




# **Importance of improving Aboriginal student success**


Hon. Lillian Eva (Quan) Dyck, PhD, DLitt  
Senator

[www.sen.parl.gc.ca/ldyck/](http://www.sen.parl.gc.ca/ldyck/)




# Outline

- Statistical Snapshots
  - Gaps in educational attainment
  - The payoffs for society and the individual for closing the gaps
  - Teachers
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# Saskatchewan has a high percentage of Aboriginal people

2006	% of population that was Aboriginal
Canada	<b>4%</b>
Saskatchewan	<b>15%</b>
Nunavut	<b>85%</b>
Ontario	<b>2%</b>





● 60% of FN people live off reserve




# Aboriginals lag behind the non-Aboriginal population at all levels of education in Canada except for the trades

<i>2006</i> <i>(Ages 25-64)</i>	% of Aboriginals	% of Non- Aboriginals
Less than H. Sc.	<b>34%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Trades cert/diploma	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>
University degree	<b>8%</b>	<b>23%</b>

Percentage of the **SASK** population, **ages 25-44**, by  
area of study

Major area of study	% of <b>Aboriginals</b>	% <b>Non-Aboriginals</b>
<b>Appl tech-Trades</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>23.2</b>
<b>Comm-Mgt-Bus adm</b>	20.2	21.4
<b>Soc Sci</b>	18.5	8.4
<b>Ed-Rec-Counselling</b>	14.6	11.4
<b>Health</b>	10.0	14.2
<b>Ag-Bio-Nutr Sci</b>	4.6	6.8
<b>Math-Comp-PhySci</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Eng App sci</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>



**The education and employment experiences  
of First Nations people living **off** reserve,  
Inuit, and Métis:**

**Selected findings from  
the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey**

**(similar to the 2006 data)**





# Work and earnings for off-R FN people

Adults aged 18 to 44 who had finished high school were more likely to be employed than those who did not finish/


72% for HSc completers versus 47%

The median employment income


for HSc completers were \$10,000 higher

See also Dr. Eric Howe's report:


HSc completers lifetime earnings are about \$500,000 greater






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- “Education is one of the most effective tools a society has to assist the disadvantaged, and it in addition fosters economic growth.”

Andrew Sharpe, Executive Director, Centre for the study of Living Standards  
– as reported in the Star Phoenix, Nov 26, 2007






# **Investing in Aboriginal education will lead to substantial payoffs for the individual as well as for Canada**

- If the gap in high school completion rates in 2001 for Aboriginals was closed by 2017, the gain in GDP would be \$62 billion and \$8.3 billion for 2017 alone.




# **“Bridging the Aboriginal Education Gap in Saskatchewan”**

**GDI and Prof Eric Howe (UofS), Nov 2011**

- Closing the gap could yield savings up to \$90 billion – the lost benefits are greater than all sales of potash in the history of Sask!
  - Aboriginal people in SK are an even greater resource than potash.
  - Closing the gap could produce an economic boom more sustainable than resource development.
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# Other benefits of education

- Better health
  - Longer lifespan
  - Greater self-esteem
  
  - Greater contribution to society
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# Opportunity for Positive Change

- The Brown Baby Boom presents an opportunity to change dramatically the overall well-being of Aboriginals by ensuring that Aboriginal youth who constitute the majority of the population get a ‘good’ education that respects who they are.
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# **The importance of education for FN people is recognized by the Elders.**

Education is our buffalo.

L' éducation est notre bison.

Paskwaw mostoswa ka-kisk-inwaha-ma-kehk

(re: Darren Okemaysim)




# Members of the APC visiting Onion Lake FN schools Fall 2010




# Visiting schools in N.S.








Two major reports on how to improve  
FN educational outcomes at the K-12  
levels (how to close the gaps)

- 1. Senate report, Dec 2011
  - 2. National Panel report, Feb 2012
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- Good teachers are one of the key ingredients in student success.




# Special Thanks to Mr. John Dyer, 1963


Vice-Principal and Chemistry teacher, SCCI




**Mr. J. A. Dyer, B.A., B.Ed.**  
Vice-Principal



Whenever I ask someone how they became inspired to go on to university or got into their particular career, they always say it was a teacher or a professor who took an interest in them and encouraged them.



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- As Science Ambassadors, you are science teachers.
  - you have my admiration and gratitude for the difference you make in the lives of the students you mentored.
  - Meegwitch, Xie Xie, Merci, Thank You
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