

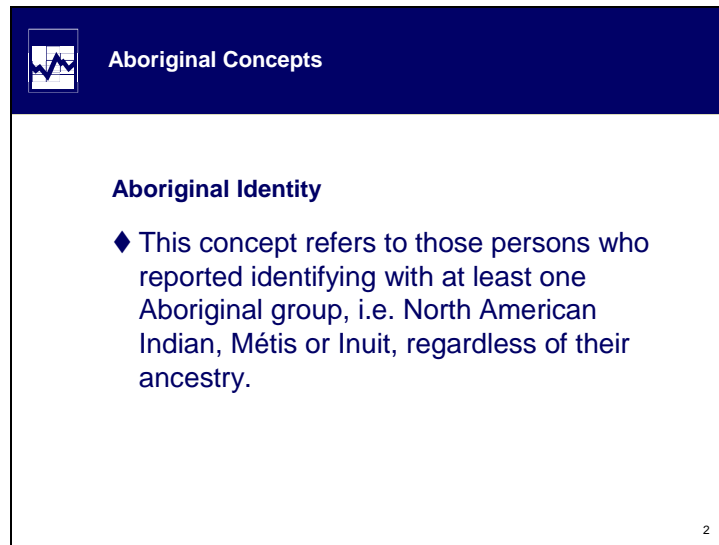
Slide 1



A profile of Canada's Métis population

Statistics Canada
November 2004

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The slide features a dark blue header with a white line graph icon on the left and the text "Aboriginal Concepts" in white. The main content area is white with a black border. It contains the section title "Aboriginal Identity" in bold blue text, followed by a blue diamond bullet point and a paragraph of text. A small number "2" is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Aboriginal Concepts

Aboriginal Identity

- ◆ This concept refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, regardless of their ancestry.

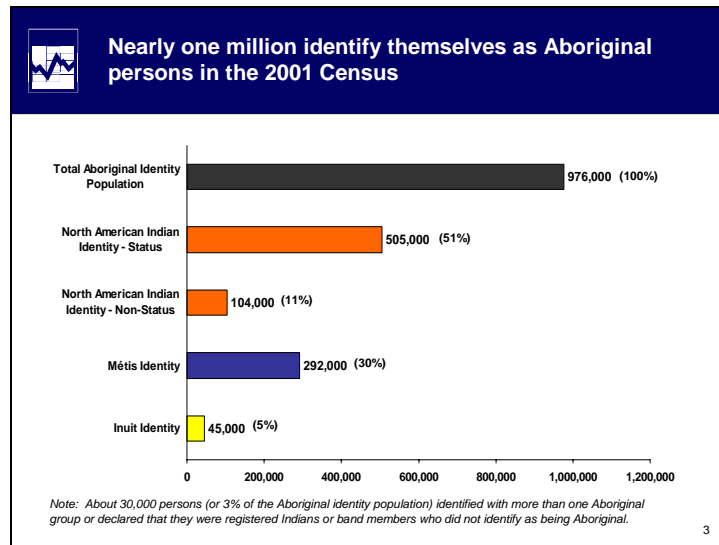
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Various definitions of the Aboriginal population exist. The one used in this profile is the identity concept that is based on a direct census question which asks each person if they are an Aboriginal person.

Focusing on the Aboriginal identity population allows for historical comparability with the concept used in the 1981 Census, so we can measure change over time, and it covers all three Aboriginal groups mentioned in the Constitution. Many government programs tend to target all Aboriginal groups.

This profile focuses on those persons who on their 2001 census form said they were Métis – see Appendix A & B Glossary of Terms.

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In 2001, people who self-identified as Aboriginal accounted for just under 1 million, or 3.3% of the nation's total population, compared with 2.8% five years earlier.

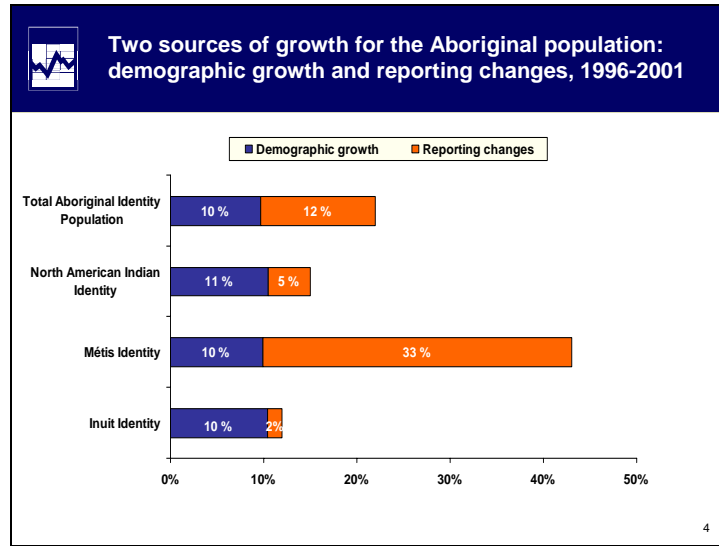
Nearly 6 in 10 persons who identified as being Aboriginal also declared that they were registered Indians – see Appendix A.

The majority of Aboriginal people, 608,850 or 62%, were North American Indian, 505,000 were registered Indians (or status) and 104,000 were without legal Indian status.

292,310 were Métis, who represented about 30% of the total Aboriginal population.

5%, or 45,070, were Inuit.

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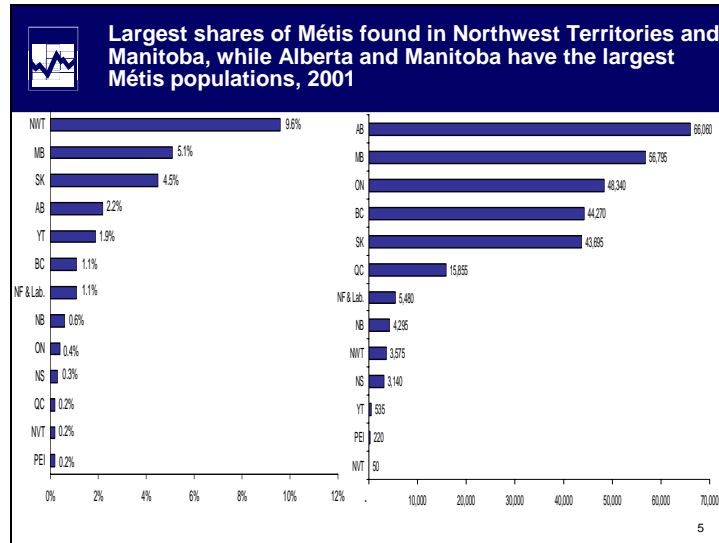
Overall the Aboriginal identity population grew about 22% over the five year period, 1996 to 2001.

10% of the growth is due to natural demographic growth (i.e., the difference of births & deaths). The other 12% is due to reporting changes in the Census.

In the case of the Métis, there was a 43% increase over five years, the largest population gain among the three Aboriginal groups. This growth was particularly high in Central & Eastern Canada. The demographic factor is estimated to account for about 10 percentage points. The remainder is largely due to changes in reporting of their Aboriginal identity from one census to the next.

Factors that have likely contributed to the increase in the population identifying as Métis include: increased awareness of Métis issues coming from court cases related to Métis rights (such as the recent Powley decision by the Supreme Court), constitutional discussions occurring in the early 1990s, as well as better census enumeration of Métis communities.

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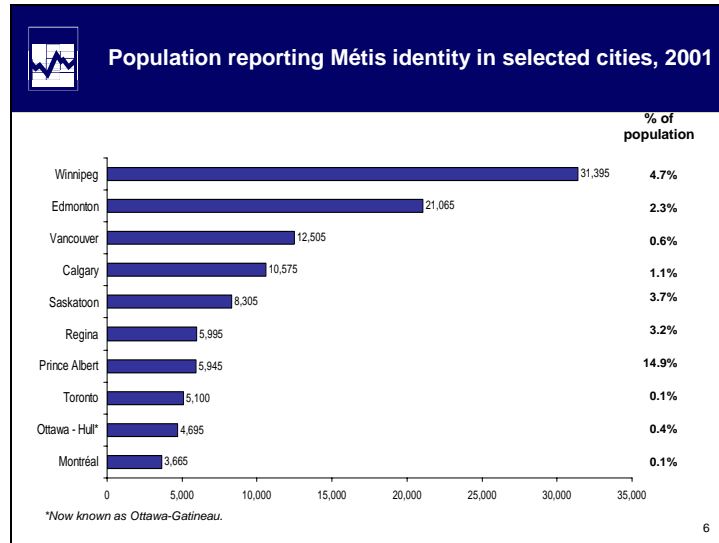
The 3,575 Métis in the Northwest Territories represented 9.6% of the territory's total population, the highest concentration in the country.

However, the largest Métis population, 66,060 lived in Alberta where they accounted for only 2% of the province's population.

Métis people represented 5% of the population of Manitoba, and 4.5% of the population of Saskatchewan.

Other provinces with large Métis populations are Manitoba, Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

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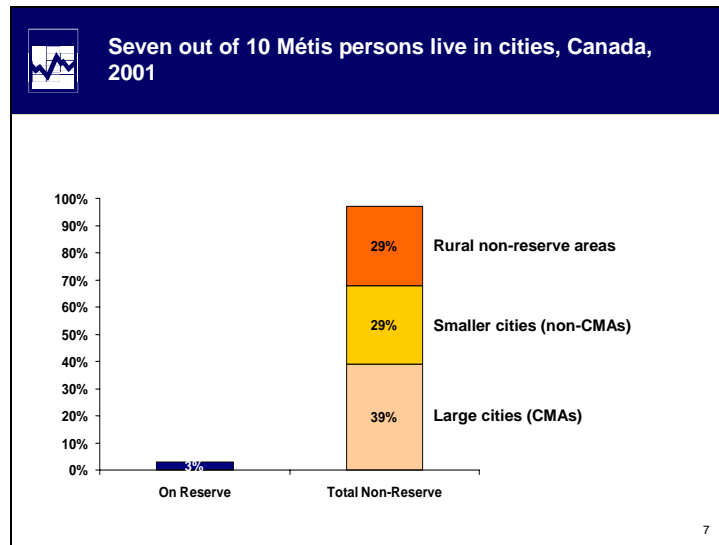
Winnipeg has the largest Métis population at just over **31,000**, representing nearly **5%** of the total metropolitan area's population in 2001.

Close to **4%** of the people in Saskatoon are Métis at over 8,000.

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan has the highest concentration, where about **1 out of 7 residents** in that city are Métis.

While Toronto had about a 850 fewer Métis than Prince Albert, Toronto's Métis population share was **one-tenth of a percent** of the city's total population, compared to Prince Albert's 14.9% share.

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In 2001, nearly 7 in ten (68%) of the Métis lived in cities:

39% live in large cities;

29% in smaller cities and;

29% in rural non-reserve areas (latter includes those in the territories).

These shares are similar to those in 1996

Only 7,315 (3%) Métis lived on reserves but this was more than double the level five years earlier.

According to 2001 Census:

	<u>On Reserve*</u>	<u>Off-Reserve*</u>
<u>Registered Indians:</u>	52%	48% (38% of total live in cities)

Non-Status North American Indians : Cities = 73%

Inuit : Cities = 27%; Rural non-reserve = 69% (mostly in Labrador, Northern Quebec, Nunavut & NWT)

All Canadians living in Cities = 80%

* **NOTE:** Census data above have been adjusted for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in 2001

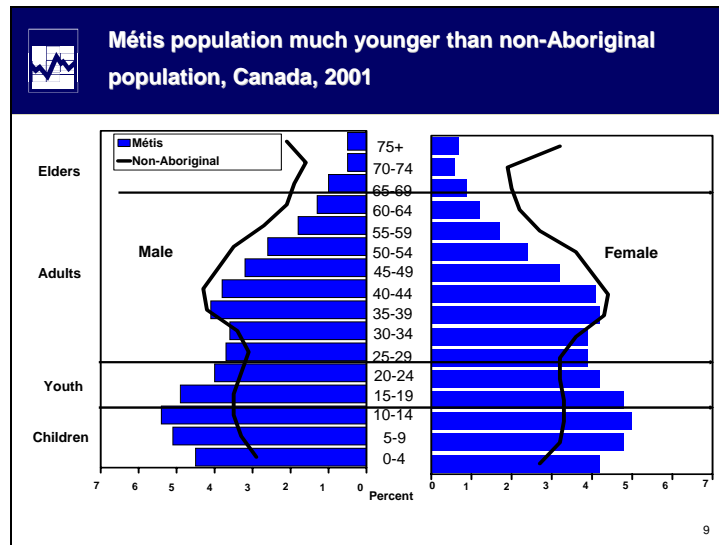
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Nearly one-quarter of Métis pulled-up stakes between 2000-2001

- ◆ Métis are nearly twice as likely to move (23%) in a given year as non-Aboriginal people (14%).
- ◆ This population “churn” makes service delivery a challenge.
- ◆ In large cities 27% of Métis move each year:
 - Movers within same city – Métis 20% versus non-Aboriginal 9%
 - Movers from outside the city -- Métis 7% versus non-Aboriginal 5%
- ◆ Métis in rural areas are about as likely to move as non-Aboriginal people in small cities.

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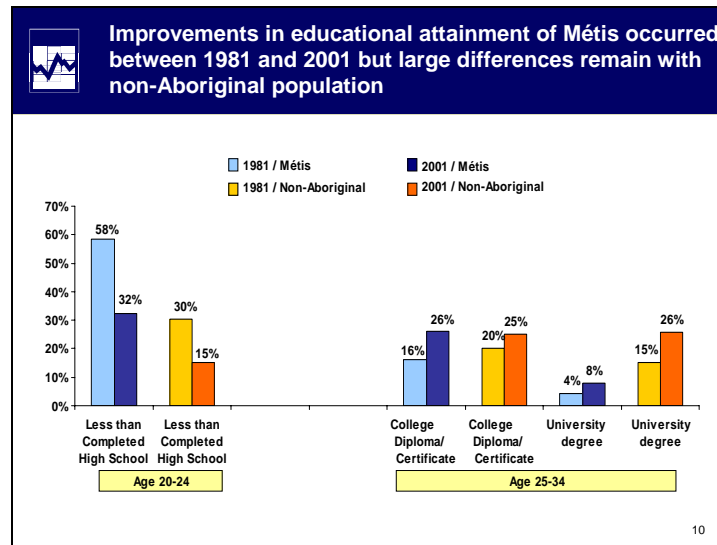
The Métis population in 2001 was much younger than the non-Aboriginal population, a result of their higher birth rates, improving life expectancy and the ethnic mobility factor. The median age for the Métis is 27 years, while for the Non-Aboriginal population it is 11 years older at 38 years.

Children under 15 years of age represented 3 in 10 of the Métis population, while non-Aboriginal children represented one-fifth of their population.

The number of Métis seniors is growing but still remains relatively small. Seniors represent 4% of the Métis population, and 13% of the non-Aboriginal population.

With such a young age structure, as Métis children age over the next 15 years, they will be putting pressure on the skill sets required for the labour force, on the need for jobs to meet the growing supply of labour, and on the housing stock as new families form.

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This graph shows the changes, between 1981 and 2001, in educational attainment of the Métis and non-Aboriginal populations in selected age groups.

Among Métis aged 20-24, the proportion who had less than completed high school dropped substantially between 1981 and 2001 from 58% to 32%.

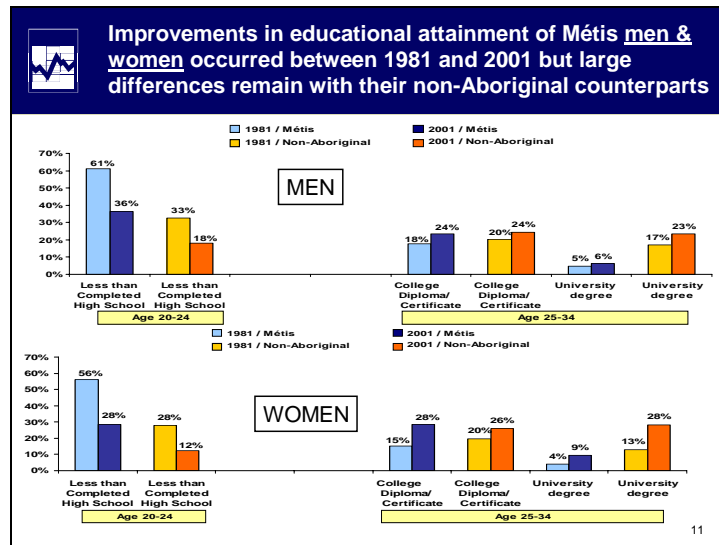
However, the gap widened slightly with their non-Aboriginal counterparts. It was not quite twice as high in 1981 (58% vs 30%) and now is just over twice as high (32% vs. 15%).

At the other end of the education spectrum, Métis young adults have made gains in their post-secondary schooling levels, where both college and university proportions increased substantially in 20 years, doubling in the case of university degree holders.

On the university side, the gap closed with their non-Aboriginal counterparts aged 25-34 years, while on the college side the Métis overtook their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

It should be noted that by 2001 some of the growth in university and college certificate/degree holders could have come from people changing their reporting from non-Aboriginal in previous censuses to Métis in 2001. Thus, while there would have been real improvement over the 20 year period, some of it may have come from people who already had high levels of schooling before they reported Métis identity on the later census. Caution should be exercised in interpreting this improvement.

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This graph shows the changes, between 1981 and 2001, in educational attainment of the Métis men and women and non-Aboriginal counterparts in selected age groups.

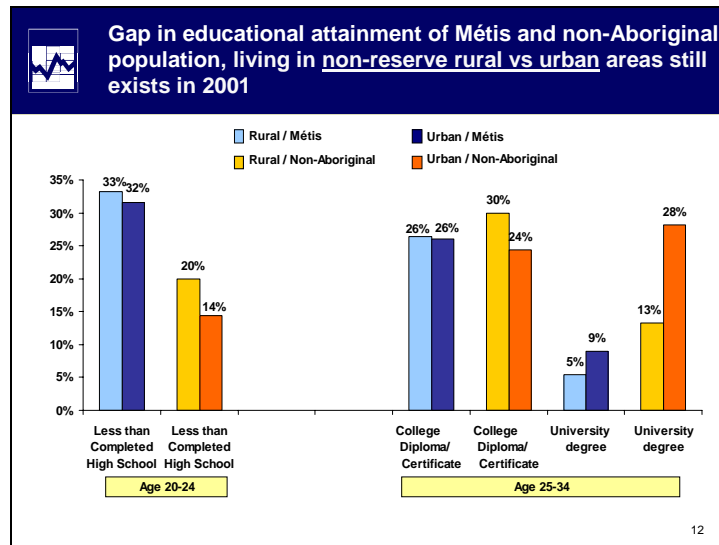
Among Métis men aged 20-24, the proportion who had less than completed high school dropped substantially between 1981 and 2001 from 61% to 36%; for Métis women the proportion dropped by half, from 56% to 28%.

However, the gap widened slightly with their non-Aboriginal counterparts, of both sexes. For men, it was almost twice as high in 1981 (61% vs 33%) and now is two times higher (36% vs. 18%). For women, the gap was twice as high in 1981 (56% vs 28%) and now is over two times higher (28% vs 12%).

At the other end of the education spectrum, Métis young adults men and women have made gains in their post-secondary schooling levels, where both college and university proportions increased substantially in 20 years, more than doubling in the case of Métis female university degree holders (4% vs 8%).

However, for women, on the university side the gap did not close with their non-Aboriginal counterparts aged 25-34 years, while on the college side it did. For men, the gap widened slightly on the university side, but is on par for the college side.

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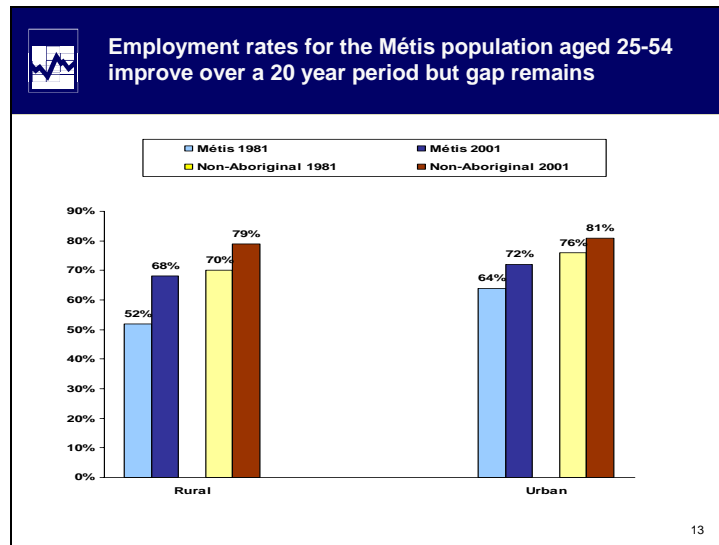


Among Métis aged 20-24 with less than completed high school, the differences among those in urban compared to rural areas were not great. However, there still exist large gaps with their non-Aboriginal counterparts, regardless of where they live.

Among Métis young adults with college level diplomas, there appear to be no differences between those in urban and rural areas, but the proportions of Métis with a university degree were double for urban versus rural dwellers.

On the university side the rural/urban gap among the Métis is slightly larger than that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts aged 25-34 years, while on the college side rural and urban Métis young adults were on par.

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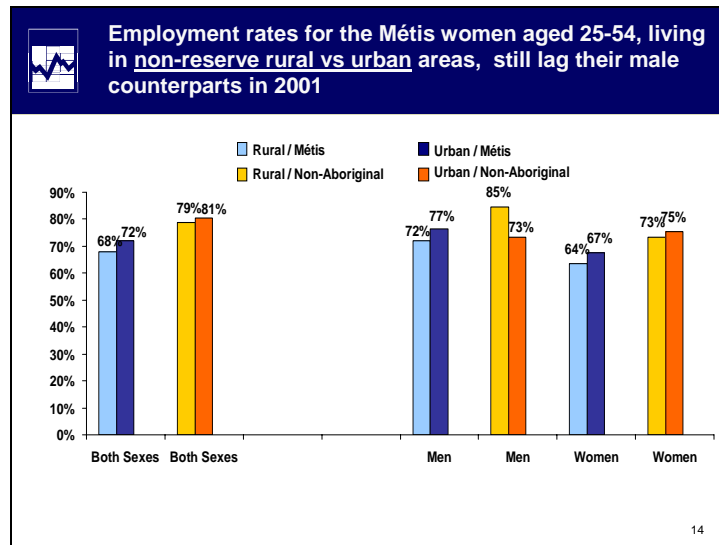
In both rural and urban areas, the Métis population saw an improvement in their employment levels over the 1981-2001 period, although they still lagged behind their non-Aboriginal counterparts in 2001.

Employment patterns are different between rural and urban locations for Métis adults in the 25-54 year age group.

In 2001, just over two-thirds (68%) of the Métis working age population living in rural areas was employed compared to 52%, in 1981.

The employment gap between Métis and non-Aboriginal persons in urban areas narrowed slightly from 12% to 9%, in the 20 year period.

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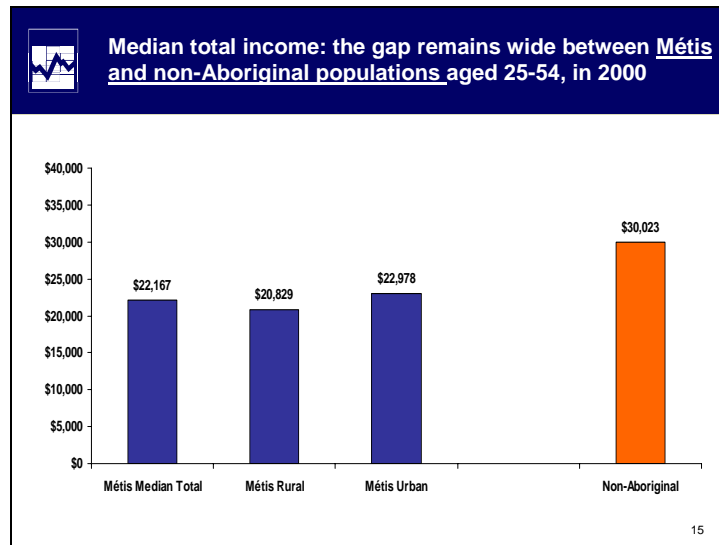


In 2001, the total Métis population aged 25-54 had lower employment rates than non-Aboriginal people in this age group.

Métis men had better employment rates than Métis women, regardless of where they lived.

Irrespective of where they lived, Métis women lagged behind on employment rates when compared to non-Aboriginal women. However, Métis men in urban areas had better employment rates (77%) than their non-Aboriginal male counterparts (73%).

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In 2000, the median income of Métis individuals remained below that of the total non-Aboriginal population by nearly \$8,000 per year.

The gap across locations (rural vs. urban) is not very wide.

Among the Aboriginal groups, in the year 2000, the Metis had the highest median income (\$22,167), followed by:

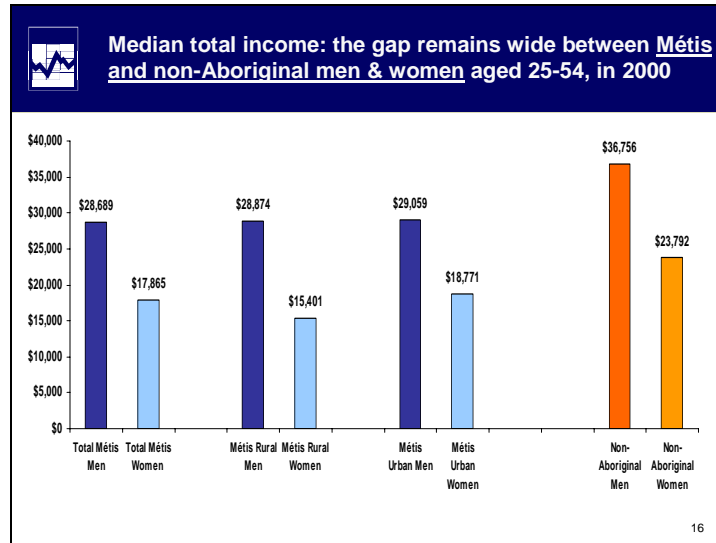
Non-Status Indians (\$20,377)

Inuit (\$18,118)

Registered (status) Indians in non reserve areas (\$17,260)

Registered (status) Indians on reserves (\$13,973).

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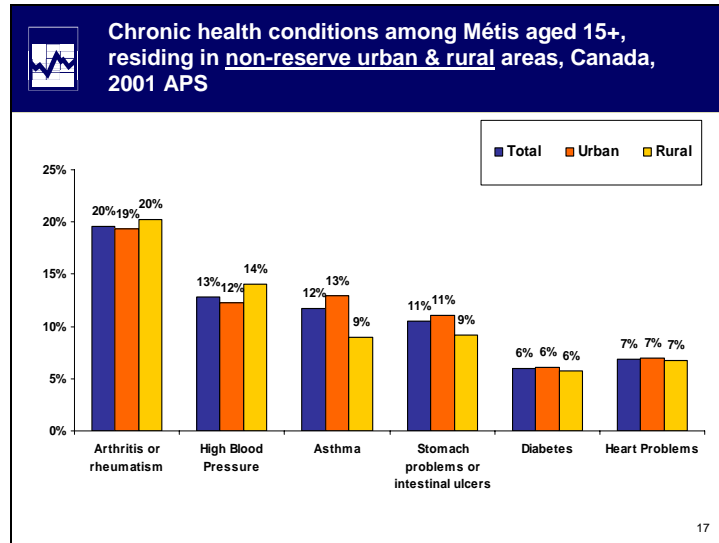
In 2000, the median income of Métis men & women is substantially below that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Métis women lag Métis men by \$11,000 per year.

The gap across locations (rural vs. urban) is not very wide, but the gender gap on income remains wide, although urban Métis women are doing better than their rural counterparts by \$3,000 per year.

Note: the median income for total Métis men is slightly lower than for those in non-reserve rural and urban areas because the total median income includes Métis men living on Indian reserves.

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The Métis show very high rates of arthritis and rheumatism with one in five adults reporting this disease, with not much difference between those in urban or rural areas. The rate is only 1 in 10 in the general population.

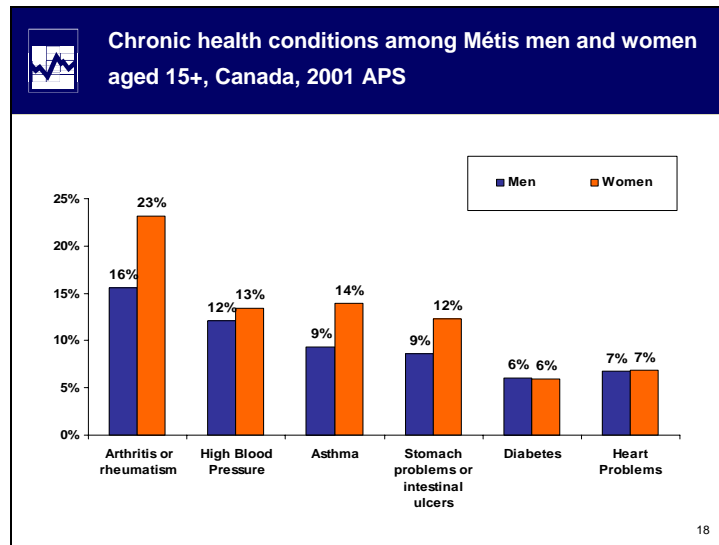
High blood pressure is the next highest reported disease for Métis with slightly higher shares in rural than in urban areas (12% vs. 14%), compared to 9% in the general population.

Asthma is reported almost as much as high blood pressure and is higher in urban areas than in rural areas (13% vs. 9%) and about the same as in the general population (10%).

Diabetes was reported at 6% among Métis, with no differences by area of residence. The comparable rate is 2% in the general population.

About one in 15 Métis adults reported heart problems.

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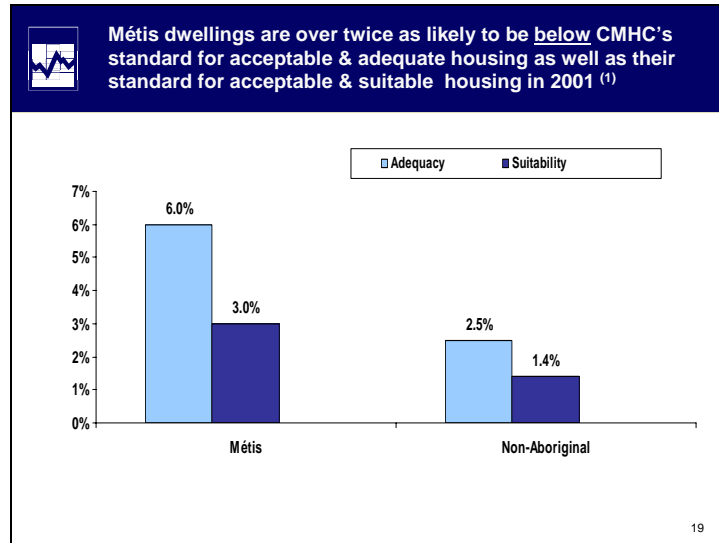


Métis women show very high rates of arthritis and rheumatism with almost one in four women reporting this disease, compared to Métis men.

Among Métis women high blood pressure, asthma and stomach problems are the next most reported chronic diseases, in the range of 12-14%.

Diabetes was reported for only about 6% of Métis men and women.

About one in 15 Métis adults reported heart problems.



Six percent of Métis households are living in housing below the adequacy standard (measured by houses in need of major repair) and are unable to afford acceptable housing. This is more than twice as high as for non-Aboriginal housing in 2001.

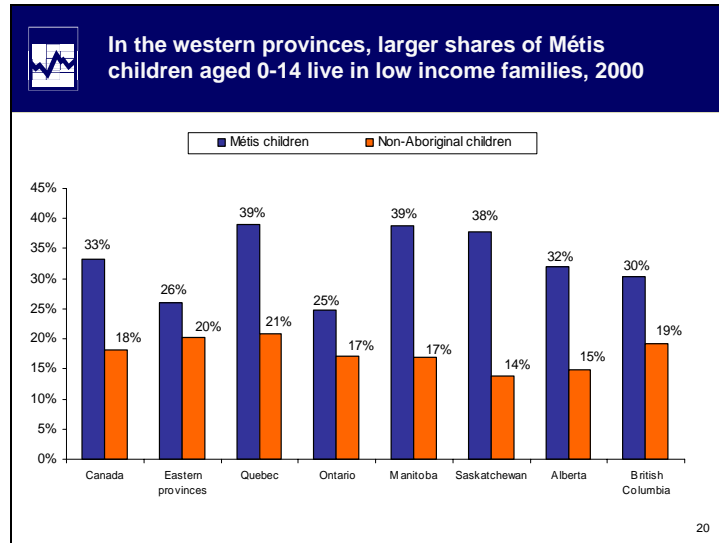
Métis households are twice as likely to be below the suitability standard and are unable to afford acceptable housing, as compared to non-Aboriginal households. These households are considered crowded (as measured by the National Occupancy Standard – see Appendix B glossary).

(1) Adequacy - Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs. Thus, housing that falls below this standard means they do require major repairs. Also, see Glossary in Appendix B.

Suitability - Suitable dwellings are not crowded, meaning that they have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements. Thus, housing that does not meet the NOS would mean they are crowded – see Glossary of terms in Appendix B.

Acceptable housing - is housing that is both adequate in condition and suitable in size, which can be afforded by the household for less than 30% of before-tax household income - see Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, "Research Highlight: 2001 Census Housing Series Issue 6: Aboriginal Households", Socio-Economic Series # 04-036

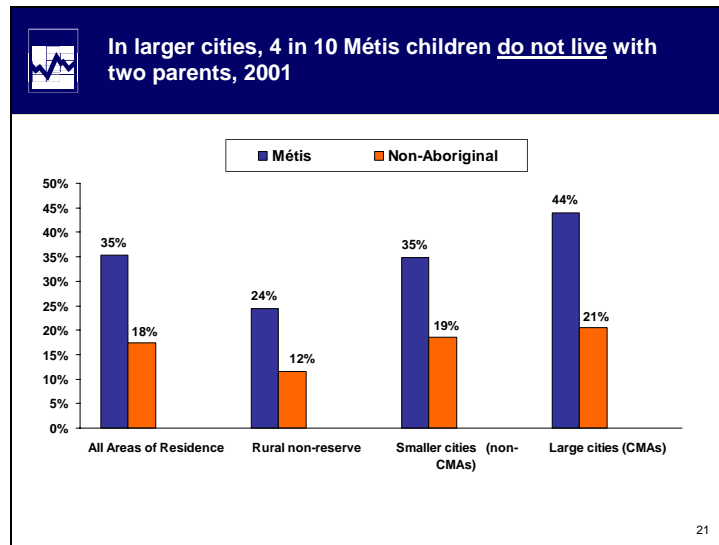
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The shares of Métis children living in low income families are higher compared to those of non-Aboriginal children.

Regionally, among children under age 15, the percentage living in low income families was particularly high in Quebec, Manitoba & Saskatchewan in 2000, where over one-third of Métis children were in low income situations.

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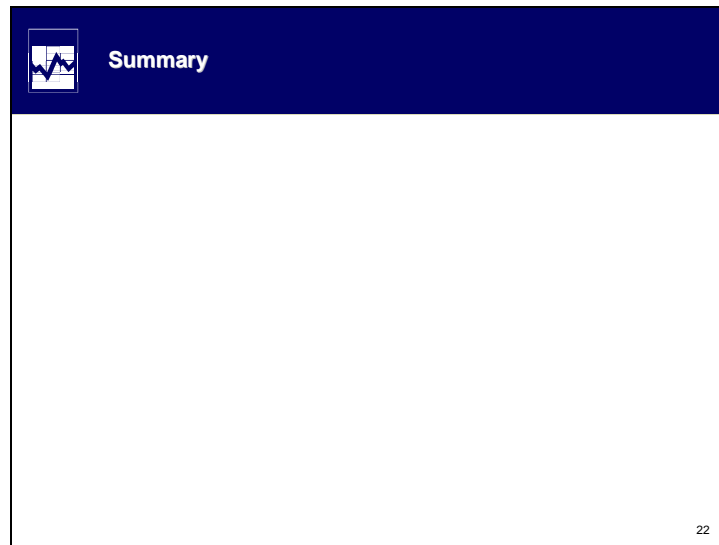


This chart shows the percent of children not living with both parents, that is living with one parent, other relatives or non-relatives.

The proportion of Métis children living with a lone parent or with other relatives or non-relatives was almost twice as high as non-Aboriginal children, in all areas of residence, in 2001.

In rural areas, around **1 in 4** Métis children lived with a lone parent or, other relatives or non-relatives; **35%** lived in such arrangements in small cities, while in the larger cities, **44%** of Métis children lived with lone parents or other relatives or non-relatives.

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The demography of Aboriginal peoples in Canada is **complex** and basic demographic growth factors do not always apply. The rapid growth of the Métis identity population in recent years appears to be affected more by non-demographic factors than by the fertility and mortality of the population.

The non-demographic factors could include:

- * greater **cultural consciousness**, i.e. growing pride in being a Métis,
- * various judicial **court decisions**,
- * **government policy changes, and**
- * Possible **improvement in census coverage** of this population.

Métis people are a young population, although they have an older median age than the other Aboriginal groups.

Nearly 70 percent of the Métis population live in urban areas.

Métis population is very mobile: lots of “churn”, particularly in the cities.

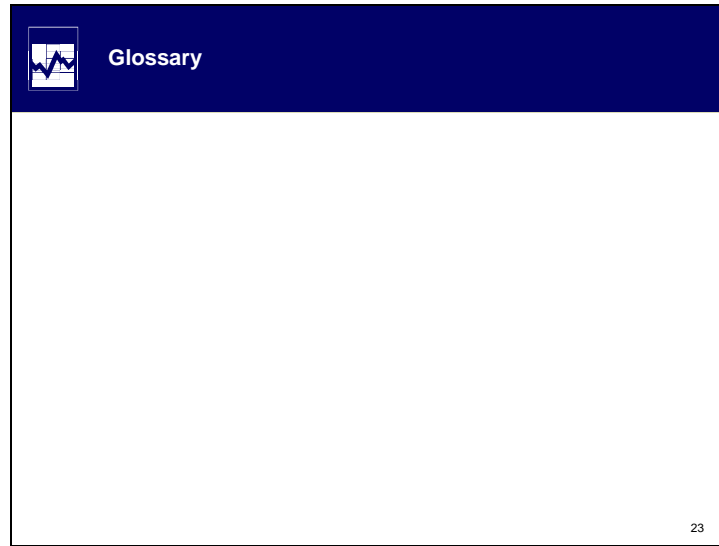
Advances in education for the young Métis population BUT the gap with the non-Aboriginal population is not closing fast.

Employment rates for the Métis population have improved – the gap between the Métis and non-Aboriginal populations did close between 1981 and 2001.

In 2000, the median income of Métis individuals remained below that of the total non-Aboriginal population.

Proportionately twice as many Métis children as non-Aboriginal children do not live with two parents.

Métis households are twice as likely as non-Aboriginal households to be below the suitability standard.



APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

2001 Census counts

Aboriginal Ancestry --- 1,319,980 ¹

Aboriginal Identity --- 976,305

Registered Indians --- 558,000 ²

=====

Not everyone who reports that they have an Aboriginal ancestor necessarily identifies themselves as an Aboriginal person.

To be a legally registered Indian does not necessarily require one to declare or to be a North American Indian, Métis, Inuit, and non-Aboriginal people can have legal Indian status.

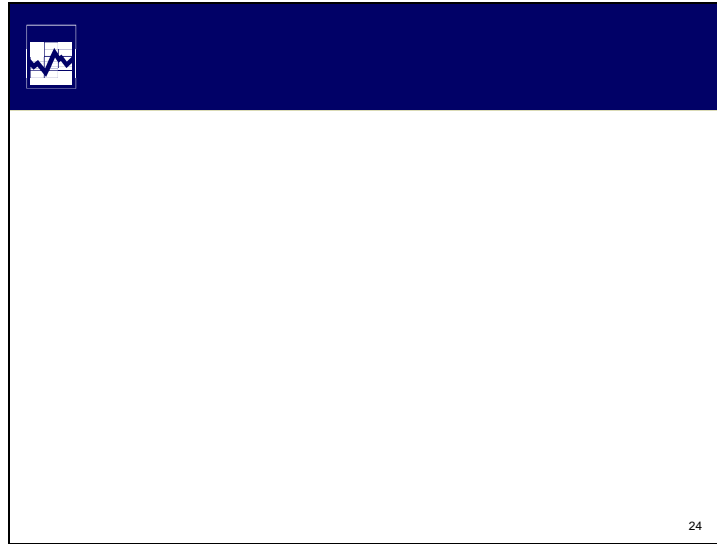
2001 INAC Indian Register count– 690,000

Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) maintains their own count of Registered Indians on the Indian Register. There are differences between the Indian Register and Census. They can be attributed to differences in definitions and collection procedures. The census count is low for registered Indians due to: a) 30 non-participating reserves (with an estimated 31,500 population); b) the population in collective dwellings (e.g. prisons) are not identified specifically as Aboriginal;

and c) a general undercount in enumerated areas. The INAC register is a population register which uses events like births and deaths reported throughout the year to obtain a population count. The register includes status Indians living out of the country (which the Census does not), and the reporting of vital events such as registering births and removing deaths may be slow, or not reported at all.

Incompletely Enumerated Indian Reserves and Indian Settlements in the 2001 Census

On some Indian reserves and Indian settlements in the 2001 Census, enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it was completed. These geographic areas (a total of 30) are called "incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements". Data for 2001 are not available for these areas, and therefore have not been included in the charts in this document, unless otherwise specified. The estimated size of the population on these 30 reserves is about 31,000. (See - <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Meta/appendix03.cfm>)



APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aboriginal Concepts:

Aboriginal Identity - Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, 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 who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation. In 1991 and previous censuses, Aboriginal persons were determined using the ethnic origin question (ancestry). The 1996 Census included a question on the individual's own perception of his/her Aboriginal identity. The 2001 Census question is the same as the one used in 1996. In 1981, the ethnic origin question was used, but the wording and format of this question allows the Aboriginal categories to be treated as an identity concept.

Aboriginal Ancestry/Origin which refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal ancestor who was North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, based on the ethnic origin question

Registered (or Status) 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. In 1996 and in 2001, one direct

question was developed to collect data on legal Indian status. The wording of the 1996 question differed slightly from the one in previous years. Prior to 1996, the term "treaty" was excluded from the question. It was added to the registered Indian question in 1996 at the request of individuals from the Western provinces, where the term is more widely used.

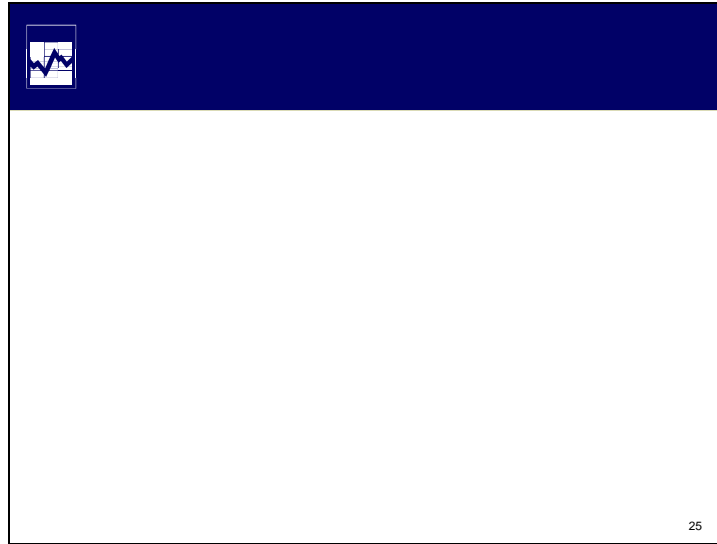
Geographic Terms:

Census Metropolitan Area - A CMA is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a CMA, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.

Urban Area - An urban area has a minimum population concentration of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre, based on the current census population count.

Rural Area - All territory outside urban areas is classified as rural. Taken together, urban and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Indian reserve – The on-reserve population is a derived census variable that is captured according to criteria established by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The on-reserve population includes all people living in any of seven community types legally affiliated with First Nations or Indian Bands (i.e., Indian Reserve, Indian Settlement, Indian Government District, Terres réservées, Nisga'a Village, Nisga'a Land and Teslin Land), as well as selected communities of various other types that are located in northern Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory.



APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS cont'd...

Other Terms:

Aboriginal household - Any single-family household where at least one spouse, common-law partner or lone parent is considered part of the Aboriginal identity population, or at least 50% of the household members are considered to be part of the Aboriginal identity population; any multiple-family household where at least one of the families in the household is an Aboriginal household (as defined above); and any non-family household where at least 50% of the household members are considered to be part of the Aboriginal identity population.

Condition of Dwelling - Refers to whether, in the judgement of the respondent, the dwelling requires any repairs (excluding desirable remodelling or additions). **Responses include:** No, only regular maintenance is needed; Yes, minor repairs are needed; Yes, major repairs are needed where:

Regular maintenance refers to painting, furnace cleaning, etc.

Minor repairs refer to the repair of missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.

Major repairs refer to the repair of defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc.

Employment Rate - Refers to the number of persons employed in the week prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over.

Highest Level of Schooling - Refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary (high) school attended, or to the highest year of university or college education completed. University education is considered to be a higher level of schooling than college education. Also, the attainment of a degree, certificate or diploma is considered to be at a higher level than years completed or attended without an educational qualification.

Incidence of Low Income - The incidence of low income is defined as the proportion or percentage of economic families or unattached individuals in a given classification below the low income cut-offs. For the 2001 Census, these incidence rates are calculated from unrounded estimates of economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over. The incidence of low income can also be derived for census families, non-family persons and the population in private households.

Low Income Cut-Off - Measures of low income known as low income 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 "straitened" circumstances. With this assumption, low income cut-off points were set for five different sizes of families. Subsequent to these initial cut-offs, revised low income cut-offs were established based on later national family expenditure survey data. As of 1992, these data indicated that Canadian families spent, on average, 34.7% of their total income on basic necessities. Since then, data from the expenditure survey have indicated that this proportion has remained fairly stable. By adding the original difference of 20 percentage points to the basic level of expenditure on necessities, new low income cut-offs were set at income levels differentiated by family size and degree of urbanization. Since 1992, these cut-offs have been updated yearly by changes in the consumer price index.



APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS cont'd...

Median Income of Individuals – The dollar amount that marks the midpoint of a distribution of individuals, with income, ranked by size of income. The median income of a specified group of income recipients is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of individuals are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median.

Mobility Status – Place of Residence 1 Year Ago - Information indicating whether the person lived in the same residence on Census Day (May 15, 2001), as he or she did one year before (May 15, 2000). This means that we have "movers" and "non-movers". There are different types of "movers": people who moved within the same city or town (non-migrants), people who moved to a different city or town (internal migrants), and people who came from another country to live in Canada (external migrants).

National Occupancy Standard - According to the National Occupancy Standard (see *Core Housing Need in Canada*, CMHC, 1991, p. 4) enough bedrooms means one bedroom for each cohabitating adult couple; unattached household member 18 years of age and over; same-sex pair of children under age 18; and additional boy or girl in the family, unless there are two opposite sex siblings under 5 years of age, in which case they are expected to share a bedroom. A household of one individual can occupy a bachelor unit (i.e. a unit with no bedroom).

