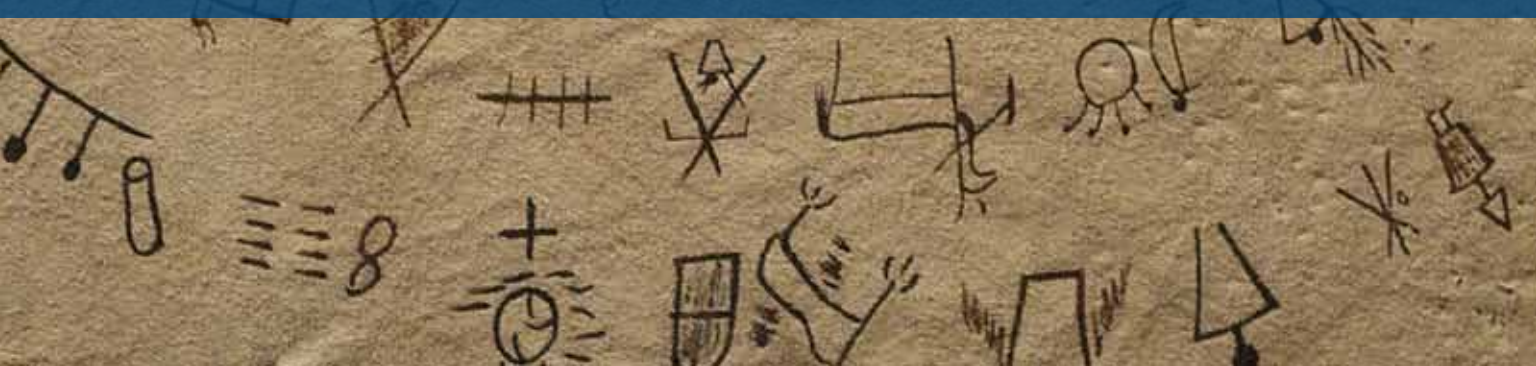


ABORIGINAL EDMONTON


A Statistical Story - 2009







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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the information contained in *Urban Aboriginal Population: a Statistical Profile of Aboriginal Peoples living in the City of Edmonton, 2006* which was initiated by the City's Aboriginal Relations Office to provide information about Edmonton's urban Aboriginal residents. This condensed, reader-friendly report is provided to support and influence organizations' and community decisions that affect the Aboriginal community in Edmonton and the surrounding area.

Unless otherwise indicated, the information presented below summarizes characteristics of Edmonton's urban Aboriginal residents for 2006.

The report includes information on basic demographic characteristics that are compared, whenever possible, to those of the non-Aboriginal residents of Edmonton. This comparison gives us a better idea of where we stand, what we are doing well and what can be improved in the future.

Whenever possible this information is broken down into First Nations and Métis-specific details and subdivided into smaller geographical areas – Traffic Districts to account for their individual distinctiveness. Please note that although we have included base line information on Edmonton's Inuit residents, currently their numbers are still too small to allow us to provide meaningful Traffic District-level information.

Maps of City of Edmonton Traffic Districts are provided in the Appendices.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS REPORT ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE ABORIGINAL RELATIONS OFFICE, CITY OF EDMONTON

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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ABORIGINAL EDMONTON

In a Nutshell

- Between 2001 and 2006, Aboriginal Edmonton increased in size by more than 25% (about 8,000 residents), a far greater growth rate than the non-Aboriginal growth rate of about 9%.
- About 60% of us live in the 11 Traffic Districts designated 'Inner City' by the City of Edmonton.
- We are much younger than our non-Aboriginal neighbours, with a larger proportion of households with children.
- Though more likely to be single than non-Aboriginal residents, Aboriginal Edmontonians are twice as likely as non-Aboriginals to live in a common-law relationship instead of a formal marriage.
- We are highly mobile, far more so than non-Aboriginal residents, and First Nations more so than Métis.
- Although we still lag behind non-Aboriginal Edmontonians, our education and training levels have increased over the past five years, particularly in the apprenticeships and trades occupations.
- Métis is the largest group of Aboriginal residents, and is significantly larger than First Nations and Inuit.
- Our Labour Force Participation rates increased between 2001 and 2006, though not as much as those of non-Aboriginal residents, and more so for Métis than for First Nations.
- Aboriginal Edmontonian unemployment rates are dropping, but are still much higher than the rates for non-Aboriginal Edmontonians. This is particularly the case for First Nations residents, whose unemployment rates are twice as high as those of Métis.
- Two in five Aboriginal residents of Edmonton live below the poverty line, and our median income is only two-thirds that of non-Aboriginal residents. This is particularly true for Aboriginal women and even more so for First Nations women.
- Our employment tends to be in trades (men) and sales and services (women).

Contextualizing The Statistical Information

All statistical information is contextual. This means that although we like to think about 'numbers' as being factual and objective (which they are), they are nonetheless based in certain assumptions and policies made by Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada collects the census information that is eventually turned into 'statistics'. These assumptions and policies impact the kinds of information which is provided (or not provided). They also impact the kinds of interpretations we can make according to available information. Three of these assumptions and interpretations are important here for helping us place in its proper context the information which appears in the following pages.

1. taking care to account for differences in population size

Very often this report will provide information which seems to indicate that Aboriginal residents in certain Traffic Districts are doing surprisingly well. Bear in mind that although these statistics are accurate, they are usually based on very small numbers of Aboriginal residents (hundreds or even dozens). Thus, although we can be pleased that some of us are doing well, we should not lose sight of the fact that these are the exception rather than the rule. To assist the reader in making sense of these apparent differences, the report will indicate population sizes in situations where the statistical evidence seems 'too positive.'

2. the importance of accounting for ethnic mobility

In recent years, the Aboriginal population of Canada (including Edmonton) has far exceeded statistical predictions based on demographic factors such as fertility (number of births) and mortality (number of deaths) in a given period. Statisticians have explained this increase by reference to 'ethnic mobility'. 'Ethnic mobility' refers to the situation in which people who did not formerly identify themselves as a category of 'Aboriginal' on one census (say, in 2001) have begun to formally identify themselves in the next (say, in 2006). Statisticians have suggested several reasons for this 'switching' (increased pride in Aboriginal heritage, for example). Most important for our purposes is the fact that these 'late bloomers' tend to inflate artificially the statistical information to make the overall numbers seem 'rosier' than they are. Thus, the recent growth in the size of the Aboriginal population of Edmonton has seemed to include positive increases in education levels, labour participation rates, average income, etc. All of these seem to be increasing and so might lead us to believe that things are getting better for Aboriginal Edmontonians.

However, Andrew Siggner, formerly the Chief of Statistics for Statistics Canada's Aboriginal and Social Statistics Division, cautions that some of this increase is not simply the result of a 'real' increase among previously identifying, disadvantaged Aboriginal residents but rather of ethnic mobility¹ among those who did not formerly identify as Aboriginal but who are beginning to do so. In a nutshell, this means that although we can be optimistic about the increases, we must be cautious about interpreting them to mean that all Aboriginal people are experiencing these increases. The fact of the matter is that Aboriginal Edmontonians continue to face huge challenges and disadvantages which mark our difference from non-Aboriginal Edmontonians: this is especially so with First Nations and most specifically, First Nations women. To assist the reader, the report will make specific reference in instances where we suspect ethnic mobility may be playing a role in statistical increases.

3. presentation of the information itself

It is a simple fact that some of us digest information more easily when it is written. Others prefer visual information, and still others prefer tables and numbers. The information provided below attempts to bridge these different styles by providing, whenever possible, information in number, table/chart and written form. Additionally, information is also provided in a comparative fashion – sometimes characteristics are compared between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents, other times between Métis and First Nations residents. Importantly, the information contained in written form on the right hand side of the page is not simply a repeat of number- or table-based information but rather contains specific information pertaining to an element of the larger demographic characteristic (i.e. age, unemployment rate, etc.) being explained.

1. ANDREW SIGGNER. 2003. 'IMPACT OF "ETHNIC MOBILITY" ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES'. CANADIAN STUDIES IN POPULATION, VOL. 30(1): 137-158.

DEFINITIONS, DEFINITIONS, DEFINITIONS...

In some cases, the report presents more detailed explanations about the definitions that are used; however, the reader should be aware that any statistical information is only as good as the definitions under which data is collected. So, although we use terms like 'Aboriginal', 'median', etc. as if their definitions 'announced' themselves, it's still a good idea to know how we are using the terms and who is included in their usage.

'ABORIGINAL'

The difficulty with a term like 'Aboriginal' is that we all have our own definition of what it means and many 'Aboriginal' people recognize ourselves differently in it. Statistics Canada measures Aboriginality in four different ways; most importantly for our purposes, they draw a major distinction between Aboriginal ancestry and Aboriginal identity. Aboriginal ancestry measures Aboriginality by asking people to declare whether or not they have ancestors who were Aboriginal. Aboriginal identity, on the other hand, asks individuals if they self-identify as Aboriginal (whether First Nations, Métis or Inuit). Moreover, individuals are given the option of identifying with more than one category (so for example, we might check off First Nations *and* Métis). About three percent of the self-identifying Aboriginal population declares such 'multiple responses'. However, for the purposes of this report, 'Aboriginal' refers to those who self-identify as Aboriginal (whether First Nations, Métis or Inuit) and only those who choose a single category. No multiple responses are used.

'ABORIGINAL ADULT'

'Aboriginal adult' refers to Aboriginal residents of Edmonton who are above 14 years of age.

'CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA' (CMA)

Statistics Canada defines a CMA as a geographical area "consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core." Edmonton's CMA includes area as far north as Redwater, as far south as Kavanagh, as far west as Seba Beach and as far east as Cooking Lake. While we primarily use City of Edmonton information, it is important to note that many of Edmonton's Aboriginal service delivery organizations service clientele who live outside the city limits.

‘CITY OF EDMONTON’

Edmonton is much smaller in population size and geographical area than its CMA. In fact, the ‘city of Edmonton’ is actually the result of adding together several Census Subdivisions (CSDs), a standard geographical unit used by Statistics Canada in the preparation of customized data tabulations for reports on Canada’s cities.

‘WARD’

Edmonton operates electorally according to a ‘Ward’ system (currently, Edmonton has six Wards, though this will soon be increased to 12). In this system, municipal counselors from each Ward are elected to serve on City Council with a Mayor who is elected to Edmontonians from all wards. These Wards comprise specific geographical areas within the city and contain multiple Traffic Districts.

‘TRAFFIC DISTRICT’

Edmonton is divided into 31 Traffic Districts. 29 have sufficient numbers of Aboriginal residents to be used in this report. This report uses information at the Traffic District level rather than the Ward level to better capture differences between different Traffic Districts that are within the same ward. For example, the separate Traffic Districts of ‘University’ and ‘Downtown Fringe’ are both part of Ward 4. Their Aboriginal residents are very different, however; that is, the collective statistical characteristics of Aboriginal residents in ‘University’ differ from those in ‘Downtown Fringe’. These important differences are lost, however, when information is presented at the Ward level, because it requires us to ‘average out’ information from different Traffic Districts into a single ward-level statistical profile.

As well, the City of Edmonton Planning Department and Development differentiates between ‘Inner City’ and ‘Suburban’ Traffic Districts. This system is not perfect. For example, the Traffic District of ‘University’ (which includes the high-income enclave of Windsor Park) is considered ‘Inner City’ – the term designates a fairly large geographical area rather than the more traditional ideas we might have about ‘the inner city’. Nonetheless, we will see that Aboriginal Edmontonians disproportionately reside in Traffic Districts designated as ‘Inner City’.

'LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE'

The Labour Force Participation Rate is the percentage of the working-age population (15 years of age and older) employed or looking for work.

'LOW INCOME CUT OFF RATE'

The Low Income Cut-off (LICO) rate is the official measure of 'poverty' in Canada and is based on the percentage of us whose income is one-half of or lower than the median income of the metropolitan area in which we live.

'MEDIAN'

The 'median' is the exact middle of a population: half the numbers are above it and half are below. So, for example, if we had the numbers 1 to 99, 50 would be the median – 49 numbers would be above it, 49 numbers would be below it. We will make use of medians here instead of averages (as sometimes averages are susceptible to extreme values on either end) but in a population of this size, both the median and the average can be useful.

WHO, AND HOW MANY, ARE WE?

Aboriginal Edmontonians are Canada's second-largest urban Aboriginal population – and we are still growing

- Between 2001 and 2006, we grew by 25%
- We made up 4.8% of Edmonton's total population in 2001 – In 2006 we make up 5.6%
- **Métis Edmontonians are the largest Aboriginal group in the city:**
 - They make up 55% of the total Aboriginal population of Edmonton
- **First Nations residents make up the second- largest Aboriginal group in the city:**
 - They make up 40% of the Aboriginal population
- **Inuit residents make up the smallest proportion of Aboriginal residents:**
 - They make up 1.3% of the Aboriginal population and have more than doubled in size in the past five years.

Caution! *Those who select 'Métis' on the Census questions are most likely to comprise the 'ethnic drifters' discussed earlier (thus some of the increase is the result of individuals previously not identifying as Métis, beginning to do so).*

HOW LARGE IS THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN COMPARISON TO EDMONTON'S POPULATIONS OVERALL?

	2006		2001	
CITY OF EDMONTON POPULATION	684090		626990	
ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION	38170		30365	
ABORIGINAL POPULATION AS A PERCENT OF EDMONTON'S POPULATION	5.6%		4.8%	
NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN (FIRST NATIONS)	15989	2.3%	13450	2.1%
MÉTIS	20695	3.0%	15745	2.5%
INUIT	495	.01%	215	0.0%

ABORIGINAL POPULATION GROWTH IN EDMONTON'S CMA – 8500% IN HALF A CENTURY!

1951

Edmonton's CMA Aboriginal Population: 616

1981

Edmonton's CMA Aboriginal Population: 13 750

2001

Edmonton's CMA Aboriginal Population: 41 295

2006

Edmonton's CMA Aboriginal Population: 52 105

Source: Evelyn Peters. 2005. "Indigeneity and marginalisation: planning for and with urban Aboriginal communities in Canada." *Progress in Planning* 63: 327–404.



WHERE DO WE LIVE?

- Aboriginal Edmontonians live in virtually all Traffic Districts, but we are disproportionately concentrated in a handful of Traffic Districts
- While we have no 'Traffic Districts' with high concentrations of Aboriginal residents, **more than three in five** of us (62.1%) are **concentrated** in fewer than **one-quarter** of Edmonton's Traffic Districts
- **Seven Traffic Districts** in particular – North Central, Jasper Place, Londonderry, Downtown Fringe, West Jasper Place, Mill Woods and Beverly – **are home to the bulk of** Edmonton's Aboriginal residents
- About **60%** of Aboriginal Edmontonians live in Traffic Districts designated by the City of Edmonton as Inner City (several Traffic Districts from the previous bullet point are included in this area)

WHERE DO WE LIVE?

Traffic Districts with the highest number of Aboriginal residents:

North Central:	4510
Jasper Place:	3555
Londonderry:	3555
Downtown Fringe:	3470

Traffic Districts with highest proportion of Edmonton's total number of Aboriginal residents:

North Central	11.8%
Jasper Place	9.3%
Londonderry	9.3%
Downtown Fringe	9.1%

DIFFERENCES IN FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS RESIDENCY DISTRIBUTION BY TRAFFIC DISTRICT

While Métis comprise the majority of Aboriginal Edmontonians, they are more dispersed across Traffic Districts than are First Nations residents

- About 50% of Edmonton’s First Nations residents live in five Traffic Districts
- Only 44% of Métis residents live in the five Traffic Districts with the highest Métis populations. Nonetheless they are the largest Aboriginal group (in some cases, by a significant margin) in all but a couple of Traffic Districts
- Roughly equal percentages of Métis and First Nations residents (about 53%) live in Traffic Districts designated by the City of Edmonton as Inner City

FIRST NATIONS EDMONTONIANS

Traffic Districts with highest number of First Nations residents

North Central	2175
Downtown Fringe	1645
Londonderry	1520
West Jasper Place	1505
Jasper Place	1490

Traffic Districts with highest proportion of First Nations residents (in comparison to Métis residents):

Winterburn	64.7%
Beverly	51.4%
Southeast Industrial	50.0%
West Jasper Place	49.5%
Calder	48.3%
North Central	48.2%

MÉTIS EDMONTONIANS

Traffic Districts with highest number of Métis residents

North Central	2235
Londonderry	1940
Jasper Place	1925
Mill Woods	1590
West Jasper Place	1485

Traffic Districts with highest proportion of Métis residents (in comparison to First Nations residents):

Bonnie Doon	78.6%
Capilano	77.2%
Heritage Valley	75.8%
Ellerslie	75.0%
Lake District/Pilot Sound	70.8%
Cent. Business District	68.2%

ABORIGINAL EDMONTONIANS MOVING WITHIN THE CITY, IN COMPARISON TO NON-ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS (NOTE DIFFERENCE):

- 35% moved in the last year (in comparison to 20%)
- 70% moved in the last five years (in comparison to 49%)

ABORIGINAL MOVERS TO THE CITY (NOTE SIMILARITY):

- of those of us who moved, 29% of us moved to the city in the last year and 37% moved to the city in the last five (in comparison to 32% and 36% for non-Aboriginal residents)

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS MOVED LAST YEAR, BY GROUP AND TRAFFIC DISTRICT?

FIRST NATION

University	73.8%
Southgate	61.8%
Lake District /Pilot Sound	59.4%
West Edmonton	58.6%
Downtown Fringe	53.9%
Kaskitayo	47.6%
Calder	47.1%

MÉTIS

University	50.8%
Southgate	36.0%
Lake District /Pilot Sound	22.8%
West Edmonton	28.1%
Downtown Fringe	47.8%
Kaskitayo	37.1%
Calder	21.4%

HOW LONG HAVE WE LIVED HERE?

Aboriginal Edmontonians are very mobile

- In the last year, out of every one hundred Aboriginal Edmontonians, about 35 moved. Of those, 10 moved to Edmonton and 25 moved within it
- In the last five years, out of every one hundred Aboriginal Edmontonians, about 70 moved. 44 of these moved within the city and 26 moved to the city

The residents of some Traffic Districts moved more than others, particularly in the last year

- The two Traffic Districts with the highest Aboriginal mobility rates in the last year were University and Ellerslie. Here, more than half of the Aboriginal residents moved
- More than two-fifths of the Aboriginal residents of Downtown Fringe, Central Business District, Southgate, Heritage Valley and West Edmonton moved in the past year

In these Traffic Districts, the mobility of Aboriginal residents was significantly higher than that of non-Aboriginal residents, especially over the last year, but also over the last five years.

WITH WHOM DO WE LIVE?

Aboriginal Edmontonians are mostly single, and far more frequently so than non-Aboriginal residents

- If in a relationship, we are twice as likely as non-Aboriginal Edmontonians to live in a common-law union rather than a formal marriage
- We are half as likely as non-Aboriginal residents to be formally married
- This trend is largely constant across wards, though some Traffic Districts had higher rates than others.
- For every 100 Aboriginal families in Edmonton, 10 are headed by a lone parent. 85% of these are headed by women

IN COMPARISON TO NON-ABORIGINALS, ABORIGINAL EDMONTONIANS OVER THE AGE OF 15 ARE:

- single (61% compared to 37% for non-Aboriginals)
- twice as likely to be living in a common law relationship (rather than formally married – 17.5% compared to 8.2%)
- 10% of Aboriginal families are lone-parented (in comparison to 18% for non-Aboriginal families)

How often are we in common-law relationships in comparison to non-Aboriginal residents, across key Traffic Districts?

LOCATION	ABORIGINAL IDENTITY			NON-ABORIGINAL		
	COMMON-LAW			COMMON-LAW		
City of Edmonton	27690	4845	17.5%	571215	46945	8.2%
Londonderry	2405	530	22.0%	37625	2865	7.6%
Downtown Fringe	2860	580	20.3%	39485	4150	10.5%
Castle Downs / Palisades	1405	280	19.9%	35415	2540	7.2%
Beverly	1685	330	19.6%	19925	1915	9.6%
Calder	1545	290	18.8%	15935	1525	9.6%
North Central	3395	575	16.9%	29155	3320	11.4%
West Jasper Place	1955	330	16.9%	44920	3345	7.4%
Jasper Place	2720	455	16.7%	43710	3460	7.9%



COMPARISON OF EDMONTONIANS WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15 IN THE HOME:

Aboriginal: 27%
 Non-Aboriginal: 17%

First Nations: 32%
 Métis: 25%

Aboriginal Edmontonians are more likely to have children below the age of 15 in our homes

- This is particularly true for First Nations residents, and more so in certain Traffic Districts than others
- First Nations rates varied by Traffic District and were almost uniformly higher than for Métis, though not as much among Traffic Districts with the highest Aboriginal population

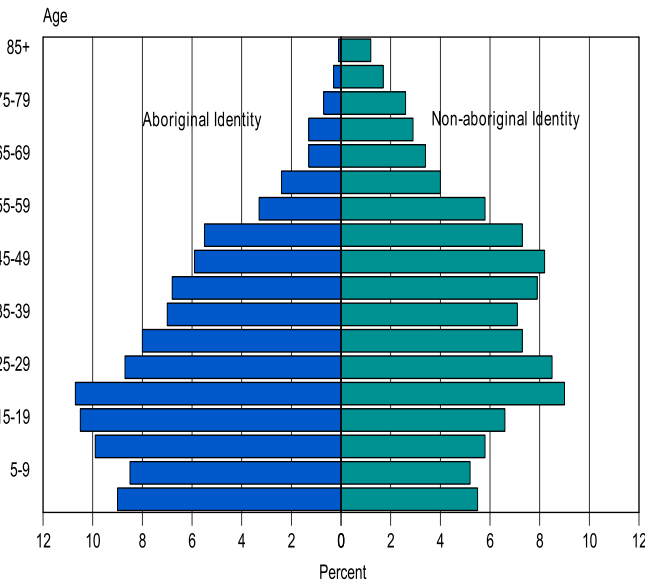
Private households with children under 15 years of age by key Traffic District and group

TRAFFIC DISTRICT	TOTAL # OF PERSONS IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS	FIRST NATIONS	MÉTIS
NORTH CENTRAL	4500	29.0%	20.4%
JASPER PLACE	3535	25.3%	23.7%
DOWNTOWN FRINGE	3380	18.1%	20.1%
WEST JASPER PLACE	3035	39.1%	32.3%
MILL WOODS	3015	39.0%	32.1%

HOW OLD ARE WE?

Aboriginal Edmontonians are significantly younger than our non-Aboriginal neighbours

- nearly half of us are younger than 25 years of age
- more than one in four of us is under 15 years of age
- only roughly one in twenty of us is 65 years of age or older (although this number is growing)
- First Nations Edmontonians are slightly younger than Métis residents, particularly among those groups of children under the age of ten



Source: Custom Tabulations, Census 2006

DID YOU KNOW?

The median age of Aboriginal Edmontonians is more than 10 years younger than non-Aboriginal residents (27.5 versus 36.1 years, respectively)!

ABORIGINAL EDMONTONIANS IN COMPARISON TO NON-ABORIGINALS:

- 50% are less than 25 years of age (in comparison to 32%)
- 28% are under the age of 15 (in comparison to 18.7% for the overall population)
- median age is 25.7 years of age (in comparison to 36.1 years)
- less than 5% are 65 years of age or older (in comparison to nearly 15%)
- less than 15% are 50 years of age or older (in comparison to nearly 30%)
- children under the age of five comprised 10% of First Nations residents and 8.3% of Métis

FROM 2001 TO 2006:

- The percentage of Aboriginal residents with no high school education dropped from 43.6% to 40.8%
- The percentage of Aboriginal residents with a trade certificate or diploma jumped from 2.9% to 11.1%
- The percentage of Aboriginal residents who had 'some university' dropped from 19.1% to 16.5%
- The percentage of us who had a university degree or higher rose from 5.6% to 9.2%

TRAFFIC DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF UNIVERSITY DEGREES FOR ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS BY GROUP

FIRST NATIONS

Heritage Valley	50.0%
Lake District/ Pilot Sound	24.0%
Southgate	20.8%
University	18.2%
Bonnie Doon	17.4%
Ellerslie	15.0%

MÉTIS

West Edmonton	28.6%
University	25.9%
Southgate	18.5%
Capilano	17.8%
Bonnie Doon	14.4%
Heritage Valley	12.5%

WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING DO WE UNDERTAKE?

Though improving, Aboriginal Edmontonians have lower levels of educational attainment than non-Aboriginal residents

- In 2006, slightly more than one in five Aboriginal residents had completed high school (slightly below the level of non-Aboriginal residents)
- We were slightly more likely than non-Aboriginal residents to have a trade certificate or diploma
- We were far less likely than non-Aboriginal residents to have completed university

CAUTION!

- While we may think that the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal education levels is closing, we need to be careful to take into consideration the 'ethnic mobility' which accounts for some of this improvement
- Additionally, Statistics Canada changed the way it measured 'highest level of schooling' between 2001 and 2006, meaning that direct comparisons across time are no longer possible and some of the categories might be slightly inflated
- Although some of the numbers on the left might lead us to believe that we are doing well, we must realize that the overall size of the Aboriginal population in some of these Traffic Districts is quite small



HOW MUCH DO WE WORK?

Although our labour force participation rates are only slightly behind those of non-Aboriginals, our unemployment rates remain much higher

- Slightly more than two-thirds of us are working – this is up slightly from 2001
- Aboriginal men are working more than Aboriginal women
- Métis residents are working more than First Nations residents
- Both Métis and First Nations residents experienced a drop in unemployment rates, but Métis more so than First Nations

HOW MUCH DO WE WORK AND HOW MANY OF US ARE UNEMPLOYED?

	ABORIGINAL IDENTITY	NON- ABORIGINAL	FIRST NATIONS	MÉTIS
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE				
2006	68.6%	72.3%	65.5%	70.5%
2001	66.3%	70.5%	64.0%	68.1%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE				
2006	10.3%	4.6%	14.2%	7.8%
2001	14.0%	5.7%	16.6%	11.9%

**ABORIGINAL UNEMPLOYMENT
(AND ABORIGINAL LABOUR FORCE
PARTICIPATION) RATES IN TRAFFIC
DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST NUMBERS
OF ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS:**

Jasper Place	9.9%	(70.4%)
Downtown Fringe	14.1%	(63.2%)
Londonderry	8.9%	(63.1%)
North Central	12.0%	(60.2%)

These Traffic Districts are home to about 40% of Edmonton's Aboriginal residents

**NUMBER OF ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS
(AND ABORIGINAL LABOUR
PARTICIPATION RATES) IN TRAFFIC
DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST LABOUR
FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES:**

Riverbend/Terwillegar	405	(84.7%)
West Edmonton	320	(84.4%)
Southgate	1065	(83.5%)
Central Business Dist.	440	(81.7%)
Heritage Valley	165	(81.1%)

These Traffic Districts are home to only about 6% of Edmonton's Aboriginal residents

WHERE DO THOSE OF US WHO WORK THE MOST LIVE?

Our labour force participation rate grew and our unemployment rates dropped between 2001 and 2006. However:

- These rates are not spread out evenly across City Traffic Districts, and they differ between First Nations and Métis residents
- Calder (19.4%), Ellerslie (18.2%), Winterburn (17.6%), Southeast Industrial (15.4%) and Northeast Edmonton (15.4%) have the highest unemployment rates

CAUTION!

Traffic Districts with the highest labour force participation rates comprise only a **very small portion** of Edmonton's Aboriginal population. Traffic Districts with much larger Aboriginal populations have much lower labour force participation rates and higher unemployment rates

WHAT DO WE DO FOR WORK?

Significant occupational differences exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Edmontonians – we work in jobs with lower status and lower pay than our non-Aboriginal neighbours

- Aboriginal men tend to work in jobs related to trade, transport and equipment operation
- Aboriginal women work in sales and service occupations

These occupations differed by Traffic District:

- West Jasper Place Aboriginal residents hold the kinds of jobs considered more stable (management, health, social sciences, education, government service and religion)
- North Central and Londonderry residents held more trade-related employment

These Traffic District differences also differed by Aboriginal group:

FOR FIRST NATIONS RESIDENTS:

- Jasper Place, North Central and Downtown Fringe residents worked in accommodation and food services
- West Jasper Place residents worked in public administration
- Beverly residents worked in construction
- Millwoods residents work in retail

FOR MÉTIS RESIDENTS:

- Jasper Place, West Jasper Place, North Central, and Millwoods residents worked in construction
- Beverly residents worked in health care and social assistance
- Downtown Fringe residents worked in accommodation and food services



MEDIAN INCOMES OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION WITH INCOME IN FIVE LARGEST (BY POPULATION) ABORIGINAL TRAFFIC DISTRICTS

- North Central \$15,482
- Downtown Fringe \$14,945
- Jasper Place \$18,118
- Londonderry \$18,614
- West Jasper Place \$21,824

These five Traffic Districts comprise about 50% of Edmonton's total Aboriginal population

TRAFFIC DISTRICTS WITH FIVE HIGHEST ABORIGINAL MEDIAN INCOMES:

- Heritage Valley \$51,410
- West Edmonton \$44,005
- Riverbend/Terwillegar \$37,017
- Ellerslie \$35,853
- Meadows \$35,039

These five Traffic Districts comprise only 2.5% of Edmonton's total Aboriginal residents

DID YOU KNOW?

The three Traffic Districts with the lowest median Aboriginal incomes in 2006 were:

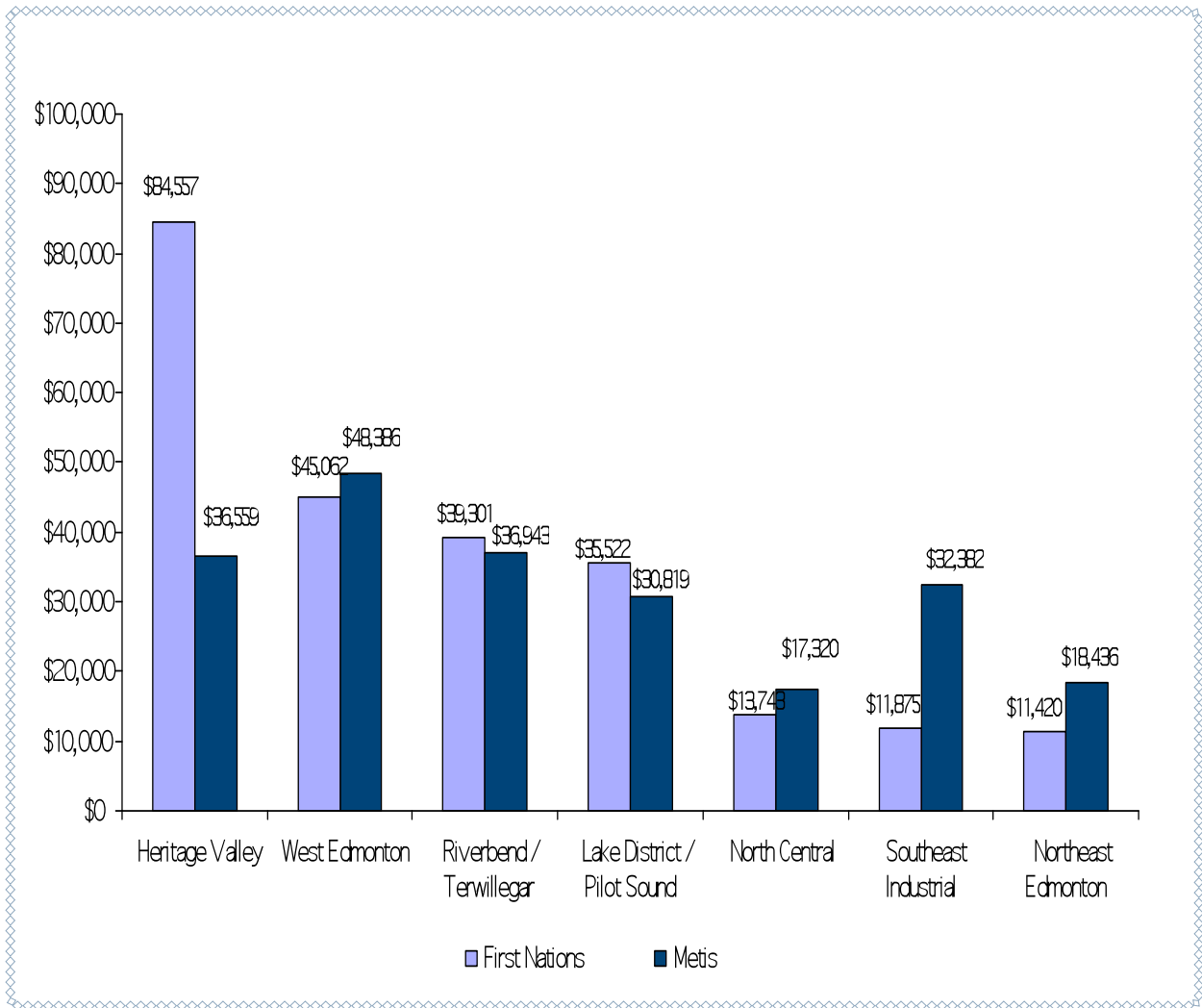
- Northeast Edmonton (\$13,740)
- Downtown Fringe (\$14,945)
- North Central (\$15,482)

HOW MUCH DO WE EARN?

Although small pockets of Aboriginal residents have become quite successful, overall, Aboriginal residents of Edmonton made far less than non-Aboriginal residents

- Median income for Aboriginal Edmontonians was about \$19,000 - only about two-thirds what it was for non-Aboriginal Edmontonians
- Aboriginal women made less than Aboriginal men, though the difference in their incomes was roughly similar to that between non-Aboriginal men and women
- Métis men and women earned significantly more than First Nations residents
- In Heritage Valley, West Edmonton, Meadows and Lake District/Pilot Sound, Aboriginal residents out-earned non-Aboriginal residents, but these residents comprise only a very small percentage of the total Aboriginal population in Edmonton

FIRST NATION AND METIS MEDIAN INCOME COMPARED ACROSS KEY TRAFFIC DISTRICTS





DID YOU KNOW?

The median income for non-Aboriginal Edmontonians is 50% higher than that of Aboriginal residents

HIGHEST MÉTIS AND FIRST NATION LICO RATES BY KEY TRAFFIC DISTRICT

Traffic District	First Nation LICO Rate	Métis LICO Rate
Londonderry	68.1%	31.2%
North Central	55.9%	35.0%
Downtown Fringe	53.6%	53.4%
Beverly	51.3%	43.9%
Millwoods	50.0%	26.4%
Northeast Edmonton	50.0%	00.0%
University	46.5%	46.8%
Clareview	44.9%	27.0%

Reminder: LICO stands for Low Income Cut Off rate and is the number of people whose income is half or less of the median income for that Traffic District

HOW MANY OF US ARE POOR?

Far more Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal Edmontonians live below the poverty line – these percentages differ by Traffic District and gender, and between First Nations and Métis

- Nearly two in five Aboriginal residents of Edmonton live below the poverty line (this is more than twice as high as for non-Aboriginal residents)
- Downtown Fringe, University and Beverly have Aboriginal low income rates at or near 50%, far higher than the non-Aboriginal residents living in these Traffic Districts
- First Nations residents were far more likely than Métis to live in a low income situation, in some cases significantly more likely
- In most Traffic Districts with the highest Aboriginal population of income earners, Aboriginal women earned significantly less than Aboriginal men



A CLOSER LOOK:

(1) EDMONTON'S 'INNER CITY'

The City of Edmonton distinguishes between 'Inner City' and 'Suburban' Traffic Districts. These are geographical designations and thus, should not be associated with 'ghettos' or poor areas in general. Nonetheless, Aboriginal residents are disproportionately located in the 'Inner City' areas and our statistical characteristics reflect the more challenging lifestyles of these geographical areas

- In 2006, slightly more than three out of every five Aboriginal residents lived in Edmonton's inner city Traffic Districts (62.5%), down in percentage slightly from 2001 (65.6%), though not in numbers (about 19,000 in 2001 and about 23,000 in 2006)
- Six of these Traffic Districts – North Central (13.5%), Calder (11.3%), Beverly (11.0%), Downtown Fringe (8.1%), Londonderry (7.8%) and Jasper Place (6.9%) – have proportions of Aboriginal residents above Edmonton's overall proportion (5.6%)
- With the exception of Bonnie Doon and Capilano, all of the Inner City Traffic Districts had a higher proportion of low income residents (in some cases significantly higher) than Edmonton's overall proportion

EDMONTON'S INNER CITY TRAFFIC DISTRICTS:

- Central Business District (CBD)
- University
- Southgate
- Jasper Place
- North Central
- Calder
- Londonderry
- Beverly
- Capilano
- Bonnie Doon
- Downtown Fringe

* Note that these Inner City Traffic Districts are as defined by the City of Edmonton Planning and Development Department

HOW DO 'INNER CITY' RESIDENTS COMPARE TO THEIR NON-ABORIGINAL NEIGHBOURS?

	POPULATION		%	MEDIAN INCOME		LICO, %		CHILDREN AT HOME %		1 YEAR MOBILITY, %	
	ABORIG	NON	ABORIG	ABORIG	NON	ABORIG	NON	ABORIG	NON	ABORIG	NON
North Central	4510	28,860	13.5%	\$15,842	\$23,064	45.2%	24.8%	24.9%	12.7%	36.8%	19.8%
Londonderry	3555	42,150	7.8%	\$18,614	\$25,446	46.3%	18.6%	32.3%	17.7%	29.8%	15.0%
Jasper Place	3555	47,840	6.9%	\$18,118	\$28,423	34.7%	15.5%	23.5%	15.0%	34.7%	16.1%
Downtown Fringe	3470	39,125	8.1%	\$14,945	\$23,538	54.8%	31.9%	18.0%	7.4%	49.6%	28.6%
Beverly	2570	20,750	11.0%	\$18,515	\$25,946	47.2%	21.1%	34.6%	14.7%	30.7%	18.2%
Calder	2165	16,920	11.3%	\$16,548	\$25,210	36.3%	19.0%	28.2%	16.6%	33.1%	18.1%
Capilano	1140	27,055	4.0%	\$26,423	\$30,818	13.7%	12.6%	17.6%	14.4%	22.6%	14.4%
Southgate	1065	27,645	3.7%	\$20,008	\$27,117	32.4%	21.0%	20.2%	12.9%	46.9%	26.2%
Bonnie Doon	865	17,625	4.7%	\$26,407	\$27,299	30.4%	17.3%	18.5%	12.9%	25.3%	18.2%
University	540	16,735	3.1%	\$16,827	\$23,859	48.6%	31.6%	15.0%	6.3%	60.2%	34.9%
CBD	440	9,635	4.4%	\$19,189	\$27,202	34.5%	29.2%	8.0%	4.0%	48.8%	40.9%

A CLOSER LOOK:

(2) ABORIGINAL MEN AND WOMEN

With several small exceptions, and although things may be improving, Aboriginal residents of Edmonton are worse off than non-Aboriginal Edmontonians. As well, significant differences existed in 2006 between Aboriginal men and Aboriginal women

For example:

AGE

- Nearly twenty percent more Aboriginal females than males live in Edmonton
- More, and a higher percentage, of Aboriginal women are over 50 years of age compared to Aboriginal men
- Aboriginal women are more than five times as likely as Aboriginal men to be lone parents

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

- Aboriginal women earned significantly less than Aboriginal men
- The largest gaps between Aboriginal male and female incomes, by Key Traffic District, were in Heritage Valley, Meadows and Southeast Industrial (although these Traffic Districts include only about 2% of all Aboriginal Edmontonians)
- Aboriginal women tended to work in administrative, clerical and supportive positions while Aboriginal men tended to work in trades, transport and equipment operation
- First Nations women in particular have the lowest levels of employment and median income

ABORIGINAL MEN AND WOMEN'S MEDIAN INCOME DIFFERENCES, BY KEY TRAFFIC DISTRICT

Traffic District	Ab. Pop w/ income	Males	Females
Downtown Fringe	2680	\$14,607	\$15,233
Jasper Place	2530	\$24,716	\$15,615
Londonderry	2225	\$24,396	\$15,762
Beverly	1540	\$20,173	\$16,136
Calder	1430	\$25,363	\$14,783

A CLOSER LOOK:

3) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 2001 AND 2006

Statistical information on 2001 and 2006 differences in Aboriginal residents in Edmonton should be interpreted with caution. This is especially the case in instances where our situation seems to have improved dramatically with no ready explanation for why this is so. Some of this improvement is real, but some of it may also be the result of the ethnic mobility we described earlier in the section on contextualizing statistical information. Bearing this caution in mind, the report presents several of the more notable differences observed among Aboriginal residents of Edmonton between 2001 and 2006.

Population

- Between 2001 and 2006, our population grew by 25% (compared to 9% for the non-Aboriginal population)
- We made up 4.6% of Edmonton's total population in 2001. In 2006 we made up 5.6%
- West Jasper Place (+1,055) and Mill Woods (+605) experienced the highest increase in Aboriginal residents (no Traffic District experienced a drop)

Educational Achievement

- Bearing in mind some of Statistics Canada's changes in definition for measuring educational levels, 2006 saw significant gains over the 2001 levels; in particular the percentage of us who graduated high school more than doubled
- Though the numbers are still low, the percentage of us with a university degree increased by more than 60% from 2001 to 2006 (from 5.6% to 9.2%)

Labour Force Participation and Unemployment

- Though we lag slightly behind non-Aboriginal Edmontonians, between 2001 and 2006 our increase in labour force participation has grown faster. For most age groups, Aboriginal men experienced greater positive labour force participation rates than Aboriginal women
- Our rates of unemployment dropped from 14% in 2001 to 10.3% in 2006 (a drop of more than 40%)

WHY IS STATISTICAL INFORMATION USEFUL?

In today's world, numbers have become an extremely powerful way of making arguments. In academia, statistics are often referred to as the 'language of government'. In other words, governments tend not to listen as closely to arguments which are rooted just in 'impressions' or 'feelings' (despite the fact that we know how important and accurate these can be) as they do to arguments which are supported by statistical evidence.

Governments and their officials emphasize evidence-based decision-making, and statistics play an important role in producing this evidence. Although statistics have all too often historically been used to harm Aboriginal communities, today they can be useful for correcting mistaken or inaccurate feelings and impressions among dominant groups. For example, the Native Women's Association of Canada relied heavily on statistics in the context of information used in their Stolen Sisters Campaign. Likewise, Aboriginal academics have used statistics to correct dominant stereotypes about Aboriginal people in a wide variety of contexts. Statistics are, in other words, a crucial element of the relationship between Aboriginal people and various levels of Canadian government.

However, although extremely useful in their proper place, statistics must be seen as a tool – they are not 'the truth' in and of themselves. Readers cannot treat statistics as 'gospel truth'. Rather, you must read them with a critical mind and you must ask hard questions about the information they summarize. Luckily, Statistics Canada spends millions of dollars and thousands of staff hours ensuring that the information is as reliable as possible. Although it certainly is not perfect, it often remains the best information out there at the moment.

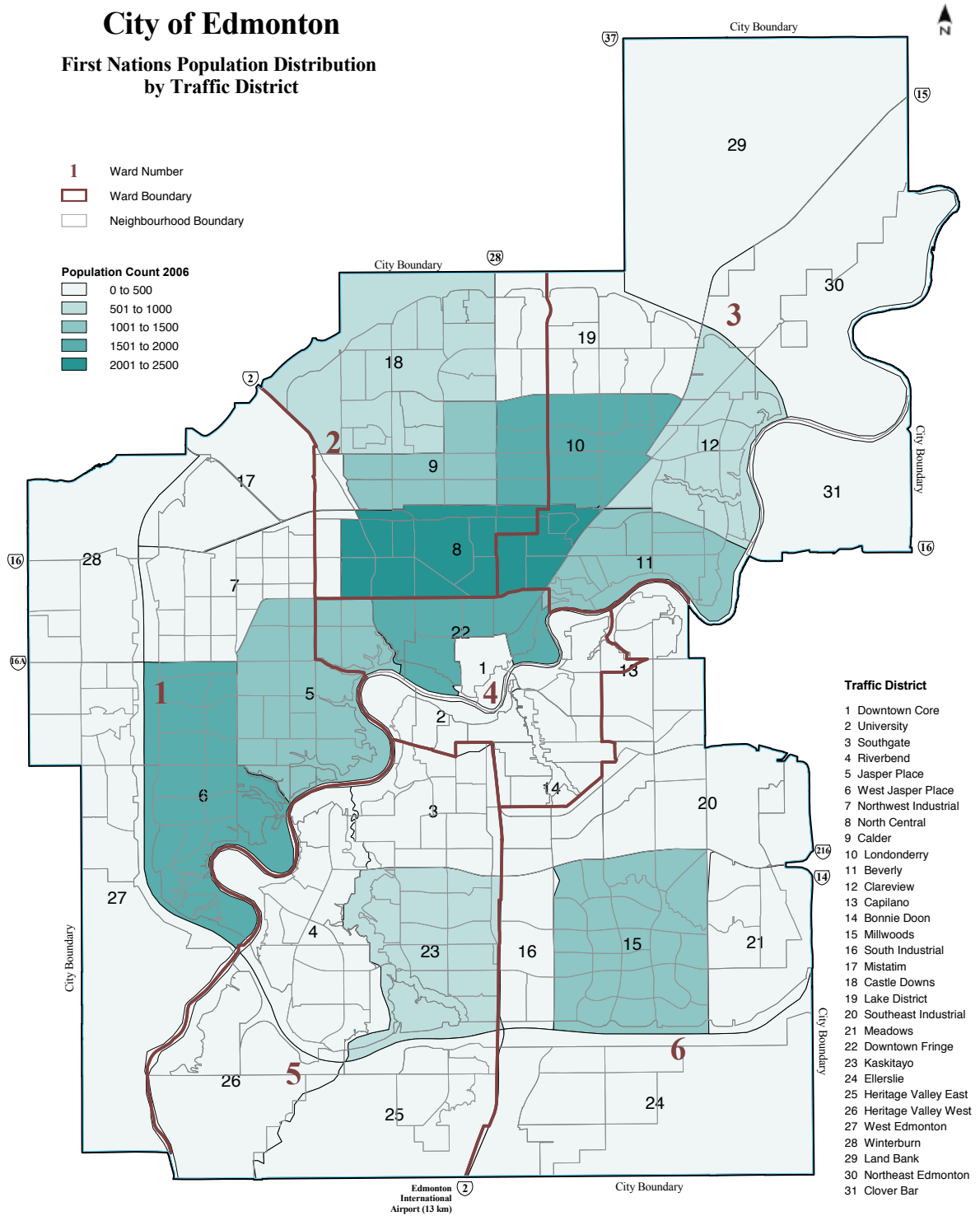
Having said that, please treat the information in this report critically – it will be more useful in certain contexts and less useful than others. We hope it will prove most useful in providing evidence of the need for change and detail to support project funding applications.

We appreciate any questions or concerns you may have about the information in this report. Please use it to open a dialogue with service providers and others who require as complete and useful statistical information as is available.

CITY OF EDMONTON MAPS

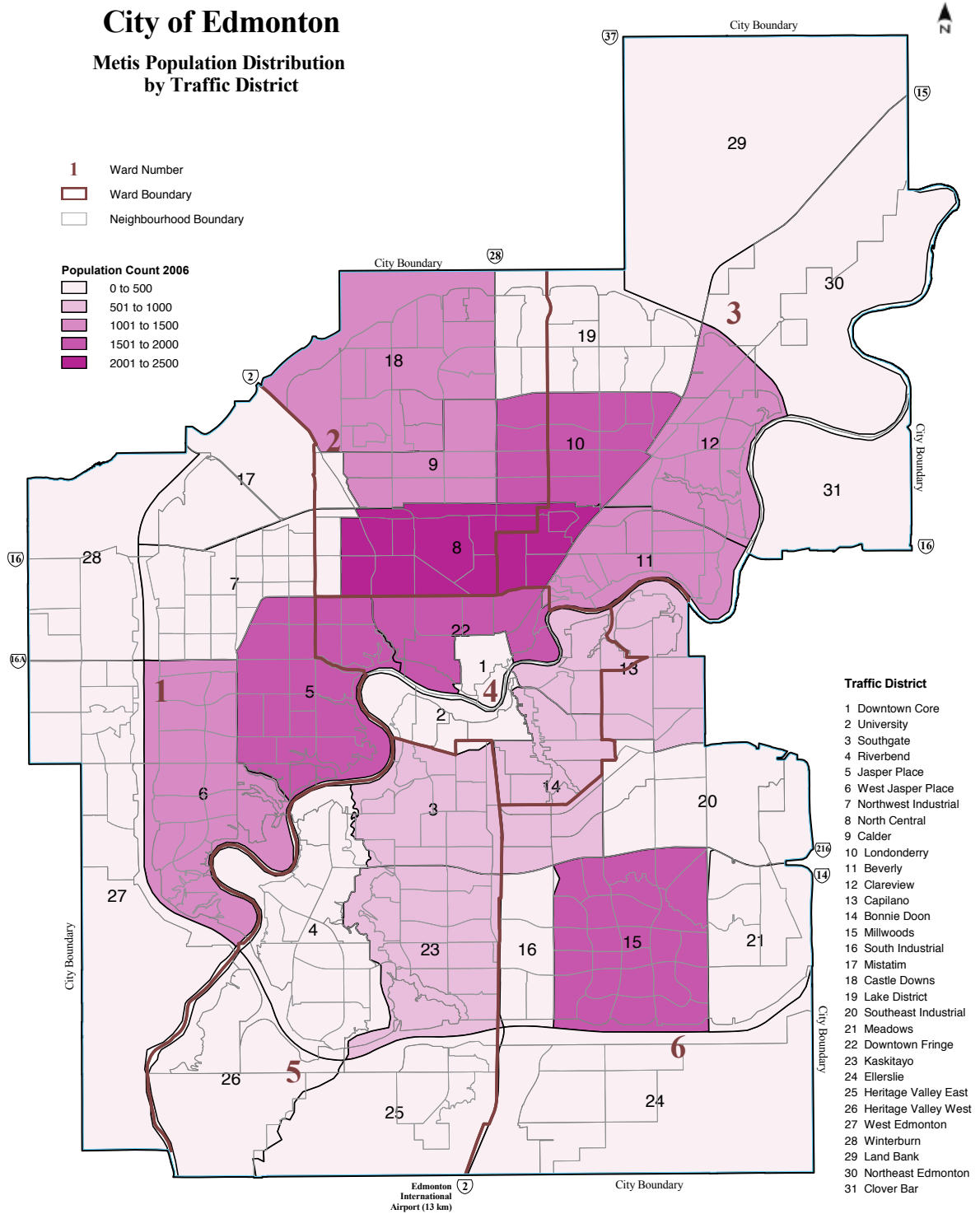
City of Edmonton

First Nations Population Distribution by Traffic District



City of Edmonton

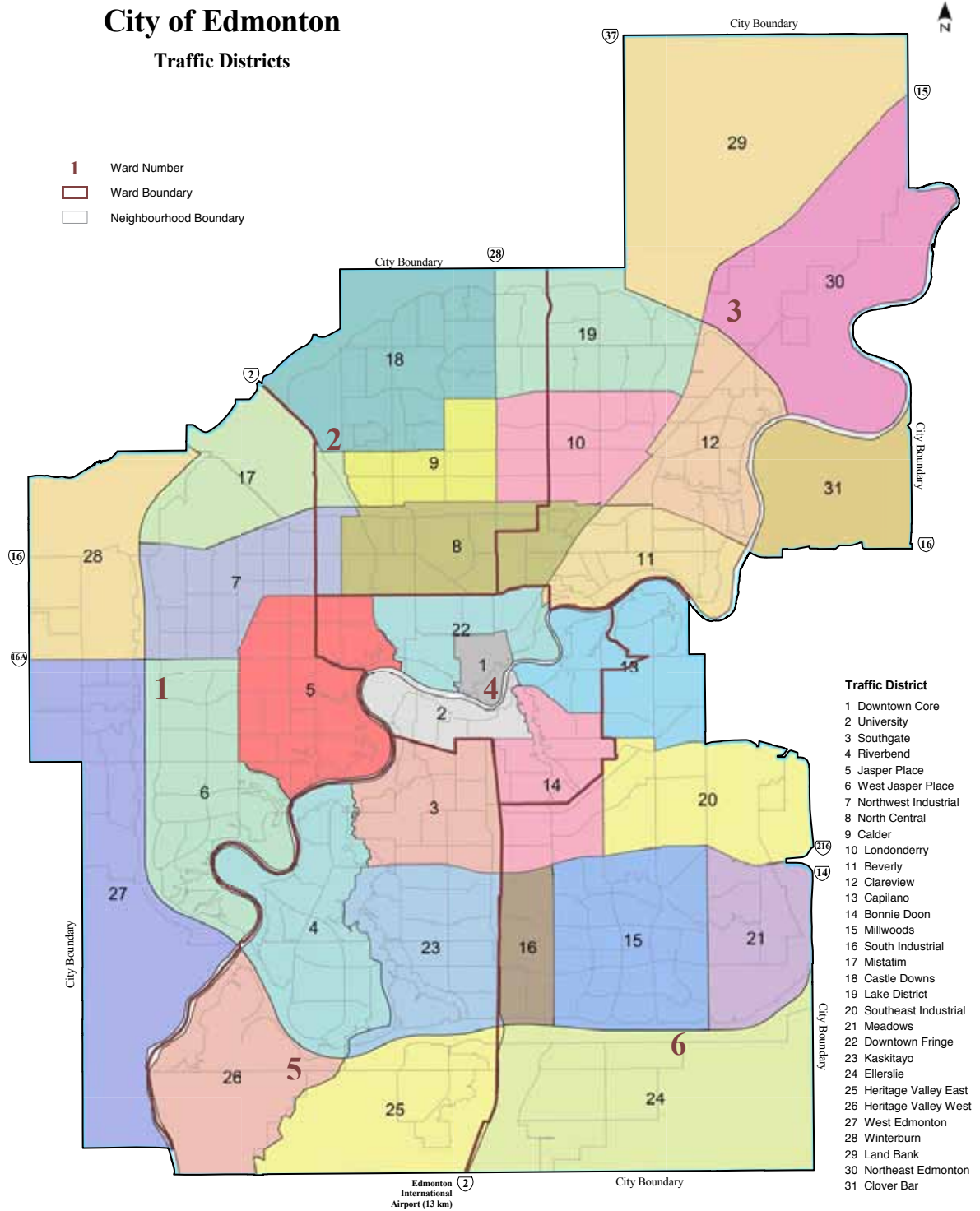
Metis Population Distribution by Traffic District



City of Edmonton

Traffic Districts

- 1** Ward Number
- ▭ Ward Boundary
- ▭ Neighbourhood Boundary



Traffic District

- 1 Downtown Core
- 2 University
- 3 Southgate
- 4 Riverbend
- 5 Jasper Place
- 6 West Jasper Place
- 7 Northwest Industrial
- 8 North Central
- 9 Calder
- 10 Londonderry
- 11 Beverly
- 12 Clareview
- 13 Capilano
- 14 Bonnie Doon
- 15 Millwoods
- 16 South Industrial
- 17 Mistatim
- 18 Castle Downs
- 19 Lake District
- 20 Southeast Industrial
- 21 Meadows
- 22 Downtown Fringe
- 23 Kaskitayo
- 24 Ellerslie
- 25 Heritage Valley East
- 26 Heritage Valley West
- 27 West Edmonton
- 28 Winterburn
- 29 Land Bank
- 30 Northeast Edmonton
- 31 Clover Bar

City of Edmonton

Where Do We Live

