

January 15, 2008

Aboriginal People — 2006 Census —

Statistics Canada today released information on Aboriginal People from the 2006 census. The national census is conducted every five years, primarily to count all persons and dwellings in Canada. In the Northwest Territories, the census was undertaken in March and May of 2006. This report presents the fifth in a series of releases based on the 2006 census results.

Aboriginal identity is defined as those persons who reported: (i) identifying with at least one Aboriginal group – North American Indian, Métis or Inuit; (ii) being a Treaty or Registered Indian; and/or (iii) being a member of an Indian band or First Nation.

A few of the highlights for the Northwest Territories from the release include:

- 20,635 persons identified themselves as Aboriginal, accounting for 50% of the NWT population count
- Of those 20,635 Aboriginal persons, 61% self-identified as North American Indian, 20% Inuit and 17% Métis.
- Between 1996 and 2006 the Aboriginal population of NWT grew by 9%, compared to the 45% growth rate for the Aboriginal population of Canada.
- Of NWT Aboriginals, 28% reported having an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue, while 36% reported having knowledge of an Aboriginal language.
- Aboriginal people were four times as likely as non-Aboriginal people to live in a crowded dwelling - 16% for Aboriginal people, compared to 4% for non-Aboriginal people.

Table 1 presents a breakdown of Aboriginal population counts by province and territory. The NWT, after Nunavut, had the second highest proportion of Aboriginal persons at 50.3%.

Table 1 Population by Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Identity
Canada, Provinces, Territories
2006

	Total Population	%	Aboriginal Population	%	Non-Aboriginal Population	%
Canada	31,241,030	100.0	1,172,790	3.8	30,068,240	96.2
Northwest Territories	41,055	100.0	20,635	50.3	20,420	49.7
Nunavut	29,325	100.0	24,920	85.0	4,410	15.0
Yukon Territory	30,190	100.0	7,580	25.1	22,610	74.9
British Columbia	4,074,385	100.0	196,075	4.8	3,878,310	95.2
Alberta	3,256,355	100.0	188,365	5.8	3,067,990	94.2
Saskatchewan	953,850	100.0	141,890	14.9	811,960	85.1
Manitoba	1,133,515	100.0	175,395	15.5	958,120	84.5
Ontario	12,028,900	100.0	242,495	2.0	11,786,405	98.0
Quebec	7,435,905	100.0	108,430	1.5	7,327,475	98.5
New Brunswick	719,650	100.0	17,655	2.5	701,995	97.5
Nova Scotia	903,090	100.0	24,175	2.7	878,915	97.3
Prince Edward Island	134,205	100.0	1,730	1.3	132,475	98.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	500,610	100.0	23,450	4.7	477,155	95.3

Table 2 presents Aboriginal population counts by NWT community. In absolute numbers, Yellowknife, with an Aboriginal population of 4,110, has the largest concentration of Aboriginal persons in the NWT. Yellowknife, along with Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik account for 68% of the total NWT population, and 45% of the NWT Aboriginal population. The majority of smaller communities in the NWT have populations that are largely Aboriginal.

**Table 2 Population by Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Identity
Northwest Territories, Communities
2006**

	Total Population	%	Aboriginal Population	%	Non-Aboriginal Population	%
Northwest Territories	41,055	100.0	20,640	50.3	20,420	49.7
Beaufort Delta						
Aklavik	590	100.0	545	92.4	45	7.6
Fort McPherson	775	100.0	715	92.3	65	8.4
Inuvik	3,430	100.0	2,170	63.3	1,260	36.7
Paulatuk	295	100.0	265	89.8	30	10.2
Sachs Harbour	120	100.0	105	87.5	15	12.5
Tsiigehtchic	175	100.0	155	88.6	20	11.4
Tuktoyaktuk	870	100.0	730	83.9	140	16.1
Ulukhaktok (Holman)	400	100.0	365	91.3	35	8.8
Deh Cho						
Fort Liard	580	100.0	520	89.7	65	11.2
Fort Providence	715	100.0	670	93.7	50	7.0
Fort Simpson	1,190	100.0	825	69.3	365	30.7
Hay River Reserve	305	100.0	295	96.7	10	3.3
Jean Marie River	80	100.0	80	100.0	-	-
Nahanni Butte	115	100.0	110	95.7	-	-
Trout Lake	85	100.0	80	94.1	10	11.8
Wrigley	125	100.0	115	92.0	10	8.0
Sahtu						
Colville Lake	125	100.0	115	92.0	-	-
Deline	525	100.0	495	94.3	25	4.8
Fort Good Hope	550	100.0	510	92.7	35	6.4
Norman Wells	760	100.0	300	39.5	460	60.5
Tulita	505	100.0	460	91.1	45	8.9
South Slave						
Enterprise	100	100.0	40	40.0	55	55.0
Fort Resolution	485	100.0	445	91.8	35	7.2
Fort Smith	2,315	100.0	1,455	62.9	855	36.9
Hay River	3,610	100.0	1,600	44.3	2,005	55.5
Kakisa	50	100.0	50	100.0	-	-
Lutselk'e	320	100.0	300	93.8	15	4.7
Tlicho						
Behchokò	1,885	100.0	1,770	93.9	120	6.4
Gamètì	285	100.0	280	98.2	-	-
Wekweètì	135	100.0	135	100.0	-	-
Whatì	460	100.0	435	94.6	25	5.4
Yellowknife Area						
Detah	250	100.0	245	98.0	10	4.0
Yellowknife	18,510	100.0	4,110	22.2	14,405	77.8

“..”: As a result of random rounding, values have been suppressed.

Table 3 presents detailed Aboriginal identity information by NWT community type. At the NWT level, most Aboriginal persons (61.2%) identified themselves as North American Indians, with Inuit making up 20.1% and Metis 17.3%. Across all community types, the North American Indian identity accounted for the greatest proportion.

**Table 3 Population by Detailed Aboriginal Identity
NWT Community Type
2006**

	NWT	Yellowknife	Hay River, Inuvik Fort Smith	Rest of Communities
Aboriginal population	20,640	4,110	5,225	11,305
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
North American Indian	12,640	1,990	2,085	8,565
%	61.2	48.4	39.9	75.8
Metis	3,580	1,380	1,530	670
%	17.3	33.6	29.3	5.9
Inuit	4,160	640	1,550	1,970
%	20.2	15.6	29.7	17.4

Table 4 presents the geographic distribution of Aboriginal persons, by specific identity. It shows that overall, the majority of Aboriginal persons reside in smaller NWT communities, and that the majority of Metis persons reside in Yellowknife and the regional centres.

**Table 4 Aboriginal Persons, Geographic Distribution
NWT Community Type
2006**

	NWT	Yellowknife	Hay River, Inuvik Fort Smith	Rest of Communities
Aboriginal population	20,640	4,110	5,225	11,305
%	100.0	19.9	25.3	54.8
North American Indian	12,640	1,990	2,085	8,565
%	100.0	15.7	16.5	67.8
Metis	3,580	1,380	1,530	670
%	100.0	38.5	42.7	18.7
Inuit	4,160	640	1,550	1,970
%	100.0	15.4	37.3	47.4

Detailed tables presenting all aspects of the census release on Aboriginal peoples, along with this Newstat, will be available on the NWT Bureau of Statistics' website at:

<http://www.stats.gov.nt.ca/Statinfo/Census/census%2006/ 2006census.html>

Also available at this link are all previous 2006 census releases, along with a schedule of upcoming releases.

Planned Release Dates for 2006 Census Information

March 13, 2007	Population and Dwelling Counts
July 17, 2007	Age and Sex
September 12, 2007	Marital and Common-Law Status, Families, Households, Housing and Dwelling Characteristics
December 4, 2007	Language, Immigration, Citizenship, and Mobility and Migration
January 15, 2008	Aboriginal Peoples
March 4, 2008	Labour Market Activity, Industry, Occupation, Education, Language of Work, Place of Work, and Mode of Transportation
April 2, 2008	Ethnic Origin, and Visible Minorities
May 1, 2008	Income, Earnings, and Shelter Costs

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