged that economic development indicators and frameworks are not simply passive measurement tools. Economic indicators also affect the direction and shape of future economic development.

As businesses, communities, and political bodies strive to contribute to economic development, the indicators used to measure development will guide the decisions made, the grant and funding structures and community priorities. The paradox of an evaluation tool is that it not only evaluates but it can also force an evolution as the subject of evaluation strives to meet the requirements for a positive assessment outcome. Therefore, it is fundamentally important that the measurement and assessment tools are thoughtfully and holistically developed. Communities are always changing and the development of communities constantly takes place. It is important to have development indicators and measurement tools which reflect Atlantic Aboriginal values and goals for community development.

A well-balanced economic assessment tool reflects the priorities of individuals and the communities they form. They provide accurate measurement of their economic activities, prediction of economic status through an analysis of trends and actively encourages economic activity consistent with the community’s priorities. These roles are pragmatically balanced by the difficulty in measuring certain priorities, the availability of data, and the expense in collecting data.

Third, economic development indicators must represent the individual goals and values of a community as these indicators will reflect the unique goals for an individual community’s development. Development policy must be recognized as not being neutral with respect to values or culture. The civil society that economic development policy facilitates requires cultural references and knowledge. This is a particularly sensitive issue for marginalized peoples and communities in relation to a more dominant or ubiquitous culture in which it finds itself surrounded. The choice of economic indicators is therefore not a neutral activity but rather one which reflects a specific definition and

direction of economic development. For this reason, it is important to identify elements of frameworks before a mass of indicators are chosen and data are collected for the purpose of measuring (and in doing so, defining) Atlantic Aboriginal economic development.

In May 2006 the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) within the United Nations reassessed and subsequently acknowledged the need to create culturally appropriate indicators to measure the development of Indigenous communities. The FAO report goes as far as to say that the “gap between state governments' and Indigenous peoples' worldviews concerning indicators development” was like, “as referred to by one expert ‘jagged worldviews colliding’” (FAO, 2006).

Culturally appropriate indicators would be those that reflect the unique goals, values and sensitivities of Atlantic Aboriginal communities going as far as influencing the very terminology used. For example, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples discovered that “the term social capital has been viewed as not being culturally appropriate and that social capacity was preferred terminology” (FAO, 2006).

The FAO report highlights the importance of development indicators emphasizing Indigenous peoples' inherent values, traditions, languages, and traditional orders or systems, including laws, governance, lands, economies etc. The report states that indicators must “include recognition of the value of Indigenous work (e.g. “making a living” versus “having a job”).” The report also suggests that culturally appropriate indicators would reflect the interactions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous systems “(social, political and economic, colonization, industrialization) that result in a series of impacts, such as racism and discrimination, migration to urban centres, youth suicide and disconnection to land and culture” (FAO, 2006). The report also proposed “indicators that demonstrate inequities and inadequacies in state funding attributed to Indigenous peoples' programming and services” (FAO, 2006).

3.3 Common Indicators and Outcomes for Economic Development

There are a variety of indicators that are used to measure economic development. The indicators change depending on the goals of economic development or the scope of the development project (for example, whether at a local, municipal, regional or national level). As in the composite indices further described in the next two sections of the literature review some of the most common indicators used are employment levels, employment income, business growth and educational attainment. Such indicators are broadly applied but can hide specific details that are often of great significance to communities. There are other indicators that refer to broader development outcomes such as health status, governance, equality, etc.

Employment

There are many possible indicators used to measure employment ranging from type of employment to the industry/sector of employment. The three most common measurements of employment are the employment rate, the labour force participation rate and the unemployment rate.

Employment Rate: The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development defines the employment rate as the percentage of the working age population (ages 15 to 64 in most OECD countries) who are currently employed (OECD, 2007).

Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate gives the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force (the total number of people employed plus unemployed) (OECD, 2006). The unemployment rate is essentially the measurement of those who are ready and willing to work but unable to find employment, despite actively searching for a job.

Labour Force Participation Rate: The labour force participation rate is defined as the ratio of the labour force to the working age population, expressed in percentages. The labour force participation rate is a measure of the extent of an economy's working-age population that is economically active. The labour force participation rate demonstrates the labour supply available for the production of goods and services (OECD, 2006).

Employment levels contribute to an understanding of the engagement of a community with the greater economy. A breakdown of the industries within which the jobs are located can contribute to an understanding of whether a community is stably diversified across a variety of industry types or vulnerable in its reliance on a specific industry. The recent report titled *The State of First Nations Economy and the Struggle to Make Poverty History* published by the Assembly for First Nations (AFN) recognizes that "many First Nations businesses are less well established, over-represented in the primary resources sector and more likely to be engaged (and exposed) in the export of goods and services" (Wien et al., 2009, p. 3).

Employment level is an indicator that must be understood within the context of the types of job the statistics represent. Are they sustainable? Are these jobs full-time or part-time? Do these jobs offer benefits, reasonable wages, contribute to a quality of life through a positive work environment?

Employment has been criticized as an insufficient indicator of development as it does not account for important aspects of individual well-being. A study on employment within a quickly developing city in South India states that measurements of employment should be composed of varying degrees of legal protection, regularity, reliability and autonomy; these elements are also dimensions of vulnerability that a worker is subject to. They identify ten labour indicators distinguishing between wage labour and self-employed workers, apprentices and family workers (Harriss et al., 1990).

Income

There are many different income indicators, of which the most commonly used are employment income, total income (from all sources), income from government transfer payments and income inequality.

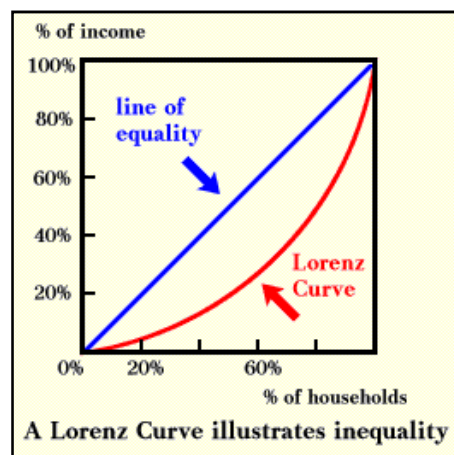
Employment Income: Refers to total income received by persons during a calendar year as wages and salaries, net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice, and/or net farm self-employment income (Statistics Canada, 2006a).

Income from Government Transfer Payments: Income from government transfer payments includes child tax benefits, Canada Pension Plan, employment insurance benefits, social assistance, worker's compensation, tax credits and any other transfers from provincial/territorial or federal government (Statistics Canada, 2006a).

Total income: Total income includes employment income but also includes other sources of income such as investment income, retirement pensions and includes government transfer payments.

Income Inequality: Income inequality is calculated using a variety of methods. One useful method is to use the Lorenz curve which divides the data representing household income into 5 equal groups each containing 20% of the number of data points. Aggregate income is then calculated for each quintile allowing for comparison such as between the percentage of the total population's income if income was distributed equitably and the actual portion held by the same percentage of the population (Raj, 1998). As seen in Figure 2, the area between the line of equality with the Lorenz curve provides a numerical value through which to measure and compare levels of inequality.

Figure 2: Income Inequality - The Lorenz Curve



Source: Image from <http://ingrimayne.com>.

Income inequality is important to consider within a community and between communities. Branko Milanovic has demonstrated that inequality is one of the fundamental development issues facing the world today affecting social security, peace, quality of life and a sense of well-being (Milanovic, 2005). Inequality goes beyond income and can be a useful paradigm in which to consider a variety of important indicators such as employment opportunities or even access to capital. A recent study (Wien et al., 2009) comparing the development goals and challenges of First Nations communities in Canada to the challenge of eliminating poverty across the country highlights the persistent and the sometimes increasing inequality between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Canada. The same report highlights the need to address access to capital, youth employment, rural versus urban population and institutional elements (such as the presence or absence of development officers, organisations, trade commissions, etc.).

Educational attainment

Educational attainment is of significant relevance as it relates to several goals of economic development, namely, employability, innovation, health, and gender equality. Studies have demonstrated that education levels, especially for women, directly affect the health of families and therefore the consistency and strength of the workforce. Studies have also demonstrated the incorporation of cultural elements within education increases the educational levels of a population demonstrating a link between cultural identity and community/self-worth with learning. One study demonstrates that since the Mi'kmaq Education Act was brought into effect in 1998, graduation rates are rising dramatically within the Mi'kmaq population (Mendelson, 2008).

A word of caution related to the use of educational attainment as a measurement of a community's economic health comes from Michael Corbett's *Learning to Leave* (2007) in which he demonstrates that secondary education within Nova Scotia is particularly urban-biased. His study of the community of Digby Neck linked educational attainment with an out-migration to urban centres. Students who stayed in the community were typically those who dropped out of school early to participate within the community's main industry of lobster fishing and its support trades.

Dependency on Federal & Provincial Government Transfer Payments

Government transfer payments is a broad term which includes payments to individuals, payments to businesses and payments to communities.

Individual Transfer Payments: Individual transfer payments are from both federal and provincial governments, and includes items such as Canadian Pension Plan (CPP), Employment Insurance (EI), Old Age Security (OAS), Disability Pension (DP), Child Tax Benefit (CTB) from federal government; Social Assistance (SA) from provincial government.

Transfer Payments to Businesses: Transfer payments to businesses includes various specific grants and loans from provincial and federal sources. It also includes all other types of tax reductions or waivers, benefits, and other types of financial incentives.

Community Transfer Payments: According to Indian and Northern Affairs, “A transfer payment is a term used to describe the transfer of funds from the Government of Canada to a funding recipient. The funding transferred to First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Northern communities helps establish good governance and effective institutions and enables them to deliver essential services such as education, social assistance and housing and community infrastructure to their community members. The funding is transferred by means of a funding agreement which is a contract signed by both parties (Representative of the Government of Canada and representative for the recipient) and includes specific terms and conditions which must be met.” (INAC, 2010)

Within the context of the economic development of First Nations communities the dependency on federal government transfer payments is also a frequently used indicator. This is relevant for two key reasons. A decrease in reliance on government funding demonstrates an ability to generate revenue within a community without external help. Second, a decrease upon government funding fulfills the goal of independence from reliance upon the government which is one of the three key goals by which the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has aligned its measurement of the economic development of First Nations.

While employment, income, and educational attainment are the most commonly used indicators to measure economic development, there are several other indicators that are used frequently.

Transparency of Governance

Transparency of governance is an indicator that measures the potential for corruption within a government and the level of trust a community has in its government. “The lack of transparency in official governmental transactions is one of the biggest barriers to development today” (Development Gateway Foundation, 2005). Transparency of government lessens the possibility of corruption and advances democratic practice (Development Gateway Foundation, 2005) which are necessary building blocks for economic development.

Democracy

Democracy is an important mechanism through which a community controls its own direction. Amartya Sen won the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics for demonstrating that the level of democracy in India had a direct effect on the frequency and extent of famines. The more responsibility a government has to its citizens, the more careful it is in avoiding and mitigating the effect of any potential disasters to its citizenry.

Gender Equality

Gender equality has long been recognized as an important element of economic development. As educational and economic opportunities open up to men and woman alike, family incomes increase as well as the life expectancy and the health of families. It has also been demonstrated that women tend to be the most effective recipients of micro-credit to begin entrepreneurial initiatives.

Though gender equality must be calculated using several other sources of data (for example, a comparison of male and female education and income levels), gender equality is an indicator for economic development. The World Bank, in a 2004 Working Paper, states that improving gender equality in “education and employment may initiate a continuous cycle of positive reinforcing feedback effects between gender equality in employment and economic development leading to further improvements in both” (Chen, 2004, p.1)

Ecological Impact

An ecological footprint is a measurement of resources required to sustain the average lifestyle of an individual within a community or of the community as a whole (Wackernagel, 1994). The ecological footprint is an indicator for economic development but is also an index in itself. Indicators used to calculate the ecological footprint include: biocapacity area, carbon sequestration, fossil fuel consumption, land use and water use (Venetoulis and Talberth, 2006). *The Brundtland Report* which links poverty and debt with ecology links economic development with ecological concerns by stating: "A world in which poverty is endemic will always be prone to ecological and other catastrophes." (Brundtland, 1987, p 8) Ecological concern within the context of economic development has long been a part of Aboriginal perspectives on development.

The Haudenosaunee (a tribe that straddles Ontario, Québec, and New York state) have long held to the teaching that “decisions must be morally right taking into consideration the needs of seven generations to come”. As part of the Six Nations’ *Great Law of Peace*, this statute encompasses *The Brundtland Report’s* definition of sustainable development and surpasses it in terms of the future considerations needed to determine the cost of present development (The Six Nations, 2006). From the perspective of cost-benefit analysis and considering the present value of future development, the *Great Law of Peace* will usually calculate a higher cost to present development than *The Brundtland Report*. The result is a much more restrained and careful approach to development.

Ecological footprint, *The Brundtland Report* analysis and the analysis based on the Great Law of Peace would all be categorised as composite indices or collections of ecological indicators. All three analyses demonstrate the value of the inclusion of indicators which measure ecological outcomes within the context of sustainable economic development.

3.4 Composite Indices for Measuring Development

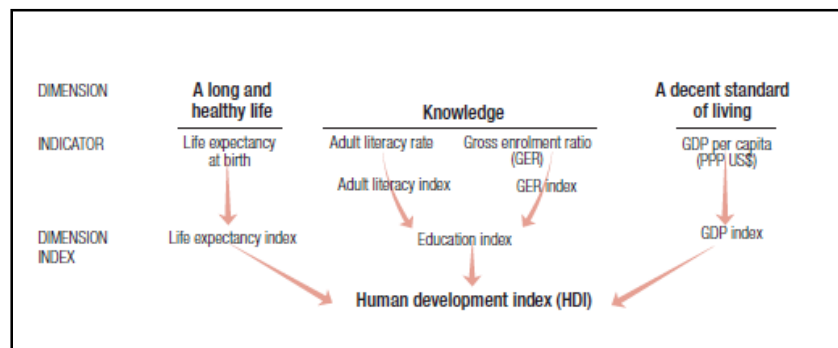
There are a large number of models and composite indices presently being used to measure development; some of the more useful and relevant are discussed briefly in this section. These models and composite indices provide insight into definitions of economic development, important variables to consider and pragmatic trade-offs that are necessary in order to produce a holistic yet useable index.

The United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI)

The United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI) is an attempt to formulate an international comparison of development. It is a meta-index devised of three other composite indices: The GDP Index; The Education Index; and the Life Expectancy Index. There have been criticisms of the UNHDI for not including an index of ecological consideration (Sagar and Nagum, 1998) as well as for “reinventing the wheel” by dealing with issues already exhausted in the economic literature (Srinivasan, 1994).

The GDP Index, The Education Index and the Life Expectancy Index are each collections of data themselves. The average of these three composite indices creates the UNHDI as demonstrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: United Nations Human Development Index (HDI)



Source: Technical Report 1 of UNDP, 2008.

The HDI is then used to rank member countries from those scoring highest on the index to those scoring lowest on the index. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) states that the HDI can be used in three ways:

1. To capture the attention of policy makers, media and NGOs and by drawing their attention away from the more usual economic statistics to focus instead on human outcomes. The HDI was created to re-emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth.
2. To question national policy choices - asking how two countries with the same level of income per person can end up with such different human development outcomes (HDI levels). For example, Costa Rica and Iran have similar levels of income per person, but life expectancy and literacy differ greatly between the two countries, with Costa Rica having a much higher HDI value than Iran. These striking contrasts immediately stimulate debate on government policies on health and education, asking why what is achieved in one country is far from the reach of another.

3. To highlight wide differences within countries, between provinces or states, across gender, ethnicity, and other socioeconomic groupings. Highlighting internal disparities along these lines has raised national debate in many countries (United Nations, 2008).

Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Quality of Life Index

Another development index is the Quality of Life Index used by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. This index is based on seventy-two indicators divided into ten main determinants. The main determinants of well-being as measured by the Quality of Life Index and their associated indicators are as follows:

- *Affordable Appropriate Housing*: spending 30%+ of income on shelter (spending 30% or more of income on shelter is an indicator of having a housing affordability problem), spending 50%+ of income on shelter (spending 50% or more of income on shelter is an indicator of having a deep housing affordability problem and being at-risk of becoming homeless), core housing need, substandard units, changing face of homelessness, vacancy rates, rental housing starts, monthly rents
- *Civic Engagement*: Voter turnout, women in municipal government, newspaper circulation, volunteering, charitable donations
- *Community and Social Infrastructure*: Social housing waiting lists, rent geared-to-income housing, social assistance allowance, subsidised child care spaces, public transit costs, social service professionals, private health care expenditures
- *Education*: education levels, literacy levels, adult learning, education expenditures, classroom size, student/teacher ratio, post-secondary tuition, spending on private education
- *Employment*: Unemployment/employment rates, quality of employment, long-term employment, labour force replacement
- *Local Economy*: Business bankruptcies, personal bankruptcies, hourly wages, changes in family income, building permits
- *Natural Environment*: Air quality, urban transportation, population density, water consumption, wastewater treatment, solid waste, ecological footprint, recreational water quality.
- *Personal and Community Health*: Low birth weight babies, teen births, premature mortality, work hours lost, suicides, infant mortality

- *Personal Financial Security*: Community affordability, number of families receiving EI/Social assistance, economic dependency ratio, lone-parent families, incidence of low income families, children living in poverty, income gap.
- *Personal Security*: Young offenders, violent crimes, property crimes, injuries and poisonings

Genuine Progress Index (GPI)

The Genuine Progress Index is increasingly being used to account for a number of deficiencies in the standard measurements of economic growth. It was originally developed by the research and policy organization named *Redefining Progress* that is based in San Francisco. The GPI's original purpose was to:

“... measure social, environmental, and economic well-being of the United States by adjusting per capita GDP to account for other variables. The GPI is built upon consumer expenditures, which are then adjusted for inequality in the distribution of goods and income, the rate of depreciation in durable goods, and expenses due to crime and social problems, as well as costs associated with underemployment and pollution. The estimated value of non-market work, such as child care and volunteer work, is added to GDP. The GPI also considers the long term cost of dependence on fossil fuels, and the loss of wetlands, forests, and farmland (Cobb, Goodman, and Kliejunas, 2000; Sharpe, 1999)” (Cooke, 2005, p3).

GPI Atlantic is an Atlantic Canada organization dedicated to the promotion of the GPI within a Canadian context. GPI Atlantic is a variation and working model of the GPI geared towards measuring the well-being of Atlantic Canada and divides its index into five categories, twenty subcategories and numerous indicators. Categories and subcategories are as follows:

- *Natural Capital*: energy, air quality, forestry, soils and agriculture, fisheries, water quality
- *Human Impact on the Environment*: greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable transportation, ecological footprint, solid waste
- *Social Capital*: population, crime, education
- *Time Use*: economic value of civic and voluntary work, economic value of unpaid housework and childcare, hours of work, value of leisure time
- *Living Standards*: income distribution, debt and assets, economic security index

The work of GPI Atlantic is at the forefront of designing indicators and systems to measure the development and well-being of Nova Scotia. In the report titled *New Policy*

Directions for Nova Scotia (Pannozzo and Coleman, 2009) attention is drawn to the importance of a full-cost accounting method when judging policy directions. The importance of full-cost accounting, using a system such as the GPI, is the very difference between good intentions and effective policy. For example, Pannozzo and Coleman evaluate the “Buy Local” campaign launched by the Nova Scotia government in 2007 intended to promote the buying of locally and organically grown produce (p. 137).

In an evaluation of the campaign, Pannozzo and Coleman write:

“And yet, from a GPI full-cost accounting perspective, it is absurd that organically grown local food is more expensive in retail stores than chemically grown food imported from 2,000 km away—a perversity made possible only by ignoring the true costs of soil degradation, transportation, greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions, and other actual costs of production and distribution, and by ignoring the true value of improved nutrition, freshness, health, resource conservation, and the multiplier job and financial effects of stimulating the local farm economy.” (p.137)

The GPI introduces a system which aims to assess the true cost of energy in order to inform policy in such a way that effective incentives and penalties will be designed to affect prices, production decisions and consumer habits allowing a province or community to guide itself towards sustainability.

The significance to the GPI full-cost accounting system may be relevant to Atlantic Aboriginal communities with a stake in forestry and fisheries. For example, in looking towards sustainability for the forestry industry GPI assesses: the forestry age distribution, the number of known forest species at risk, protected area as a percentage of total land, harvest methods, value added per cubic metre of wood harvested, and jobs per unit of biomass (p. 149).

There are also significant contributions by GPI to the inclusion of social capital by measuring volunteer work, hours per volunteer, volunteer burnout as well as measuring unpaid work such as child rearing or housekeeping (p. 140). In small communities such as many reserve communities, these elements can be important indicators to the health of the community and its sustainability.

The Canadian Index of Well-Being (CIW)

The Canadian Index of Well-Being is not meant to measure Canada relative to other countries, but rather to be specific to Canada (Kleiner, 2009). The eight key areas that CIW research has identified as important to Canadians in contributing to well-being are: living standards; healthy populations; community vitality; environment; education; time use; democratic engagement; and arts, culture and recreation (Kleiner, 2009).

The indicators that the index uses are still in development. In the case of measuring time use, the indicators will need to measure such things as time spent at work, time spent commuting, time engaged in child care, etc., (Kleiner, 2009).

Though the CIW is a new index still in development, it has received cooperation from Statistics Canada and has already (at the time of this report) released three reports on its first three domains: living standards; healthy populations; and community vitality. One of the difficulties faced in creating the CIW is the inaccessibility of data required to populate the indicators and domains.

Challenges of Employing an Index in an Indicator System

There are several conclusions that can be drawn from the comparison of these composite indices and frameworks as well as from other studies that are pertinent to the development of an Aboriginal Economic Development Indicator System. First, if the definition of economic development is broad, a larger number of indicators are required to adequately report on economic development progress. The vast array of statistics that would be required may complicate and compromise the accuracy and usefulness of an index. Indices with more indicators typically rely heavily on census data as well as administrative data and data from other sources.

Second, if a less holistic view of economic development is adopted (usually in the name of pragmatism), the number of indicators necessary can be limited allowing for greater ease and accuracy in data collection, as well as potentially a more direct connection between the index findings and possible policy action.

Third, there is a concern about how to properly do the weighting of each indicator within an index. A pragmatic decision is to equally weight all indicators; however, is the improvement in education attainment really of equal importance to a community as the increase in participation of community events? It is difficult to derive mathematical values for such differences (although with an appropriate amount of data, econometrics can shine a fair amount of light on this). These technical challenges associated with the weighting of indicators to create an index often result in equal weighting used as a compromise, demonstrating the difficulty in theoretically and practically valuing the various inputs into development.

Fourth, it is difficult to standardize the values across all indicators so that they have relative meaning and possibility for adding together for an index score or value. For example, how does one add together the value for “average household income” and “percent of persons with a university degree” as part of an index score?

Fifth, beyond the mathematical or conceptual complexity of creating an index, an index necessarily involves value judgements (Kleiner, 2009, p.32). Depending on the weighting attributed to each indicator and outcome, the index claims that one outcome is more important than another to well-being.

Sixth, rolling indicators together into an index can be a useful comparison tool as it provides a simple quantitative value. However, this oversimplifies the many variables and stories that exist within the individual indicators and data. In the end it must never be forgotten that the data reflect real human lives. Within any index it should be possible to disaggregate the information to facilitate specific comparison of specific indicators between specific communities. This is supported by the work of Tomalty et al (2005). Their review of various indicator and community reporting models, and the general literature on this topic, found that composite indices are convenient ways to communicate overall changes in communities (and they also tend to attract media interest!). They note, however, that composite indices do tend to mask important counter-currents in a community. They concluded that there is no little or no guiding theory in the design of composite indices.

3.5 Aboriginal Perspectives on Economic Indicators

The relationship of a community to the land is of particular poignancy for Aboriginal communities although recent literature suggests that this is a severely underestimated concept within all development frameworks. An integrated approach to development might also be referred to as indigenised development. Indigenised development is a process guided by a relationship, not between developed and underdeveloped, nor between agent and client, but rather of threads and of co-visionaries. “Indigenous means ‘to be of a place’” (Deloria and Wildcat, p. 31) writes Aboriginal academic Vine Deloria. Expanding on Deloria and Wildcat’s definition of “indigenised”, an indigenised development framework would be one that is grounded in assessing the ability of development to meet the needs of a distinct community in a distinct geographical and cultural setting. The emphasis on place is potentially at odds with a model for economic development influenced by globalization that envisions a homogenous national or global economy. Helena Norberg-Hodge, winner of the Right Livelihood Award (often referred to as the “alternative Nobel prize”) writes of globalization’s inherent weakness as being its disconnection from a place:

“The myth of globalization is that we no longer need to be connected to a place on the earth... Globalization is creating a way of life that denies our natural instincts by severing our connection to others and to nature. And — because it is erasing both biological and cultural diversity — it is destined to fail” (Norberg-Hodge, 1996).

The concept of “counter-development” is an emerging field within development studies focusing on the process of turning recipients of development into agents of development. This process is called “localization”. “The power of localization as a socioeconomic movement lies in its ability to create civil society through community action” (Natarajan, 2005, p.409). The civil society that “Indigenous Development” seeks to facilitate requires cultural references and knowledge. Such a process would then require culturally appropriate indicators.

An example of the seemingly subtle but potentially powerful difference of an Indigenous development approach would be to consider education. This is a particularly sensitive issue for minority and marginalized peoples and communities. Education has been understood, within the context of “Human Capital” theory, to be an important contributor to economic growth and has, therefore, been measured in its effectiveness according to its contributions to economic growth. Yet, it must be acknowledged that Canadian education initiatives for First Nations communities have a dismal history. The residential school programs continue to haunt individuals and communities, reduce trust between communities and are a detriment to culture. Even today, Aboriginal students have the lowest post-secondary success rate of any other group in Canada (DeGagne, 2002, 104). As a movement from abstraction to applied relevance, recent economic literature points toward the need for increased community involvement (Putnam, Leonardi, Nanetti, 1994), to the ineffectiveness of traditional aids such as texts unless the students are predisposed to the method, and to issues of quality over quantity (Knowles and Behrman, 2003). Additionally, development literature is beginning to embrace the idea of place-specific development plans that include different educational approaches more relevant to local communities (Deloria and Wildcat, 2001, Natarajan, 2005, Norberg-Hodge, 1996).

From an Aboriginal or Indigenous perspective, the concept of development is built around the notion that it should “enhance and support indigenous cultures, including an increase in the material quality of life... development ought to be based first and foremost upon indigenous ideas and models” (Newhouse, 2005: 1). It is clear from this work that there are indeed specific Aboriginal approaches to (economic) development. Newhouse reminds us that development indicators are interdependent and interconnected: “This is usually given expression through the choice of a circle as an organizing method and the various directions as a method of grouping selected indicators. This display allows one to obtain an overview of the progress towards or movement away from various goals” (Newhouse, 2005: 1). Furthermore, the notion of (economic) development in the Aboriginal context, from his perspective, is rooted in the importance of ensuring balance among economic, social, psychological, and spiritual elements.

The following composite indices are attempts at measuring development for specific Aboriginal populations in Canada through the choice of indicators as well as the framework adopted to collect and assess the indicators.

The Community Well-Being Index (CWBI)

This was developed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The Community Well Being Index is intended to be used to “compare Aboriginal communities and non-Aboriginal communities, to develop trends over time, and to help identify correlates of well-being, including policies and programmes that improve social and economic conditions in communities” (Cooke, 2005, 1). The Community Well-Being Index is built upon four components: Income, Education, Labour Force Activity, and Housing.

Criticisms of the CWBI could be centered on the omission of both social equity (e.g., gender equity) and a measure of environmental conditions. These and other criticisms are responded to by the need to limit the scope of the CWBI:

The authors of the CWB recognize that the index focuses mainly on “mainstream” socio-economic aspects of well-being, and do not take into account the differences in values or cultures between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, or other aspects, such as physical or psychological health (McHardy and O’Sullivan, 2004: 8). However, the limited availability of data, particularly those that would allow comparisons between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, means that the CWBI is necessarily limited in scope (Cooke, 2005, 16).

The Registered Indian Human Development Index (RIHDI)

The Registered Indian Human Development Index was also developed by INAC and is based on the three areas that the UNDP recognize as essential in measuring well-being:

- A long and healthy life
- Knowledge
- A decent standard of living

Subsequently, the RIHDI is a composite index of three other composite indices: life-expectancy index, education index, per capita income index. The results are broken down between region, gender, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities (INAC, 2004).

Developing a Sustainability Indicator System to Measure the Well-Being of Winnipeg’s First Nations Community

The International Institute for Sustainable Development used the framework of the medicine wheel to organise indicators that represent the well-being of Winnipeg’s First Nations community for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

Through a series of “Feasts and Forums” individuals shared their concerns and what was important to them. For example, participants focused in on issues such as racism, security, school quality, access to jobs and homes, suffering from Diabetes and STDs, access to natural resources, the strength of cultural identity, access to social services, etc.

In order to consider the well-being of Winnipeg's First Nations community the report identifies information that fits four categories as represented by the four directions of the medicine wheel. Under these four categories are a total of ten subcategories each with a variety of indicators. The list of subcategories and the accompanying indicators is below:

- *Environmental Security*: number of First Nations police officers, number of First Nations people in jail, number of crimes against First Nations people

- *Housing*: number of First Nations people who own their own home, number of First Nations people who rent, number of First Nations people who live in low income housing, number of First Nations people who lack affordable housing/are homeless
- *Economic Governance*: number of First Nations people eligible to vote, number of First Nations people who actually vote, number of programs teaching First Nations governance, number of First Nations students studying governance, number of First Nations people in leadership or governance roles
- *Employment*: number of First Nations owned businesses, number of First Nations run businesses, length of employment, sectors of employment, number of First Nations people considered working poor
- *Social Health*: number of First Nations people receiving home care, number of First Nations people in personal care homes, number of First Nations people with a disability, number of First Nations people with chronic health conditions, number of First Nations children registered in recreational sport
- *Education*: number of First Nations teachers, Number of First Nations children/youth registered in school at beginning of year and those successfully completing the year's studies, number of First Nations people attending post-secondary school, number of First Nations people graduating from post-secondary school
- *Culture Cultural Identity*: number of First Nations people speaking native languages, number of schools with First Nations curriculum, number of First Nations cultural events, number of First Nations people accessing/consuming traditional foods, number of First Nations Elders invited to teach traditional ways in schools
- *Community Services*: number of community service organizations serving First Nations people, number of First Nations people volunteering, distribution of services for First Nations in the city

An Urban Aboriginal Life: The 2005 Indicators Report on the Quality of Life of Aboriginal People in the Greater Vancouver Region

This report used 33 indicators divided into twelve categories arranged in the four traditional directions of the medicine wheel. The medicine wheel framework represents Cultural as East, Social as South, Economic as West, and Environment as North. The twelve categories and the indicators used are as follows:

- *Culture and Family*: people speaking traditional languages, participation in traditional activities, Aboriginal children in care, childcare access

- *Health*: infant mortality rate, life expectancy, rates of diabetes, rates of cancer, rates of HIV/AIDS
- *Education*: high school graduation rate, the number graduating from post-secondary programs, percentage in special needs/alternative programs
- *Crime and Safety*: incarceration rates, rates of violent crime
- *Employment*: employment rates, percentage with a managerial position
- *Income*: percentage living below the poverty line, average household incomes, shelter cost-to-income ratio, Social assistance rates
- *Entrepreneurship*: percentage of the workforce that is self-employed
- *Youth*: unemployment rates and income levels
- *Resources & Land*: amount of green space, amount of protected areas, Aboriginal salmon harvest in the lower Fraser River
- *Air*: air quality for certain pollutants, air emissions for certain pollutants
- *Rivers & Oceans*: water quality for certain water bodies, number of water bodies reporting salmon escapement
- *Homes*: percentage of Aboriginal households in housing units requiring repairs, average number of persons in Aboriginal households, number of Aboriginal low-income housing units, number of Aboriginal homeless people.

The data collected for this report was standardized as much as possible to facilitate:

- Comparisons over time
- Comparisons between the Aboriginal and the non-Aboriginal populations
- Comparisons between the Aboriginal population in the Greater Vancouver Region and the total Aboriginal population of British Columbia.

Indicators were rated according to one of four categories: strong, improving/fair, deteriorating/ weak, or poor. The report (Cardinal and Adin, 2005) concluded with some useful recommendations for further study of Aboriginal development. Five of the recommendations are pertinent to this present study:

1. Improve the gathering of vital statistics data regarding Aboriginal people to include all Aboriginal people, not just Status Indians. Lack of information regarding other portions of the Aboriginal population inhibits a full picture of the condition of health in the Aboriginal community from appearing.

2. Available data should be disaggregated into the various Aboriginal groups (i.e. First Nation, Métis and Inuit) to highlight trends and conditions regarding these equally important Aboriginal groups.
3. Conduct further research into what constitutes a “traditional” activity.
4. Undertake further research regarding both diabetes and cancer rates in the urban Aboriginal community. Rates for both diseases have significantly increased over the past 50 years, and urban Aboriginal populations may be influenced by characteristics that are unique compared to the rural population.
5. A comprehensive study regarding Aboriginal involvement in the local urban economy is needed to examine the changing level of involvement, especially among youth.

The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development

The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (known as “The Harvard Project”) has published a paper attempting to take stock of economic changes between the years 1990 and 2000 on American Indian reservations (Taylor and Kait, 2005). The study considers 15 census indicators relating to four different measures: Income, Employment, Housing and Education.

- *Income*: real per capita income, real median household income, family poverty, child poverty, deep poverty, public assistance
- *Employment*: unemployment, labour force participation, government and non-profit sector
- *Housing*: overcrowded housing, homes lacking complete plumbing, homes lacking complete kitchen
- *Education*: college graduates, high school or equivalency only, less than 9th grade education

The findings of the Harvard Project dovetail with research on the importance of culturally appropriate economic development. Lewis and Lockhart state: “The Harvard Project’s well-known field-based research in Indian Country consistently finds that the effective exercise of sovereignty, combined with capable and culturally grounded institutions of self-government, are indispensable keys to successful, long-term development of Native communities. The concrete dimensions of “cultural match” – finding governing and other institutional structures that are consonant with individual Native nations’ cultural standards of legitimacy and feasibility – form the heart of the challenge of nation building in Indian Country and beyond.” (Lewis and Lockhart, 2002, Appendix 2, p.49)

Summary of Aboriginal Development Frameworks and Indicators

Each of the above examples, frameworks and composite indices have strengths and weaknesses which inform the creation of economic development indicators for Atlantic Aboriginal communities. Norberg-Hodge (1996) and Natarajan (2005) dismiss the notion of globalised and standardised development stating that development should be envisioned and measured differently according to the unique qualities of individual communities and regions. Deloria and Wildcat (2001) specifically attach people and their sense of well-being to their relationships with a geographic and cultural place. The CWBI demonstrates the potential for comparison of Aboriginal communities with non-Aboriginal communities. It also demonstrates, as Cooke (2005) states, the difficulty in reflecting Aboriginal specific indicators and outcomes due to a lack of readily available data. The Winnipeg's First Nations Community project demonstrates the power of using an Indigenous framework such as the medicine wheel, to reflect a holistic and Aboriginal mindset within the economic development process. The Vancouver project and the Harvard Project both provide a variety of indicators relevant to Aboriginal communities in the context of development. They are not all pertinent to the more focused outcomes of economic development. Many of these indicators require new primary data collection activities. The usefulness and the applicability of indicators are dictated, somewhat, by the scale of the project, differing from local level projects or larger regional and national projects.

3.6 Lessons from the Literature Review

Communities are in constant change, and development (or lack thereof) is ongoing. Indicators are needed which reflect Aboriginal interests to serve as a means of assessing where we are now, where we are heading, and our progress within the development process. The indicators chosen need to be relevant and meaningful in the Aboriginal context while allowing for appropriate comparison with non-Aboriginal people and communities. The indicators must also be meaningful enough that decisions can be made by Aboriginal leaders about appropriate changes in policies and programs which will improve the outcomes against these indicator measures.

The indicators will not only be passive measures by which to gauge economic development, but, in their design and details they will create an understanding of economic development. They will actively guide the policy decisions that are made which affect nations, communities and individuals. In appreciation of the important role that these indicators will play, several key considerations must be referred to:

1. The first challenge is to define what is meant by economic development. The five principles of the *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy* (as stated in the introduction to this section) outline the overarching definition of economic development for Atlantic Aboriginal communities. Concurrent with the *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy*, economic development literature challenges us to understand economic development as different from mere

economic growth. Sustainable economic development, as first defined by the *Brundtland Report*, considers sustainable growth as that which does not regard natural resources as assets to be quickly liquidated for short-term gain but rather a capital asset on which to develop both a growth in profit and a growth in capital itself. It is of particular importance that an Aboriginal economic development indicator reflects this prudent use of natural resources as much of Aboriginal economic activity is tied to the primary sector.

2. The emerging studies of well-being and happiness reveal the subjective nature of economic development indicators. Increases in income and consumption, previously considered evidence of economic development and therefore “good”, do not provide sustained increases in an individual’s or a community’s sense of well-being. Studies demonstrate that happiness is directly linked to trust and a sense of trust is a prime consideration of social cohesion. Trust is rarely affected by income levels as much as it is facilitated by institutional and policy level planning and decisions. Aboriginal communities have a particularly unique level of social cohesion given the common family and ancestral history of many living with a reserve community as compared to the diversity often found within a non-Aboriginal community.
3. Heeding the warning of academics such as Vine Deloria and Helena Norberg-Hodge, development is fundamentally and uniquely defined by geographic location. An indicator that results in a standardized strategy for economic development would not properly reflect the dangers of a mono-economic development strategy based upon a globalization model. Nor would it reflect the opportunities for diverse and deep development that is uniquely rooted in a community’s strengths. The *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy* forms part of the consideration for choosing indicators, but it is also important to consider long term basic indicators which will outlive any specific strategy.
4. A framework for the Aboriginal economic development indicators should be rooted in not only developing a community’s strengths but also in reflecting the desire to decrease a community’s vulnerabilities.
5. There are very insightful frameworks to be found within Aboriginal tradition which, if adapted, help to develop a holistic approach to development. These traditional frameworks, such as the medicine wheel, are important to utilise as their familiarity to a community immediately creates a sense of ownership over the model deepening the meaning and usefulness of the framework to the community.
6. Inequality provides a context for understanding measurements of development. As previously mentioned, inequality has become recognised as one of the most important indicators of sustainable development (Milanovic, 2005). The recent release of *The State of the First Nation Economy and the Struggle to Make Poverty History* highlights the persistent and sometimes (depending on the

indicator) increasing inequality between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Canada. The same report highlights the need to address access to capital, youth employment, reserve versus urban population, and institutional elements (such as development officers, organisations, trade commissions, etc.,) (Wien et al., 2009). These could be indicators in assessing Aboriginal economic development.

7. There is a pragmatic trade-off that must be made between accumulating indicators to represent as holistic and specific approach to economic development as possible with restricting the number of indicators to fewer in number and to those that can be easily measured so as to ensure accurate and consistent data to analyse.

4 Organizing Framework

Indicators are nested within models or frameworks which provide structure and provide a means for communities to organize their issues (and, by extension, the indicators and associated data). Indicators which are not part of a coherent model lack meaning and utility. The simple provision of data on the broad concepts of sustainability, quality of life, or livability is meaningless without a structure or model within which to organize the information. Common starting points are the foundations of sustainability, well-being, or livability.

The *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy* (AEBS) has five principles for economic development (as noted in Section 3). These should guide the development of any tools designed to measure and promote economic development. These five principles are:

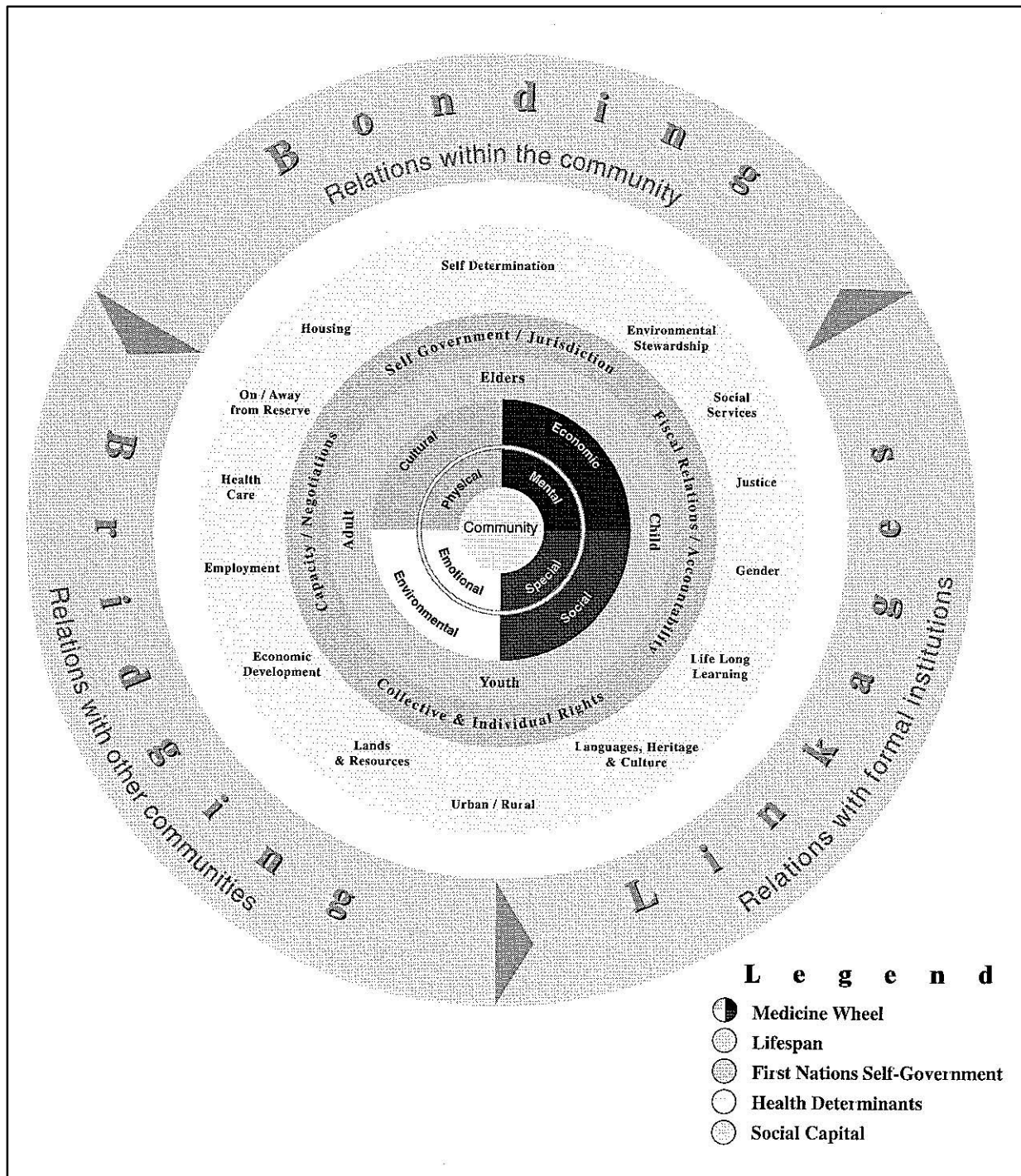
1. Self-sufficiency, self-sustainability
2. Self-determination
3. Long term stability
4. Integration with environmental outcomes
5. Based on the determinants of health.

One pan-Aboriginal conceptual framework (among many possible frameworks) is the idea of a Four-Directional Model, building on the general concepts of various versions of the notion of the Medicine Wheel (although not all Aboriginal people or communities necessarily feel that this framework applies to them or has strong roots or resonance for them). While there are many different versions, applications, and interpretations of the medicine wheel, the overall concept of a Four-Directional Model (one variation of this is presented in Figure 4) illustrates the highly interconnected nature of all elements of life for a community and for individuals. The Model reinforces the highly circular and evolutionary approach to thinking about life. Economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects are intimately linked and are related to one another. Furthermore, these have direct connections to how individuals live their lives, and are influenced by the forces or determinants of health (broadly conceptualized) which impact individuals and communities. How these interact and how they impact individuals, changes over time as people grow from early childhood to becoming an elder in their communities.

Members of the Advisory Committee and Indicators Working Group concurred that as a general organizing framework, the Four-Directional Model is helpful for reminding people about the interconnectedness of all aspects of life, and therefore, the interconnectedness of indicators. It was recognized that while reporting on individual indicators would be useful for this project, the indicators are interconnected. This interconnectedness has implications for the interpretation of the data and the choice of actions to improve conditions. In addition, the participants in the two groups felt that it was important not to become obsessed with the “correct” naming of various domains and assigning indicators “correctly” to a specific domain. There is a high degree of variability in how the concept is used and interpreted, and many of the indicators could easily be

assigned to more than one domain (for example, education attainment could be viewed as a social indicator but also as an economic indicator).

Figure 4: Four-Directional Model



Source: First Nations Centre. 2009. Health Information, Research and Planning: An Information Resource for First Nations Health Planners. Ottawa, ON: National Aboriginal Health Organization. p. 13.

Input from Working Group members identified the importance of ensuring cultural sensitivity to the realities of Aboriginal communities and their development in the selection of indicators. One Working Group member noted that “The whole idea of success has to be looked at from the perspective of the Aboriginal community.” Another Working Group member expanded on this idea and suggested that there are significant cultural differences between Aboriginal and Western views of development and of business activity: “In our way of thinking it’s [progress] very communal, but in Western philosophy it [progress] is very individualistic. We [Aboriginal people and communities] operate very open and freely which is in direct conflict with the way corporations operate.” From this perspective, it was suggested that business development indicators which relate to the way in which Aboriginal businesses are typically conducted would be ideal.

It was also recognized that the selected indicators must reflect the reality that there are a wide variety of perspectives even within the Aboriginal community itself about what constitutes progress, and that a range of indicators reporting on a particular issue or theme would also be helpful: “The challenge we have from the start is to acknowledge that there are varying views in how we see ourselves as being developed. It is not a one size fits all.” Another way of thinking about this is that most indicators can be helpful if they are properly constructed and that individuals and communities will then be able to apply those indicators to their own local contexts to assist in making policy and program decisions.

After much discussion in the two working sessions and reflecting on the purpose, scope, and parameters for the initial work in the **Baseline Data For Aboriginal Economic Development** project, the following criteria⁴ (in no particular order of importance or relevance) were applied to the discussion about the selection of indicators:

1. Meaningful and relevant

The selected indicators must be connected back to the *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy* in some manner. It is outside the scope of this project to provide an explicit discussion of the connection of each indicator to a specific element in the *Strategy*. During the group discussions, every effort was made to draw out the importance or relevance of each proposed indicator. In the sections that follow which summarize the results and discuss the findings, the relevance of each indicator is discussed.

Furthermore, in order for an indicator to be meaningful or relevant, there must be an ability to take some type of action which can in turn lead to changes/improvements in the indicator. If it is not possible for an individual, community, organization, or government

⁴ The eight criteria discussed here are consistent with those identified by Newhouse (2005) in his representation to the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board National Benchmarking Project. He identified five key principles for choosing indicators (p. 3): there should be a link between development objectives and indicators; indicators should be expressed in a quantifiable form; indicators should measure something that can be measured; indicators should be comparable over time and over several groups; and data for indicators should be readily available or relatively easy to obtain.

department or agency to make changes and take action to improve conditions, then the indicator is not meaningful or relevant.

2. Measurable

The selected indicators must be quantifiable in some way (percentage, per capita, absolute number, etc.) in order to report on the indicator. During the group discussions a wide range of concepts and ideas were shared about what would be important to measure; however, in some cases, such as “access to resources”, it was not possible to identify a quantifiable way to report on a proposed indicator.

3. Rigorous and reliable

The data for the selected indicators must be drawn from a credible and reliable source with confidence in the accuracy of the data. This includes issues such as ensuring that the data is or was collected in a consistent manner, and ensuring that the data is accurate. Data from government agencies is largely reliable and rigorous, notwithstanding the known under-reporting among Aboriginal people in the census. Administrative data collected by government departments and agencies are likely to be reliable and rigorous as well, except it is only so if the communities and organizations submitting it also ensure it is accurate.

4. Comparable

The data for the selected indicators must be available for all communities or all individuals. This permits comparability with relatively few or no gaps. However, it is recognized that in some cases there is data suppression (in the census or in special surveys, for example, when there are too few people in a given community or sub-population to allow reporting without potentially revealing identities), or lack of full data coverage (in some special surveys, for example, not all communities may participate). On a case by case basis, decisions were made about including or excluding specific indicators based on this principle. For example, the decision was made to include “health status” and a number of related indicators even though the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RLHS) was not conducted in all Atlantic First Nation communities, because it provides a starting point for partial baseline status and may encourage full coverage of the survey in all communities in a future effort.

Furthermore, the data for the selected indicators must be available for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities or individuals, even if this means accessing different but comparable data sources for each. This is important because, to the extent possible, there is a desire to show comparable progress between the two groups. For the most part, all of the indicators which rely on census data allow this to happen. Exceptions are noted in the appropriate sections later in the report. Outside of the census, different data sources were needed for the two different groups. One example is in the case of health related indicators. For the Aboriginal on-reserve population, the only reliable data source (while incomplete) is the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey conducted in 2002-

2003. For the Aboriginal off-reserve population, and for the non-Aboriginal population, the only reliable data source with comparable data (based on the same or similar survey questions posed) is the Canadian Community Health Survey (conducted in cycles every two or three years). As a further note concerning availability of data for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and communities, to the extent possible, the data should also be available for Métis and Inuit populations as distinct Aboriginal groups. Most of the census data is available for these two groups.

Finally, in order to facilitate comparison over time both within the Aboriginal context and with non-Aboriginal communities and individuals, the data for the selected indicators must be collected over time to allow for monitoring the trend or change. The census is conducted every five years. Administrative data is collected annually. Special surveys such as the Canadian Community Health Survey are conducted in cycles. Unless there is an ongoing collection of the data at regular intervals, the indicator has no value for measuring progress over time.

5. No cost to obtain

The initial scope for this **Baseline Data For Aboriginal Economic Development** project did not provide for the collection of any new primary data or for the purchase of any data. Thus the data for the selected indicators must be freely available in the public domain or willingly provided by the source organization which collects and holds the data.

Although there may not be a cost to obtaining data in the public domain or from administrative sources, it does not necessarily mean that the data is in a form that matches the indicator. It may require some manipulation or computation in order to arrive at the indicator. An example would be a calculation of the percentage of persons 15 years of age and over who completed post-secondary education at the bachelor's level. This is reported in the census not as a percentage, but as raw absolute numbers for both the total number of persons 15 and over and for the number completing at that level. However, the indicator requires a calculation using the two in order to obtain the desired result. For other indicators the data may require more extensive manipulation. This would apply usually to those where the data is from a special survey.

If there are desired indicators for which there is a cost to purchase the data or to collect the data, the indicator(s) was (were) not included in the baseline analysis but recommended as an indicator to be included in the future, if sufficient and appropriate resources can be found. These are identified in later sections of this report.

6. Secondary data only

The original scope of the project did not allow for any new primary data collection to occur, regardless if this was to be conducted by members of the research team itself (for example, conducting surveys) or if this was to be conducted by others (such as staff working in First Nations communities). The focus initially is on making use of existing data, avoiding the potential to overburden communities with more data collection

activities, and eliminating the potential for inconsistencies or lack of rigour in the data collection processes.

In using secondary data, however, there is a need to adhere to strict guidelines concerning the appropriate use of secondary data as dictated by the source. Census data released in the public domain, for example, can only be used for non-commercial purposes. Administrative data may have restrictions on use and type of reporting depending on the source and the original intended purpose for the collection of information.

It is important to note that there are some limitations with census data concerning Aboriginal people and communities⁵. These include: small population sizes (data suppression if less than 40 is the population, and rounding); non-participation by some individuals and households; and non-reporting on some questions (such as income). It is estimated that the net “undercoverage” of persons living on-reserve in Canada is 10.6%, but only 3.4% in eastern Canada (which includes all of the Atlantic Provinces plus Quebec and Ontario).

In Atlantic Canada the census data coverage is quite good. There was full data for the majority of on reserve communities.

- In Newfoundland and Labrador there was full data for the two reserves in the province.
- In Prince Edward Island there was full data for the three reserves which had a population size greater than 40.
- In Nova Scotia, there were 16 reserves with population size greater than 40. Fifteen of them had full data and one had population and dwelling counts only available.
- In New Brunswick there were 17 reserves with population size greater than 40. Fifteen of them had full data, and two reserves had partial data.

If there are desired indicators for which there is a need to undertake new primary data collection activities, the indicator(s) was (were) not included in the baseline analysis but recommended as an indicator to be included in the future, if sufficient and appropriate resources can be found. These are identified in later sections of this report.

7. Culturally appropriate

While there is a desire to include only those indicators which can be used to compare Aboriginal with non-Aboriginal individuals/communities, indicators which resonate with and are specific to Aboriginal culture, communities, and individuals, and to the *Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy*, should also be included. To that end, some indicators were identified as such (and thus did not adhere to some of the principles noted above) and have been included in a separate section of this report for the purposes of demonstrating progress over time within and among Aboriginal communities and individuals. Examples of these indicators include: percentage of Aboriginal children age

⁵ Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Technical Report, 2006 Census, Second Edition. Catalogue 92-569-XWE.

4-21 attending band-operated schools; percentage of First Nations communities with custom election codes; percentage of Aboriginal persons age 15 and over who speak, understand, or regularly use an Aboriginal language; and so on. These and others are discussed and described in more detail in a later section of this report.

8. Standalone indicators

As noted in the literature review, an index provides a single measure or score for a community or entity as a rolled up total for all indicators. Some composite indices are created by first preparing an index for two or more domains or themes. Usually an index is reported on a scale of 0 to 1 or 0 to 100. Creating an index requires “standardizing” the data for each indicator so that it is on the same scale. Some composite indices use weighting procedures so that individual indicators or domains have more emphasis in the overall score. These choices are highly value-laden. The advantages of an index include:

- A single score that is easily identified
- Allows for easier comparison of one community to another and over time

The disadvantages of an index include:

- There is a loss of detail – if the index score for a community remains unchanged over time, it may not reflect changes for specific indicators or domains
- The standardization of data may be difficult to understand and not easily reflect an indicator (standardizing an income measure on a scale of 0 to 1 for example)
- Weighting may be problematic because of the values judgments that are applied to the weights and may not be reflective of what is more important from one community to another

The group agreed that an index score was not appropriate. Results for each indicator will be reported separately/individually.

5 Baseline Indicators: The Findings

In this section of the report we report in the baseline measures for the selected indicators. This section is divided into two main parts: indicators which compare Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and individuals; and indicators which are specific to Aboriginal communities and individuals.

Within each of these two parts, the indicators are grouped into each of the following themes/domains:

- Economic
- Environmental
- Social
- Cultural/Spiritual

These four themes/domains are consistent with those presented in the Four-Directional Model (an illustration of which was presented in Figure 4). Furthermore, there is a strong connection between the individual indicators identified within each of the domains, and the elements which comprise areas of First Nations governance, health determinants, and social capital, as presented in Figure 4.

Within each of these themes/domains we provide an introductory summary table showing the indicator, data source, and any explanatory notes that are required. This is followed by a presentation and interpretation of the data for Atlantic Canada⁶ as a whole for each indicator, including comparisons between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and individuals. For each indicator, we show two tables. The first table concerns the Aboriginal population. We show the results for **all Aboriginal** persons and then for all Aboriginal persons in **each of on-reserve and off-reserve** locations. This is followed by a **breakdown of the results for the Aboriginal off-reserve population into First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, and Inuit**. Finally, we show the results for the **non-Aboriginal population**.

The second table concerns the **Registered Indian** population. We show the results for all Registered Indians, and then for all Registered Indians in each of **on-reserve and off-reserve** locations. Finally, we show the results for the **non-Registered Indian population**.

Results for each province, in the same fashion as above, are presented in Appendices A to D.

⁶ The geographic territory of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs includes all of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Gaspé region of Québec. Data for each of the four provinces and the Listuguj First Nation were added together for the purpose of reporting for the Atlantic Canada region as a whole.

The following definitions⁷ apply:

Aboriginal: Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian (also known as First Nation), Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation.

Registered Indian: Refers to those persons who reported they were registered under the Indian Act of Canada. Treaty Indians are persons who are registered under the Indian Act and can prove descent from a band that signed a treaty.

On-reserve: Includes legally defined Indian reserves, Indian settlements, other land types created by the ratification of Self-Government Agreements and other northern communities affiliated with First Nations, according to the criteria established by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada⁸.

The total number of people in Atlantic Canada in each of the categories noted above, for each of 2001 and 2006 is show in Tables 2 and 3. There was an increase of 14,800 Aboriginal persons from 2001 to 2006, mostly due to an increase of 11,300 living off-reserve. There was an increase of 5,000 Registered Indians in that same time period.

Table 3: Total Aboriginal (On-Reserve and Off-Reserve) and Non-Aboriginal Population, Atlantic Canada

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	66885	16815	50070	19940	18770	5250	2185470
2001	54005	14525	39490	18060	13090	5070	2199160

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Table 4: Total Registered Indian Status (On-Reserve and Off-Reserve) population, Atlantic Canada

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	30815	16490	14325	2190540
2001	25850	14345	11520	2204615

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

⁷ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census Dictionary, Catalogue 92-566-XWE.

⁸ Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Technical Report, 2006 Census, Second Edition. Catalogue 92-569-XWE.

Each theme/domain concludes with a brief discussion about additional indicators which were discussed by the Indicators Working Group and the Advisory Committee.

The year 2001 is used as the initial “baseline” year against which progress over time is measured. For indicators for which data is only available for a later year, that year is used as the “baseline”. The year 2006 is used as the first year against which progress over time is measured and reported. For indicators for which data is only available for an earlier year, that year is used as the progress reporting year. If additional new data since 2006 is available for a given indicator, progress is also reported for those indicators and for those years.

The years 2001 and 2006 were chosen largely because the majority of the data available for the selected indicators comes from the census, which is taken every five years in the years ending in “1” and “6”.

5.1 Indicators Which Compare Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Communities and Individuals

In this section of the findings we focus only on those indicators for which there is data for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and individuals (and, where possible, Registered Indians and non-Registered Indians).

Economic Indicators

Two sets of economic indicators were selected by the Working Group – employment-related indicators and income-related indicators.

Indicator	Source	Notes
Employment		
Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Employment rate (any employment) – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Employment rate (worked full time, full year) – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Percent of labour force employed (those employed) in any of [manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management] – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Percent of labour force employed (those	Statistics Canada,	This is not available at the individual First

Indicator	Source	Notes
employed) in public administration – population 15 years of age and over	Census of Canada	Nation community level
Percent of labour force participants who are self-employed – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	This is not available at the individual First Nation community level
Income		
Percent of total income from government transfer payments	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Average employment income (with employment income)	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	This is not available for 2001 for on- and off-reserve populations; median employment income (with employment income) is also available at the individual First Nation community level
Average individual income from all sources	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	This is not available at the individual First Nation community level; however, median individual income is available; average and/or median income serves as a proxy for the preferred “average household income”
Incidence of low income (before tax) – all persons	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	This is not available at the individual First Nation community level, nor at the aggregate on-reserve or off-reserve for either Aboriginal or Registered Indian status

Employment

Employment related indicators are extremely helpful for measuring progress over time, because they can reveal long term trends in labour market participation, employment and unemployment rates, and shifts in the types of work people are doing. One of the major limitations of census data for reporting most employment characteristics is that it is a snapshot in time for a specific day or week. The results are reported for the week prior to the census. In some cases employment characteristics are reported for the year prior to the census. If there are seasonal employees who are unemployed at the time of the census, they are reported as unemployed and may paint a picture of few employment opportunities in the community. On the other hand, if self-employed persons were employed at the time of the census it may paint an overly optimistic picture of employment in the community when in reality some or many jobs may in fact be seasonal in nature. Furthermore, the census does not capture or reflect fluctuations in employment over the course of a year.

INDICATOR: Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over

The labour force participation rate is an expression of how many people who could be in the workforce are actually in the workforce. It is expressed as a percentage of all persons who are employed or unemployed compared with all persons ((employed + unemployed) / (employed + unemployed + not in the labour force)).

Higher participation rates generally suggest a healthy economy or one with opportunities, because even if a large number of participants are currently unemployed, it means they are at least active and looking for work. Changes in the participation rate over time can point to improvements (if the rates are going up) or weakening (if the rates are going down) of local and regional economies. One of the challenges with interpreting the labour force participate rate is the issue of why people do not participate in the labour force. Some people drop out of the labour force because they are discouraged by their inability to find employment. In other cases they may not be in the labour force due to choice or because they have disabilities which limit their ability to participate. On the other hand, there may be many people in the labour force who are active participants, but who are unable to find work. So while high participation rates may be initially viewed as a positive measure, it is necessary to look at employment and unemployment rates in order to understand the specifics of the participation.

Table 5: Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On- Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off- Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	62.2%	57.8%	63.6%	62.9%	66.1%	60.1%	62.6%
2001	61.1%	56.1%	62.9%	62.2%	65.4%	61.2%	61.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

In 2001 the labour force participation rate was higher for Métis, off-reserve First Nations, and off-reserve Aboriginals than it was for the non-Aboriginal population. It was slightly lower for Inuit and for the Aboriginal population collectively. It was lowest (5.5% lower) for on-reserve Aboriginals. By 2006 the rate had improved by between 0.7% and 1.7% for all groups except Inuit, which fell by 1.1%. The largest increase was among on-reserve Aboriginals. The rate for Métis, off-reserve First Nations, and off-reserve Aboriginals remained slightly higher than it was for the non-Aboriginal population.

Table 6: Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non- Registered Indians
2006	60.3%	57.8%	62.8%	62.6%
2001	59.1%	55.5%	63.3%	61.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

When considering the Registered Indian status of the population, in 2001 Registered Indians had a labour force participation rate that was 2.5% below that of non-Registered Indians. By 2006 the gap had closed ever so slightly to 2.3%. The rate among off-reserve Registered Indians was higher than for on-reserve Registered Indians, and for that of non-Registered Indians in 2001. However, the rate for off-reserve Registered Indians fell marginally between 2001 and 2006. It should also be noted that Registered Indians have a marginally lower labour force participation rate than the Aboriginal population.

INDICATOR: Employment rate (any employment) – population 15 years of age and over

The employment rate is expressed as a percentage of those working compared to all persons (employed / (employed + unemployed + not in the labour force)). This is sometimes used as a complimentary indicator to the participation rate, because it more accurately reports on the percentage of people who are actually working. Changes in the rate can point to improvements or weakening of local and regional economies.

Table 7: Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off- Reserve	First Nation Off- Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	48.5%	41.6%	50.6%	51.7%	52.7%	43.7%	55.6%
2001	44.0%	36.9%	46.5%	47.1%	47.9%	42.4%	53.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

While the labour force participation rates are reasonably close between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada, the employment rate gap is large. In 2001 the non-Aboriginal employment rate was 53.3% compared to just 44% for Aboriginals. Furthermore, the rate for on-reserve Aboriginals was only 37%. It was 47% for off-reserve First Nations, and almost 48% for Métis. By 2006 there was still a gap in the rates; however, the gap is shrinking. Employment rates increased by 4.5% for Aboriginals, and by only 2.3% for non-Aboriginals. The rate increased by close to 5% for on-reserve, off-reserve, and Métis populations. It increased by only 1.3% to 43.7% for Inuit. Part of the explanation for the relatively lower employment rates for Aboriginal people is the fact that there is a relatively larger number of younger adults (15-24 years of age) within the Aboriginal population. Many of these individuals are just starting their employment careers and may experience difficulty obtaining their first job.

Table 8: Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	45.9%	41.3%	50.6%	55.5%
2001	41.1%	35.9%	46.9%	53.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

The employment rate for Registered Indians was 12% lower than for non-Registered Indians in 2001; by 2006 the gap had decreased to just under 10%. Employment rates were lower for on-reserve than off-reserve Registered Indians, and the growth in employment for on-reserve Registered Indians was 5.4% compared to 3.7% for those off-reserve, between 2001 and 2006.

It should also be noted that Registered Indians have a lower employment rate than the Aboriginal population.

INDICATOR: Employment rate (full time, full year) – population 15 years of age and over

This is a more specific measure of the potential “quality” of jobs. It is one thing to have a high employment rate, comprised of people working in any type of job in terms of full time or part time, full year or seasonal. It is another to have a high rate of people working full time, defined in the census as working at least 30 hours per week for at least 48 weeks in the year. Changes in the rate can point to improvements or weakening of local and regional economies. The full time employment rate is expressed as a percentage of those working full time compared to all persons (full time employed / (employed + unemployed + not in the labour force)).

Table 9: Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	23.9%	17.9%	25.7%	25.6%	25.9%	21.4%	32.0%
2001	21.4%	18.1%	22.6%	23.0%	22.6%	22.2%	31.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

The full time employment rate patterns largely mirror those for the total employment rate. Rates were highest for non-Aboriginals in 2001 and 2006, and the gap closed slightly to 8.1% by 2006. The rates are lowest for on-reserve Aboriginals and for Inuit. In both cases

the full time employment rate fell marginally between 2001 and 2006. The off-reserve Aboriginal population, off-reserve First Nation population, and Métis experienced the largest improvements in the rate over this time period.

Table 10: Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	22.5%	17.7%	27.2%	31.9%
2001	20.4%	17.1%	23.8%	31.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

The patterns are similar when examining the Registered Indian population. Their full time employment rates are close to 10% lower than that of the non-Registered Indian population, but there has been a 2% increase in the full time employment rate for that group. Rates are lowest on-reserve and the gap with off-reserve Registered Indians in widening – in 2006 it was almost 10%. Full time employment rates are slightly lower for Registered Indians than for Aboriginals.

INDICATOR: Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over

The unemployment rate is a commonly used economic development indicator because it provides a measure of how many people are not working but are actively looking for work. Only those unemployed persons who are actively looking for work are counted. If they are not actively looking, they are not considered to be part of the labour force and therefore not unemployed. Thus the official unemployment rate may in fact be lower than the actual unemployment rate in many areas since people who have given up looking for work are not included. Changes in the rate can reflect recent job cuts or it can reflect initial entries into the labour force by people seeking work for the first time or after a period of non-participation. It is expressed as a percentage of those who are in the labour force who are unemployed and actively looking for work (unemployed / (employed + unemployed)).

Table 11: Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	22.1%	28.2%	20.3%	17.5%	20.3%	27.3%	11.2%
2001	28.0%	34.2%	26.0%	24.2%	26.6%	30.8%	13.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

The unemployment rates demonstrate significant challenges for the Aboriginal population in finding employment; however the unemployment rate fell more between 2001 and 2006 for the Aboriginal population compared with the non-Aboriginal population. The rate fell by about 6% for all groups except the Inuit, for whom the rate fell by 3.5%. However, the unemployment rate is still about 10% more for the total Aboriginal population, and for off-reserve and Métis populations. In 2006 the unemployment rate was lowest among the First Nation off-reserve population.

Table 12: Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	23.9%	28.6%	19.5%	11.4%
2001	30.5%	35.1%	25.7%	13.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

As with the other employment-related indicators presented, the unemployment rates for Registered Indians are slightly worse compared to those for the Aboriginal population, but the improvements between 2001 and 2006 are about the same. The gap with the unemployment rate for non-Registered Indians was and still is quite large.

INDICATOR: Percent of labour force employed (those employed) in any of [manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management] – population 15 years of age and over

An important indicator is the type of sector in which employed persons are working. Having more people working in sectors which are considered to require higher orders of thinking, which require processing of materials into higher value products, and which are considered to be growth sectors (such as business services sector), is viewed as being a positive indicator. This indicator is measured as percentage of persons working in these

higher end sectors (manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management) relative to all employed persons (employed in [sectors] / employed). This is in contrast to employment in sectors in which most of the jobs require fewer skills (such as those in primary resource sector or in retail). Changes in the rate can point to positive or negative changes in local and regional economies.

Table 13: Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	21.7%	6.8%	25.6%	23.3%	29.3%	22.5%	27.7%
2001	23.0%	9.9%	26.7%	20.9%	30.3%	22.7%	29.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

A higher percentage of the employed labour force was working in these higher end sectors of the economy in 2001 than in 2006. However, the one exception is among the off-reserve First Nation population, where the percentage increased from 21% to 23.3%. All other populations saw a decline in employment in these sectors. In 2001 almost 30% of the non-Aboriginal population was employed in these sectors; the rate was slightly higher among the Métis, and it was almost 27% for the off-reserve Aboriginal employed labour force. For the on-reserve employed labour force, the rate was less than 10%, reflecting the limited range of quality employment options in many communities; this had fallen to less than 7% by 2006.

Table 14: Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	15.4%	6.5%	22.7%	27.8%
2001	16.8%	8.4%	24.7%	29.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Many fewer employed Registered Indians compared with the Aboriginal employed labour force and compared with the non-Registered Indian employed labour force, were employed in these sectors. The rate was only 17% of all employment in 2001 and 15.4% in 2006.

INDICATOR: Percent of labour force employed (those employed) in any public administration – population 15 years of age and over

Public administration includes all types of employment associated with providing government services – including managers, policy and program staff, administrative support, and many others. Each reserve community operates a form of local administration and provides many services to its residents. By extension, this means that they are relatively large employers in the local context. These jobs deliver employment income outside of private market economic activities.

Table 15: Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	17.3%	30.4%	13.9%	15.8%	10.9%	23.4%	9.0%
2001	21.2%	38.6%	16.3%	18.7%	13.2%	20.1%	9.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

A much higher proportion of the Aboriginal employed labour force was employed in public administration compared with the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001 the percent of Aboriginals working in this sector was 21% compared with just over 9% of non-Aboriginals. Public administration employment continues to be an important employer for all Aboriginal groups, especially those living on-reserve and the Inuit, despite the fact that the percent employed in this sector has declined between 2001 and 2006. For the Inuit, the percent employed in this sector actually increased to 23.4%, as a reflection of progressive labour force development strategies to increase the capacity for government employment within this population. The percent of the employed labour force on-reserve working in this sector fell from close to 40% in 2001 to just over 30% in 2006.

Table 16: Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	24.8%	33.7%	17.4%	9.0%
2001	32.0%	44.0%	21.8%	9.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Public administration is an even more important sector of employment for Registered Indians, compared with Aboriginals. Almost one-third of the employed labour force in 2001 and one-quarter of the employed labour force in 2006 worked in this sector. Registered Indians on-reserve were much more likely to be working in this sector as well, compared with the Aboriginal on-reserve population.

INDICATOR: Percent of labour force participants who are self-employed – population 15 years of age and over

The rate of self-employment can be a useful indicator but it must be interpreted in the larger context of what is happening with the whole economy of a community or region, and what other indicators report about that economy. The self-employment rate is expressed simply as the number of people who are self-employed among the entire labour force (self-employed / (employed + unemployed)). The self-employment rate by itself could be viewed as an indicator of the relatively entrepreneurial spirit of the community and the willingness of people to make their own jobs in response to tough economic times or in response to opportunities. It is important to note that the self-employment rate by itself does not say anything about the quality of the self-employment (which sector, type of job, etc.,) or the extent to which it is full time or part time, or the extent of income earned from self-employment activities. In communities where the self-employment rate is relatively high, there would need to be a check against the labour force participation rate, the employment rate, and the unemployment, to fully appreciate the role of self-employment in the local context. For some communities, self-employment might be a last resort option if there are few or no employers, or if commuting to neighbouring communities is not possible or viable.

Table 17: Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	5.3%	3.0%	6.0%	6.2%	7.3%	1.7%	8.3%
2001	5.8%	4.4%	6.3%	5.6%	7.1%	4.6%	8.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Self-employment makes up slightly less than 10% of the labour force among the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001 there were relatively fewer self-employed Aboriginals – just under 6% of the labour force. It is slightly higher among Métis (7%) and less among Inuit (4.6%). It was lowest among the on-reserve labour force participants, perhaps reflecting the more difficult economic circumstances for many of these communities. These gaps with the non-Aboriginal population persisted into 2006. The level of self-employment fell significantly among the on-reserve population and the Inuit population. However, the self-employment rate for Métis was stable and actually increased from 7.1% to 7.3%, and it increased from 5.6% to 6.2% among off-reserve First Nations.

Table 18: Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	4.6%	3.1%	5.9%	8.3%
2001	5.5%	4.3%	6.4%	8.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Self-employment rates for Registered Indians in the labour force were slightly less than that for the Aboriginal population in both years, and therefore also less than among the non-Registered Indian labour force. Rates were lower, and fell by a higher percentage, for on-reserve Registered Indians compared with those living off-reserve.

Income

Income related indicators are those which reflect total income in the community from all sources and those from employment income. Healthy incomes and improving incomes, relative to other places, are positive measures for a community. It is important to note that for the purpose of the census, from which income data are derived, the reference year

for income is for the full calendar year prior to the census year. For the 2006 Census year, all income data is for the 2005 calendar year; for 2001 it is for the 2000 calendar year.

INDICATOR: Percent of total income from government transfer payments

A typical indicator of economic activity (and progress over time) is the percentage of all income that is derived from government transfer payments. These are payments made to individuals from all levels of government, including employment insurance benefits, child tax benefits, medical benefits, social assistance, workers' compensation benefits, Canada/Québec Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and a host of other payments. It is expressed as: (government transfer payments / (employment income + self-employment income + government transfer payments + investment income + other income)). It is widely held that a healthy local economy is one that derives a high percentage of its total income from employment activities because it is through these means that new money is brought into the community as opposed to a redistribution of our tax dollars. In communities where there is a high ratio of total income from government transfer payments, there are usually fewer people working, fewer people in the labour force, more children/seniors, and so on. Changes over time in the ratio can reflect both demographic changes as well as local and regional economic changes.

Table 19: Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off- Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	22.2%	27.1%	21.3%	20.4%	13.2%	20.5%	16.7%
2001	27.0%	36.4%	24.6%	24.9%	18.8%	24.6%	17.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

With the exception of Métis, the Aboriginal population was far more dependent on government transfer payments for their income compared with the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001 only 17.5% of total income for the non-Aboriginal population came from this source, whereas the rate was 27% for the total Aboriginal population, and more than 36% for those living on-reserve. For Métis it was just under 19%. Over the five year period to 2006 the percent of income from government transfer payments declined significantly for the Aboriginal population (by almost 5%, and by almost 10% for the on-reserve population). It fell by less than 1% for the non-Aboriginal population. In fact, Métis had the lowest share of income from government transfer payments in 2006 at just over 13% - a percentage that is lower than for the non-Aboriginal population.

Table 20: Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	23.0%	27.2%	20.2%	16.8%
2001	29.7%	36.4%	23.5%	17.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-563-XCB2006009; 97-564-XCB2006004.

The share of income from government transfer payments among Registered Indians was slightly higher than for the Aboriginal population, in both 2001 and 2006. It did decrease by almost 7% over that time period, and remained much higher than for non-Registered Indians. Off-reserve and on-reserve patterns for this population mirrored those of the Aboriginal population.

INDICATOR: Average employment income (with employment income)

This indicator provides some indication of the relative quality of the jobs in which people are employed. Higher average incomes reflect a higher number of better paying jobs, more full time work, and more year round work. Using average rather than median income is useful because it more accurately reflects the total purchasing power in the community. Median income would simply reflect more of the distribution of incomes in the communities, with half of the people earning more, and half of the people earning less, than the median income. It is important to note that the data presented here for this indicator is only for those who reported employment income.

Table 21: Average employment income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	\$21,755	\$17,904	\$22,771	\$22,376	\$22,780	\$24,026	\$28,931
2001	\$19,670	No data	No data	No data	\$21,843	\$19,601	\$28,522

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average employment income for Aboriginals who were employed in 2001 was about 74% of that for non-Aboriginals who were employed. By 2006 the gap had not changed much. Average employment income grew by just under \$800 for Aboriginals and by less than \$400 for non-Aboriginals. In 2006 the average employment income for the on-reserve population was less than \$18,000 – more than \$11,000 less than the non-Aboriginal average. The gap between off-reserve (both Aboriginal as a whole and First Nations specifically) and Métis, and the non-Aboriginal population was more than

\$6,000; and for the Inuit it was less than \$5,000. Average employment income grew between 2001 and 2006 by \$4,400 for the Inuit and by \$940 for the Métis.

Table 22: Average employment income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$20,694	\$17,832	\$22,324	\$28,832
2001	\$17,980	No data	No data	\$28,465

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97-563-XCB2006061.

A very similar pattern is found when looking at the Registered Indian population, but with larger gaps compared with the non-Registered Indian population. Their average employment income was only 63% of that for non-Registered Indians in 2001; by 2006 the average income increased by \$2,700 closing the gap to 72%. On-reserve and off-reserve average employment income for Registered Indians was similar to that of on-reserve and off-reserve Aboriginals in 2006.

INDICATOR: Average individual income from all sources

It is important to note that the original interest in income indicators was focused at the household level, more specifically average household income. However, this is not reported in the publicly released census data. Median household income is reported at the community level – but that does not permit any type of rollup for collective groups. The average individual income indicator was chosen as a substitute and it is based on income from all sources. However, it is only reported for the collective groups (Aboriginal, on-reserve, off-reserve, non-Aboriginal, Métis, Inuit) and is not reported at the community level (only median individual income is reported at that level). Highest average individual incomes can be useful in showing relative wealth in the community, and changes in average individual incomes over time can reflect changes in the local and regional economies.

Readers will note that the average employment incomes and the average individual incomes are somewhat similar. This is because average employment income as reported above is only for those who reported employment income. Average individual income from all sources includes all individuals 15 years of age and over who reported income from any source. It therefore includes people who did not have employment income. Their incomes may be substantially lower than that for those who were employed. Average incomes of those with employment income would of course be higher when their other sources are added. However, the net effect of people with lower incomes averaged with those who have somewhat higher incomes (than the average employment income) has a negating effect and results in the two average incomes being somewhat similar.

Table 23: Average individual income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off- Reserve	First Nation Off- Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	\$21,845	\$16,286	\$23,372	\$22,276	\$24,197	\$24,646	\$29,111
2001	\$16,662	\$13,790	\$17,593	\$16,218	\$18,608	\$18,376	\$24,365

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Average individual incomes (regardless of the sources) for Aboriginal persons are far below the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001 it was just \$16,600 compared to \$24,400, or 68% of the non-Aboriginal average income. For both groups the average income grew by approximately \$5,000 between 2001 and 2006; the gap was reduced to 75%. In 2001 the largest gap existed for the on-reserve population. The average income of less than \$14,000 was 57% of the non-Aboriginal average income; by 2006 the difference was 55%. Average incomes for Métis and Inuit populations were both similar in values and were higher than the on-reserve and off-reserve Aboriginal populations and the off-reserve First Nations population in both years, and were about 76% and 84% of the non-Aboriginal population in 2001 and 2006, respectively.

Table 24: Average individual income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On- Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non- Registered Indians
2006	\$19,606	\$16,266	\$22,820	\$29,029
2001	\$15,238	\$13,836	\$16,808	\$24,302

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

The average individual income among Registered Indians was lower than it was for Aboriginals in both years, and thus it was significantly less than for non-Registered Indians in both years; in 2001 it was 62% of the non-Registered Indian income, and in 2006 it was 68%. The average income for off-reserve Registered Indians was higher than for on-reserve Registered Indians, and between 2001 and 2006 it increased by more than \$6,000 compared with an increase of just \$2,400 among on-reserve Registered Indians.

INDICATOR: Incidence of low income (before tax) – all persons

The incidence of low income is an expression of poverty. The incidence in one community or for one group can be compared to another for a sense of the relative income challenges or rate of poverty. Over time, if the incidence is increasing it would reflect worsening economic conditions for a larger number of individuals and families.

However, it may also reflect growing inequalities in a community or society, because in the context of overall improvements in economic activity, there may be relatively few people who benefit from the improvements while many others do not. In general, if the incidence of low income is declining it would reflect improving economic conditions.

This indicator refers to the position of an economic family or a person 15 years of age and over not in an economic family in relation to Statistics Canada's low income before tax cut-offs (LICOs). Measures of low income known as "low income (before tax) cut-offs (LICOs)" were first introduced in Canada in 1968 based on 1961 Census income data and 1959 family expenditure patterns. At that time, expenditure patterns indicated that Canadian families spent about 50% of their total income on food, shelter and clothing. It was arbitrarily estimated that families spending 70% or more of their income (20 percentage points more than the average) on these basic necessities would be in straitened circumstances. With this assumption, low income cut-off points were set for five different sizes of families. Over time, the LICOs have been adjusted to reflect changes in income. It is generally accepted that families/individuals are in a low income situation if they spend 20 percentage points more of their income than the average family/individual on food, shelter and clothing.

Within the census, for the purposes of low income statistics (before or after tax), economic families and persons 15 years of age and over not in economic families in the Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories and Nunavut and on Indian reserves were excluded. The low income cut-offs are based on certain expenditure-income patterns which are not available from survey data for the entire population.

Table 25: Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off- Reserve	First Nation Off- Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	20.7%	No data	No data	24.3%	16.3%	16.7%	13.6%
2001	30.8%	No data	No data	33.5%	25.7%	33.1%	16.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

The incidence of low income was significantly higher in among Aboriginal, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations in 2001 compared with the non-Aboriginal population. It was 31% for all Aboriginal persons, compared with just 16.3% for non-Aboriginal persons; it was slightly higher among off-reserve First Nations (33.5%), Inuit (33.1%) and less among Métis (25.7%). By 2006 the differences among the populations were much less. While the incidence of low income among non-Aboriginals was down to 13.6% by 2006, it improved to 20.8% among all Aboriginal persons. For the Inuit the

incidence was halved to 16.7% and for the Métis it came down to 16.3%. It was highest among off-reserve First Nations.

Table 26: Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non- Registered Indians
2006	23.7%	No data	No data	13.6%
2001	33.5%	No data	No data	16.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Registered Indians had a higher incidence of low income in both 2001 and 2006 than Aboriginals. The rates were 33.5% and 23.7%, respectively. These rates were significantly higher than for non-Registered Indians in both years.

Potential Additional Economic Indicators

The Working Group identified two additional income-related economic indicators which were thought to be available as part of the publicly released data in the census. These are not available except through the purchase of expensive custom tabulations. **Average household income** was identified as a useful indicator because the household is the most common “purchasing unit” regardless of the number of persons who make up each household, and average income is a useful measure of the relative wealth, prosperity, and purchasing power of households, regardless of the source of incomes. It should be noted that median household income is available in the publicly released data from the census at the community level only; however, it is not possible to calculate from this base the median household income of collective groups. **Incidence of low income (before tax) for all persons 0-14 years of age** was also identified. It would be a useful measure of child poverty. However, it is not a publicly released set of data from the census at the present time.

Turning to potential economic indicators not derived from census data, the Working Group identified **percentage of individuals receiving social assistance** as a potentially useful indicator of dependency on government support and a lack of participation in the economy. However, the group recognized that this would require a commitment from each individual First Nation community to collect and report these figures in a consistent and timely manner. Furthermore, it was recognized that it would not be possible for government departments and agencies to report on off-reserve Aboriginal persons receiving social assistance. Given these realities, the decision was made to defer this indicator. At the time of preparing this report, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs has launched initial efforts to develop a data collection protocol for this

indicator. As part of the implementation of the Chiefs' Strategy, several communities have volunteered to pilot test the data collection exercise.

Two business-related indicators were proposed. The first was the **number of new business starts as a proportion of the population**. This would provide a measure of the pace of new economic growth and also of entrepreneurship. However, in order to be effective, **the number of business closures or failures** should also be taken into account, as was noted by the Working Group. (One of the limitations of using business closures or failures is that some businesses close in order to start another one. It would not necessarily identify the root causes of the closures.) There does not appear to be a central reporting mechanism for releasing data about new business starts, although the Canadian Business Register releases semi-annual data on the number of businesses, by sector, and by community. Data suppression issues and the ongoing cost to purchase the data, make this prohibitive as an indicator at this time. It might be possible to have economic development officers in each community, or a central body such as Ulnooweg, keep track of the data for this indicator, but this would require a level of additional commitment and workload, and may result in data which is not comparable to data in the general population. It should be noted that this indicator has been proposed by National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB). At the time of preparing this report, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs has launched initial efforts to develop a data collection protocol for this indicator. As part of the implementation of the Chiefs' Strategy, several communities have volunteered to pilot test the data collection exercise.

The second was the **number of businesses as a proportion of the population**. It is very similar to the first focuses on aggregate totals and not new starts specifically. The same issues concerning data sources and costs apply as to the number of new business starts. It should be noted that this indicator has been used by the Winnipeg First Nations Sustainability Indicator System and proposed by National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB). At the time of preparing this report, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs has launched initial efforts to develop a data collection protocol for this indicator. As part of the implementation of the Chiefs' Strategy, several communities have volunteered to pilot test the data collection exercise.

Finally, the Working Group also identified **disposable income** as an indicator that would be particularly useful to have since it would provide a picture of the relative wealth and purchasing power of individuals or households beyond the basic necessities of life. Conceptually the development of this as an indicator would require more work to carefully identify exactly what is meant by "disposable income" and how to treat the reality that there are significant challenges in obtaining information about spending and saving patterns, especially at the community level. A survey could be possible but would be costly and difficult to implement.

Environmental Indicators

Broadly defined and conceived, environmental indicators include those which reflect the natural environment and the built environment. The Working Group discussed a wide range of possibilities for appropriate indicators. One set of indicators concerned housing, but it was felt that there were significant differences in data availability and reporting on reserves and in the general population. These were deferred to the “Indicators Which are Specific to Aboriginal Communities and Individuals” section of the report. The Working Group settled on water quality as a key issue to measure.

Indicator	Source	Notes
Infrastructure		
Percentage of communities with a water advisory	First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada; Water and Wastewater Branch, Nova Scotia Dept. of Environment; Health Protection, New Brunswick Dept. of Health; PEI Dept of Environment; Policy and Strategic Planning, Newfoundland and Labrador Municipal Affairs	NL data not available at time of this report; PEI data not attached to a municipality and therefore not usable, at the time of this report
Average number of days per water advisory	As above	
Percent of population living in dwellings in need of major repair (self-reported)	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	Data at community level is reported as percent of dwellings in need of major repair

Water quality can be measured in a number of ways. The Working Group felt that measuring the number and length of water advisories issued for communities would be a useful measure. The focus of this project is on-reserve communities (for which the advisories are issued by and tracked by Health Canada), and municipalities (for which the advisories are issued by and tracked by an appropriate provincial government department or agency). For the purpose of this report it does not include any type of reporting for off-reserve Aboriginal populations or for persons or communities in the general population outside of municipalities. Water advisories are generally issued when there are problems with a “water system” as opposed to individual wells. Problems with water systems could be due to mechanical problems, treatment problems, pollution or contamination of the water supply at source or within the system, or infrastructure problems such as broken pipes. A water advisory could be as simple as a do not drink but otherwise use, to a full blown boil order or do not use for any purpose.

There are many limitations to using water advisories. The range and type of details collected and released by reporting bodies can vary significantly. For example, in some cases there may be reporting about how many people or households or properties are affected by the advisory, in other cases, not. This is somewhat important because in some

cases the entire community could be affected, while in other cases it could be a specific street or area of the community.

INDICATOR: Percentage of communities with a water advisory

This indicator simply reports on the number of reserves/municipalities which had one or more advisories in a given year, relative to the total number of reserves/municipalities. This provides a reasonable measure about the extent of water problems across all communities. A limitation of this reporting approach is that it does not take into account the frequency of advisories in any communities in a given year, and it does not take into account the number of persons or households affected.

Table 27: Percent of communities with a water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	21.2%	12.6%
2007	12.1%	11.3%
2006	18.2%	9.4%

Note: Municipalities includes only Nova Scotia and New Brunswick municipalities.

In the period 2006 to 2008 there was a slight increase in the number of communities experiencing a water advisory. In 2006 18.2% of on-reserve communities (6 communities) had a water advisory, and this increased to 21.2% (7 communities) by 2008. This compares with 9.4% of the 155 municipalities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 2006, and 12.6% in 2008. In both cases these two increases could potentially be explained in part by the deteriorating of aging water supply infrastructure.

INDICATOR: Average number of days per water advisory

This indicator reports on the length of water advisories – taking into account all advisories in all reserves/municipalities in a given year. This provides a reasonable measure of the length of time people are affected by water advisories – even if there is not a reasonable way to know or report on how many people are affected. Shorter number of days per water advisory may be a useful measure of how quickly a community is able to fix its water problems. A limitation of this indicator is that there is not necessarily a direct connection between the number of days and the type of advisory, the root cause of the advisory, or the number of people or households affected.

Table 28: Average number of days per water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	62.5	18.0
2007	28.8	11.0
2006	40.3	16.3

Note: Municipalities includes only Nova Scotia and New Brunswick municipalities.

The average length of water advisories on-reserve was much longer than they were in municipalities. However, the significantly higher number of days per advisory can be explained by very lengthy water advisories in one reserve community in each year. In 2006 there was an advisory of 280 days in Wagmatcook. Not counting this advisory, the average length of advisories would be just 10 days – lower than for the municipalities. In 2008 there was an advisory of 472 days in Oromocto (a carryover from 2007). Not counting this advisory, the average length of advisories would be just 21.5 days – slightly higher than for the municipalities.

INDICATOR: Percent of population living in dwellings in need of major repair (self-reported)

This is reported in the census every five years. It is a self-reported measure of housing quality. Housing quality is a useful indicator of housing need (if people are living in units in need of major repairs, they have a housing need). Major repairs⁹ refer to the repair of defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc. One limitation with this indicator is that census respondents self-report the need for repair. There may be inaccuracies in how respondents answer this question, despite clear and precise direction on the census form, because they do not have the skills to uncover or recognize the major repairs, or because they may feel that items are in need of major repair when they are not. Reporting on the percent of people living in units in need of major repair is a strong measure of need – perhaps even more so than the percent of dwellings in need of major repair. Reducing the number of persons living in such units could be viewed as a measure of progress. The First Nations Community Well-Being Index uses the proportion of the population living in residences that are not in need of major repairs as an indicator. Similarly, the Quality of Life of Aboriginal People in Vancouver, and the Harvard Project in the United States, each use housing quality as an indicator for Aboriginal people.

⁹ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census Dictionary, Catalogue 92-566-XWE.

Table 29: Percent of population living in dwellings in need of major repair (self-reported), Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.6%	34.2%	16.4%	17.1%	15.3%	21.5%	8.9%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

A much higher proportion (20.6%) of the Aboriginal population in 2006 lived in dwellings in need of major repair compared with the non-Aboriginal population (9%). More than one-third of the on-reserve population lived in such dwellings, as did 21.5% of the Inuit population. Among Aboriginal people, fewer Métis live in dwellings in need of major repair.

There is no published data from the census for this indicator for the Registered Indian population.

Potential Additional Environmental Indicators

The Working Group discussed several possible indicators which relate to both governance and environment, in the form of capital assets. More specifically, the Working Group felt that measuring the **value of community-owned assets** (such as equipment, buildings, lands, etc.) and the **increase in the value** of those over time, would be useful measures of community wealth and the ability of the community to acquire and manage those assets.

At the time of preparing this report, we learned that INAC is working with individual bands to move, by March 2011, to a system of having all Bands submitting this information about community assets in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB)'s standards for reporting Tangible Capital Assets. In a similar fashion, each province is moving in this regard with their municipalities. Although there are no firm dates for compliance, it appears that in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, this will take place by the end of 2010. In New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island the date of implementation will be 2011 or 2012.

A number of housing related indicators were discussed and debated. One potential indicator discussed was **percent of households who own their home**, as reported in the census. However, this indicator was not included because although it would be a useful measure of assets and wealth accumulation, there is a very different approach to housing occupancy and ownership on reserves. It was felt that the comparisons with non-Aboriginal populations would not be relevant. Furthermore, housing tenure for off-

reserve Aboriginal populations is not reported in the general public release of the census. It is interesting to note, however, that this indicator is being used in the Winnipeg First Nations Sustainability Indicator System.

The **number of new housing starts** was also discussed as a potential indicator. The pace of new housing starts in a community or municipality is a reflection of confidence, growth, and prosperity. Typically, communities with healthy and vibrant economies experience relatively more housing starts. Collecting data for this indicator would be challenging however, because it comes from several different sources, including planning commissions, individual bands, municipalities, and so on. Although there is a central reporting to Statistics Canada by municipalities, it is not widely accessible except in an overall rolled up format. Furthermore, INAC does not systematically track or require from individual bands the annual building starts. Finally, it is not possible to track new housing starts for Aboriginal off-reserve populations.

The **number of housing units needed** was also debated as a potentially useful indicator. This indicator might show, over time, the relative progress, or lack thereof, in reducing the number of people and households in need of new housing. Each year most bands do make requests to INAC for funding for new units to address their backlog of overcrowding and replacement needs, but they are not tracked in a systematic way and INAC is not able to report on this need. For the general population, there are challenges in obtaining a true measure of housing need because people only self-identify their housing need if they choose to be placed on a waiting list for social housing assistance (that is, to move into a unit rented by the government or a non-profit organization at a rate less than the average market rent). There may be many others who have housing needs but there may be no way to identify them. The same can be said of the Aboriginal off-reserve population since there is generally no reporting or tracking for this specific group.

Expenditures on housing repair and renovation might be a useful indicator related to housing. Higher levels of expenditure may reflect a response to ongoing housing problems that are now being addressed. On the other hand, they may also reflect higher levels of disposable income which are now being spent on ongoing housing improvements. There is no known data source reporting this measure.

It is important to note that INAC has recently introduced a new ICMS (Integrated Capital Management System) for the purpose of tracking more data about housing and infrastructure at the band level. It is expected that there will be more accurate measures of the number of housing units which are deemed adequate, the number that are in need of major renovations, and the number that are in need of repairs.

Social Indicators

The social indicators chosen by the Working Group include those that are education-related, health-related, and safety-related. The education indicators use data from the census, while the health indicators use data from the census, from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and a special survey on reserve communities.

Indicator	Source	Notes
Education		
Highest level of education – secondary school – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Highest level of education – Apprenticeship/trades – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Highest level of education – College/CEGEP/Other – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Highest level of education – University certificate below bachelor's – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Highest level of education – University degree, bachelor's – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Highest level of education – University degree, above bachelor's – population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	
Health		
Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	The number of Aboriginal households and the number of Registered Indian households is not reported in the census. The number of Aboriginal households in each reserve community is reported, where data is not suppressed.
Percent of population living in dwelling units with more than one person per room	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	At the community level this is reported as percent of dwellings with more than one person per room
Percent who self-reported overall health status as excellent or very good	First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RLHS)/Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)	RLHS was conducted in 2002/2003 in all 13 NS Mi'kmaq Nation communities; CCHS was conducted in 2000, 2003 and 2005; all RLHS data is for the population 18 and over (but data is available for those 12-18 years of age) ; all CCHS data is for the population 12 and over
Percent who self-reported physical limitations often or sometimes	RLHS/CCHS	As above
Percent who self-reported feeling sad, blue or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row (mental health)	RLHS/CCHS	The release of data from the CCHS is not consistent with that from RLHS
Percent who self-reported at least one type of injury requiring medical treatment	RLHS/CCHS	As with "overall health status"
Percent who self-reported at least one type of chronic disease	RLHS/CCHS	As with "overall health status"

Education

The education indicators are presented together in order to provide a more clear picture of the distribution of the highest level of education attainment, and any changes in the distribution over time. The indicators are each positive measures of higher levels of education attainment, which in turn provide greater opportunities for individuals to qualify for and secure jobs. There is a well-known link between education attainment and positive economic outcomes. It is obvious then, that higher rates of completion are important for each of these indicators, and that larger and increasing rates of completion for the highest levels of education, are important. If there are declines over time in the completion rates of lower levels of attainment – such as secondary school – coupled with higher rates of completion of higher levels of education, then that is a positive outcome and a measure of progress.

INDICATOR: Highest level of education – secondary school – population 15 years of age and over

Completing secondary school is viewed as the minimum pre-requisite for moving into the workforce and is certainly a requirement for most, if not all, post-secondary programs. Higher rates of secondary school completion are a good sign of potential economic development and the development of a qualified labour force.

INDICATOR: Highest level of education – Apprenticeship/trades – population 15 years of age and over

Achieving certification through a recognized apprenticeship/trades is an important part of being ready and qualified to work in key sectors. Achieving this usually requires prior completion of secondary school. Having a larger number of persons with this designation translates into a more highly qualified labour force.

INDICATOR: Highest level of education – College/CEGEP/Other – population 15 years of age and over

One type of post-secondary education is the completion of a one- or two-year diploma or certificate program through a recognized public or private college. These programs typically provide hands-on skills and training to prepare people to work in a variety of service, technical, and administrative positions in most sectors of the economy. Having a larger number of persons with these skills translates into a more highly qualified labour force.

A second type of post-secondary education is through university degree programs. Entrance to these degree and certificate programs requires prior completion of secondary school. Individuals can obtain one or more degrees or certificates by progressively completing requirements. Typically a bachelor's degree is earned first. In some cases some programs at the bachelor's level offer certificates for completion of specific aspects (such a bilingualism; pre-engineering, etc.). Many jobs today require at least a bachelor's

degree. Beyond this level, individuals may pursue the completion of a master's degree and possibly a Ph.D. In both cases these provide more specialized training in a chosen field. Jobs which require specialized knowledge (such as law, medicine, social work, senior administration and management, etc.) or the ability to demonstrate higher order thinking, require these degrees as minimum requirements for employment. Collectively, having a larger number of persons with university degrees and certificates translates into a more highly qualified labour force. These three indicators are named below.

INDICATOR: Highest level of education – University certificate below bachelor's – population 15 years of age and over

INDICATOR: Highest level of education – University degree, bachelor's – population 15 years of age and over

INDICATOR: Highest level of education – University degree, above bachelor's (including Master's, Ph.D. and professional designations) – population 15 years of age and over

Table 30: Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006							
Secondary school	20.4%	18.8%	21.0%	21.7%	20.6%	18.3%	23.9%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	13.6%	16.1%	12.7%	12.2%	13.5%	11.2%	11.5%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	16.7%	12.6%	18.0%	17.0%	19.3%	18.3%	17.9%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.8%	2.7%	2.8%	3.1%	2.6%	2.5%	3.7%
University degree, bachelor's	5.6%	4.8%	5.8%	6.9%	5.4%	4.1%	9.3%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.9%	1.6%	2.0%	2.0%	1.9%	1.2%	4.6%

2001							
Secondary school	21.1%	22.7%	20.5%	21.0%	19.5%	20.6%	20.9%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	17.0%	18.5%	16.5%	15.0%	18.4%	17.3%	13.7%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	12.7%	11.0%	13.3%	12.2%	15.1%	11.6%	13.6%
University certificate below bachelor's	1.7%	2.0%	1.6%	1.9%	0.9%	2.3%	2.1%
University degree, bachelor's	3.9%	3.3%	4.1%	5.0%	3.7%	3.0%	8.6%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	1.6%	0.0%	3.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031;97F0011XCB01042.

In 2001 the non-Aboriginal population had higher levels of education attainment. Just over 14% of the population had completed a university level certificate or degree, including 3.5% with a degree above the bachelor's level. This compared with just 6.7% of the Aboriginal population, including just 1.1% with a degree above the bachelor level. The rates were similar for the on-reserve and off-reserve populations (6.5% and 6.8% with a university level or certificate). It was almost 8% for the off-reserve First Nation population, and 6.2% and 5.3% for the Métis and Inuit populations, respectively. Furthermore, almost 14% of the non-Aboriginal population had attained a college diploma as the highest level of education; the rates were slightly less for Aboriginals, for both on-reserve and off-reserve populations, and for Inuit. It was slightly higher at 15.1%. The percent of Aboriginals with an apprenticeship or trades certificate was 17% - higher than the 13.7% among non-Aboriginals. The rates were higher than for non-Aboriginals for on-reserve, off-reserve, Métis, and Inuit. There was almost no difference in the percent of the population with just secondary school as the highest level of education attainment; however, it was almost 23% for the on-reserve population.

All populations made improvements in the highest level of education attainment by 2006, especially the off-reserve First Nations population. By 2006 a total of 12% had completed a university level certificate or degree, and 17% had completed a college diploma. Just over 17.6% of the general population had completed a university level certificate or degree. This compared with just 10.3% of the Aboriginal population. An additional 4% of both populations had completed a college diploma program as their highest level of education. The rates with apprenticeships or trades certificates dropped for both groups. This might be explained by some of those with apprenticeships or trades certificates in

2001 completing additional higher level programs. The percent of the off-reserve population with a university certificate or degree increased slightly more (from 6.8% to 10.6%) than it did among the on-reserve population (from 6.5% to 9.1%). The increases among the Métis were higher than they were for the Inuit.

In both 2001 and 2006 a higher percentage of Registered Indians than Aboriginals had completed a university level certificate or degree; however, the rates were below the non-Registered Indian population. A greater percent (8.1%) of off-reserve Registered Indians than on-reserve Registered Indians (6.4%) had a university level certificate or degree. The difference between these two groups widened by 2006 (to 9.4% for on-reserve and 13.2% for off-reserve), but these were still below the 17.7% of the non-Registered Indian population. Relatively fewer Registered Indians than Aboriginals and non-Registered Indians had a college diploma as the highest level of education. However, slightly more Registered Indians than either of these groups held an apprenticeship or trades certificate as the highest level of education.

Table 31: Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006				
Secondary school	19.6%	18.4%	20.7%	23.9%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	14.7%	16.3%	13.1%	11.5%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	14.2%	12.4%	16.0%	17.9%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.9%	2.8%	3.1%	3.6%
University degree, bachelor's	6.2%	4.7%	7.7%	9.3%
University degree, above bachelor's	2.2%	1.9%	2.5%	4.8%
2001				
Secondary school	22.6%	22.7%	22.4%	20.3%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	17.7%	18.7%	16.6%	13.7%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	11.5%	10.9%	12.3%	13.6%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.0%	1.9%	2.2%	2.1%
University degree, bachelor's	4.2%	3.4%	4.8%	8.6%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	3.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006029; 97F0011XCB01058.

Health

There is a known link between education and health. Those with higher levels of education also tend to be healthier and have fewer problems. There is also a relationship between environment and health. Environments that are healthy contribute to healthy individuals. Environments which are toxic, have pollutants, have exposure to electricity grids and wires, commercial pesticide use, and so on, are likely to have people who are less healthy.

INDICATOR: Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over

Households led by lone parents face many challenges. They have only one income, typically, and there are child care arrangements to be made if the lone parent is employed. Without the support of a spouse or partner, the lone parent can face difficult parenting situations, or lack the family and social support network they may require to assist them to participate fully in the life of the community. Most lone parent households are led by females, and they typically have lower incomes than male led lone parent households and households with two adults. In some cases females who lead lone parent households may be very young if they became pregnant at a young age, and may require supports from the broader community. The incidence of lone parent households can be a measure of the social and economic challenges faced by people in the community. An increase in the incidence over time can point to worsening conditions.

Table 32: Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off- Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	16.9%	30.2%	12.7%	14.5%	9.7%	13.5%	8.7%
2001	16.9%	29.8%	13.0%	14.7%	10.6%	13.1%	8.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

The percent of adults heading a lone parent household remained relatively constant for all population groups between 2001 and 2006. However, in both years it was much higher among the Aboriginal population (17%) than among the non-Aboriginal population (just under 9%). The rates were highest among the Aboriginal on-reserve population, at 30%. This compared with 13% for the Aboriginal off-reserve population. Within this latter group the rates were highest among First Nations people and lowest among the Métis.

Table 33: Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	22.4%	30.5%	15.0%	8.8%
2001	22.5%	30.0%	14.8%	8.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

The percent of Registered Indian adults heading a lone parent household is higher than it is for the Aboriginal population (22.5% compared with 17%). This higher rate is primarily due to the fact that the percent among off-reserve Registered Indian population is higher than for the off-reserve Aboriginal population. The percent of Registered Indian adults heading a lone parent household is about twice as high as for those living off-reserve.

INDICATOR: Percent of population living in dwelling units with more than one person per room

This is a reasonable proxy indicator of crowding. It accurately reflects problems associated with living conditions on reserves, where it is well-documented that too many households and individuals live in crowded conditions. Crowding as one of the three measures of core housing need (the others being affordability and adequacy or state of repair) is a not a direct publicly released measure from the census; instead, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation calculates the crowding situation by working with the variables associated with age, gender, number of bedrooms, and household composition to arrive at a more precise estimate of the number of persons living in crowded conditions. The First Nations Community Well-Being Index developed by INAC uses the proportion of the population whose place of residence contains no more than one person per room as a measure of crowding or housing quality. The Harvard Project in the United States also uses crowding as an indicator.

Table 34: Percent of population living in dwellings with more than one person per room, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	4.1%	8.0%	2.8%	3.5%	1.7%	7.5%	0.8%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Note: Rooms refers to all rooms within a dwelling excluding bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms used solely for business purposes.

Less than one percent of the non-Aboriginal population in 2006 lived in dwellings with more than one person per room. This compares with 4% for the Aboriginal population. Those living in crowded conditions (under this criteria) are mostly those living on-reserve, where 8% of the Aboriginal population find themselves in this situation. This is also a problem for the Inuit population, where 7.5% live in this situation. The rates were much lower among the off-reserve Aboriginal population generally, and specifically the off-reserve First Nations population and the Métis.

There is no published data from the census for this indicator for the Registered Indian population.

The following set of indicators are specifically individual physical and mental health indicators, and they should be examined and interpreted collectively to provide a good picture of the overall health of the population. In addition, they should be considered with some caution because for each of the indicators, the data are drawn from surveys of a sample (not a census) of the population, and the data for on-reserve communities comes from a different survey (albeit with the same or slightly different worded questions) than those for off-reserve and non-Aboriginal populations. The data reported from the Canadian Community Health Survey is for the population **12 years of age and over**, while the data reported from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey is for the population **18 years of age and over**.

INDICATOR: Percent who self-reported overall health status as excellent or very good

The collective perceptions that individuals have about their own health status is a good indicator of the overall health of the population in a given community or for a group of people. Even if their own perceptions about their overall health are inaccurate, their perceptions do matter and if people believe they are healthy they are more likely to be active and participating in the life of the community. Furthermore, overall good health reduces expenditures on health care services, increases the likelihood of being employable, and so on.

In both the Canadian Community Health Survey and the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, the specific question read as follows: “To start, in general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?”

Table 35: Percent who self-reported overall health status as excellent or very good, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On- Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	49.2%	No data	No data	No data	58.4%
2003	No data	43.5%	56.1%	No data	No data	No data	57.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: On-reserve includes only the 13 Nova Scotia First Nation communities, and is derived from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, and is for the population 18 years of age and over. The off-reserve data does not include PEI, and that and the non-Aboriginal data are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

In 2003 a lower percent of the on-reserve population (43.5%) reported that their health was excellent or very good, compared with the off-reserve (56.1%) and non-Aboriginal population (57.9%). In 2005 there was virtually no change among the non-Aboriginal population, but there was a drop to 49.2% among the off-serve Aboriginal population reporting their health to be excellent or very good.

INDICATOR: Percent who self-reported physical limitations often or sometimes

This indicator is useful because it tells us how many people are constrained by their problems and may not be able to fully participate in the life of the community and may have difficulty obtaining and holding a job.

In the Canadian Community Health Survey the specific question read as follows: “Because of physical health, during the past 4 weeks, were you limited in the kind of work or other activities? Yes? No?” In the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, the specific question read as follows: “Are you limited in the kinds or amount of activity you can do at home because of a physical or mental condition or health problem? Yes, Often? Yes, sometimes? No?”

Table 36: Percent who self-reported physical limitations often or sometimes, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off- Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	37.9%	No data	No data	No data	35.6%
2003	No data	17.5%	38.7%	No data	No data	No data	33.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: On-reserve includes only the 13 Nova Scotia First Nation communities, and is derived from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, and is for the population 18 years of age and over. The off-reserve data does not include PEI, and that and the non-Aboriginal data are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

About one-third of the non-Aboriginal population in both 2003 and 2005 reported often or sometimes having physical limitations. This was slightly less than for the off-reserve population in both years. However, only 17.5% of the on-reserve population reported often or sometimes having physical limitations – about half of the non-Aboriginal rate for that year. This may be a reflection of different age structure of the two populations, with the on-reserve population being significantly younger.

INDICATOR: Percent who self-reported feeling sad, blue or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row (mental health)

Mental health is an important component of well-being. People suffering from depression and related problems may have difficulty with everyday life functions and may have difficulty participating fully in the life of the community. They may not be able to hold down a job.

In both the Canadian Community Health Survey¹⁰ and the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, the specific question read as follows: “During the past 12 months, was there ever a time when you felt sad, blue, or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row? Yes? No?” The publicly released data from the Canadian Community Health Survey in 2005 were based on the following: “Population aged 12 and over who rate their own mental health status as being less than excellent or very good.”

¹⁰ The question regarding depression was “optional” in the 2003 version of the Canadian Community Health Survey, and was not included in the survey administered in all health regions.

Table 37: Percent who self-reported feeling sad, blue or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	36.3%	No data	No data	No data	28.4%
2003	No data	34.3%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: On-reserve includes only the 13 Nova Scotia First Nation communities, and is derived from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, and is for the population 18 years of age and over. The off-reserve data does not include PEI, and that and the non-Aboriginal data are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

There appears to be little difference between the on-reserve and off-reserve Aboriginal populations in terms of depression. In 2003 slightly more than one-third of the on-reserve population reported that they felt sad, blue, or depressed for two weeks or more in a row. This compares with 36% for the off-reserve population in 2005 who reported that their mental health status was less than excellent or very good. In 2005 there were more off-reserve Aboriginals than non-Aboriginals who felt their mental health was less than excellent or very good.

INDICATOR: Percent who self-reported at least one type of injury requiring medical treatment

Injuries requiring medical treatment can limit the ability of an individual. They may be off work for lengthy periods of time or they may be unable to return to work. Furthermore, they may require extended care by family members, taking them away from paid employment. The number and type of injuries may be an indication of larger community problems concerning unsafe recreation facilities or unsafe workplaces.

In the Canadian Community Health Survey the specific question read as follows: “Not counting repetitive strain injuries, in the past 12 months, were you injured? If yes, did you receive any medical attention for the injury from a health professional in the 48 hours following the injury?”

In the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, the specific question read as follows: “In the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following injuries that required the attention of a health care professional?”

Self-reported injuries requiring medical attention were higher among the Aboriginal population – both in 2003 for the on-reserve population and in 2005 for the Aboriginal off-reserve population – compared with the non-Aboriginal population. The rates were

just 9% and 13% for the non-Aboriginal population. The rate was almost three times as much for the on-reserve population.

Table 38: Percent who self-reported at least one type of injury requiring medical treatment, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	16.7%	No data	No data	No data	13.2%
2003	No data	27.2%	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: On-reserve includes only the 13 Nova Scotia First Nation communities, and is derived from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, and is for the population 18 years of age and over. The off-reserve data does not include PEI, and that and the non-Aboriginal data are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

INDICATOR: Percent who self-reported having arthritis or rheumatism, diabetes, asthma, or high blood pressure

The incidence of individuals with chronic diseases is a useful indicator of the overall health of the community. If there are many people with one or more various chronic illnesses, it can be a measure of overall poor health. Many chronic diseases can be prevented or managed with proper treatment. People with specific chronic diseases may also be limited in some specific activities they can participate in or they may be limited in the types of employment they can undertake.

In the Canadian Community Health Survey the specific question read as follows: “We are interested in ‘long-term conditions’ which are expected to last or have already lasted 6 months or more and that have been diagnosed by a health professional. Do you have ...” In the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, the specific question read as follows: “Have you been told by a health care professional that you have? Only answer yes if this condition has lasted at least 6 months or is expected to last at least 6 months.”

In both 2003 and 2005 there was very little difference between the Aboriginal off-reserve population and the non-Aboriginal population with respect to the incidence of selected chronic diseases. In fact, the incidence of high blood pressure and arthritis or rheumatism fell among the off-reserve population, while the incidence of high blood pressure increased slightly among the non-Aboriginal population. In 2003 the incidence of high

blood pressure and of asthma was marginally higher among the on-reserve population compared with the non-Aboriginal population. The incidence of diabetes was significantly higher – 19.7%, a rate more than three and half times that of the non-Aboriginal population. However, the incidence of arthritis or rheumatism was significantly lower – just 4.3% compared to 22% for the non-Aboriginal population. This would be due primarily to the younger age structure of the Aboriginal population. Younger people are less likely to have arthritis.

Table 39: Percent who self-reported chronic diseases, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	19.7%	No data	No data	No data	21.5%
Diabetes	No data	No data	5.8%	No data	No data	No data	6.5%
Asthma	No data	No data	13.8%	No data	No data	No data	8.9%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	16.6%	No data	No data	No data	18.6%
2003							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	4.3%	22.6%	No data	No data	No data	22.0%
Diabetes	No data	19.7%	No data	No data	No data	No data	5.6%
Asthma	No data	10.6%	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.1%
High blood pressure	No data	18.0%	17.9%	No data	No data	No data	17.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: On-reserve includes only the 13 Nova Scotia First Nation communities, and is derived from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, and is for the population 18 years of age and over. The off-reserve data does not include PEI, and that and the non-Aboriginal data are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over. For 2003, the off-reserve “arthritis or rheumatism indicator” does not include data from PEI and NB; and the off-reserve “high blood pressure indicator” only includes data from NL.

Potential Additional Social Indicators

The Working Group discussed the potential usefulness of the **number of persons registered in apprenticeship programs**, each year, as an indicator. This was seen to be helpful for understanding the extent to which there are people preparing themselves for specific, designated trades and other occupations, which require this formal designation

in order to be hired. Upon investigation, it was determined that there are no formal tracking systems at the moment which report on Aboriginal persons (either on- or off-reserve) registered in these programs. As noted in the chosen indicators, the census does report on a five-year cycle the number of people who obtained such a designation as their highest level of education. This is a close but not perfect count of the number of people with formal designation, because if someone has a “higher” level of education other than completing an apprenticeship program, it is not reported in the census. Furthermore, those with a trades certificate but without a formal apprenticeship designation are included in the census totals. The Working Group felt that annual tracking of both registrants in, and completions, would be helpful.

Completion rates at the post-secondary level was discussed as a potentially useful indicator. Understanding how many people who initially register for community college and for university, and how many of them go on to completion, is seen to be important. If completion rates are low relative to other population, or if they decline over time, this indicator could point to the need for interventions and resources at those institutions in order to ensure successful completion. However, the challenge at the present time is that this data is not uniformly collected across all institutions, and in cases where it is collected, there is no specific tracking of Aboriginal students. This is an indicator which, if the proper data could be identified and secured, would require a commitment by post-secondary education institutions to collect and share consistently and over time.

Another potential indicator concerned the ability to or **extent to which individual communities are able to retain their brightest and most highly qualified people** (those with higher levels of education, certification, and experience). The Working Group could not agree on exactly what could be measured, but there was a general consensus that communities need to provide opportunities for their young people, in particular, to come back and work in the community and make a difference in the social and economic development of the community. It was also recognized that this is very challenging to accomplish because of the limited number of job openings and the challenging economic circumstances in many First Nations communities. At the same time, as more young Aboriginal people complete post-secondary education and become exposed to the broader employment possibilities available to them, they may choose careers which require them to move away from their communities.

Another potential social indicator is the **number of persons or households requiring housing**; this was also discussed in the context of Environmental (Infrastructure) indicators. As noted earlier, this is a useful measure of social challenges and needs in communities, but also very difficult to quantify and measure, especially for the purpose of comparing to the general population. In that context the indicator is the number or percent of households on waiting lists for social housing. The lists maintained by provincial government departments do not truly reflect the need for housing assistance because not everyone in need puts themselves on waiting lists.

One potential indicator for which the Working Group had a strong desire for inclusion is **crime rates**. This is a direct social indicator related to quality of life and social well-being. Measuring this indicator over time can point to improvements (or worsening

problems) in a community. Upon investigation it was determined that there are many challenges in collecting data for this indicator. First, First Nations specific crime information is not collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Second, the Aboriginal Policing Directorate within Public Safety Canada does not collect crime statistics. Third, the RCMP keeps track of statistics at the detachment level, but many detachments provide policing services to multiple communities. Fourth, crime statistics are not collected or published based on the cultural identity of those charged, making it impossible to develop an off-reserve measure for this. Fifth, there are many different types of statistics which are collected, including type of crime (property, personal, violent, etc.), number of charges, number which go to court or trial, and number of convictions. There would need to be careful assessment about which statistic(s) would be most useful. There was also some discussion about the potential to obtain statistics from the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN) in Nova Scotia (and its similar agencies elsewhere) but they do not track crime statistics specifically.

The **social cost of dependence** on government and the individual band for economic and social survival among individuals and households was also suggested as a potential indicator. The Working Group recognized the potential link in any community (First Nation and others) between the lack of opportunity (and thus dependence on government assistance just to get by) and negative outcomes such as suicide, alcoholism, drug abuse, child abuse, spousal abuse, family violence, and host of other social problems. It was agreed that it would be difficult to find consistent and reliable data for this indicator, beginning with the challenge of defining which items would be included for data collection, ensuring the causal linkages are in fact present, and ensuring consistency in data collection and measurement.

Cultural/Spiritual Indicators

The Working Group did not identify any specific potential cultural or spiritual indicators which could be used for comparison purposes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons or communities.

Potential Additional Cultural/Spiritual Indicators

The Working Group did not identify any additional potential cultural or spiritual indicators which could be explored or developed if further resources or alternative data collection activities were developed, which could be used for comparison purposes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons or communities.

5.2 Indicators Specific to Aboriginal Communities and Individuals

In this section of the findings we focus only on those indicators which are specific to Aboriginal individuals and communities only (and, where possible, specific to Registered Indians only).

Economic Indicators

The Working Group identified two sets of economic indicators that are specific to Aboriginal communities. The first concerns own-source revenues for individual bands. The second concerns those which point to ongoing improvements in governance.

Indicator	Source	Notes
Governance		
Number of bands with self-government agreements in place	INAC	
Number of bands with custom elections	INAC	
Number of bands with custom membership	INAC	
Number of bands with a property taxation bylaw	INAC	
Number of bands with designated land management authority from INAC	INAC	

Governance

INDICATOR: Number of bands with self-government agreements in place

This indicator is a measure of self-organization and development of good local governance practice. Bands have to develop their own constitution, establish their governance processes, and so on. Over time, as more bands achieve self-government, it will be an indicator of progress.

INDICATOR: Number of bands with custom elections

This indicator measures progress since bands have to develop their own rules for elections through a transparent dialogue and ratification process within the community. Custom election codes must be approved by INAC.

INDICATOR: Number of bands with custom membership

This indicator measures progress since bands have to develop their own rules for membership. Adopting custom membership codes is a reflection of strategic thinking by the community leadership. It is an extension of custom elections.

INDICATOR: Number of bands with a property taxation bylaw

This indicator measures progress since band councils are a third order of government and good government raises revenues for the purpose of providing services. The details of the taxation bylaw locally may vary considerably from one community to another, and will reflect local conditions. As bands introduce such a bylaw it is a sign of a higher level of governance thinking and action. Property taxation also has the effect of holding band councils accountable for the collection and spending of property taxes. It should be noted, however, that not all First Nations communities or individuals may see this as a sign of progress.

INDICATOR: Number of bands with designated land management authority from INAC

This indicator measures progress because it demonstrates ability and capacity to develop and implement land use plans. It also means that bands have authority over land assets which in turn can be used as leverage for partnership development. It also removes uncertainty in the minds of private sector developers and partners over decision-making authority and related issues, since fewer actors will be involved in providing approvals for development proposals.

Table 40: Number of bands with new governance tools

	2009	Number of bands
Number of bands with self-government agreements in place		0
Number of bands with custom elections		8
Number of bands with custom membership		11
Number of bands with a property taxation bylaw		3
Number of bands with designated land management authority from INAC		5

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office.

As of 2009, relatively few bands have adopted new governance tools. There were no bands with self-government agreements in place. There were eight bands with a custom election code:

- Abegweit
- Acadia
- Buctouche
- Glooscap
- Lennox Island
- Miawpukek
- Mushuau Innu First Nation
- Sheshatshui Innu First Nation

There were eleven bands with a custom membership code:

- Abegweit
- Annapolis Valley
- Buctouche
- Burnt Church
- Chapel Island
- Eel River Bar
- Eskasoni
- Lennox Island
- Madawaska
- Membertou
- Oromocto

Only three bands had property taxation bylaws:

- Eel River Bar
- Eskasoni
- Millbrook

Five bands had land management authority from INAC:

- Burnt Church
- Eel Ground
- Madawaska
- Millbrook (both at Cole Harbour and Millbrook)
- Woodstock

Potential Additional Economic Indicators

Several additional economic indicators specific to Aboriginal communities and people were discussed. The **percentage of band revenue from non-government sources** was identified

as being especially useful for understanding the extent to which individual bands, and bands collectively, are moving away from dependence on government programs and transfers for the delivery of services in their communities. “Own source revenue” could include revenue generated from fisheries, forestry, royalties, gaming, tobacco sales, gas sales, and much more. Bands are required to submit financial statements to INAC each year showing all of their revenues and expenses. However, this information is deemed by INAC to be confidential and not for public release. At the time of preparing this report, discussions were ongoing between Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs and INAC about access to this data.

The **percentage of land set aside for economic development purposes** was considered. Setting aside land for economic development purposes is thought to be an indication of potential opportunity, of being progressive, and of being confident in the ability of the community to support new business development. It could be a predictor of potential

increase in economic assets, in wealth generation, and in planning capacity. However, the Working Group decided against using this as an indicator. Exactly what data can or should be collected was unclear (percentage of land base, total acreage, etc.). The quality and location of the land set aside for economic development would need to be considered. Furthermore, if land was set aside, there would need to be a related indicator about the amount of takeup or use of the land for intended purposes over time. Regardless of the data required, there would be a requirement for each band to report on this. It was felt that there would need to be more consideration of the usefulness of this indicator before proceeding.

The **number of band owned businesses** was also discussed as a potential indicator. This measure by itself was felt to be problematic because of the high degree of variation across the region in term of the geographic location of each band, its access to land and natural resources, its position relative to other communities, the presence or absence of the private sector in providing the goods and services needed, and so on. Furthermore, there would be some difficulty in understanding the relative merits of starting and operating a band owned business – does the band have the capacity to do so, is there a better opportunity for the private sector, and so on. Inclusion of this indicator would also require a consistent reporting approach by each band to a central body.

Related to the number of band owned businesses, it was also suggested that **band debt to business revenue (from band owned firms) ratio** would be a useful indicator. Bands do need to invest equity in starting up their businesses (and thus potentially incurring debt). Over time band owned business may incur losses if market potential is not realized or if poor management practices impact on the financial position of the band. At the same time, some debt is useful and important for business startup and development. It was decided not to include this indicator because it was not certain what the ratio would actually tell us – is the ratio too high or too low? In any given year, taking on more debt may be important to finance growth and expansion.

Measuring the **inequality between First Nations communities located close to urban centres and those located in rural regions** was also proposed. The hypothesis was that those located close to urban communities would have better economic outcomes over time. However, upon reflection and discussion, it was not clear about what specifically would constitute “inequality”, and whether or not other indicators would be more useful and show the net outcome between communities – the extent of inequality. There was also no agreement on what defines an urban community in terms of population threshold, population density, business dynamics, and so on. Finally, it was felt that if the hypothesis was in fact correct, would there be any reasonable interventions that could be proposed that would actually improve conditions and outcomes for bands located in rural regions, within the context of this indicator.

The Working Group discussed the potential to use **percentage of people seeking jobs off-reserve** as an indicator. Some people felt that this would be useful as a measure of the willingness and desire of the local population to seek meaningful employment rather than depend on social assistance or seasonal on-reserve employment. There was also some

discussion about the fact that many on-reserve residents prefer not to seek off-reserve employment because they would be subject to paying income tax. Collecting data for this potential indicator is problematic and would depend on surveys conducted in each community. Quality control and data reliability would be potential problems.

Information technology adoption by bands was also discussed as a potential indicator. The thinking is that bands which are more progressive in their governance, leadership, thinking, and economic development activities would also be interested in making use of advanced communication technologies. However, it was not entirely clear about what exactly could be measured. Would the indicator be specific about what is happening at the band office, at band-operated facilities (schools, health centres, etc.), or across the community in businesses and households? What exactly would be measured – hardware, applications, bandwidth traffic, subscription rates on internet services? More work is required to further refine and define the specifics of this potential indicator and data source(s) that could be accessed.

The following governance-related indicators were discussed but are not included because of the challenges and limitations associated with the data itself, the data collection process or activities required, or with the interpretation of the data.

The **number of bands involved in self-government negotiations** at any given time might be a useful indicator pointing to perhaps the increase in confidence of band leadership or the willingness and desire of an individual band to move forward with their opportunities. This will not be included because the number in any given year may not tell us if things are improving or worsening as bands complete, terminate, or continue negotiations without progress.

The **number of bands with a sales tax agreement in place** with their respective provincial government might be an indicator of “progress”. However, the decision was made to not include this indicator because it likely does not point to anything different than what we learn about the number of bands with property taxation in place. In addition, using sales tax as a revenue generator may not be seen by all as a measure of progress. In some communities band members may be totally opposed to such a measure.

The **number of bands with policing service agreements** in place was also considered. However, it is not clear what changes over time in this indicator might mean. The presence of a band-operated policing service does not necessarily mean “progress” (except in the sense that local governance has increased). There would need to be some way to measure the quality of the policing service, and the range of services the band-operated force provides. In addition, not all bands may have the ability or fiscal capacity to implement their own police force, and so a lack of progress on this indicator (that is, no change in the number of bands with their own police force) may not be helpful. Furthermore, as it relates to quality of service provided, it may be the case that some communities would be far better off (depending on local circumstances) to contract out policing services to a neighbouring community, to another band, or to the RCMP.

Environmental Indicators

The Working Group discussed a number of potential environmental indicators specific to Aboriginal people and communities; however, for each that was discussed it was discovered that data for was currently unavailable. These are discussed below.

Potential Additional Environmental Indicators

Three of the potential indicators concern housing¹¹. These include **housing units needed** (per capita); **per capita expenditure on repair and renovation**; and **number of new housing starts**. Upon investigation with INAC it was revealed that it does not collect annual reports or data from each band concerning these indicators. The number of new **housing units needed** was felt to be an important indicator to measure over time since reductions in the number of units required would point to improvements. The need for new housing units comes from two sources. The first is the continued population growth and subsequent new household formation. As youth move into adulthood and form new households and families, they require new housing of their own. The second is the need to replace existing units which are no longer habitable or too costly to repair and rehabilitate.

The potential indicator of **per capita expenditure on repair and renovation** will also be useful to measure over time. It is known that a high proportion of housing units on-reserve are in need of either major or minor repair. Making investments – either by the band or by the individuals who occupy the units – will be a sign of progress in terms of addressing these housing problems and would likely reflect an increase in community and individual wealth and disposable income.

In a similar manner, tracking changes (and improvements, hopefully) over time in terms of the **number of new housing starts** each year would also provide some measure of progress. Increased investments in new housing starts (regardless of the financial source) will be a sign of progress in terms of addressing housing needs. If there is an increase in the number of individuals doing this on their own with band financing or government programs, it would likely reflect an increase in community and individual wealth.

The Working Group also discussed **access and use of natural resource lands outside the reserve** as a potential indicator. This was felt to be important as a way to recognize and acknowledge the fact that Aboriginal people on the land first. Having access to and using traditional lands for a variety of purposes was thought to be important for showing progress, for recognition of inherent rights, and for providing more autonomy for Aboriginal people to participate in and succeed the larger society and economy. However, upon further discussion, it became clear that this would be difficult to measure. Would it be about measuring the amount or type land that was accessible, or the number

¹¹ These three, and others, were discussed in some detail in the major section Indicators Which Compare Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Communities and Individuals, subsection on Potential Additional Environment Indicators, p. 73. The focus of that discussion was on the comparability of potential data sources for each of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population.

of people from the community who actually use the land, or for what purposes? Furthermore, how would the use be measured in terms of traditional activities, economic activities, and so on? It also became apparent that any data would likely have to involve individual surveys of some sort, which would require careful methods to ensure quality control and data reliability. Further work is needed to refine the potential of this indicator and the means by which data would be collected.

Social Indicators

Two social indicators specific to Aboriginal communities and people were identified. The first concerns enrollment in band-operated schools and the second concerns the importance of traditional activities.

Indicator	Source	Notes
Percent of school-aged children attending band-operated schools	INAC; Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey; Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi	For students age 4-21 living on-reserve only, based on Nominal Roll totals; for INAC it is for communities who have a band-operated school; Nominal Roll is the student count First Nations are required to submit to INAC
Percent of population who feel traditional activities are important or very important	First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey	Conducted in 2002/2003 in all 13 NS Mi'kmaq Nation communities

INDICATOR: Percent of school-aged children attending band-operated schools

This indicator was identified because the Working Group felt that having the capacity to provide schooling for First Nations children in schools which are band-operated offered the opportunity for control of and autonomy over the education they receive. In turn this means there is potentially a greater opportunity to infuse traditional learning activities and culture into the education system, to teach Aboriginal language(s), and to involve the whole community in the education of children. It also reflects an increasing governance and administrative capacity to provide education services. Over time, more children attending band-operated schools across the region can be linked to both social and economic progress.

INAC considers school age children to be in the 4-21 age group. The Nominal Roll is the student count First Nations are required to submit to INAC. The Nominal Roll student count has two criteria – students must be living on-reserve, and attending school as of September 30th. The students counted may be a combination of Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal and registered/non-registered. INAC collects data from all of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island bands, and from the three bands who are not part of the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey in Nova Scotia. Ten of the thirteen bands participate in

Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and that organization is funded through a grant from INAC. Participating bands report directly to the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey. In Newfoundland and Labrador, Miawpukek is also funded through a separate grant and do not report to INAC. For Sheshatshiu and Mushuau Innu - their schools were considered provincial schools previously, but in September 2009 they became band-operated and there is now reporting to INAC.

Table 41: Number and percent of school-aged children (4-21 years of age) attending band-operated schools (nominal roll count), On-Reserve Communities

	Number	Percent
2008-09	3004	38.7%
2007-08	2928	40.3%
2006-07	2939	41.2%
2005-06	2943	41.6%
2004-05	2881	40.9%
2003-04	2841	41.9%
2002-03	2831	42.2%
2001-02	2859	43.5%
2000-01	2915	45.0%

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office; Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi; Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey Sub-Office, Indian Brook, Nova Scotia.

The total number of children on-reserve aged 4-21 attending band-operated schools in 2000-01 was 2,915, or 45% of all children. The total number dipped to a low of 2,831 (42.2%) in 2002-03, and climbed steadily to 3,004 (38.7%) in 2008-09. It can be seen that despite an increase in the total number of students attending band-operated schools, the overall proportion attending such schools is in decline. This is likely due to the continued rapid increase in the total number of school-aged children (4-21 years), especially in communities where there are no band-operated schools.

INDICATOR: Percent of population who feel traditional activities are important or very important

Engagement in traditional activities, and the perception or feeling that traditional activities are important to an individual and to the community, is a useful indicator. More specifically, as individuals re-discover their culture and heritage, and as communities work to provide opportunities for individual and collective participation in traditional activities, it is expected that more people become aware of their importance. This in turn translates into progress, because being confident in one's own identity and culture is part of one's development, it can be viewed as an indicator of progress when more people feel this way.

Table 42: Percent who feel traditional activities are important or very important - population 18 years of age and over

	Aboriginal	On-Reserve	Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2003	No data	79.7%	No data	No data	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: On-reserve includes only the 13 Nova Scotia First Nation communities.

The only reference point for this indicator is the 2003 First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey. It found that almost 80% of adults on-reserve felt that traditional activities were important or very important.

Potential Additional Social Indicators

The **percentage of school-aged children participating in Aboriginal language immersion programs** was discussed as a useful indicator. This would reflect an ongoing effort to rebuild interest in and use of Aboriginal languages as part of the ongoing effort to preserve Aboriginal culture. It is also linked to building a connection across generations, building confidence among young children in their own culture, and together these are signs of progress which in turn can be used to improve conditions in communities. Upon investigation it was found that this information is not consistently tracked across the entire region. For this indicator to be included in the future efforts will need to be made to ensure that data is consistently tracked each year. In some cases individual bands will need to do this, in other cases the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey already performs this function.

The **number of human rights complaints each year per band** was discussed as a potential indicator. It was suggested that as the number of complaints increase each year, it is an indicator that people are taking more seriously their rights and taking action on violations against them. However, upon further discussion, it was revealed that the various appropriate provincial acts are not in force at the band level. Furthermore, the number of complaints themselves does not tell us if things are getting better or worse. For example, an increase in the number of complaints could be due to greater awareness of a process for addressing them as opposed to purely an increase in issues or violations; similarly a decline in complaints could be a reflection of either dissatisfaction with the process on previous complaints (and therefore fewer people make use of the process) or that conditions are in fact improving. The decision was made not to include this indicator.

Another potential indicator that was suggested concerned **Aboriginal women's rights**. There was no clear articulation of exactly what the indicator might be or what would need to be measured. But the intent of the suggestion was to emphasise that indicators of progress might be very different for men and for women in an Aboriginal context and that analysis and interpretation of indicators should have some gender analysis built into the process if possible. There was no conclusive statement about how to proceed with the

need and desire for gender considerations; however, it is clear that in the future, data should be assembled and analysed for each gender where possible.

Cultural/Spiritual Indicators

Three sets of cultural and spiritual indicators were identified for inclusion. The first involves traditional foods, the second involves spirituality and religion, and the third involves Aboriginal language knowledge and use.

Indicator	Source	Notes
Percent of population who often consumed traditional food in the previous twelve months	First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RLHS)	Conducted in 2002/2003 in all 13 NS Mi'kmaq Nation communities
Percent of population who often shared traditional food in the previous twelve months	RLHS	As above
Percent of population for whom native spirituality is somewhat or very important	RLHS	As above
Percent of population for whom organized religion is somewhat or very important	RLHS	As above
Percent of population who use traditional medicines	RLHS	As above
Percent of population who consulted a native healer in the previous twelve months	RLHS	As above
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	Includes single and multiple responses; Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census; First Nations RLHS asked a similar question
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	Includes single and multiple responses; First Nations RLHS also asked this question
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	Statistics Canada, Census of Canada	Includes single and multiple responses; First Nations RLHS also asked this question

INDICATOR: Percent of population who often consumed traditional food in the previous twelve months

This indicator points to a potential increase in awareness over time of the importance of traditional foods in the diet of Aboriginal people. Re-connecting with one's culture and actively participating in the consumption of traditional foods can be viewed as a measure of progress for a culture and a community. This is also connected to access rights and usage of traditional lands and resources.

INDICATOR: Percent of population who often shared traditional food in the previous twelve months

This is very similar to the previous indicator. It is part of measuring the re-awakening or resurgence of interest in the traditional activities of Aboriginal society, including the sharing of traditional foods in communal setting. An increase over time in this indicator can point to progress through the cohesion and togetherness and social bonding in the community.

INDICATOR: Percent of population for whom native spirituality is somewhat or very important

An increasing number of people participating in, seeking comfort from and guidance through, native spirituality and practices, is another measure of progress. As people strike a balance between the pressures of modern society and understanding and respecting their own culture, a renewed interest in native spirituality can be considered part of overall progress in a community.

INDICATOR: Percent of population for whom organized religion is somewhat or very important

This is related to the indicator on native spirituality. Organized religion, in whatever form, can form part of the social support network for individuals and families. If more people feel that organized religion is important to them, then there is a potentially stronger network of support for them in their communities.

INDICATOR: Percent of population who use traditional medicines

This indicator also is part of a re-connection with traditional culture and its practices. It links to issues concerning self-reliance, health, well-being, and spirituality. More people making use of traditional medicines can be viewed as a sign of progress, especially concerning cultural awareness, which in turn creates confidence in individuals and communities.

INDICATOR: Percent of population who consulted a native healer in the previous twelve months

This indicator also is part of a re-connection with traditional culture and its practices. It links to issues concerning self-reliance, health, well-being, and spirituality. More people consulting a native healer is a reflection of the confidence and trust that people have in their culture and their abilities to resolve their own problems and challenges.

Table 43: Percent for whom native culture is important, On-Reserve Communities - population 18 years of age and over

	On-Reserve
2003	
Percent who often consumed traditional food in the previous twelve months	92.3%
Percent who often shared traditional food in the previous twelve months	71.4%
Percent for whom native spirituality is somewhat or very important	72.7%
Percent for whom organized religion is somewhat or very important	79.7%
Percent who use traditional medicines	23.0%
Percent who consulted a native healer in the previous twelve months	13.6%

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: On-reserve includes only the 13 Nova Scotia First Nation communities.

The only data reference source for these indicators is the 2003 First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey. Almost all of the participants in the survey reported they have often consumed traditional foods in the twelve months prior to the survey. More than 70% had shared traditional food with others. Many of the respondents – almost three-quarters – felt that native spirituality was somewhat or very important, and slightly more felt that organized religion was somewhat or very important for them. Relative few participants in the survey used traditional medicines (almost one-quarter) or consulted a native healer in the twelve months prior to the survey (13.6%).

The following three indicators concern knowledge and use of an Aboriginal language. Together these indicators point to the extent to which people are engaged in and using their language and culture in their lives. As more people report speaking their own language, and understanding their own language, progress is being made in developing a strong sense of identity. It points to strengthening the linkages across generations, and it is a sign that Aboriginal culture is and can be central to the everyday lives of Aboriginal people in their homes, work, and society.

INDICATOR: Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue

INDICATOR: Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home

INDICATOR: Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language

Table 44: Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off- Reserve	First Nation Off- Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2006						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	15.4%	45.5%	4.5%	7.9%	0.1%	13.0%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	9.2%	27.5%	2.5%	5.2%	0.1%	3.5%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	17.2%	49.2%	5.5%	9.2%	0.2%	15.4%
2001						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	18.5%	45.6%	7.6%	12.9%	0.1%	12.2%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	16.6%	41.4%	6.5%	11.3%	0.0%	9.2%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	21.2%	51.7%	8.9%	14.6%	0.3%	14.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

There has been decline from 2001 to 2006 for almost every measure of Aboriginal language understanding and use, among all Aboriginal people and subgroups, as self-reported in the census. In 2001 almost 19% reported an Aboriginal mother tongue (which the census interprets as also continuing to understand that language). This dropped to just over 15% by 2006. While the rate remained the same for the on-reserve population (at 45.5%), it dropped among the off-reserve population. This included a drop from 13% to 8% among off-reserve First Nations. It increased from 12% to 13% for Inuit in this time period. The percent reporting that they had knowledge of an Aboriginal language was slightly higher than the percent reporting an Aboriginal mother tongue. However, that percentage declined between 2001 and 2006, except for the Inuit, where it rose marginally.

The use of an Aboriginal language most often in the home is less than having it as a mother tongue, and it too declined in the 2001 to 2006 time period. It fell from 17% to

9% for all Aboriginal people. Perhaps most concerning is the significant decline on-reserve, where it fell from 41% to 28%. There were also relatively sharp drops among the off-reserve and Inuit populations.

In the 2003 First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, the responses to similar questions among survey participants in the thirteen Nova Scotia First Nation communities are as follows:

- Percent who report being able to understand fluently at least one Aboriginal language: 49.6%
- Percent who report being able to speak fluently at least one Aboriginal language: 48.6%
- Percent who report speaking Mi'kmaq most often in daily life: 43.6%

Table 45: Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	On-Reserve	Off-Reserve
2006			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	29.7%	46.5%	10.4%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	18.5%	28.5%	7.0%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	32.5%	50.2%	12.2%
2001			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	23.4%	46.6%	5.6%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	21.0%	42.4%	4.6%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	26.7%	52.0%	7.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

An examination of the results for the Registered Indian population shows a different set of responses. First, the overall rates of having an Aboriginal mother tongue, having knowledge of an Aboriginal language, and using an Aboriginal language most often at home, are higher than for the Aboriginal population. In fact, the percent with an Aboriginal mother tongue and knowledge of an Aboriginal language increased in the 2001 to 2006 reference period. The percent speaking an Aboriginal language at home most often fell slightly from 21% to 18.5%.

There were significant differences between on-reserve and off-reserve Registered Indians. The rates on all three variables were much higher in both years. However, there was a sharp decline from 42% to 29% in the percent speaking an Aboriginal language at home most often, on-reserve. There was a small increase for all three indicators among the off-reserve Registered Indian population between 2001 and 2006.

Potential Additional Cultural/Spiritual Indicators

No potential additional cultural or spiritual indicators were identified by the Working Group for potential inclusion in this project.

6 Conclusions

This report provides information about a large set of indicators of economic progress for Aboriginal people and communities in Atlantic Canada. These indicators were identified and selected by Aboriginal leaders themselves. These indicators – for which objective data has been presented – serve only as a starting point. Additional indicators can and should be added over time, as data becomes available, and as other Aboriginal voices contribute to the dialogue. The indicators can be used as a tool for communities and Aboriginal organizations to develop new policy and program approaches (or to make changes to existing ones) which may influence positive changes in communities and across the region, over time.

The indicators presented in this report are only those for which there was freely available and reliable secondary data. For most of the indicators there was some degree of data calculation and manipulation required. Furthermore, in this report, a large number of additional preferred indicators were presented and discussed. These indicators require data which are currently not available, costly to obtain, or require special permissions to access. There is much work to be done to address these data collection and access issues. At the time of preparing this report, there were some initial efforts underway to pilot test primary data collection activities in some communities for some indicators. These potential additional indicators include:

Economic

- Average household income
- Incidence of low income (before tax) for all persons 0-14 years of age
- Percent of individuals receiving social assistance (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
- Number of registered businesses (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
- Number of new business starts (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
- Number of business closures or failures (initial data collection pilot test underway at the time of this report)
- Disposable income
- Percent of land set aside for economic development purposes
- Number of band owned businesses
- Band debt to business revenue ratio (band owned businesses)
- Information technology adoption by bands

Environmental

- Value of community-owned assets (a new data collection process for both municipalities and bands is being implemented in the next few years which will adhere to Public Sector Accounting Board principles and standards)
- Number of new housing starts
- Number of housing units needed

- Expenditures on housing repair and renovation
- Access and use of natural resource lands outside the reserve

Social

- Number of persons registered in apprenticeship programs
- Completion rates by Aboriginal persons attending post-secondary education
- Extent to which individual communities are able to retain their students who complete post-secondary education
- Crime rates
- Social cost of dependence
- Percent of school-aged children participating in Aboriginal language immersion programs

Cultural/Spiritual

- No potential additional cultural or spiritual indicators were identified by the Working Group for potential inclusion

Additional research should be conducted to understand more explicitly the causal relationship between cultural and spiritual activities, and the outcomes achieved in other domains (such as educational attainment, job satisfaction, recruitment, and healthy lifestyle choices). Examining other studies which have explored this relationship may provide clues as to potential additional cultural or spiritual indicators which may be appropriate to develop and include in future rounds of reporting.

In addition to these potential additional indicators identified by the members of the Indicators Working Group and the Advisory Committee, there may be other indicators that members of Aboriginal communities and organizations feel should be considered for measuring progress. This report, and the subsequent dialogue and action it leads to, provides an opportunity for people to share their input and ideas with the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs.

Indicators of Economic Development Progress among Aboriginal People and Communities

There have been improvements or progress on many indicators between 2001 and 2006 for Aboriginal people and communities. The **employment rate** has improved from 44% to 49% and the **unemployment rate** has declined from 28% to 22%. The reliance on **government transfer payments** has declined from 27% to 22% of total income. Average **employment income** has increased from \$18,000 to \$20,700, while average **individual income** increased from \$16,700 to \$21,800. The **incidence of low income** fell from 31% to 21%. **Education attainment** improved: those with a university certificate or degree increased from 6.7% to 10.3%. The number of **children attending band operated schools** has increased as well, from 2,831 in 2002-03 to 3,004 in 2008-09.

Indicators of Economic Development Regression among Aboriginal People and Communities

The primary area of regression between 2001 and 2006 for Aboriginal people and communities concerns **language**. There has been a decline in the number and percent reporting that they have an Aboriginal mother tongue, that they speak an Aboriginal language most frequently at home, and that they have knowledge of an Aboriginal language.

Gaps between On-Reserve and Off-Reserve Aboriginal Populations

Many indicators demonstrate important differences between the on-reserve and off-reserve Aboriginal populations. For each of the following indicators, the economic development progress among the on-reserve Aboriginal population between 2001 and 2006 was less than it was for the off-reserve Aboriginal population. Furthermore, the data for 2006 showed that the on-reserve Aboriginal population had outcomes which were below the off-reserve Aboriginal population on each of the following indicators:

- Labour force participation
- Employment
- Full time employment
- Unemployment
- Employment in “higher end” and growing sectors of the economy (employment in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management)
- Self-employment
- Dependence on government transfer payments as a percent of total income
- Average employment income
- Average individual income
- People living in dwellings in need of major repair
- Education attainment
- Adults living in households headed by a lone parent
- People living in crowded conditions

With respect to the three indicators concerning Aboriginal languages, there were far more people living on-reserve than off-reserve in 2006 who reported that they have an Aboriginal mother tongue (46% of the on-reserve population compared with 5% of the off-reserve population), that they speak an Aboriginal language most frequently at home (28% compared to 3%), and that they have knowledge of an Aboriginal language (49% compared to 6%).

Sustaining the Baseline Indicators and their Use

The information in this report serves as a baseline for economic development progress for Aboriginal people and communities between 2001 and 2006, for most indicators. Further

investments of time and staff resources are required to update the information for these indicators as they become available. This includes collecting and reporting on the indicators which have annual data, and a major effort concerning the retrieval, manipulation, and use of 2011 Census data when it is released.

Furthermore, consideration should be given to devoting resources (both time and money) to begin work on collecting data for the potential additional indicators. This involves at least the following activities:

- Working with individual communities to implement an annual data collection tool for some of the potential additional indicators.
- Working with INAC and other government departments and agencies to secure ongoing access to necessary administrative data, and to perhaps change their own data collection tools and practices to provide data that better responds to the needs and interests of Aboriginal communities.
- Considering the costs associated with purchasing special tabulations from the census or from other data sources (either from within Statistics Canada or from others) for data that fills current gaps.

Regular reporting (annually for annual data; every five years, for census data) on progress both within the Aboriginal community and with government departments and agencies, will be a key component of the usefulness of this information. Discussing, debating, and interpreting the data and the implications for policy and program change, will be most important.

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Selected Income Characteristics (35A), Registered Indian Status (3), Age Groups (6), Sex (3) and Area of Residence (7) for Population, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2001 Census - 20% Sample Data, 2001 Census - Statistics Canada 97F0011XCB01062.

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Appendix A: Results for Newfoundland and Labrador

Employment

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	60.8%	72.4%	60.2%	54.4%	67.0%	59.2%	58.8%
2001	60.4%	78.8%	59.6%	56.4%	63.8%	60.2%	57.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	58.2%	71.7%	55.0%	58.9%
2001	61.9%	78.8%	57.7%	57.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	42.5%	44.3%	42.4%	39.7%	46.0%	41.6%	45.2%
2001	40.5%	44.2%	40.0%	40.3%	40.5%	40.9%	43.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	39.2%	42.9%	38.4%	48.1%
2001	38.5%	43.4%	36.9%	45.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.9%	14.6%	21.3%	20.7%	24.1%	23.9%	26.7%
2001	19.5%	12.4%	19.8%	20.0%	20.4%	21.5%	25.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	17.5%	13.6%	18.4%	26.5%
2001	15.3%	11.5%	16.2%	25.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	30.1%	39.6%	29.4%	26.3%	31.3%	29.7%	18.0%
2001	33.5%	43.8%	32.9%	28.5%	36.1%	32.0%	21.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	32.6%	40.9%	30.1%	18.4%
2001	37.8%	43.8%	35.5%	21.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	24.3%	9.4%	25.1%	21.1%	31.3%	22.3%	27.7%
2001	25.4%	8.0%	26.2%	25.1%	30.4%	21.8%	29.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	19.1%	5.1%	22.7%	27.6%
2001	19.6%	12.2%	25.0%	29.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	17.5%	57.6%	15.1%	16.0%	12.2%	24.3%	8.9%
2001	17.5%	57.2%	15.9%	17.5%	13.3%	18.4%	10.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	24.0%	59.5%	14.9%	9.1%
2001	25.7%	53.1%	17.7%	10.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	3.2%	0.0%	3.4%	3.9%	3.4%	1.4%	6.3%
2001	4.8%	2.2%	5.0%	3.5%	6.9%	3.1%	7.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	4.0%	0.0%	5.2%	6.2%
2001	4.1%	0.0%	5.1%	7.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Income

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	24.7%	19.5%	24.9%	28.9%	23.2%	20.7%	20.2%
2001	28.0%	36.1%	27.6%	28.3%	23.9%	26.7%	21.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	26.9%	20.1%	28.2%	20.3%
2001	32.7%	36.4%	31.3%	21.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-563-XCB2006009; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Average employment income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	\$21,305	\$16,555	\$21,615	\$20,852	\$21,038	\$24,026	\$28,324
2001	\$19,127	No data	No data	No data	\$20,639	\$19,601	\$27,378

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average employment income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$19,159	\$16,153	\$20,024	\$28,110
2001	\$16,815	no data	no data	\$27,103

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average individual income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	\$22,595	\$17,943	\$22,856	\$20,961	\$23,850	\$24,713	\$27,856
2001	\$17,383	\$20,162	\$17,259	\$15,718	\$19,148	\$17,809	\$22,789

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Average individual income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$20,060	\$17,577	\$20,630	\$27,724
2001	\$16,094	\$20,162	\$14,987	\$22,661

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	18.7%	No data	No data	20.5%	13.3%	17.0%	14.5%
2001	28.5%	No data	No data	28.3%	20.6%	32.9%	18.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	22.9%	No data	No data	14.4%
2001	28.9%	No data	No data	18.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Infrastructure

Percent of communities with a water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	0.0%	No data
2007	33.3%	No data
2006	33.3%	No data

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada.

Average number of days per water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	0.0	No data
2007	17.0	No data
2006	70.0	No data

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada.

Percent of population living in dwellings in need of major repair (self-reported), Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	16.9%	18.8%	17.6%	20.2%	13.6%	22.4%	7.4%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Education

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006							
Secondary school	18.9%	13.0%	19.3%	21.7%	21.2%	17.5%	22.2%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	12.7%	14.1%	12.7%	12.2%	13.0%	11.0%	12.1%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	17.6%	11.5%	18.0%	17.0%	20.2%	19.0%	17.5%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.4%	1.0%	2.5%	3.1%	1.6%	2.8%	3.4%
University degree, bachelor's	4.8%	3.6%	4.9%	6.9%	5.5%	3.5%	7.5%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.5%	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	1.1%	0.7%	3.0%
2001							
Secondary school	19.1%	13.3%	19.3%	19.2%	17.8%	20.6%	18.6%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	19.2%	18.6%	19.2%	16.9%	22.7%	17.9%	16.7%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	12.7%	24.8%	12.2%	11.3%	13.9%	11.8%	10.8%
University certificate below bachelor's	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%	2.2%	0.9%	1.7%	1.8%
University degree, bachelor's	3.3%	3.5%	3.3%	3.9%	3.7%	3.0%	7.0%
University degree, above bachelor's	0.8%	1.8%	0.6%	0.3%	2.0%	0.0%	2.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031;97F0011XCB01042.

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006				
Secondary school	15.4%	13.0%	15.9%	22.2%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	14.8%	14.7%	14.8%	12.1%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	13.9%	11.4%	14.4%	17.6%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.3%	1.1%	2.6%	3.4%
University degree, bachelor's	4.0%	2.7%	4.2%	7.4%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.5%	2.2%	1.4%	3.9%
2001				
Secondary school	19.2%	14.2%	20.3%	18.6%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	19.1%	18.6%	19.4%	16.8%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	14.7%	23.9%	12.4%	10.8%
University certificate below bachelor's	1.6%	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
University degree, bachelor's	3.2%	3.5%	3.2%	6.9%
University degree, above bachelor's	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	2.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006029; 97F0011XCB01058.

Health

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	13.2%	14.4%	13.2%	12.4%	10.3%	13.4%	8.2%
2001	11.7%	12.5%	11.8%	11.0%	10.3%	13.7%	8.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	15.8%	14.2%	16.2%	8.3%
2001	10.8%	12.3%	10.3%	8.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent of population living in dwellings with more than one person per room, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	4.8%	4.9%	4.8%	8.3%	2.1%	8.2%	0.6%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Percent who self-reported overall health status as excellent or very good, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	61.1%	No data	No data	No data	64.4%
2003	No data	No data	60.7%	No data	No data	No data	66.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported physical limitations often or sometimes, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	32.4%	No data	No data	No data	33.8%
2003	No data	No data	32.0%	No data	No data	No data	26.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported feeling sad, blue or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	27.0%	No data	No data	No data	24.7%
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491. The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported at least one type of injury requiring medical treatment, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	10.9%	No data	No data	No data	11.6%
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	12.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported chronic diseases, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2005							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	15.6%	No data	No data	No data	21.4%
Diabetes	No data	No data	5.5%	No data	No data	No data	6.9%
Asthma	No data	No data	14.6%	No data	No data	No data	8.8%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	13.0%	No data	No data	No data	19.5%
2003							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	18.7%	No data	No data	No data	20.6%
Diabetes	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	6.5%
Asthma	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.0%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	17.9%	No data	No data	No data	16.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Governance

Number of bands with new governance tools

	2009
Number of bands with self-government agreements in place	0
Number of band with custom elections	3
Number of band with custom membership	0
Number of bands with a property taxation bylaw	0
Number of bands with designated land management authority from INAC	0

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office.

Social

Number and percent of school-aged children (4-21 years of age) attending band-operated schools (nominal roll count), On-Reserve Communities

	Number	Percent
2008-09	184	18.1%
2007-08	189	33.1%
2006-07	189	34.9%
2005-06	186	35.2%
2004-05	183	35.0%
2003-04	187	81.3%
2002-03	172	76.1%
2001-02	180	82.6%
2000-01	180	83.3%

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office; Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi.

Percent who feel traditional activities are important or very important - population 18 years of age and over

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2006						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	9.7%	42.5%	7.6%	16.0%	0.2%	13.7%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	7.4%	41.5%	5.1%	14.6%	0.0%	3.9%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	10.6%	44.3%	8.4%	16.5%	0.3%	16.6%
2001						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	11.3%	0.0%	11.7%	23.7%	0.2%	13.2%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	10.4%	1.3%	10.8%	23.2%	0.0%	10.1%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	12.3%	2.6%	12.7%	23.9%	0.0%	16.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve
2006			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	23.5%	42.6%	18.5%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	22.2%	42.6%	16.8%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	24.3%	44.8%	18.9%
2001			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	5.5%	1.3%	6.7%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	5.3%	2.0%	6.1%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	6.8%	3.3%	7.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent for whom native culture is important, On-Reserve Communities

	On-Reserve
2003	No data
Percent who often consumed traditional food in the previous twelve months	No data
Percent who often shared traditional food in the previous twelve months	No data
Percent for whom native spirituality is somewhat or very important	No data
Percent for whom organized religion is somewhat or very important	No data
Percent who use traditional medicines	No data
Percent who consulted a native healer in the previous twelve months	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Appendix B: Results for Prince Edward Island

Employment

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	72.1%	74.1%	71.5%	70.8%	66.1%	60.1%	68.2%
2001	63.3%	61.2%	64.9%	66.7%	65.4%	61.2%	69.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	77.6%	73.6%	80.6%	68.2%
2001	59.3%	61.2%	59.4%	69.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	59.7%	57.4%	60.5%	56.6%	72.0%	No data	60.7%
2001	48.3%	44.9%	49.6%	50.0%	60.0%	No data	60.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	62.4%	56.6%	66.7%	60.0%
2001	46.9%	44.9%	50.0%	60.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	25.7%	0.0%	33.7%	0.0%	62.0%	No data	32.9%
2001	21.7%	16.3%	23.7%	22.2%	52.0%	No data	32.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	25.6%	0.0%	44.4%	32.8%
2001	25.7%	14.3%	32.8%	32.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	17.2%	22.5%	15.4%	17.3%	13.9%	No data	11.0%
2001	24.6%	26.7%	23.5%	23.3%	13.3%	No data	13.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	19.6%	23.1%	17.2%	11.0%
2001	20.9%	23.3%	15.8%	13.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	27.4%	6.5%	33.7%	10.0%	29.0%	No data	24.6%
2001	11.5%	0.0%	15.4%	20.0%	15.4%	No data	24.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	21.8%	6.7%	31.3%	24.6%
2001	13.2%	0.0%	18.8%	24.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.7%	32.3%	17.3%	21.7%	16.1%	No data	12.0%
2001	26.4%	36.4%	23.1%	24.4%	23.1%	No data	10.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	24.4%	33.3%	16.7%	12.0%
2001	35.8%	36.4%	34.4%	10.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	8.6%	10.0%	8.1%	10.7%	5.6%	No data	11.3%
2001	9.6%	20.0%	6.0%	6.7%	13.0%	No data	12.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	11.3%	7.7%	13.8%	11.2%
2001	11.9%	10.0%	13.2%	12.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Income

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	21.1%	18.8%	21.6%	19.3%	No data	No data	17.8%
2001	27.2%	32.4%	25.8%	23.9%	No data	No data	18.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	20.6%	19.9%	21.0%	17.8%
2001	26.1%	32.4%	20.6%	18.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-563-XCB2006009; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Average employment income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	\$25,620
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	\$25,068

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average employment income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$19,096	No data	No data	\$25,611
2001	\$18,779	no data	no data	\$25,045

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average individual income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	\$21,769	\$17,860	\$22,989	\$25,978	No data	No data	\$27,830
2001	\$16,565	\$17,091	\$16,374	\$15,867	\$19,637	\$8,303	\$23,769

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Average individual income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$19,101	\$17,586	\$20,183	\$27,818
2001	\$16,474	\$16,875	\$16,188	\$23,747

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	17.7%	No data	No data	12.6%	33.8%	No data	11.2%
2001	40.1%	No data	No data	41.7%	41.9%	50.0%	12.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	27.7%	No data	No data	11.0%
2001	43.0%	No data	No data	12.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Infrastructure

Percent of communities with a water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	100.0%	No data
2007	0.0%	No data
2006	50.0%	No data

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada.

Average number of days per water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	38.5	No data
2007	0.0	No data
2006	7.5	No data

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada.

Percent of population living in dwellings in need of major repair (self-reported), Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	22.6%	43.8%	16.2%	18.1%	10.4%	66.7%	8.5%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Education

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006							
Secondary school	24.3%	20.4%	25.6%	28.3%	20.0%	0.0%	25.6%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	11.1%	24.1%	7.0%	4.7%	12.0%	0.0%	10.2%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	19.9%	13.0%	22.1%	22.6%	18.0%	0.0%	19.7%
University certificate below bachelor's	4.0%	0.0%	5.2%	3.8%	8.0%	0.0%	3.8%
University degree, bachelor's	5.8%	3.7%	6.4%	7.5%	4.0%	0.0%	9.5%
University degree, above bachelor's	2.7%	0.0%	3.5%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%
2001							
Secondary school	17.7%	18.0%	18.3%	15.4%	20.0%	0.0%	21.5%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	19.3%	28.0%	16.0%	19.8%	12.0%	0.0%	12.5%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	14.4%	8.0%	16.8%	9.9%	40.0%	0.0%	14.9%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.2%	0.0%	3.1%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
University degree, bachelor's	4.4%	0.0%	5.3%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	8.5%
University degree, above bachelor's	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031;97F0011XCB01042.

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006				
Secondary school	24.0%	18.9%	27.8%	25.6%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	12.8%	24.5%	4.2%	10.2%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	22.4%	13.2%	29.2%	19.7%
University certificate below bachelor's	1.6%	0.0%	2.8%	3.8%
University degree, bachelor's	4.0%	3.8%	4.2%	9.5%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.6%	3.8%	0.0%	4.6%
2001				
Secondary school	18.8%	16.3%	20.3%	11.6%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	24.1%	28.6%	20.3%	12.5%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	8.0%	6.1%	9.4%	14.9%
University certificate below bachelor's	1.8%	0.0%	7.8%	2.2%
University degree, bachelor's	6.3%	0.0%	3.1%	8.4%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006029; 97F0011XCB01058.

Health

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	23.8%	29.0%	13.5%	16.7%	8.8%	0.0%	8.8%
2001	17.6%	25.8%	14.1%	22.0%	3.9%	0.0%	8.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	17.9%	29.0%	10.6%	8.8%
2001	22.9%	23.3%	25.5%	8.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent of population living in dwellings with more than one person per room, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	4.6%	11.3%	2.6%	1.8%	1.7%	7.5%	1.1%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Percent who self-reported overall health status as excellent or very good, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	44.4%	No data	No data	No data	58.1%
2003	No data	No data	56.1%	No data	No data	No data	65.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported physical limitations often or sometimes, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	no data	No data	No data	No data	31.7%
2003	No data	No data	38.7%	No data	No data	No data	30.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported feeling sad, blue or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	37.7%	No data	No data	No data	24.5%
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491. The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported at least one type of injury requiring medical treatment, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	12.9%
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	7.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported chronic diseases, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	21.0%
Diabetes	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	6.4%
Asthma	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.0%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	16.2%
2003							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	20.3%
Diabetes	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	5.1%
Asthma	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.2%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	15.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Governance

Number of bands with new governance tools

	2009
Number of bands with self-government agreements in place	0
Number of band with custom elections	2
Number of band with custom membership	2
Number of bands with a property taxation bylaw	0
Number of bands with designated land management authority from INAC	0

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office.

Social

Number and percent of school-aged children (4-21 years of age) attending band-operated schools (nominal roll count), On-Reserve Communities

	Number	Percent
2008-09	49	23.1%
2007-08	49	24.1%
2006-07	43	22.1%
2005-06	37	18.4%
2004-05	37	18.3%
2003-04	41	20.0%
2002-03	51	24.3%
2001-02	53	27.2%
2000-01	44	22.9%

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office.

Percent who feel traditional activities are important or very important - population 18 years of age and over

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2006						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	6.6%	16.3%	3.8%	4.8%	0.0%	57.1%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	0.6%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	6.4%	18.8%	2.6%	2.4%	0.0%	28.6%
2001						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	16.0%	30.7%	10.3%	12.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	5.2%	8.0%	4.1%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	13.0%	22.7%	9.3%	12.0%	0.0%	50.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve
2006			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	8.6%	16.5%	2.8%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	0.0%	2.5%	1.9%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	9.2%	16.5%	3.8%
2001			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	23.7%	29.3%	19.1%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	8.9%	12.0%	6.4%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	19.5%	22.7%	17.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent for whom native culture is important, On-Reserve Communities

	On-Reserve
2003	No data
Percent who often consumed traditional food in the previous twelve months	No data
Percent who often shared traditional food in the previous twelve months	No data
Percent for whom native spirituality is somewhat or very important	No data
Percent for whom organized religion is somewhat or very important	No data
Percent who use traditional medicines	No data
Percent who consulted a native healer in the previous twelve months	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Appendix C: Results for Nova Scotia

Employment

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	63.0%	50.0%	68.2%	68.9%	67.7%	72.2%	62.9%
2001	60.6%	53.0%	65.5%	63.6%	68.3%	70.0%	61.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	58.0%	50.0%	69.2%	63.0%
2001	56.8%	53.0%	63.7%	61.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	53.2%	37.8%	59.5%	59.3%	59.5%	66.7%	57.3%
2001	47.4%	37.0%	54.1%	2.0%	55.9%	56.0%	55.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	46.9%	37.8%	59.9%	57.3%
2001	42.5%	36.9%	52.4%	55.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	26.9%	17.2%	30.9%	30.6%	29.7%	0.0%	33.9%
2001	23.7%	17.6%	27.7%	27.9%	27.3%	30.0%	32.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	24.1%	17.2%	33.9%	33.8%
2001	21.9%	17.6%	29.4%	32.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	15.5%	24.4%	12.8%	14.1%	12.2%	7.7%	9.0%
2001	21.9%	30.2%	17.5%	18.1%	18.0%	20.0%	10.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	19.1%	24.5%	13.7%	9.0%
2001	25.2%	30.1%	17.8%	10.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.8%	5.9%	24.6%	25.0%	26.4%	22.2%	27.2%
2001	19.2%	8.5%	24.0%	23.5%	23.5%	25.0%	28.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	13.6%	5.5%	20.9%	27.4%
2001	16.4%	7.5%	27.3%	28.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	17.3%	31.5%	13.6%	16.3%	10.8%	19.4%	8.9%
2001	21.7%	33.5%	16.5%	17.7%	14.6%	35.7%	9.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	25.2%	31.7%	19.5%	8.9%
2001	27.4%	34.0%	18.9%	9.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	7.1%	2.9%	8.4%	7.1%	10.2%	5.1%	9.0%
2001	6.5%	5.1%	7.2%	6.2%	7.0%	17.1%	9.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	4.8%	2.7%	6.8%	9.0%
2001	6.0%	4.8%	7.2%	9.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Income

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	18.3%	27.4%	16.2%	15.4%	17.1%	17.6%	15.1%
2001	24.7%	37.4%	18.8%	19.0%	21.9%	6.6%	16.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	20.3%	27.4%	14.5%	15.1%
2001	29.3%	37.4%	18.8%	16.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-563-XCB2006009; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Average employment income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	\$23,560	\$18,064	\$25,206	\$24,062	\$25,640	No data	\$30,110
2001	\$21,082	No data	No data	No data	\$22,316	No data	\$29,994

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average employment income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$21,923	\$18,113	\$25,911	\$30,042
2001	\$18,582	no data	no data	\$29,964

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average individual income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	\$22,796	\$15,588	\$25,507	\$24,106	\$26,312	\$23,793	\$30,358
2001	\$16,646	\$13,339	\$18,827	\$17,856	\$17,897	\$25,393	\$25,427

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Average individual income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$19,848	\$15,633	\$25,438	\$30,299
2001	\$15,124	\$13,388	\$18,204	\$25,390

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	21.7%	No data	No data	24.6%	17.6%	11.5%	13.7%
2001	34.2%	No data	No data	36.1%	31.4%	44.1%	16.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	22.4%	No data	No data	13.8%
2001	34.3%	No data	No data	16.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Infrastructure

Percent of communities with a water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	0.0%	9.1%
2007	7.7%	16.4%
2006	7.7%	14.5%

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada; Nova Scotia Environment.

Average number of days per water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	0.0	9.5
2007	5.0	8.1
2006	280.0	7.2

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada; Nova Scotia Environment.

Percent of population living in dwellings in need of major repair (self-reported), Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.9%	32.7%	15.0%	15.7%	15.1%	3.1%	9.3%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Education

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006							
Secondary school	21.3%	18.0%	22.6%	23.6%	20.7%	31.5%	22.9%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	13.6%	16.3%	12.5%	11.8%	12.7%	9.3%	11.9%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	16.1%	10.4%	18.4%	16.8%	20.7%	5.6%	18.0%
University certificate below bachelor's	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%	3.4%	3.1%	0.0%	4.1%
University degree, bachelor's	6.9%	5.9%	7.4%	7.6%	6.7%	14.8%	10.6%
University degree, above bachelor's	2.6%	2.1%	2.8%	2.0%	3.1%	9.3%	6.0%
2001							
Secondary school	21.0%	23.7%	19.3%	19.3%	17.7%	24.0%	19.4%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	16.9%	18.2%	15.9%	15.2%	18.2%	12.0%	14.0%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	12.7%	8.9%	15.1%	13.9%	16.7%	8.0%	14.7%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.3%	2.6%	2.1%	1.8%	2.3%	4.0%	2.5%
University degree, bachelor's	4.8%	3.6%	5.6%	6.7%	4.6%	0.0%	9.8%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.6%	1.4%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	0.0%	4.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031;97F0011XCB01042.

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006				
Secondary school	20.5%	18.0%	24.0%	22.9%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	15.1%	16.5%	13.2%	11.9%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	12.2%	10.5%	14.6%	18.0%
University certificate below bachelor's	3.5%	3.1%	3.9%	4.1%
University degree, bachelor's	7.9%	5.9%	10.7%	10.5%
University degree, above bachelor's	2.9%	2.0%	4.2%	5.9%
2001				
Secondary school	22.5%	23.7%	20.4%	19.3%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	18.4%	18.3%	18.4%	14.1%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	10.7%	8.9%	13.9%	14.7%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.3%	2.5%	1.8%	2.5%
University degree, bachelor's	5.0%	3.7%	7.3%	9.8%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.6%	1.4%	1.8%	4.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006029; 97F0011XCB01058.

Health

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.1%	34.7%	12.7%	14.0%	11.2%	20.0%	9.0%
2001	22.1%	33.1%	15.5%	17.7%	12.7%	11.5%	9.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	25.7%	34.9%	13.6%	9.1%
2001	26.9%	33.5%	16.6%	9.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent of population living in dwellings with more than one person per room, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	4.5%	10.9%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	3.1%	0.8%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Percent who self-reported overall health status as excellent or very good, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	40.9%	No data	No data	No data	58.1%
2003	No data	43.5%	62.7%	No data	No data	No data	58.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003. Note: Data from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey is for the population 18 years of age and over. The data for the off-reserve Aboriginal population and the non-Aboriginal population are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported physical limitations often or sometimes, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	48.2%	No data	No data	No data	39.1%
2003	No data	17.5%	47.7%	No data	No data	No data	38.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003. Note: Data from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey is for the population 18 years of age and over. The data for the off-reserve Aboriginal population and the non-Aboriginal population are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported feeling sad, blue or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	40.0%	No data	No data	No data	28.8%
2003	No data	34.3%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Note: Data from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey is for the population 18 years of age and over. The data for the off-reserve Aboriginal population and the non-Aboriginal population are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported at least one type of injury requiring medical treatment, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	27.2%	No data	No data	No data	15.6%
2003	No data	27.2%	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003. Note: Data from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey is for the population 18 years of age and over. The data for the off-reserve Aboriginal population and the non-Aboriginal population are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported chronic diseases, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	28.6%	No data	No data	No data	22.6%
Diabetes	No data	No data	6.3%	No data	No data	No data	6.6%
Asthma	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.2%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	23.5%	No data	No data	No data	17.9%
2003							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	4.3%	29.8%	No data	No data	No data	24.0%
Diabetes	No data	19.7%	No data	No data	No data	No data	5.4%
Asthma	No data	10.6%	No data	No data	No data	No data	9.3%
High blood pressure	No data	18.0%	No data	No data	No data	No data	18.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112; First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003. Note: Data from the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey is for the population 18 years of age and over. The data for the off-reserve Aboriginal population and the non-Aboriginal population are derived from the Canadian Community Health Survey, and is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Governance

Number of bands with new governance tools

	2009
Number of bands with self-government agreements in place	0
Number of band with custom elections	2
Number of band with custom membership	4
Number of bands with a property taxation bylaw	2
Number of bands with designated land management authority from INAC	1

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office.

Social

Number and percent of school-aged children (4-21 years of age) attending band-operated schools (nominal roll count), On-Reserve Communities

	Number	Percent
2008-09	2012	55.9%
2007-08	2000	56.1%
2006-07	2007	57.3%
2005-06	1970	57.4%
2004-05	1876	55.1%
2003-04	1861	55.4%
2002-03	1834	55.2%
2001-02	1870	56.6%
2000-01	1901	58.5%

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office; Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey Sub-Office, Indian Brook, Nova Scotia.

Percent who feel traditional activities are important or very important - population 18 years of age and over

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2003	No data	79.7%	No data	No data	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2006						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	18.1%	51.2%	1.8%	4.0%	0.1%	6.2%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	11.3%	32.8%	0.7%	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	20.5%	55.8%	3.1%	5.9%	0.3%	4.6%
2001						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	24.6%	53.1%	2.7%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	23.3%	50.5%	2.6%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	28.1%	59.4%	4.1%	6.4%	0.8%	2.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve
2006			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	35.0%	51.8%	6.0%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	21.9%	33.2%	2.4%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	39.3%	57.2%	8.5%
2001			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	23.1%	53.6%	2.5%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	21.8%	51.0%	2.2%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	26.2%	59.9%	3.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent for whom native culture is important, On-Reserve Communities

	On-Reserve
2003	
Percent who often consumed traditional food in the previous twelve months	92.3%
Percent who often shared traditional food in the previous twelve months	71.4%
Percent for whom native spirituality is somewhat or very important	72.7%
Percent for whom organized religion is somewhat or very important	79.7%
Percent who use traditional medicines	23.0%
Percent who consulted a native healer in the previous twelve months	13.6%

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Appendix D: Results for New Brunswick

Employment

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	62.7%	62.5%	62.8%	64.3%	61.7%	60.7%	63.7%
2001	62.1%	54.9%	65.7%	67.0%	65.5%	72.2%	63.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Labour force participation rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	62.9%	62.5%	63.5%	63.7%
2001	60.3%	54.7%	67.1%	63.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	49.7%	43.8%	53.0%	55.7%	49.4%	53.6%	57.5%
2001	44.6%	33.0%	50.2%	49.7%	51.0%	55.6%	63.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	47.8%	43.9%	53.8%	57.5%
2001	40.4%	33.0%	49.2%	55.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	23.9%	20.1%	26.0%	28.4%	23.8%	0.0%	33.3%
2001	20.8%	17.5%	22.4%	21.8%	21.7%	27.8%	32.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Full time employment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	23.5%	20.0%	28.9%	33.2%
2001	20.4%	17.5%	23.7%	32.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.8%	30.1%	15.5%	13.3%	19.7%	11.8%	9.7%
2001	28.1%	39.7%	23.5%	25.8%	22.0%	23.1%	12.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031; 97F0011XCB01044.

Unemployment rate – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	24.1%	29.8%	15.3%	9.8%
2001	33.1%	39.6%	26.7%	12.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	20.9%	7.8%	27.0%	24.5%	32.7%	26.7%	28.9%
2001	25.4%	8.1%	30.9%	14.2%	36.2%	40.0%	31.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in any of manufacturing; transportation; information and culture; finance and insurance; real estate; professional, management – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	14.8%	7.7%	23.9%	28.9%
2001	16.5%	9.7%	23.1%	31.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	17.8%	30.2%	11.9%	14.3%	8.9%	13.0%	8.5%
2001	25.6%	55.4%	16.1%	20.3%	11.7%	20.0%	8.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Percent of labour force employed in public administration – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	24.7%	30.6%	17.1%	8.5%
2001	38.7%	55.8%	25.0%	8.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	5.8%	3.8%	6.9%	6.6%	7.8%	0.0%	8.1%
2001	6.5%	4.2%	7.5%	7.0%	7.3%	15.4%	8.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01044.

Self-employment rate among labour force participants – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	4.1%	3.9%	4.4%	8.1%
2001	5.1%	4.2%	6.1%	8.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-559-XCB2006013; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Income

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	24.4%	28.9%	22.4%	18.2%	26.2%	18.2%	16.4%
2001	27.9%	35.6%	25.0%	25.3%	25.2%	24.7%	17.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Percent of total income from government transfer payments, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	23.7%	28.9%	18.0%	16.5%
2001	29.2%	35.5%	23.3%	17.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-563-XCB2006009; 97-564-XCB2006004.

Average employment income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	\$20,137	\$17,892	\$21,231	\$21,611	\$20,219	No data	\$28,253
2001	\$19,258	No data	No data	No data	\$23,119	No data	\$28,166

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average employment income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$20,537	\$18,005	\$23,779	\$28,445
2001	\$17,818	no data	no data	\$28,116

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97-563-XCB2006061.

Average individual income, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	\$19,549	\$16,570	\$21,217	\$21,108	\$21,033	No data	\$28,643
2001	\$15,867	\$13,206	\$17,171	\$15,226	\$18,417	No data	\$24,254

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Average individual income, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	\$19,098	\$16,580	\$22,931	\$28,567
2001	\$14,926	\$13,222	\$16,975	\$24,199

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2006	23.8%	No data	No data	30.1%	17.0%	No data	13.3%
2001	32.2%	No data	No data	33.5%	36.0%	No data	15.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01046.

Incidence of low income (before tax) for all individuals, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	25.7%	No data	No data	13.4%
2001	34.9%	No data	No data	15.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01062.

Infrastructure

Percent of communities with a water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	26.7%	14.4%
2007	13.3%	8.7%
2006	26.7%	6.7%

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada; New Brunswick Department of Health.

Average number of days per water advisory

	Reserve Communities	Municipalities
2008	82.3	19.8
2007	23.0	13.2
2006	9.7	23.4

Source: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada; New Brunswick Department of Health.

Percent of population living in dwellings in need of major repair (self-reported), Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	25.0%	38.5%	16.2%	15.4%	18.7%	24.3%	9.4%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Education

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006							
Secondary school	21.0%	20.0%	21.5%	24.3%	19.8%	14.3%	26.1%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	14.6%	15.8%	13.9%	13.5%	15.6%	21.4%	10.7%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	16.0%	14.5%	16.9%	17.0%	15.7%	25.0%	17.6%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.7%	2.9%	2.6%	2.6%	2.9%	0.0%	3.3%
University degree, bachelor's	4.8%	4.0%	5.3%	7.6%	3.0%	0.0%	9.0%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.0%	0.0%	4.1%
2001							
Secondary school	23.6%	23.2%	23.8%	25.6%	22.9%	11.8%	24.4%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	14.5%	18.4%	12.7%	12.1%	13.5%	11.8%	11.2%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	12.7%	11.5%	13.3%	11.7%	14.6%	17.6%	13.9%
University certificate below bachelor's	1.3%	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%	0.0%	17.6%	1.9%
University degree, bachelor's	3.8%	3.2%	4.0%	4.2%	3.3%	11.8%	8.3%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.0%	0.9%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	0.0%	3.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006031;97F0011XCB01042.

Highest level of education attainment – population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006				
Secondary school	20.9%	20.0%	22.2%	26.1%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	14.2%	15.9%	11.7%	10.8%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	15.9%	14.5%	18.1%	17.6%
University certificate below bachelor's	2.8%	2.9%	2.8%	3.3%
University degree, bachelor's	6.0%	3.9%	9.2%	8.9%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.9%	1.7%	2.1%	4.1%
2001				
Secondary school	24.3%	23.1%	25.6%	24.4%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate	16.0%	18.5%	13.1%	11.3%
College/CEGEP/Other diploma	11.4%	11.5%	11.2%	13.9%
University certificate below bachelor's	1.8%	1.5%	2.3%	1.9%
University degree, bachelor's	3.6%	3.2%	4.2%	8.3%
University degree, above bachelor's	1.2%	0.8%	1.5%	3.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-560-XCB2006029; 97F0011XCB01058.

Health

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	17.9%	29.4%	11.8%	17.6%	6.6%	0.0%	8.7%
2001	17.9%	28.9%	12.8%	15.4%	9.7%	0.0%	8.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent of adults in families who head lone parent households - population 15 years of age and over, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve	Non-Registered Indians
2006	23.8%	29.6%	15.5%	8.7%
2001	22.7%	29.2%	15.5%	8.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent of population living in dwellings with more than one person per room, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2006	2.7%	5.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.4%	0.0%	80.0%
2001	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-558-XCB2006022.

Percent who self-reported overall health status as excellent or very good, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	40.9%	No data	No data	No data	54.6%
2003	No data	No data	56.1%	No data	No data	No data	50.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported physical limitations often or sometimes, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	37.9%	No data	No data	No data	33.2%
2003	No data	No data	38.7%	No data	No data	No data	33.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported feeling sad, blue or depressed for 2 weeks or more in a row, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	48.0%	No data	No data	No data	31.2%
2003	No data	No data	15.0%	No data	No data	No data	11.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491 The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over..

Percent who self-reported at least one type of injury requiring medical treatment, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
2005	No data	No data	22.5%	No data	No data	No data	11.4%
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	8.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Percent who self-reported chronic diseases, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit	Non- Aboriginal
2005							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	18.8%	No data	No data	No data	20.3%
Diabetes	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	6.0%
Asthma	No data	No data	12.4%	No data	No data	No data	8.6%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	16.4%	No data	No data	No data	19.3%
2003							
Arthritis or rheumatism	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	20.9%
Diabetes	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	5.3%
Asthma	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	8.8%
High blood pressure	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	16.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 3.1), Table 105-0491; Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.1 and 2.1), Table 105-0112.

Note: The Canadian Community Health Survey data is for the population 12 years of age and over.

Governance

Number of bands with new governance tools

	2009
Number of bands with self-government agreements in place	0
Number of band with custom elections	1
Number of band with custom membership	5
Number of bands with a property taxation bylaw	1
Number of bands with designated land management authority from INAC	4

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office.

Social

Number and percent of school-aged children (4-21 years of age) attending band-operated schools (nominal roll count), On-Reserve Communities

	Number	Percent
2008-09	759	25.8%
2007-08	690	23.6%
2006-07	700	24.2%
2005-06	750	25.8%
2004-05	785	26.9%
2003-04	752	25.2%
2002-03	774	26.2%
2001-02	756	26.5%
2000-01	790	28.0%

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Atlantic Region Office.

Percent who feel traditional activities are important or very important - population 18 years of age and over

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2003	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Population

	Aboriginal	Aboriginal On-Reserve	Aboriginal Off-Reserve	First Nation Off-Reserve	Métis	Inuit
2006						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	18.1%	42.3%	2.1%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	8.7%	21.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	19.8%	44.3%	3.6%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%
2001						
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	19.1%	44.3%	4.8%	8.9%	0.0%	12.5%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	15.9%	38.6%	3.1%	6.1%	0.0%	6.3%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	22.3%	49.9%	6.8%	12.6%	0.2%	0.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006002; 97F0011XCB01040.

Percent who understand and use Aboriginal languages, Registered Indian Status

	Registered Indians	Registered Indian On-Reserve	Registered Indian Off-Reserve
2006			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	29.2%	42.9%	5.8%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	14.0%	21.8%	0.6%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	31.9%	45.3%	8.9%
2001			
Percent of population with Aboriginal mother tongue	30.0%	44.9%	10.6%
Percent of population who most often speak an Aboriginal language at home	26.0%	38.9%	9.4%
Percent of population who have knowledge of an Aboriginal language	35.1%	50.4%	15.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 97-564-XCB2006004; 97F0011XCB01056.

Percent for whom native culture is important, On-Reserve Communities

	On-Reserve
2003	No data
Percent who often consumed traditional food in the previous twelve months	No data
Percent who often shared traditional food in the previous twelve months	No data
Percent for whom native spirituality is somewhat or very important	No data
Percent for whom organized religion is somewhat or very important	No data
Percent who use traditional medicines	No data
Percent who consulted a native healer in the previous twelve months	No data

Source: First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey 2002-2003.