Canadian Census and Indigenous People

Chris Penney, Director, Centre for Indigenous Statistics and Partnerships, Statistics Canada
History of Indigenous People

• Three distinct groups with different culture, traditions, languages and worldviews

• Canada has 600+ First Nations communities; 53 Inuit communities; and eight Métis Settlements

• Treaty and self-government agreements negotiated and ratified (most)
Diversity of Indigenous Population

- Total Indigenous population – 1,673,785
- First Nations people – 977,230
- Métis – 587,545
- Inuit – 65,025
Census History

Statistics Act mandates Census be conducted every five years.

Over 130 (out of 600) First Nations did not participate in 1986.

Efforts to engage Indigenous peoples have continued since.
Engagement

Indigenous Liaison Program

Building direct individual partnerships with communities.

Statistical Capacity Building

Helping Indigenous communities and organizations through training and technical support.
Defining the Indigenous population

24 Is this person First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)?

Note: First Nations (North American Indian) includes Status and Non-Status Indians.
If “Yes”, mark “×” the circle(s) that best describe(s) this person now.
Translation of Questionnaire

Atikamekw

Montagnais (Innu)

Plains Cree

Ojibway

Swampy Cree

Denesiline (Chipewyan)

Northern Quebec Cree

Neskapi

Mohawk

Tlicho

Inuktitut (Nunavik)

Inuktitut (Nunavut)

Oji Cree

Inuktitut (Nunavik)

Montagnais (Innu)

Inuktitut (Nunavut)

Northern Quebec Cree

Ojibway
Non-Participating Communities

Incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and settlements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
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Community Participation
Local hiring
Online enumeration
Enhanced Safety procedures
Thank you! Merci! Nakummek!

QUESTIONS?

Chris Penney  
Director, Centre for Indigenous Statistics and Partnerships  
Statistics Canada  
christopher.penney@canada.ca