

**Experiences in cultivating  
long-term career  
developmental seeds  
among Aboriginal youth,  
enrolled university  
students, and alumni**

Kakwiranó:ron Cook  
*Aboriginal Community Outreach Coordinator & Career Advisor  
McGill University*

***Canadian Association of Career Counselors and Employers  
National Conference  
Quebec City, QC  
June 5, 2012***



# Learning Objectives

- Learn about McGill's programming for Aboriginal youth and adult learners
- Learn about McGill's holistic and long-term approach to building community relationships
- Hear about collaborations between McGill and key partners
- Share in stories and experiences?



# Overview

- **Who are we?**
  - At McGill
  - In Canada
- **What informs our direction?**
  - Aboriginal snapshots
- **What we have been doing?**
  - On-campus
  - in communities
- **Where are we going?**
  - *next steps*



## Kakwiranoron at McGill:

### Office of the Dean of Students

- Aboriginal Community Outreach Coordinator and Career Advisor

### Student Services

- First Peoples' House

### Career and Planning Services

- Career Advisor



## My primary mandate:

Promote Post-Secondary Education to Aboriginal youth

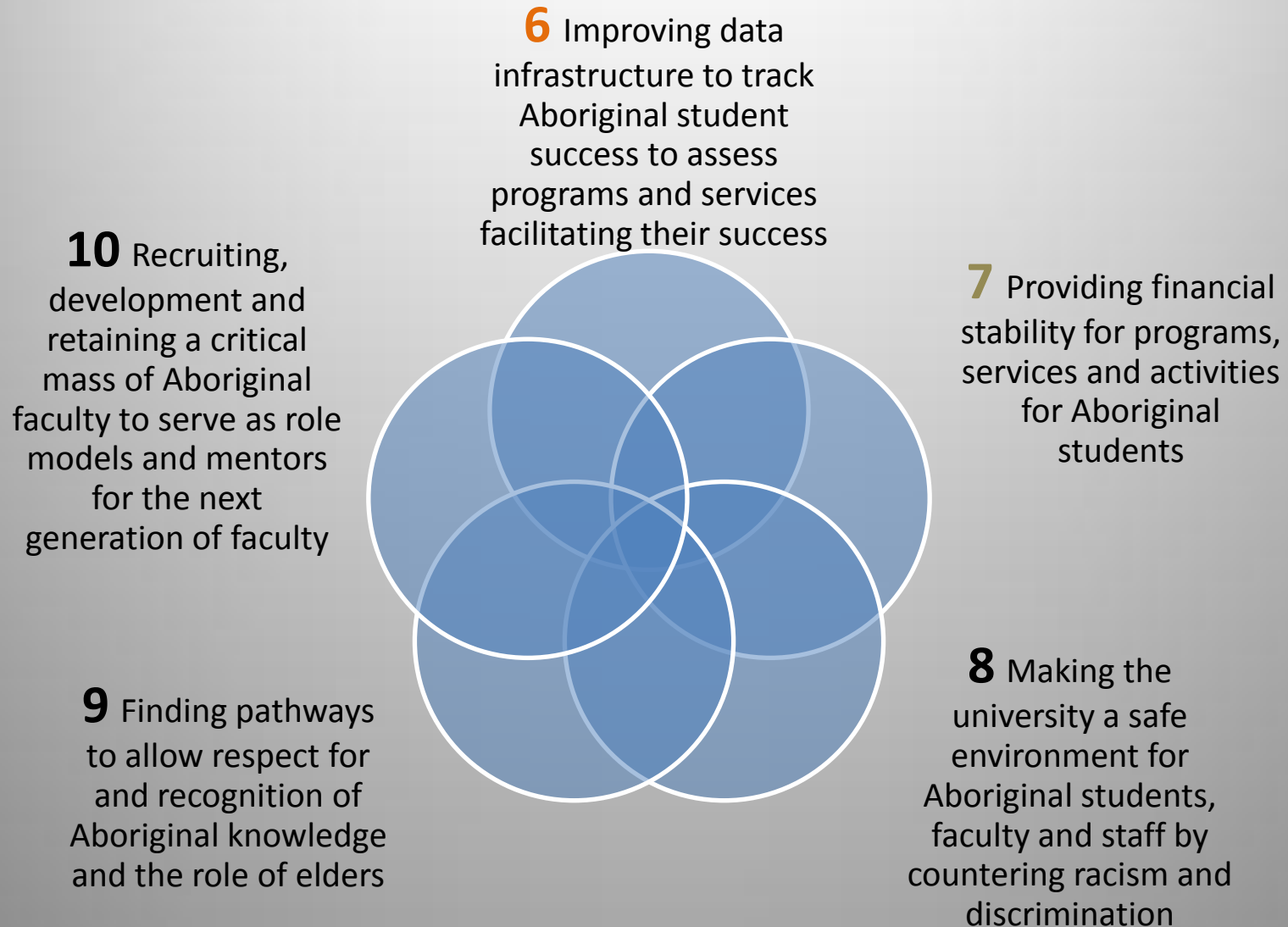
Serve as the Aboriginal student recruiter to all programs

Build and strengthen community relationships



## Top 10 challenges over the last 5 years

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada report - 2011





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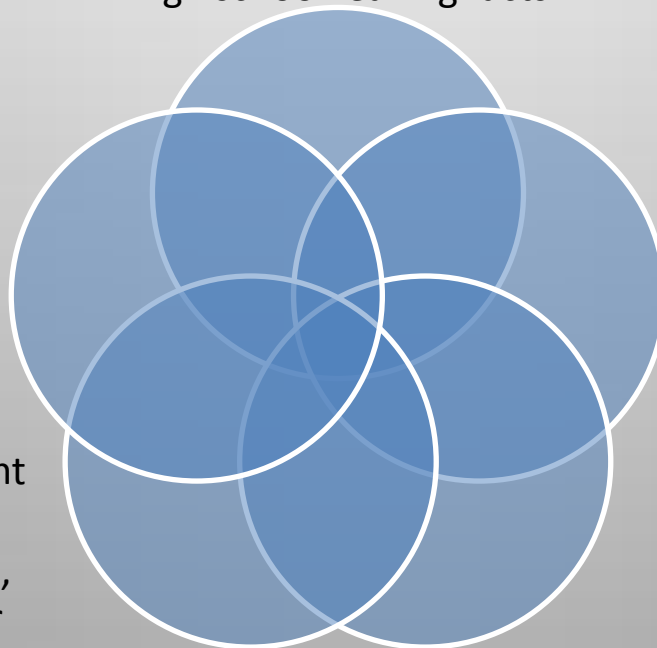
**1** Need for student preparation and academic transition, stretching deeper into K-12 and responsive to high school leaving facts

**2** Inclusion of Aboriginal community in student support and funding for these services and activities

**3** Enhancing communication between the university and the Aboriginal community

**4** Improving student finances through additional funding, bursaries or other means thereby increasing university retention of Aboriginal students

**5** Childcare services and affordable family housing for the many mature Aboriginal students at university



# Terminology





# Who are Canada's First Peoples?

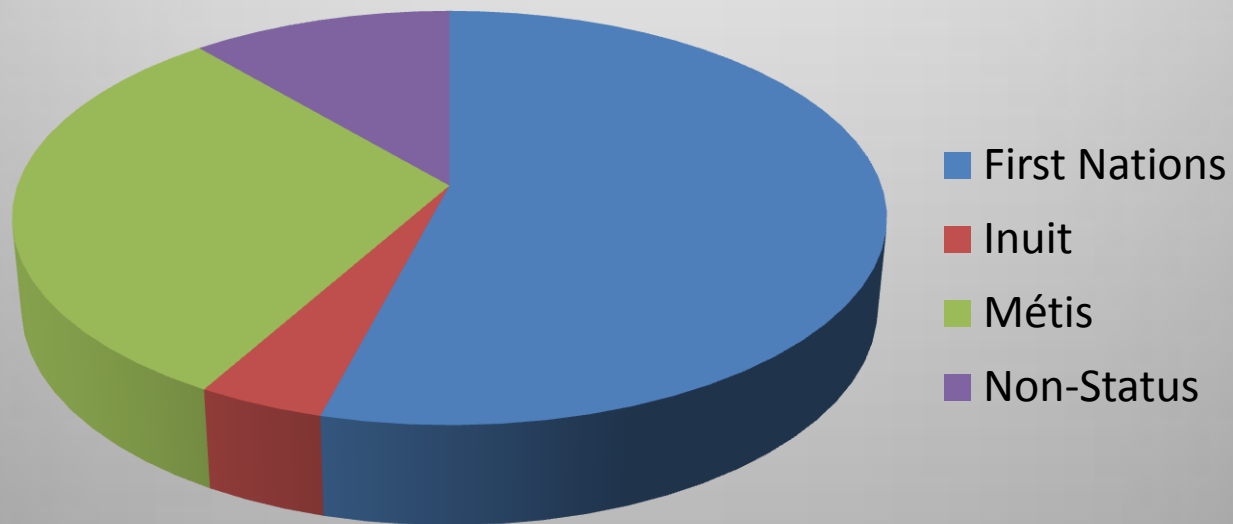
- **"Aboriginal peoples"** is a collective name for Indians (commonly referred to as **First Nations**), **Inuit** and **Métis**.
- More than one million people in Canada identify themselves as an Aboriginal person, or 4% of the population (as of 2006). 53% are registered Indians, 30% are Métis, 11% are Non-status Indians and 4% are Inuit. Over half (54%) of Aboriginal people live in urban areas.

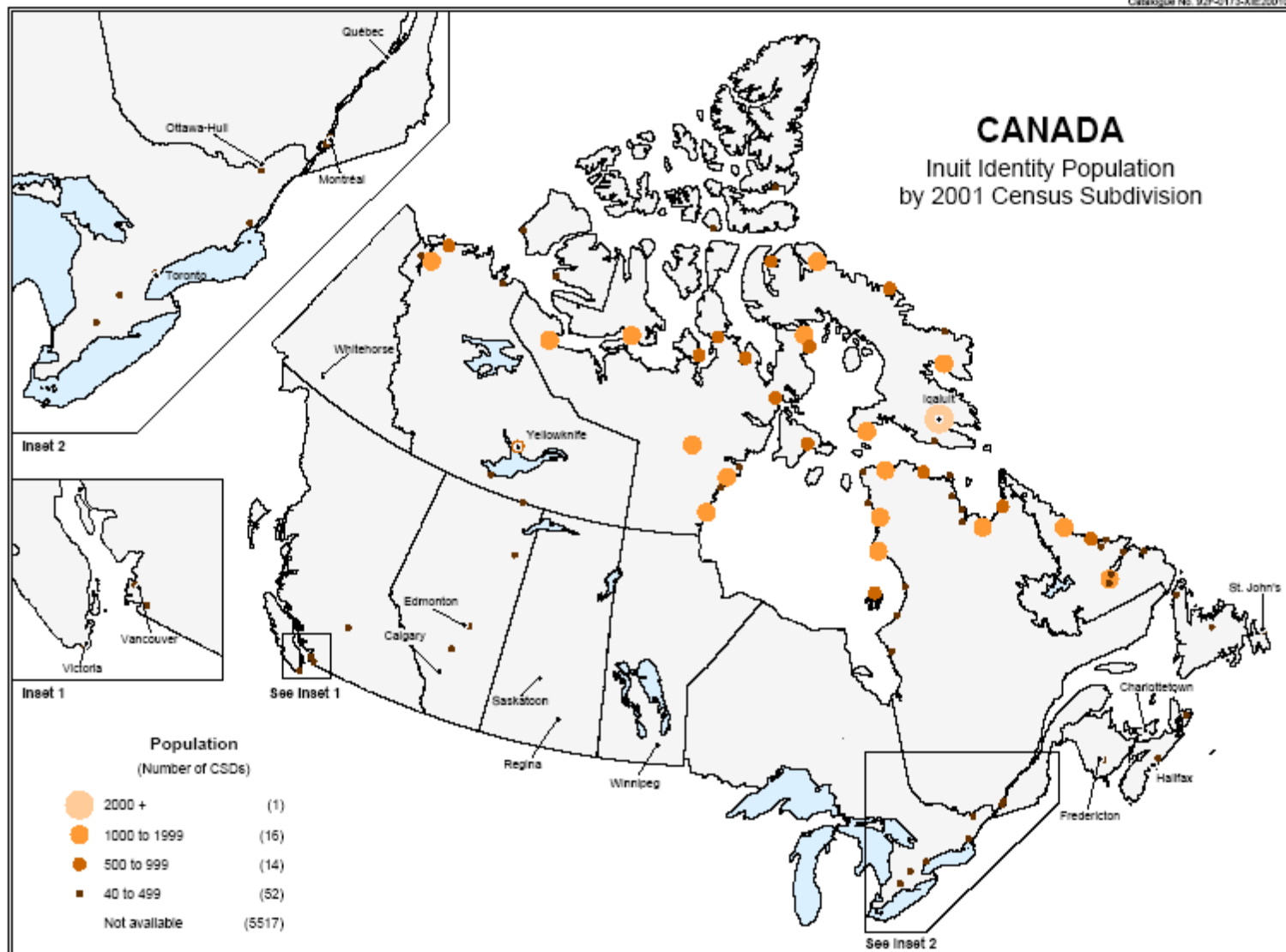
See Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/>



## 2006 Census: Aboriginal Population in Canada: 1,172,785

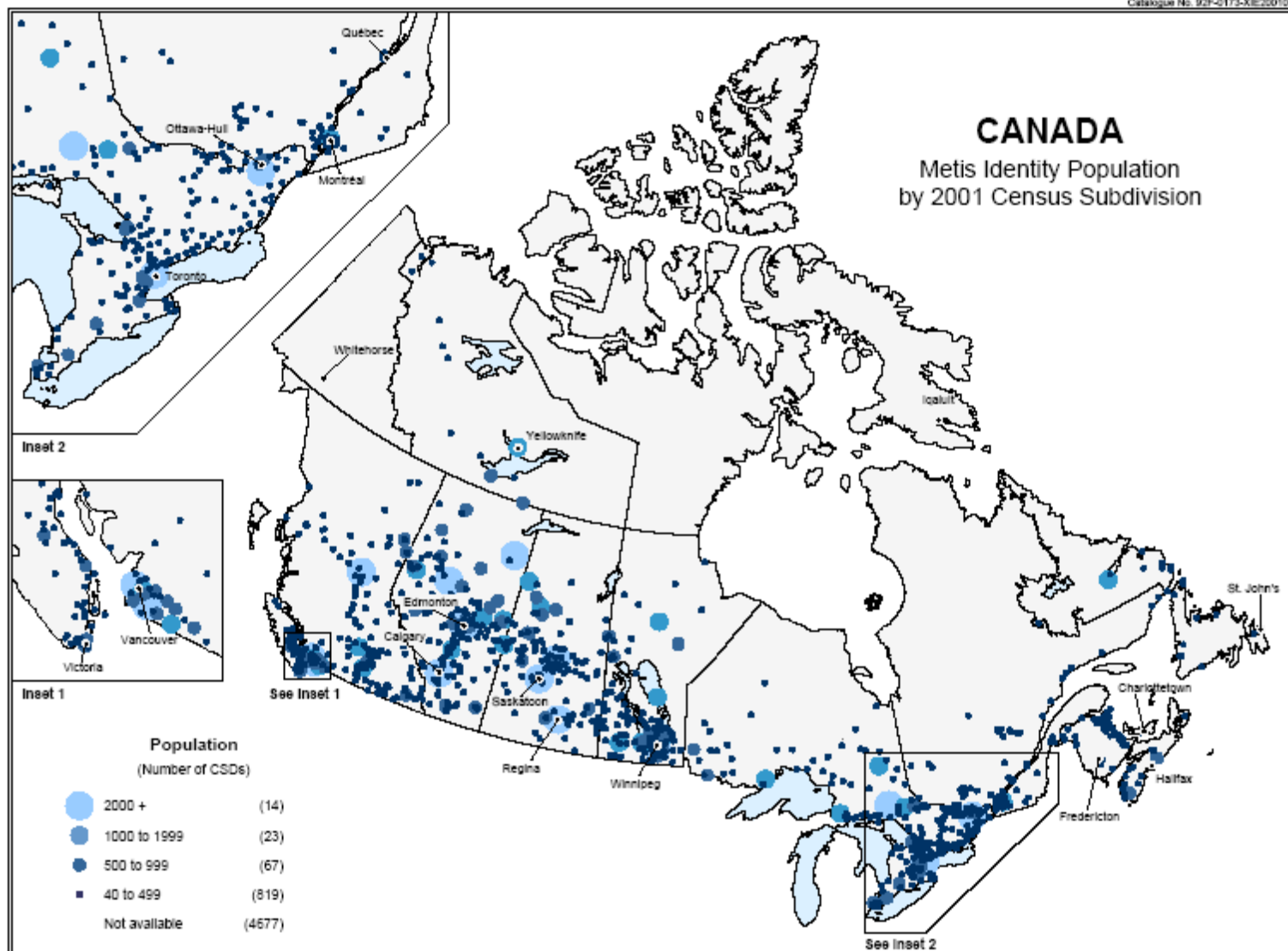




Statistics  
Canada

Source: 2001 Census of Canada. Produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, 2002.

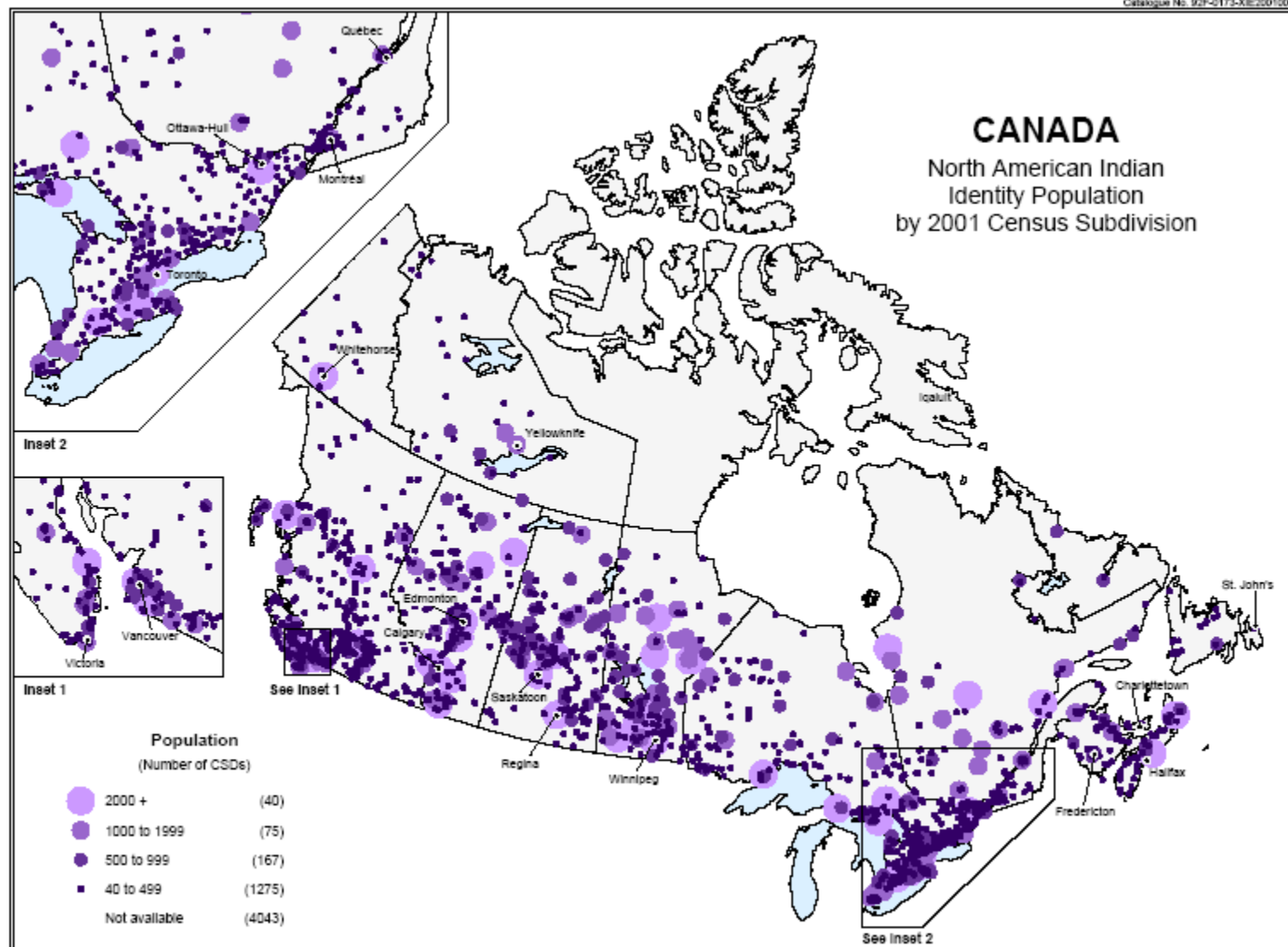
Canada



Statistics Canada  
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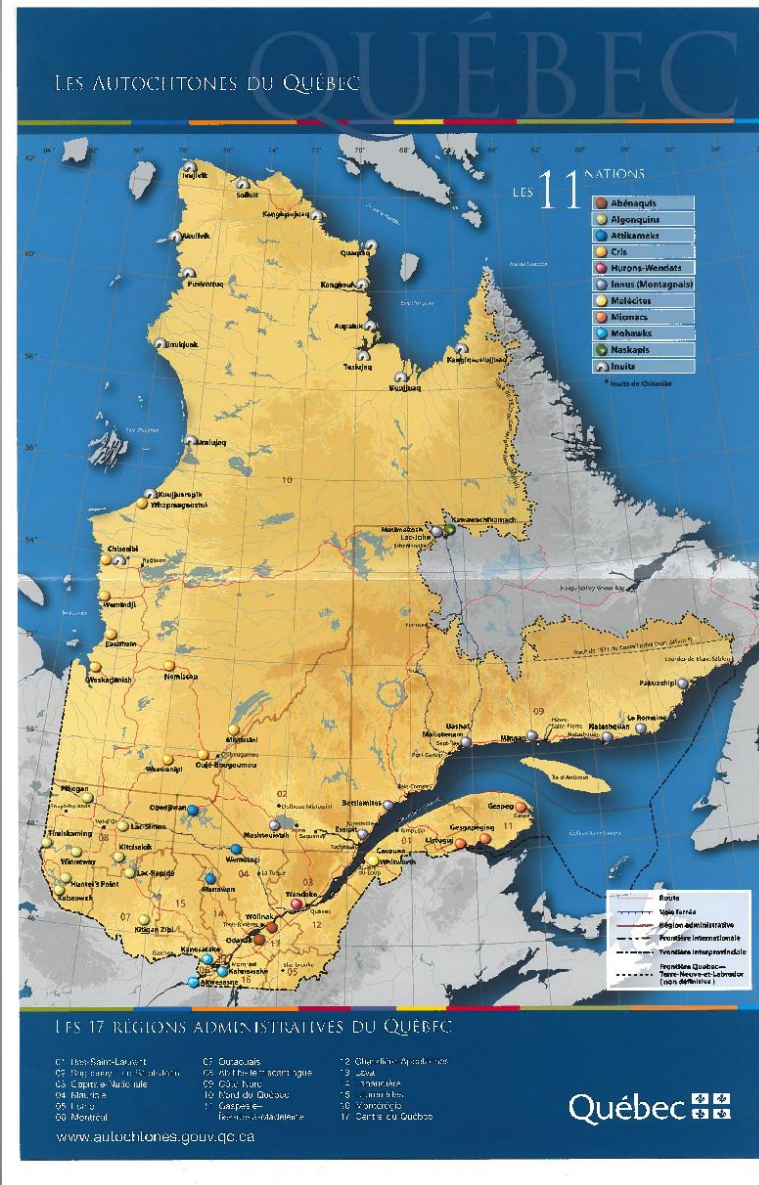
Source: 2001 Census of Canada. Produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, 2002.

Canada

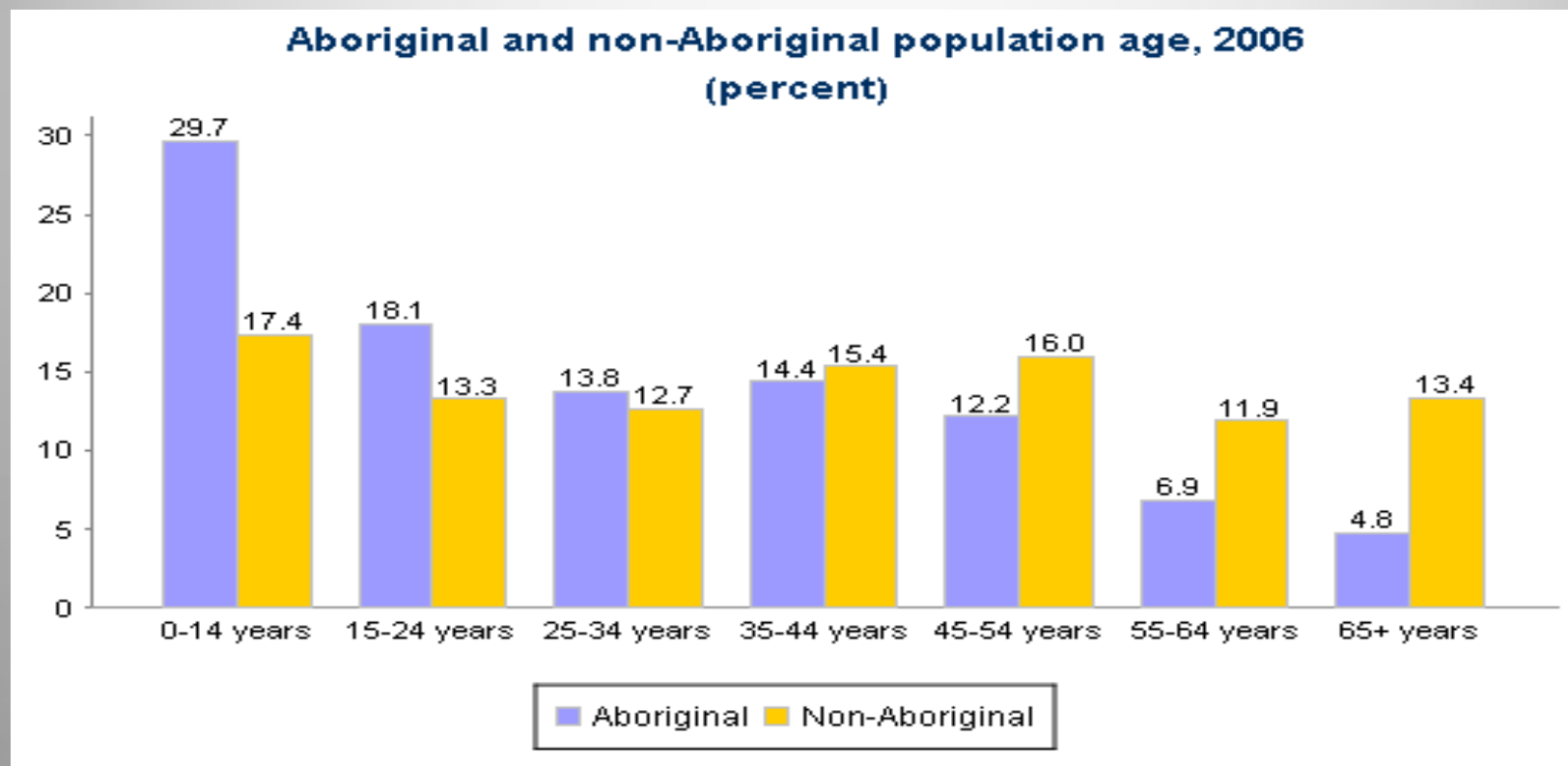




# Quebec First Nations & Inuit





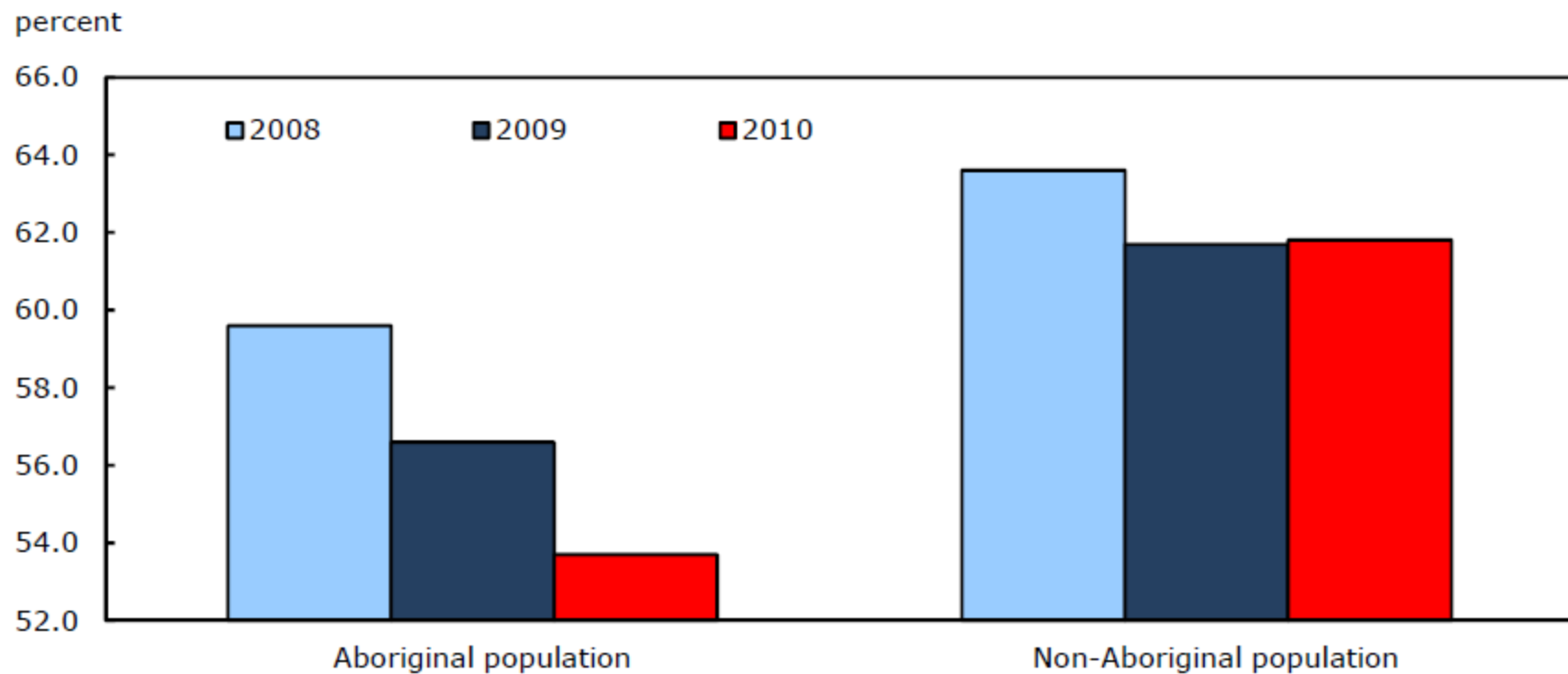


Source: Statistics Canada. *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Metis and First Nations, 2006 Census*



Chart 2

Employment rate of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations aged 15 and over, 2008 to 2010

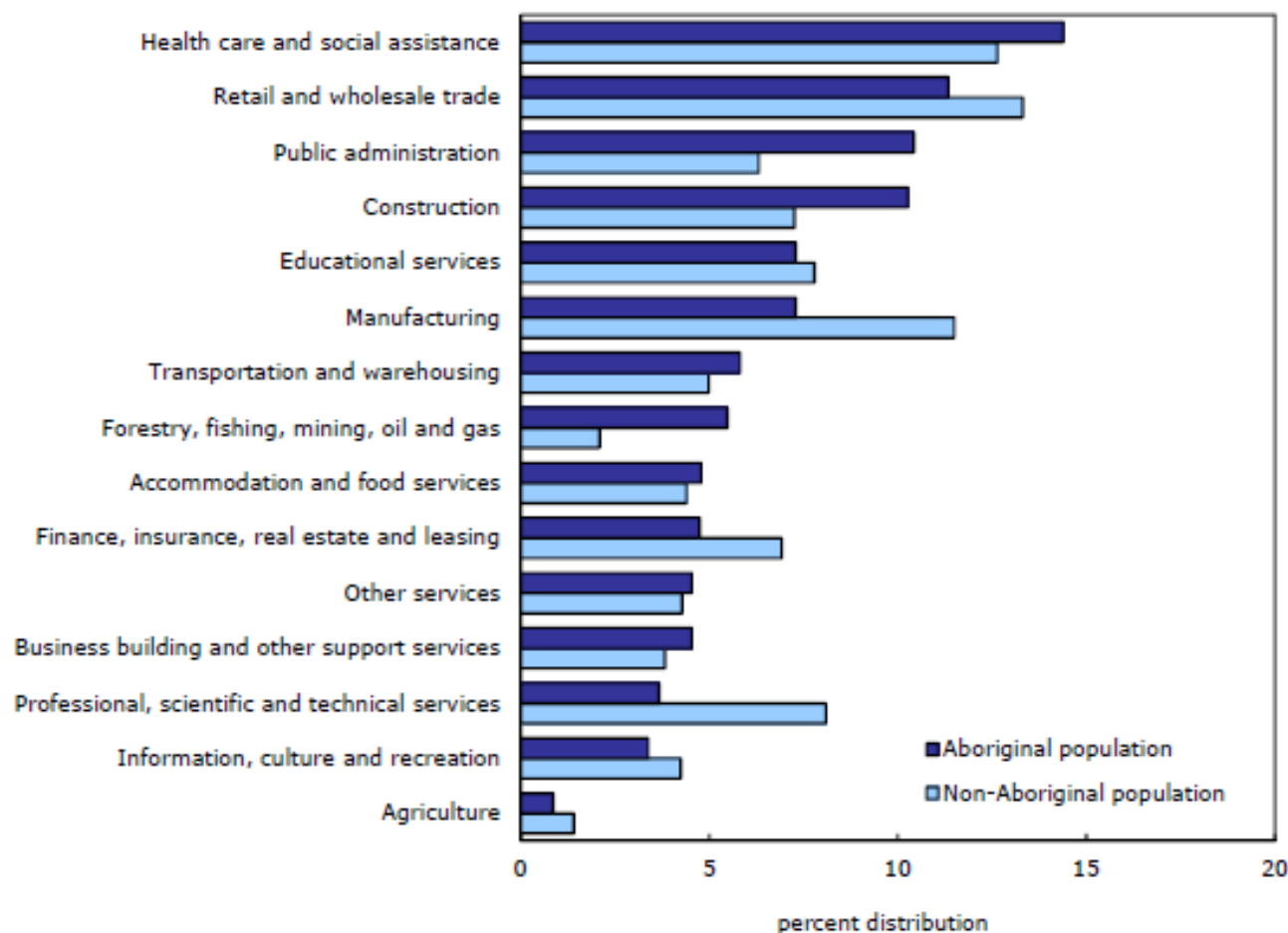


**Note(s):** Data exclude people living on reserves and in the territories.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Chart 10

Employment distribution of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations aged 25 to 54 by industry, 2010



Note(s): Data exclude people living on reserves and in the territories.  
Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.



- A part of Student Services at McGill
- Dedicated to providing support for Aboriginal students & establishing a sense of community and a voice for Aboriginal students
- [www.mcgill.ca/fph](http://www.mcgill.ca/fph)



# Programs & Services

- Resource collection/computer facilities
- Residence
- Aboriginal Peer Support
- Lunch program
- Elder visits
- Eberts Scholarships (3 x \$6,000 a year)
- Aboriginal graduation dinner
- Annual Pow Wow
- Annual retreat to Gault Nature Reserve
- Trips to Canadian Aboriginal Festival, All-Ivy Native Council Conference



## Milestones for Aboriginal achievement at McGill

1981

**First Nations & Inuit  
Education Program**

1997

**FIRST PEOPLES' HOUSE**

2005

**Aboriginal Affairs Work Group**





# Milestones for Aboriginal achievement at McGill

2007

**Aboriginal Admissions Protocol**

2008

**Aboriginal Community Outreach Coordinator**

2012

**Aboriginal Student Advisor & Elder**





- Student population at McGill is 37,000 students
- Approximately 150 Aboriginal students
  - Applicants can self-identify as North American Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit, Métis, Non-Status, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian)







## OUTREACH on-campus

- Pow-Wow
- Education Day – Amazing Race to your Future Career
- Eagle Spirit High Performance Camp

## OUTREACH in communities

- Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair
- Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program
- INDSPIRE: Soaring – Indigenous Youth Career Conference



# Where have we been?

## QUEBEC

- **Naskapi** of Kawawachikamach
- **James Bay Cree** of Mistissini, Oujé-Bougamou, Waswanipi, Waskaganish
- **Mohawks** of Kahnawake
- **Mi'kmaq** of Listuguj and Gesgapegiag
- **Abenaki** of Odanak

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

- **Yellowknives Dene**

## ONTARIO

- **Mohawks** of Akwesasne, Tyendinaga, Six Nations

## ALBERTA

- **Plains Cree** of Enoch and Edmonton

## SASKATCHEWAN

- **Plains Cree & Saulteaux** Nations at Fort Qu'Appelle and Regina



**Faculty of  
Medicine**

**Indigenous  
Access  
McGill**

**Kahnawake  
Inter-  
disciplinary  
Field Course**

**Eagle Spirit  
High  
Performance  
Camp**

**Quebec First  
Nations &  
Inuit  
Medicine  
Program**

**Aboriginal  
Pathways  
Program**

**On-line  
courses for  
Aboriginal  
communities**

**School of  
Social Work**

**School for  
Continuing  
Studies**





**The Canadian Aboriginal population grew by 47% between 1996-2006**  
*(almost 6x faster than the non-Aboriginal population which grew by 8%)*





**600,000** Aboriginal youth are expected to enter the labor market by 2026, increasing the Aboriginal population's share of the working-age Canadian population.







More than **1/3** of  
Aboriginal people  
have not completed  
high school



The majority of First Nations people who  
participate in post-secondary education  
attend college or trade school rather than  
university.





**1 in 5** Canadians can expect to achieve a post-secondary degree

while only

**1 in 33** First Nations people can expect to achieve this





**65,000** more First Nations Post-Secondary graduates are needed annually to achieve equity with the rest of the Canadian population



**Federal funding to support Aboriginal students attending a post-secondary institution has increased at only 2% a year since 1996 while tuition has increased at an average of 4.4% a year since 1998**







Only **8%** of Aboriginal people aged 25-64 in Canada have a university degree while **23%** of non-Aboriginals of the same age group have a university degree



# Education on the rise

## *ABORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE*

Mid-1980s: **39%**

2006: **44%**

& rising annually

## *ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREES*

2001: **26,300**

2006: **42,900**

Est. **50,000** currently enrolled  
See: Statistics Canada,  
**Educational Portrait of  
Canada, 2006 Census**





# Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair

**2010**

Mi'kmaq Nation at  
Gesgapeiag



**2011**

Naskapi Nation at  
Kawawachikamach



**2012**

Anishinabeg Nation  
at Kitigan Zibi





# EAGLE SPIRIT

HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP



Camp Dates:  
**May 18, 19 & 20, 2012**  
 Deadline to apply is  
**March 1, 2012**

Info: (514) 398-3217  
<http://www.mcgill.ca/fph/programs-services/eagle-spirit-high-performance-camp>





FIRST PEOPLES' HOUSE  
 LA MAISON DES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
 RELATIONS AVEC LES COLLECTIVITÉS AUTOCHTONES



**McGill** Faculty of Medicine Faculté de Médecine





## Soaring high with your dreams?



Consider pursuing your academic goals with McGill University in Montreal, situated in the traditional Mohawk Nation territory. From summer writing courses through post-doctoral studies, our Aboriginal student supports are ready to help you achieve new heights.

[www.mcgill.ca/fph](http://www.mcgill.ca/fph)

2011 Aboriginal Pathways summer writing students

 **McGill** | School of Continuing Studies

 **FIRST PEOPLES' HOUSE**  
LA MAISON DES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES

 **ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH**  
L'UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
RELATIONS AVEC LES COLLECTIVITÉS AUTOCHTONES

## Online Courses in Entrepreneurship

 **McGill** | School of Continuing Studies | École d'éducation permanente

SOS - Online Courses Program (OOP)



## ABORIGINAL PATHWAYS

MINOPISIAK bîwenue welcome WACHIA  
WAKWANONHWEPA:TON

**THE ABORIGINAL PATHWAYS** summer course is intended specifically for members of the Aboriginal community who wish to improve their writing skills and to gain insight into life at McGill. Worth 3 university credits, the course is the first component of the Aboriginal Pathways Program.


Designed in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Focus Group, McGill's Aboriginal Affairs Work Group, and the First Peoples' House, Aboriginal Pathways offers a supportive environment and an engaging curriculum that embraces both Indigenous and Western knowledge traditions: over a 12-day period, you will receive intensive instruction in the writing process from experienced and dedicated staff, enjoy lunches at the First Peoples' House, and explore some of Montreal's cultural highlights through a social calendar of diverse local events.


By joining us in the Pathways experience, you will develop essential academic skills, become familiar with life in a university residence, and take your first step toward realizing your long-term life goals.

**COME DISCOVER MCGILL UNIVERSITY THIS SUMMER AND HELP US TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE SUCCESS!**

**DATES:** Thursday, July 28, 2011 - Saturday, August 13, 2011  
**LOCATION:** McGill University, Montreal, Quebec  
**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**  
Kakwizanonon Cook, B.A.  
Tel: 514-398-3217  
[Kakwizanonon.cook@mcgill.ca](mailto:Kakwizanonon.cook@mcgill.ca)

\*This program is limited to 25 participants.

 **FIRST PEOPLES' HOUSE**  
LA MAISON DES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES

 **McGill**  
Centre for Continuing Education





# Pow Wow



# Aboriginal Sustainability Project

Collaboration between:



**First  
Peoples'  
House**



**Sustainability**



# Aboriginal Awareness Week Programming

- **Activities held throughout the week** were developed to foster inclusivity for all: McGill students, faculty, and staff and community members.
- The programming line-up
  - cultural celebrations (e.g., Pow-wow, Community feast, etc.);
  - workshops and activities for the McGill community (film screening, First Nations Garden Experience and lectures);
  - and outreach activities for Aboriginal youth from the greater Montreal area (e.g. Stone Carving Workshop).





# ARCTIC REALITIES: INUIT PERSPECTIVES ON CHANGE MARCH 12 TO 16 2012

In a fast pace changing world, in the Canadian arctic how are the people able to adapt to these rapid changes in regard to essential services; health; education; and social. How has previous government been able to adapt to the changes, and what is the current climate. The week will focus on Inuit perspectives through the lenses of law, health, education, environment, and government.

## Monday March 12

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: UDLORIAK HANSON  
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.  
Education Building, Room 129  
3700 rue McTavish

## Tuesday March 13

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
IN INUIT HEALTH  
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.  
Thomas House Basement  
3650 rue McTavish

## Wednesday March 14

FILM SCREENING & PANEL :  
QIMMIT: A CLASH OF TWO TRUTHS  
6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.  
Chancellor Day Hall Building, Room 314  
3644 rue Peel

## Thursday March 15

MONTREAL AND THE NORTH: STUDYING  
AND SPEAKING INUKTITUT AS A  
NORTHERNER IN THE CITY - PANEL  
DISCUSSION  
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.  
Stewart Biology Building, Room S3/3  
1205 avenue du Docteur-Penfield

## Friday March 16

COMMUNITY GATHERING  
4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
Native Friendship Centre of Montreal  
2001 boulevard Saint-Laurent







# Stone Carving





Projet  
**MAMU!**  
Ensemble! Together!  
Project

**Gratuit!**  
Venez en grand  
nombre!

**Free!**  
Come and join us!

Renforcer la communauté  
autochtone par:

Empowering the  
Aboriginal community through:



**Apportez votre CV!**  
Bring your resume!



**27 Janvier/January 27th, 2012**  
13 h 00 - 17 h 00 / 1pm - 5pm

**UQAM**  
Édifice Pierre Dansereau Building  
175 President Kennedy  
Salle Agora Hydro-Québec Room  
Métro Place-des-Arts Metro  
Information : 514-283-0901

Organisé par/Organized by:



Partenaires/Partners:



Informations  
Employeurs  
Réseautage

Network  
Employers  
Informations



# The Way Forward



- Beyond awareness → understand/engage
- Education, communication & inclusion
- Understand cultural compatibility
- Community partnerships key





# Niawen Kowa - Merci Beaucoup

kakwiranoron.cook@mcgill.ca  
(514) 398-4580

