

# Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples

2006 Census of Canada

## ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

Saskatchewan's 2006 Census population of self-identified Aboriginals was 141,890, an 8.99 per cent increase over the 2001 Census (self-identified Aboriginals). The largest component in this group remains members of the First Nations of the province (referred to in previous censuses as North American Indians). The self-identified Metis population grew by 10.12 per cent over the same period. However, the number of self-identifying individuals who did not choose a particular category of Aboriginal people declined by 14.31 per cent.

Table 1 provides the 2006 and 2001 Census data for Saskatchewan population by Aboriginal identity.

**Table 1: Census Population by Aboriginal Identity 2006 and 2001**

	2006	2001	% Change
First Nations	91,400	83,745	9.14%
Metis	48,115	43,695	10.12%
Inuit	215	235	-8.51%
Other Aboriginal*	2,155	2,515	-14.31%
Non-Aboriginal	811,960	832,960	-2.52%
Total	953,850	963,155	-0.97%

\* Includes Multiple Response and Aboriginal Responses not included elsewhere.

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada

## ABORIGINAL POPULATION SHARES

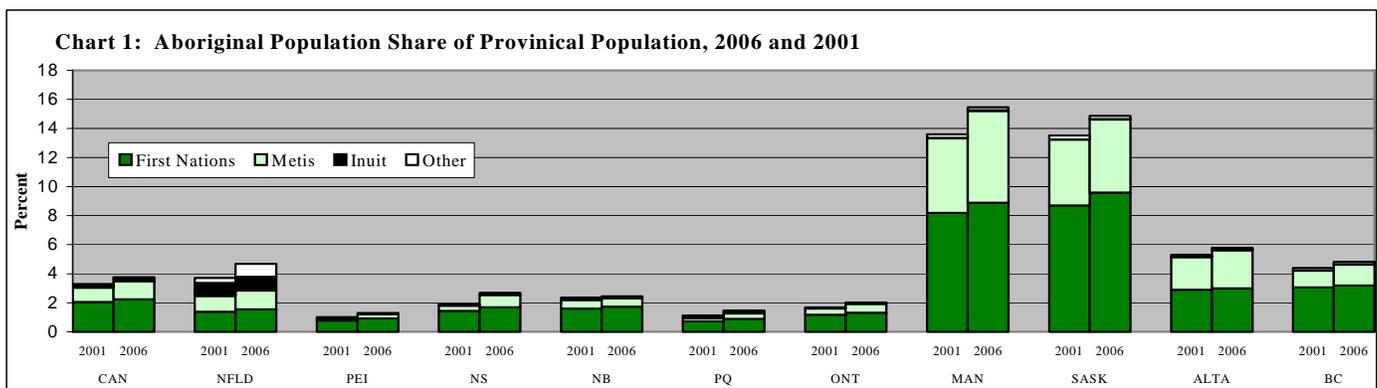
In Saskatchewan, percent of the population identifying themselves as Aboriginal continues to increase, a trend reflected across the country. In 2006, among the provinces Manitoba had the highest share of its population self-identifying as Aboriginal (15.47 per cent). The similar number for second-highest Saskatchewan was 14.88 per cent, an absolute increase of 1.36 percentage points from the 2001 population share of 13.52 per cent.

Chart 1 highlights provincial shares of Aboriginal population for the 2001 and 2006 Censuses.

## FIRST NATIONS OVERVIEW

The number of self-identified First Nations individuals living on reserves in Saskatchewan in 2006 was 47,765; a 9.31 per cent increase from the 2001 Census total of 43,695. There were 35,465 First Nations individuals living in urban areas in this province in 2006, an 8.97 per cent growth from the 2001 value of 32,545.

In 2006, 5.37 per cent of the population of the City of Saskatoon self-identified as First Nations. The similar totals for the Cities of Regina and Prince Albert were 5.17 per cent and 17.94 per cent respectively.



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## **METIS OVERVIEW**

The 2006 Census data shows Saskatchewan as the province having the second-highest level of individuals self-identifying as Metis, or 5.04 per cent of the population. Manitoba had the highest level at 6.33 per cent.

## **ABORIGINALS AVERAGE AGE**

The average age of Saskatchewan Aboriginals continues to be significantly lower than for non-aboriginal. 66,710 individuals self-identified as Aboriginals in Saskatchewan in 2006 were in the 0-19 age group, or 47.02 per cent of the total. The corresponding percentage for the non-aboriginal population was 24.12 per cent. Saskatchewan had the youngest median age of the Metis for any province, which was 26.

In 2006, the percentages of self-identified Aboriginals for the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) of Regina and Saskatoon under the age of 20 were 25.66 per cent and 26.44 per cent respectively. The similar percentage for the City of Prince Albert was 30.99 per cent.

## **HOUSING CONDITIONS**

In 2006, 58.36 per cent of the dwellings occupied by individuals self-identifying as non-Aboriginal in Saskatchewan required only regular maintenance. For Aboriginal individuals living on reserves, this number was 16.23 per cent. While only 8.51 per cent of the dwellings of non-Aboriginals required major repairs, 53.72 of the dwellings of on-reserve Aboriginals were in that category.

## **ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES**

In 2006, 24,100 (16.98% of the total Aboriginal population) individuals self-identified as having Cree as a mother tongue. Another 7,100 Aboriginal people (5.00%) selected Dene in this category. The 2006 Census responses for Ojibway and Dakota/Sioux as mother tongues were 1,745 (1.23%) and 405 (0.29%) respectively.

Additional information on Aboriginals including labour force activity, educational attainment and income statistics will be made available with future 2006 Census releases.

All data in this report are based on the 2006 Census of Canada. The Census population counts are not comparable to quarterly population estimates from the Statistics Canada Demography Division. Census population does not include net undercount (number of persons missed by the Census less the number of persons counted twice) and other adjustments made by Demography Division to the Census data. All data in this report are preliminary and subject to revision. For more details, contact the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics at (306) 787-6327 or visit [www.stats.gov.sk.ca](http://www.stats.gov.sk.ca).