




Issues in Post-secondary education for Aboriginals


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Senator**

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Outline

- Statistical Snapshots
 - Gaps in educational attainment
 - What needs to be done
 - Investing in ED yields substantial payoffs
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Statistical information

- The Canadian picture, Census 2006
 - A focus on Saskatchewan
 - Basic demographics
 - Educational attainment
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**The majority of Aboriginals in Canada
in 2006 were Indian (First Nation).**


Aboriginal group	Numbers	%
Indian	698,025	60%
Métis	389,785	33%
Inuit	50,485	4%
Multiple Abor ID	(34,500)	(3%)
Total	1,172,790	





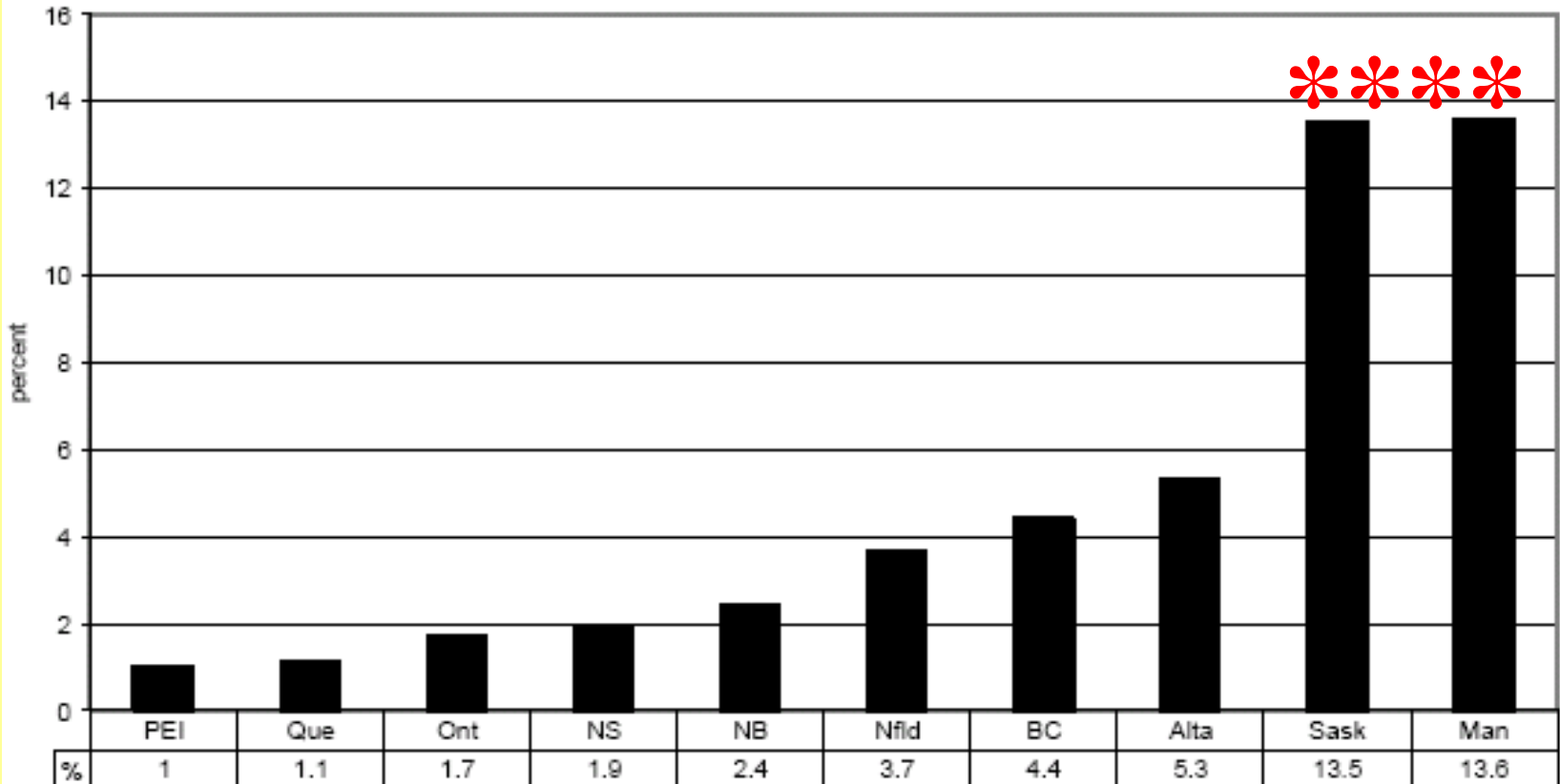
The Aboriginal population varies regionally


	% of population that was Aboriginal
Canada	3%
Saskatchewan	15%
Nunavut	85%
Ontario	2%



Saskatchewan and Manitoba had the highest proportion of Aboriginals amongst the provinces


Figure 1
Aboriginal identity population as proportion of
total population, by province and territory, 2001 Census






Compared to the rest of the
Canadian population,

the Aboriginal population is
relatively young and increasing
more rapidly.





Young & Growing

48% of the Aboriginal population is under 25 yrs of age compared to 31% for other Canadians.

and

from 1996-2006, the **Aboriginal population grew by 45%** compared to only 8% for the rest of the Canadian population.





The Brown Baby Boom

vs

The Graying, Aging Baby Boomers




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

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



If all things were equal,


80,400 more Aboriginal people in
Canada would have had a
university degree in 2006.





● If all things were equal,

6,210 more Aboriginal people in Sask
would have had a university degree in
2006.




Women, esp. Aboriginal women, had higher levels of education than men, except for the Trades, in Saskatchewan in 2006


<i>(Ages 15 and over)</i>	% of female Aboriginals	% of male Aboriginals	% of female Non-Abor's	% of male Non-Abor's
< H. Sc	48%	52%	36%	40%
Trades	7%	12%	10%	16%
Bachelor's	6%	3%	12%	9%




● If the sexes were equal,


1,825 more Aboriginal men would have had at least Bachelor's degree in 2006 in Sask.







Reserve schools receive less funding per student

- Avg funding/student **on-reserve** = \$5,500-\$7,500.
 - Avg funding/student **off-reserve** = \$6,800-\$8,400.
 - in AB, SK, MN, the funding gaps = \$3,000 - \$5,000.
 - This is tantamount to discrimination on the basis of race.
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Education is a treaty right but PS funding is inadequate

- Funding has been capped at a 2% increase since 1996, despite increases in the FN population and increased PS educational costs.
 - About 11,000 FN students could not get funding in 2001-2006, and 3,000 in 2007-2008.
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What can be done to close the education gaps

- Increase high school completion rates, esp. for males
 - Eliminate the 2% cap on Aboriginal PS funding
 - Equalize the funding for on-reserve students
 - Create an Aboriginal youth employment program – eg., summer jobs, co-op pgms
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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.
 - Education is one of the key factors in breaking out of the cycle of poverty and its associated problems.
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the Brown Baby Boom:


**By 2017, 31% of children in SASK will be
Aboriginal.**


**By 2045, 50% of the SASK population will be
Aboriginal.**







Investing in Aboriginal PSE now will lead to substantial payoffs for the individual as well as for the nation

- 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.
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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



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- Current situation regarding the First Nations University of Canada in Saskatchewan.
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