

**SASKATOON ABORIGINAL NEIGHBOURHOOD
SURVEY: A SURVEY OF ABORIGINAL HOUSEHOLDS
IN CITY NEIGHBOURHOODS**

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Introduction

The Saskatoon Aboriginal Neighborhood Survey was conducted for the Bridges and Foundations Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing (a Community-University Research Alliances initiative of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) to gather essential information not available from census data or the City of Saskatoon Aboriginal Neighborhood Profiles. Information was gathered on age, occupation, employment, and education of respondents and household members; cultural identification; family composition; housing types, costs, and needs; migration and mobility; and the community – services, ethnic relations, and problems/issues in each neighborhood. This survey provided an opportunity for Aboriginal residents to explain their personal views and share their individual experiences. The results of this survey complemented results collected from other surveys funded by the Bridges and Foundations Project, including the previous survey of SaskNative Rentals clientele, and the subsequent surveys conducted by Cress Housing (Saskatoon Tribal Council), the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and the Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation. The lessons learned from this Aboriginal Neighborhood Survey contributed to improved methodology in these later surveys and eventually the large-scale neighborhood needs survey conducted in 2004. The information collected from all of these surveys allowed the Bridges and Foundations Project to make specific recommendations for the provision of affordable and improved housing for urban Aboriginal residents.

Methodology

In order to determine the most appropriate way to secure responses from the residents, a smaller-scale survey was conducted during May 2003. This pilot survey permitted the researchers to develop the present Interview Guide (appended) and to perfect ethical guidelines. In addition, as a result of the relative difficulty of approaching residents anonymously door-to-door, participants were identified through networking or “snowball” sampling through the support of community organizations. Interviews of residents began in June 2003 and continued through August.

The first problem facing each interviewer was the need to quickly gain the confidence of a respondent. This would involve explaining accurately the point of the project and survey (see appended Letter of Introduction and Sample Introduction of Interviewer), and guaranteeing that information gathered would be used to recommend policies which could benefit the community and eventually improve the housing situation. The protection of the respondent had to be explained, ensuring anonymity of the immediate informant and other household members. (see appended Consent Agreement). In accordance with ethical guidelines, respondents were completely free not to respond to any questions with which they felt uncomfortable (although admittedly this policy had the effect of reducing the completion rate on certain items of information).

Many of the interviews were conducted in poorer inner city neighborhoods (see appended map of neighborhoods), where an increasing crime rate was problematic. These neighborhoods had the highest prostitution, break and entry, and violence rates in the city, in fact among the highest in Canada. Youth gangs were rapidly becoming a more significant problem. So on one hand, residents tended to be increasingly fearful or at least wary of strangers; on the other hand interviewers (especially female) were at risk – so they usually worked in pairs during longer daylight hours in summer and avoided evening interviews (except by appointment). In some cases female interviewers avoided

certain homes or felt obliged to cut an interview short. One (male) interviewer resigned after claiming he had been harassed on the street.

As a whole, residents were interested in the survey and quite receptive and open, once entry into the home had been permitted, however it was often difficult to gain entry – many refusals were encountered, increasing with media reports of criminal activities. Female interviewers tended to gain access more readily, whereas male interviewers felt less at risk.

Completed interviews, while hard to obtain and relatively few in total number, were in-depth, taking approximately an hour to complete. The Project is extremely grateful for the cooperation, courtesy and openness of respondents.

The survey was developed and supervised by Dr. Alan Anderson from the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. Nine students were employed to conduct interviews: Yvonne Benjoe, Patricia Bekkatla, Colleen Whitedeer, Audrey Ben, Elaine Lee, Kyle Williams, Marc Olivier, and Ray Iron (all sociology students from the University of Saskatchewan), and Moneca Taylor (from the social work program at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, later First Nations University of Canada). Rebecca Hatten processed the results of the interviews while Cara Spence assisted in the preparation of the final report (both were sociology students at the University of Saskatchewan). The interviewers were carefully selected (more than thirty students applied) to be representative of neighborhood residents. Most were Aboriginal, First Nations (representing several First Nations of Saskatchewan) and Metis. This allowed some interviewers to address Aboriginal residents in their traditional languages, which quickly facilitated rapport. Yet interviewers also included two Euro-Canadians/Whites and one Chinese. Most interviewers were themselves longtime residents of inner-city neighborhoods.

Despite many barriers, the completion of the Aboriginal Neighborhood Survey allowed for the processing of 87 in-depth household interviews. These households included an

estimated 300 occupants. Analysis was difficult as some questions remained unanswered by respondents, in spite of the fact that all interviews were conducted personally in the home. However, this research provided an excellent training opportunity for students in the processes of conducting field research, especially among urban Aboriginal residents.

Data Analysis

Basic Data on Respondents

Except where specifically noted otherwise, “respondent” refers to the principal household head.

The sample population was young, with only a cumulative percentage of 11.4% of respondents older than age fifty. Almost half (47.1%) of the respondents were between the ages of 20-29; 21.8% of respondents were 30-39 years of age, while 19.5% were between 40-49 years old.

21.8% of the respondents were students. 14.9% claimed “homeowner” as their occupation, and an equal number were in sales and service occupations. Other significant occupational categories included the trades, transport, or equipment operation sector (10.3%), social science, education, or government service (6.9%), management (3.4%), and “volunteer” (3.4%). Processing/manufacturing/utilities, self-employment, art/culture/recreation/sport, health, and business/finance/administration were also represented though only for a single respondent. A substantial proportion (17.2%) of respondents reported that they were currently unemployed.

Only slightly more than one-third (35.6%) of the total sample claimed to be employed full time, 13.8% part time and seasonally, however 37.9% would not respond to this question and another 10.3% indicated that this question was not applicable. Data were also gathered on a total of 32 other members of the household who reported their employment; the largest numbers were in trades and sales and service occupations.

Concerning the highest level of education attained by household heads, 6.9% reported that they had only an elementary school education; 34.5% of respondents had attained a grade 10 status; 19.5% had graduated from high school; 14.9% had received some

university education (but not yet a degree); 5.7% had earned a university degree; 2.3% had at least some technical training (but not a diploma); and 8.0% had received a technical diploma.

Cultural Identification

When asked about their Aboriginal identity, 34.5% of respondents identified as First Nations, and 14.9% as Métis, while 17.4% claimed other Aboriginal identities: wholly or partly Aboriginal, status or non-status Indian, band member, registered Indian, etc. However, almost half (46.0%) of those surveyed would not select a specific Aboriginal identification (although they would not have been interviewed unless they initially self-identified as Aboriginal).

39.9% of the respondents claimed to speak an Aboriginal language; the largest number (20.7%) spoke Cree, while several spoke Saulteaux, Dene, or Mechif.

Of just twenty-three respondents who provided details on their familiarity with an Aboriginal language, five claimed to be literate in this language, another three somewhat literate, eight spoke the language well and seven “only a bit”.

Twenty-nine respondents reported other family members who were familiar with an Aboriginal language, ranging from just one other member to all members.

Asked what was the primary language at home, more than half (52.9%) of the respondents felt unsure how to answer; 41.4% reported English, plus several more who reported a mixture of English and an Aboriginal language.

Of forty-three household heads who provided information on generation differences in language use, a large majority suggested that English would be the preferred language of subsequent generations.

When asked about the value placed on the preservation of traditional Aboriginal culture, 25.3% placed “a lot” of value on the preservation of Aboriginal culture, 9.2% claimed “very little”, and 3.4% said “none”. But fully half (50.6%) did not express any opinion.

Asked whether they still participate in traditional Aboriginal gatherings and ceremonies such as pow-wows, sun dances, round dances, smudges, dancing and singing, a majority (of just over half) were unsure, approximately a quarter to a third said not at all, and the remainder reported variable participation ranging from occasionally to often.

Participation in Native community clubs was also quite variable: 52.9% were unsure, 21.8% did not participate, 25.2% did participate (most of them often).

We were interested in assessing the opinion of residents on the strength of Aboriginal culture in the city. 59.8% of residents interviewed were indifferent or had no opinion; 3.4% suggested that it was very strong, 6.9 that it was in the process of becoming stronger, 8.0% that it was somewhat strong, 4.6% that it was in limbo, and 17.2% that it was becoming weaker.

Family Composition

More than half (57.5%) of the respondents maintained a single marital status, almost a third (32.2%) were single with dependents, and a quarter (25.3%) were single respondents who had no children. 14.6% of respondents had no children. 14.6% of respondents indicated that they were married; 10.3% were married to an Aboriginal spouse, and 4.6% had a non-Aboriginal spouse. 17.2% claimed they had a common law marital status.

25.3% had two people living within them, most often (18.4%) children. 23.0% of households had three occupants, 8.4% had four, and 21.6% had five or more. 8.0% of the sample were sole occupants. Overcrowding could therefore be an issue for a substantial proportion of households.

Our investigation of shared accommodation revealed that apart from a non-response rate of 10.3%, 77.0% of households were single family, compared to 12.6% which were accommodations shared by more than one family. Yet analysis of this sharing proved extremely complex. Fourteen households reported that their accommodation was shared with others (likely interpreted as non-family, such as boyfriend/girlfriend, or other friends, or boarders), ranging from infrequently (7), to sometimes (4), often (1), or always (2). Adding to this complexity, 11.5% of respondents reported accommodation shared with extended family (typically grandparents of their children, but also possibly uncles/aunts, nephews/nieces, grandchildren, foster children, cousins, in-laws and their children, etc.), while 4.6% reported sharing accommodation with nuclear family members (including, for example, grown children, or sisters/brothers).

55.2% of the households surveyed reported no children aged 0-9 living at home, 14.9% one child, 12.6% two children, 10.3% three, 1.1% four, and 1.1% six or more. 4.5% did not respond. 64.4% reported no children or teenagers aged 10-19, 18.4% one, 6.9% two, 5.7% three, while 4.5% did not answer. And 85.1% reported no young adult aged 20 and over who was their child living at home, 5.7% one, 2.3% two, 2.3% three, while 4.5% did not answer.

Housing

Sufficient data were obtained from 60 households on type of accommodation. Of these households, 58.3% were apartments, 28.3% were single detached houses, 8.3% semi-detached/duplexes, and the rest were basement suites, condos, or townhouses.

Where sufficient data were obtained on the number of bedrooms per household (about 60% of the sample), we learned that of 46 households surveyed in detail, half were two bedroom and almost a third were three bedroom accommodations. All but a few households were limited to a single bathroom. 79.1% had use of a separate kitchen, whereas one in five homes did not. All but one had a living room (or equivalent space,

however small). Only slightly over a third (36.4%) possessed a separate dining room. In the total sample, 42% either did not respond to the question whether the unit had a finished and/or occupied basement, or this question was irrelevant in the case of apartments; 32.2% reported that their home did not have such a facility; and 19.4% reported affirmatively. 52.9% reported at least one television set, 18.4% a personal dishwasher, 9.2% both a personal clothes washer and clothes drier (compared to 13.7% reporting a shared clothes washer/drier in the home/building, plus another 23% simply claiming use of a clothes washer/drier without being more specific).

A very high proportion, 75 (86.2%) out of a total 87 households surveyed consisted of renters; only seven respondents (8.0%) owned their home.

Of these renters, the average amount paid for these accommodations was between \$400 and \$600 per month (56.3%). A smaller percent (23.8%) pay in the range of \$200-\$400 per month, while even fewer (16.3%) pay over \$600 a month. These costs are generally paid by the individual themselves (46.3%), or shared with another person (36.3%). Relatively few individual home costs are paid by social services (7.5%), or by a combination of social services and the individual (2.5%).

37 respondents provided information on whether their rent included utilities; 10 reported that rent excluded utilities, 16 said that rent included utilities, and 11 that only certain types of utilities were included. Among those who reported that rent did not cover utilities, there was wide variation in the actual amount paid, ranging from very little (under \$20 – likely reflecting coverage by social services – to over \$250 a month).

When asked, the approximate proportion of total household income spent on rent/mortgage payments, 26.4% of people would not respond. Of those (63) who did respond, 46.0% claimed paying approximately 40-60% of their household income on rent. 4.8% of informants reported spending 10-19% of their income, 20.6% indicated slightly higher percentages (20-29%), and 12.7% indicated spending approximately a third (30-39%) of their budget on rent/mortgage payments. However, several informants (15.8%) reported

having to spend much more than half of their income on housing: five were spending between 60-69%, four 70-79%, and one more than 80%.

When participants were asked to indicate their annual household income range, very few people (only 22%) were willing to provide such confidential information. Of these informants, 57.9% reported receiving under \$10,000, 26.3% received \$10,000-\$19,000, and very few (15.8%) indicated an income of \$20,000 or more.

Of just twenty households willing to provide information on receipt of social assistance, six received \$200-399, three \$400-599, two \$600-799, seven \$800-999, and two over \$1000 a month. Some respondents simply reported receiving social assistance in general, while others more specifically also reported family allowance, transactional allowance, welfare, and unemployment insurance payments. Interviewers' attempts to probe for the degree of family indebtedness were largely unsuccessful.

Although a high proportion of respondents (42.5%) identified "private" landlords, a very wide range of specific property-holding companies were also identified. Relatively few were community-based or Aboriginal (such as Quint Development Corp., Cress Housing, and SaskNative Rentals). Fewer still were properties managed by the City of Saskatoon or Saskatoon Housing Authority. The most numerous property holders were a wide variety of real estate, investment, contracting, and property management companies. We found little evidence of particular entrepreneurs owning numerous properties; however this could be due to the fact that interviews were conducted in a broad variety of neighborhoods. All told, 24 different companies and 25 individual landlords were identified.

Respondents varied on the rating of satisfaction/ dissatisfaction with the rental arrangement. The majority of individuals were very satisfied (38.2%), or somewhat satisfied (22.4%). 9.2% were neutral in perspective, 13.2% were somewhat dissatisfied, and 17.1% were very dissatisfied. When asked for specific reasons for satisfaction/ dissatisfaction, 15.9% of respondents would not elaborate. The rate of satisfaction with

the landlord was high (47.6%) where no problems were identified and where the landlord keeps up with maintenance and tends to be understanding. Yet 25.6% believed that the landlord was unsatisfactory, primarily because he/she fails to keep up with maintenance issues, or is not understanding, or has “differing opinions on what needs replacing”, “does nothing he promises to do”, or “charges more because I have kids”, or is very intrusive, or rude at times. . . .

Many factors are mentioned when asked what is preventing home ownership. A high proportion of respondents deemed financial reasons the most prominent barrier – including affordability, limited income, credit problems, inability to meet down payments, difficulty saving, no credit rating at banks, etc. Other factors mentioned by respondents included high mobility (14.9%), viewing their stay in the city as only short-term (11.5%), employment problems (8.01%), not wanting the responsibility of home ownership (6.9%), student status (3.4%), as well as racism and prejudice, lack of opportunities, living with grandparents, “family problems”, “government bureaucracy”, fear of vandalism, etc.

We found that familiarity with the affordable housing programs available to them was quite limited: 18.4% were familiar with Quint, 20.7% with Cress, 8.0% with MNS/CUMFI housing programs, 20.7% with SaskNative Rentals, 8.0% with band housing programs in the city, 5.7% with the Affordable New Home Development Foundation, and 10.3% with City of Saskatoon housing programs. However, of those who provided their opinion (one-third of the total households surveyed), 78.8% believed that these organizations do not assist enough, compared to 18.1% who felt that they do and 24.2% who were unsure or ambivalent.

When asked to indicate specific problems areas regarding assistance, many informative critical responses were noted. Some responses pertained specifically to Aboriginal issues: that there are more Aboriginal people than available housing; that overcrowding is an issue, and more places are needed where young Aboriginal people can go; that a largely poor Aboriginal population lacks financial resources and assistance; that what

finances there could be seem to be diverted into casinos; that people are helped on reserve but ignored in the city..... Other responses tended to emphasize that affordable housing agencies could do more to help Aboriginal residents: they are unknown, not promoted enough; they try to help, perhaps, but people need to help themselves more; social services doesn't really help; more programs are needed; long waiting lists are a problem; only 'people on the inside' receive assistance; agencies are there "only for face value"; agencies "don't care about us personally".....Some responses focused on community needs: that we need to work on unemployment to combat housing problems; that too many people live in substandard housing; that "we need to be more open and up front"; that bad and unscrupulous landlords are a problem.

Many problems identified by informants in finding satisfaction in a suitable home included a low personal/ family income (74.4% of those electing to provide information), limited availability (34.1%), difficulty in finding a suitable location (41.5%), and prejudice and discrimination (43.9%). Respondents expressed their frustration over competition for limited housing: "when going to see a specific house, we find it's already rented". From their perspective, a lot of housing is just too expensive, and the demand for affordable housing gets worse every year. So they have to look for cheaper housing in the worst areas of the city. One (Aboriginal) respondent desired a home "in a nice area with no Aboriginals". Family growth was identified as a problem by some families, who commented that "a large family can be a problem when trying to save" and that "too many people are having kids". Among the many respondents who emphasized prejudice and discrimination as a problem in finding housing, some explained that some landlords prefer non-Native tenants, or believe that "because I am Native I won't care for the home". They suggested that "we're grouped together because we aren't as well off".

Yet satisfaction with specific accommodation was quite high with 38.1% of respondents very satisfied, 27.4% somewhat satisfied, and 8.3% having a neutral position. Only one-quarter of persons were somewhat dissatisfied (10.7%) or very dissatisfied (15.5%).

Areas of satisfaction include the condition of the home (27.3%), and in the stability associated with having a home (13.6%); some liked the location and their neighbors. Of those dissatisfied with the home, the majority of respondents (51.3%) stated problems with the upkeep of repairs on the dwelling. Other sources of dissatisfaction were problems associated with the neighborhood location, living in a high crime area, inadequate accommodation for the size of the family, the home “being smashed up because of gangs”, the landlord’s rules being too strict, etc. 28.7% of the total sample believed their home to be in poor condition (29.1%); 62.1% of households were described by interviewers as in need of minor repairs and 16.1% in need of major repairs. 25.6% of respondents indicated that only regular maintenance is needed.

The preferred home among the participants is a large, single home (61.6%) followed by a duplex (12.8%) and larger apartment (8.1%). The majority of respondents (74.3%) require either a two bedroom (31.1%), or a three bedroom (43.2%) home, while fewer (20.3%) need four or more bedrooms, with an even smaller percentage (5.4%) requiring only a one bedroom home. Only seven households commented on the special needs to accommodate extended families, four households desired special considerations for elderly residents, and only one for physical handicap (although another 16 mentioned such problems as learning disabilities, back pain, and brain injury).

Migration and Mobility

When asked on the length of their residency in Saskatoon, 28.6% responded that they have lived in Saskatoon for ten or more years. Slightly fewer (25.0%) have lived in Saskatoon for the majority of their life. 16.7% have resided in Saskatoon for 6-9 years, 8.3% for 4-5 years, and 21.4% for 0-3 years.

Places of origin ranged from a First Nation reserve (60.5%), a Métis community (3.5%), or Saskatoon itself or other communities (20.9%). Yet 15.1% of the sample did not provide this information.

Of those respondents who originally came to Saskatoon from an Aboriginal community/ reserve, 61.3% did not plan on returning to that community/reserve, 29.0% indicated that they will return, and 9.7% responded that they may return some day. Five respondents said that they would return, but weren't sure when; three said in the next five years, one in five to ten years, seven later than ten years. Many reasons were given for returning: to hunt, to be with family and friends, to work, because respondent already had a home there, because respondent felt no connection to the community in the city, to obtain a home on reserve, temporarily to visit..... But more reasons were given to stay in the city: because respondent didn't want kids to grow up on reserve, poor living standards on reserve, because respondent felt comfortable in the city, because respondent anticipated starting a business in the city, better employment opportunities in the city and a lack of them on reserve, to finish school, because respondent wouldn't return until the reserve "cleans up with drinking and drugs", because respondent had no family left on reserve, to purchase better housing in the city, family and friends in the city....

Approximately half (44.6%) of the respondents had never lived in another city, while 55.4% have lived in one other city, and 25.3% have lived in two other cities, especially Prince Albert, Edmonton, Regina, Vancouver, Calgary, with very few having lived in smaller centers. Time spent in other urban places ranged from very short term (less than one year) to "most of my life".

The most popular reasons for moving included family reasons, education, and employment. Many (48.8%) of persons do not know how long they expect to live in Saskatoon. 19.8% deem themselves permanent residents, 18.6% will reside in this particular city for five or more years, and 12.6% anticipate staying for less than five years.

In the past five years, 15.1% have never moved, 24.4% have moved one or two times, and 37.2% have changed residences three to five times. 14.0% of participants have relocated six to nine times, and 8.1% have moved ten or more times in the period of five years.

The neighborhoods most frequented have been on the west side of Saskatoon, especially Riversdale, Pleasant Hill, Meadow Green, Fairhaven, Confederation Park, and Caswell Hill the most prominent responses. However, respondents had lived in a wide variety of neighborhoods – at least 24 on the west side and 14 on the east side.

Reasons for changing residences included the previous home being too small (15.1%), the previous home needing maintenance (20.9%), being in an unsafe or a undesirable neighborhood (15.1%), or a desire to be closer to shops and services (12.8%), educational facilities (12.8%), and/or family and friends (17.4%). Other factors mentioned less often were the increasing crime rate, increasing rent, and proximity to public transportation.

When respondents were asked if they were planning or expecting to move in the near future, 57.0% replied. Of these, 28.6% did not plan to move, 44.9% were expecting to move, and 26.5% wished to relocate in the near future. Typical reasons for these moves include the preference to live in a better home, or because of poor living conditions, or because of a “bad” neighborhood. Some respondents said that they wanted a place where the kids could play safely in the backyard.

The Community

Report on the satisfaction with the present neighborhood is relatively high with 31.0% very satisfied and 22.6% taking a neutral position; only 20.2% are somewhat dissatisfied (10.7%) or very dissatisfied (9.5%). Yet despite the majority of respondents finding some satisfaction in their neighborhoods, 53.5% believed that their neighborhood was unsafe and/or had high crime rates. Of those respondents who were specific about the conditions and services of their neighborhood, on the negative side 55.6% found prostitution to be a problem, but on the positive side 50.0% believed that their neighborhood was near their workplace, and 70.0% close to educational facilities. The respondents' neighborhoods were ranked high in regard to close proximity to shops and services (74.5%), recreational parks (90.1%), and family/friends (90.5%). 42.0% believed that very little or no

improvements are needed in their neighborhoods, while a slightly larger number (43.2%) would like to see some improvements made, and 14.8% desired much work to be done. Of the improvements requested, the most prominent issues dealt with improving policing (chosen by 40.2% of the total sample), controlling prostitution (31.0%), security (31.0%), cleaning up the neighborhood (23.0%), preventing vandalism (21.8%), gang control (18.4%), controlling drug/alcohol abuse (16.1%), and introducing a neighborhood crime watch (12.6%). Other possible improvements mentioned included: a curfew for children, the need for specific shops and services, more ethnic diversity, fines for negligent landlords, more concern of parents for their children.....

When asked to declare the neighborhood which respondents might prefer to live in, only 42% of respondents answered. Of these, 58.8% preferred to live in west side neighborhoods, 29.4% wished to relocate to the east side, and 11.8% favored north end neighborhoods.

A large majority (83.8%) of interviewees did not have a preference when it comes to living in neighborhoods having a substantial proportion of Aborigines. 5.7% desired a lower proportion of Aborigines in their neighborhood and 5.7% a higher proportion, while 3.4% advocated a mixture of ethnic groups. Again, the majority of respondents (84.0%) did not have a preference to or not to socialize with Aborigines; 13.6% preferred to only socialize with Aboriginal people. Half of the respondents described their relations with non-Aboriginal neighbors as "frequent and sociable", 17.6% as "seldom" and/or "difficult" and 31.8% did not really care. Approximately three quarters (74.4%) of respondents interacted with non-Aboriginal people "a lot" or "somewhat". Only 20% very rarely or never interacted; of these, they reported that they did not interact at work (23.4%), in their communities (29.9%), in educational facilities (5.2%), or simply wherever (40.3%).

In total, respondents' beliefs on the attitudes of non-Aboriginal people toward the growing population of Aboriginal people seemed to be mixed. 25.0% did not believe this

trend matters to non-Aboriginals, 25.0% believed that it bothers some, 15.8% believed that it bothers non-Aboriginals a lot, and 17.1% provided no comment on the subject.

On the question of whether urban reserves should be used for housing, 65.5% of the respondents commented that they should definitely, 18.4% believed they should not (as this could be seen as contributing to ghettoization), 5.7% did not know, 3.4% said perhaps, and 6.8% did not respond.

APPENDIX 1.0

INTERVIEW GUIDE

INTERVIEW GUIDE

BASIC DATA ON RESPONDENTS

[respondent should be principal homeowner or renter]

1. Age of respondent:
[approx. - none under 20 - if not given, interviewer should estimate age to nearest 10-year cohort]
2. Occupation:
[specify; incl. student]
3. Nature of employment:
 - full-time
 - part-time
 - seasonal
4. Employment of other members of household:
[are other members currently gainfully employed? Specify occupations]
5. Level of education:
[highest level attained, eg. years, and type: eg. elementary, high school, university, technical]

CULTURAL IDENTIFICATION

6. How would you describe your Aboriginal identity?

[check which of the following may apply:]

- wholly Aboriginal identity [incl. Metis as wholly Aboriginal]
- partial Aboriginal identity
- First Nation [registered/status/band member]
- Non-status Indian
- Metis
- other [specify]

7. Which of the following Native languages do you speak/read/write, and how well [specify]:

- Cree
- Saulteaux/Ojibwa/Anishinaabe
- Dakota/Sioux/Lakota/Nakota
- Assiniboine/Stoney
- Dene/Chipewyan
- Mechif
- other [specify]

8. Are other family members conversant in this language?

9. What is the primary language at home, a Native language, or English, or a mixture?

10. Do different generations in this home prefer a Native language or English?
[discuss]

11. How much value do you or your family place on the preservation of Aboriginal culture?

12. Describe any Aboriginal cultural or social activities you participate in, and how often.....

13. How strong is Aboriginal culture within the city, or is it becoming weaker when people move into the city? What could/should be done to help preserve Aboriginal culture in the city?
[discuss]

FAMILY COMPOSITION

14. What is your current marital status?
- married to Native spouse
 - common law living with Native partner
 - intermarried to non-Native spouse
 - common law living with non-Native partner
 - single parent
 - single, no children

15. Number of people living in this home/apt.:
[more than one family?]

16. Is accommodation shared by people from your extended family, or perhaps your original home community?
[be specific]

17. What are the relationships of people currently living in this home?

- parent(s)

- children at home [number and ages]

[also note other children currently not living at home]

- extended family [specify grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, other relatives]
currently domiciled here in this residence

HOUSING

18. Classify type of accommodation:

- single detached
- semi-detached/duplex
- row/townhouse
- apartment
- other (specify)]

19. Please describe this accommodation:

How many bedrooms?

How many bathrooms?

Separate kitchen?

Living room?

Separate dining area?

Finished/occupied basement?

20. Please describe the basic facilities/appliances in this home:

[check which apply]

- tv
- dishwasher
- clothes washer
- clothes drier

21. Do you own or rent this accommodation?

22. If you are a renter, is the rent paid by one individual or shared?

- paid by individual
- shared with another person
- shared with another family

23. If you rent, approximately how much rent (per month) do you pay?
[specify what rent includes, eg. utilities]
24. If not covered in rent, how much do you spend (per month) on utilities?
25. What proportion of your total household income goes toward rent/mortgage payments?
[probe for annual household income range, eg. under \$10,000 (specify), \$10-19 thou, 20-29 thou, 30-39 thou, etc.]
26. How much do you receive in social assistance (welfare/transfer) payments?
[probe for which sort of payments, and for possible degree of indebtedness]
27. Who is your landlord?
[Is this property controlled by an Aboriginal organization, such as Cress, Sasknative Rentals, or CUMFI/Metis Nation? Or a community organization such as Quint?]
28. To what extent are you satisfied/dissatisfied with your present rental arrangement (landlord)?
[discuss....describe any problems you may have with the landlord's proper maintenance of this property]

29. If you are a renter, explain why you rent:

- short-term stay
- you want the ability to move again whenever you want
- you don't want the responsibility of home ownership
- you don't know how you could afford to own a suitable type of home
- you don't feel comfortable dealing with banks (possibly due to poor credit rating?)]

30. If you would like to become a homeowner, what do you feel is preventing you?
[comment on "affordability"]

31. Which home ownership/improvement programs might you be familiar with?

- Quint
- Cress
- Metis Nation/CUMFI
- Sasknative Rentals
- band
- Sunridge/Saskatoon Affordable New Home Foundation
- City of Saskatoon

32. Do you think that Aboriginal organizations (such as FSIN, STC, and MNS) do enough to assist First Nations or Metis people with housing?

33. What are the main problems in finding suitable housing?
[explain in detail]

- low personal/family income?
- limited availability?
- difficulty in finding suitable location?
- family growth?
- prejudice and discrimination

34. Are you satisfied with your present accommodation?
[explain why/why not]

35. Could you explain any specific problems with your present housing?

- too small for your family
- poor condition
- poor relationship with landlord

36. Condition of the home:

[interviewer should note in as much detail as possible, with cooperation of resident]

- only regular maintenance needed

- minor repairs [specify]

- major repairs [eg. plumbing, wiring, sagging/uneven floors, mold, etc...]

37. Describe what type of home you would prefer, realistically, within your present/anticipated income level.

- larger single home

- duplex

- townhouse

- larger apartment

38. Ideally, how many bedrooms do you actually need?

39. Do you have any special needs in your particular housing?

- physical handicap

- elderly

- large extended family

- other

MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

40. How long have you resided in Saskatoon?
[since birth? Or specify total years/months/weeks]
41. Before you lived in Saskatoon, where did you originally come from, a First Nations reserve or Metis community? [specify which one, and if First Nation are you still a band member?]
42. Do you intend to return there? When? Why?
43. Have you lived previously in another city?
[specify which one(s), and for how long (in each)]
44. What was/were the main reason(s) for coming to Saskatoon?
[if applicable....stress "push" vs. "pull" factors]

45. How long do you expect you will be resident in Saskatoon?

- "permanent"
- "long-term" (over 5 years)
- "shorter term" (less than 5 years)
- "transitional" (less than one year)
- "visiting" (less than one or two months)

46. How long have you lived in this particular house/apt.?

47. Within the past one to five years, how often or how many times have you moved in Saskatoon?

48. Where have you lived in Saskatoon?
[which neighborhoods, in succession]

49. What have been the main reasons for your moving within this city?
[specify which, if any, of the following may be relevant]

- previous home too small
- home in poor condition, or not well maintained
- unsafe/undesirable former/present neighbourhood, compared to better present/anticipated neighbourhood
- lack of cultural diversity
- desire to be closer to: shops and services

schools/university

transportation

family and friends

cultural/social institutions

50. Are you planning or expecting to move in the near future? Do you wish to move?
[why/why not?]

THE COMMUNITY

51. Are you satisfied/dissatisfied with this neighbourhood? What do you like/dislike about this area? [explain pros and cons in detail]

- safe/unsafe neighbourhood; high/low crime rate

- prostitution a problem

- near work

- near education/school

- near shopping/services

- near recreation, parks

- near family/friends

- cultural diversity (or lack of it);
or close to other Aboriginal people

52. What could be done to improve the neighbourhood?
[discuss]

53. We are very interested in you or your family's actual use of various services in this area. Could you please comment on the availability, accessibility, and quality of these services, and your use of them, in this area of the city:

[note whether the respondent reports having to travel well beyond the immediate area to access these services]

- schools
- recreational facilities
- parks/green space
- food stores
- restaurants/coffee shops
- shops and other commercial establishments [specify]
- medical services and pharmacies
- public transportation
- police services
- community/cultural programs [specify]

54. Where (which area) would you prefer to live?

55. Do you prefer to live in a neighbourhood with a significant Aboriginal population, or does this matter?

[why/why not?]

56. Do you prefer to socialize with other Aboriginal people, or does this really matter?

57. How would you describe your relations with your non-Aboriginal neighbours?

- frequent and sociable
- seldom and difficult
- don't really care

58. To what extent do you interact socially with non-Aboriginal people?
[specify in immediate neighbourhood, community, or at work]

59. What do you believe are the attitudes of non-Aboriginal people in this neighbourhood toward increasing numbers of Aboriginal residents?
[any comments on this?]

60. In your opinion, should urban reserves be used for housing?

[Thank the respondent for his/her generosity and assistance in reporting this information]

APPENDIX 2.0

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

THE BRIDGES AND FOUNDATIONS PROJECT ON URBAN ABORIGINAL HOUSING

The Bridges and Foundations Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing in Saskatoon is a three-year research project aimed at collecting as much information as possible on housing and living conditions of this city's First Nations and Metis residents.

The project is community-based, involving many local community organizations, as well as the City of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan and the First Nations University of Canada (formerly Saskatchewan Indian Federated College), Aboriginal organizations (including the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Saskatoon Tribal Council, and Metis Nation of Saskatchewan), and home building associations.

The main aim of this project is to make specific recommendations for the provision of affordable and improved housing for Aboriginal residents.

We would be most thankful for your participation in this important project.

Dr. A.B. Anderson, Research Director
Dept. of Sociology
University of Saskatchewan
966-6927

APPENDIX 3.0

SAMPLE INTRODUCTION OF INTERVIEWER

SAMPLE INTRODUCTION OF INTERVIEWER

Good morning/afternoon/evening

I am [name], a student at the U of S/SIFC conducting interviews for the Bridges and Foundations Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing. Here's a brief description of this project.

[hand out]

This summer we are trying to hear first-hand from as many Aboriginal neighbourhood residents as possible.

Could you please agree to an interview now? This would take half an hour or more, or could we return at a more convenient time?

APPENDIX 4.0

CONSENT AGREEMENT

CONSENT AGREEMENT

We wish to assure you that this interview will be kept strictly confidential, and that neither you, your family, or home will be identified in any way. You will be under no obligation to reply to any particular questions which you feel may make you uncomfortable.

However, we do require your signed permission to be interviewed.

Name of respondent:

Address:

Neighbourhood:

I (the respondent) understand that this interview is being done to help the Bridges and Foundations Project to better understand Aboriginal housing realities and needs.

I agree to allow this information to be used for the project, with the understanding that this information will remain confidential and that I, my family or home will not be identified.

I hereby give my signed consent:

(signature of participant)

Name of interviewer:

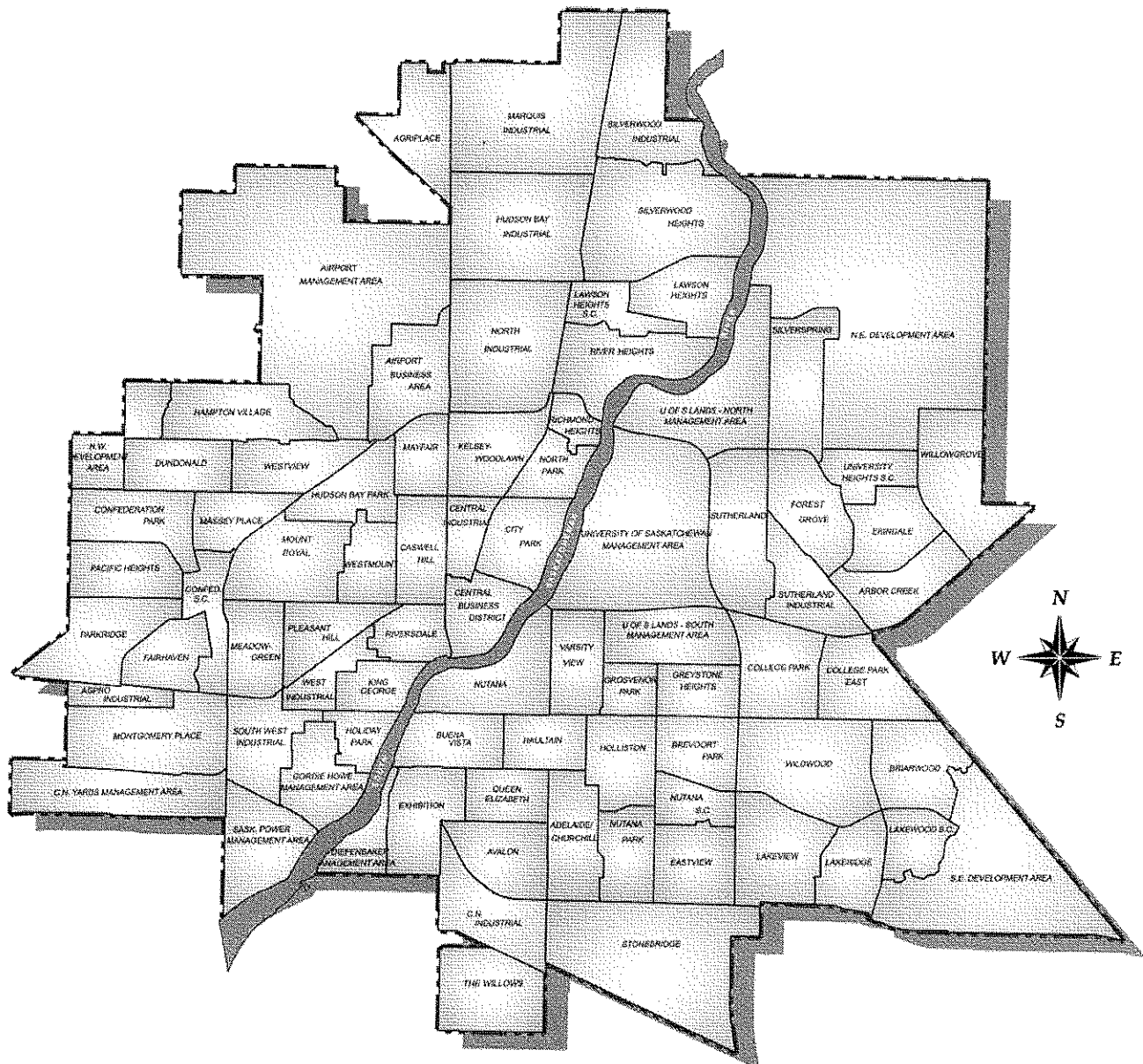
Date:

APPENDIX 5.0

NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES

Community Quick Facts

A map of the University Heights area in Cleveland, Ohio. The map shows the following neighborhoods: North West Industrial, Lakewood, University Heights, Conover, East, Ashland, and North. The map is a black and white line drawing with labels for each neighborhood.



APPENDIX 6.0

FREQUENCY TABLES