

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN SASKATOON

ALAN B. ANDERSON

**DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

FEBRUARY 2005

**BRIDGES AND FOUNDATIONS PROJECT ON URBAN ABORIGINAL
HOUSING, AN INITIATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
ALLIANCES (CURA) PROGRAM, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (SSHRC) AND CANADA MORTGAGE
AND HOUSING CORPORATION (CMHC)**

Contents

Tables.....	3
Graphs.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	6
Introduction.....	7
Current Aboriginal Population and Identity.....	8
Growth of Urban Aboriginal Population.....	13
Changing Distribution of Urban Aboriginal Population.....	15
Migration and Mobility.....	25
Urban Aboriginal Families.....	28
Age Cohorts.....	33
Educational Attainment of Aboriginal Residents.....	35
Employment.....	41
Occupation.....	41
Income.....	41
Labour Force Participation.....	43
Poverty.....	51
Housing and Living Conditions.....	52
Crime and Security.....	54
Aboriginal Culture in the City.....	57
Summary.....	60

Tables

1. Aboriginal Identity Population in Saskatoon Compared with Other Selected Saskatchewan Cities, 2001.
2. Aboriginal Population by Type of Measurement, City of Saskatoon, 1996 and 2001.
3. Growth of Aboriginal Population in Selected Canadian CMAAs (Having Over 10 Thousand Aboriginal Population in 2001), 1951-2001, Ranked by Proportion of Aboriginal Population in 2001.
4. Aboriginal Population Growth and Concentration by Neighbourhood, 1996-2001.
5. Change in Aboriginal Proportions by Neighbourhood, Five Years, 1996-1991.
6. Mobility of Aboriginal Population, Saskatoon and Regina CMAAs, 2001.
7. Migration and Mobility, Saskatoon Aboriginal Residents, 2001.
8. Interprovincial Migration, Saskatoon Aboriginal Residents, 1996 and 2001.
9. Marital Status of Adult Aboriginal Population, Saskatoon, 1996 and 2001.
10. Proportion of Lone-Parent Families, Selected Saskatoon Neighbourhoods, 1996.
11. Aboriginal Households Headed by Lone Parents and Common-law Families, 2001.
12. Unpaid Work at Home Performed by Saskatoon Aboriginal Population, Aged 15 Years and Over, 2001.
13. Proportion of Aboriginal Youth, Saskatoon and Regina CMAAs, 1996 and 2001.
14. Age Structure of Aboriginal Population, Saskatoon, 2001.
15. Highest Level of Educational Attainment, Aboriginal Population Aged 25 Years and Over, 2001.
16. Highest Level of Education Attained, Saskatoon Aboriginal Population Aged 15 Years and Over, 1996 and 2001.
17. Postsecondary Qualifications of Saskatoon Aboriginal Population by Major Field of Study and by Gender, 2001.
18. School Attendance Rates of Saskatoon Aboriginal Population Aged 15-24 Years, 1996 and 2001.
19. Increase in Aboriginal Enrolment, Selected Saskatoon Schools, 1994 and 1998.
20. Saskatoon Aboriginal Labour Force Aged 15 Years and Over, by Occupation and Gender, 2001.
21. Aboriginal Labour Force Aged 15 Years and Over, by Industry, Saskatoon, 2001.
22. Mode of Transportation to/from Work, Saskatoon Aboriginal Population, by Gender, 2001.
23. Selected Employment Data, Aboriginal Identity Population, 2001.
24. Total Income Levels, Saskatoon Aboriginal Population Aged 15 Years and Over, 2000.
25. Average Employment Income, Saskatoon Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population Aged 15 Years and Over, by Gender, 1995 and 2001.
26. Average Employment Income, Aboriginal Earners, Saskatoon, Selected Neighbourhoods, 2001.
27. Composition of Total Income, Saskatoon Aboriginal Population, 1996 and 2001.
28. Saskatoon Aboriginal Population, Labour Force Activity and Gender, 2001.

29. Saskatoon Aboriginal Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households, by Presence of Children and Labour Force Activity, 2001.
30. Housing Conditions, Aboriginal Identity Population, 2001.
31. Household Composition, Saskatoon Aboriginal Population, 2001.
32. Crime Rates in Inner-city Neighbourhoods, Saskatoon, 1993 and 2003.
33. Aboriginal Language Use, Saskatoon, Regina, and Saskatchewan, 2001.
34. Languages Spoken by Aboriginal Identity Population, Saskatoon, 2001.
35. Religious Affiliations of Aboriginal Population, Saskatoon, 2001.

Graphs

1. Growth of Aboriginal Population in Selected Canadian CMAs, 1951-2001.
2. Proportion of Lone Parent Families, Selected Saskatoon Neighbourhoods, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Residents, 1996.
3. Age Structure of Aboriginal Population, Saskatoon, 2001.
4. Changes in Highest Level of Education Attained, Saskatoon Aboriginal Population Aged 15 Years and Over, 1996 and 2001.
5. Total Income Levels, Aboriginal Females and Males Aged 15 Years and Over, Saskatoon, 2000.
6. Average Employment Income, Saskatoon Residents 15 Years of Age and Over, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal, 1995-2001.

Acknowledgements

The present study has been generated and executed as a team effort, representing collaboration between the Bridges and Foundations Project, the City Planning Department (in particular Senior Planner Bill Holden and Jon Markus), and Statistics Canada (in particular Andy Siggner, Senior Advisor on Aboriginal Statistics, who at several stages provided important information on urban Aboriginal populations). Two interns were employed by the Bridges and Foundations Project in this study: Alex Iheduru, a graduate student in Geography, who worked with City Planning to determine types of data needed; and Cara Spence, a graduate student in Sociology, who assisted in consolidating large amounts of data into relevant tables and diagrams – her diligence and competence were most appreciated.

Introduction

This Socio-demographic Study of Aboriginal Population in Saskatoon had its inception four years ago, early in 2001, with the establishment of the Bridges and Foundations Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing, which was an initiative of the Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) Program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The Master Plan of the Bridges and Foundations Project recognized the need for basic demographic studies of the Aboriginal population in Saskatoon, as discerning the changing socio-demographic characteristics of that population would be essential to the purposes of the Project. Work commenced immediately on collecting existing socio-demographic information. The Neighbourhood Profiles (6th ed., 1998) and Neighbourhood Profiles of Aboriginal Population (2nd ed., 1999) produced by the City of Saskatoon were most useful, together with reports produced by Statistics Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

In November 2002 we participated in an informative Demography Workshop organized by INAC in conjunction with the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference in Ottawa. However, the need for more detailed information of specific sorts on Saskatoon and for updating became increasingly apparent. With the census conducted during the first year of the Project, delays in availability of fresh data were a problem. While some generalized data were gradually released in 2002-03, the need for more detailed data persisted, so late in 2003 the Project Management began discussions with the Planning Department of the City of Saskatoon which culminated in a formal contract signed early in 2004 to obtain the necessary specialized data from Statistics Canada. Further discussions occurred between the Project, the City, and Statistics Canada to determine exactly which sorts of data were needed and possible to retrieve. A complication lay in our need for data at the neighbourhood rather than census tract level, implying that Statistics Canada would have to do special runs to produce accurate information within neighbourhood boundaries determined by the City of Saskatoon.

Much of the information in this report, then, is completely new and has to date neither been calculated nor released. In certain instances we have been obliged to correct or modify earlier data released in reports or websites. The interpretations of findings and trends are our own in the Project rather than City Planning or Statistics Canada. Except where specifically noted otherwise, data in this report are derived from data supplied to the Project and City by Statistics Canada. City Planning anticipates producing updated Aboriginal neighbourhood profiles, combining the Statistics Canada data with various other sources, in consultation with the Bridges and Foundations Project.

Current Aboriginal Population and Identity

There is not a simple answer to the questions, “How many Aboriginal people are there in Saskatoon, and what proportion do they form of the total city population?”

First, a distinction has to be drawn between the City of Saskatoon proper (which had a population of 196,811 in 2001), the area within the city boundaries, and the Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area (which had a population of 225,927 in 2001), extending into neighbouring municipalities and including the Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation.

Second, there are several different ways of defining the Aboriginal population: by national census (Statistics Canada) data, Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) data (the Indian Register, which captures only the Registered Indian population), band rolls (which may comprise First Nations’ counts of their members), health data, memberships in the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (which have repeatedly been questioned for accuracy).... Even census data count Aboriginal population several ways: self-identification by an Aboriginal identity, claimed Aboriginal ethnic origin or ancestry (as “North American Indian”, Metis, or Inuit, differentiating between single and multiple responses), or official status (distinguishing between Registered Indian and non-status Indian, or other Aboriginal designations).

Of 130,190 Saskatchewan residents self-identifying, in whole or part, as Aboriginal in the 2001 Census, a third -- 43,695 (33.6%) -- were First Nations population on reserve, another 22,275 (17.1%) rural Aboriginal population off reserve, and almost half -- 60,840 (46.7%) -- were Aboriginal people in urban areas, including 34,960 in the two Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) of Saskatoon and Regina and another 25,905 in other urban centres.

20,275 Aboriginal (identity) people were counted in Saskatoon CMA (9.0% of the total CMA population), of which 11,290 were First Nations (including 11,025 Registered Indians), 8,305 Metis, and 680 mixed Aboriginal or other Aboriginal identifications (Table 1). Whereas in the city proper, both the residents claiming Aboriginal ethnic origins and an Aboriginal identities were counted at 19,020 (9.7% of the total population), however in examining specific Aboriginal ethnic origins by single and multiple responses, these responses differ from reported Aboriginal self-identification as well as from claimed Aboriginal origins (Table 2). In this report we will use the data on Aboriginal self-identification within the city except where noted otherwise. These data would suggest that among the total Aboriginal population in Saskatoon (19,020), only a bit more than half, 56.4% (10,730) considered themselves to be “North American Indian” (First Nations), compared to 40.2% (7,650) who considered themselves Metis, while the remaining 3.4% (640) residents claimed Inuit identity, or more than one Aboriginal identity, or some other – including undifferentiated – Aboriginal identity.

The Metis population has always been the most complicated to measure. CMA data revealed 8,305 residents self-identifying as Metis, whereas the city proper data counted only 7,650 (excluding people claiming Metis identity plus another Aboriginal identity), or 5,370 claiming Metis ethnic origin if we add 1,640 claiming only Metis origin and 3,730 Metis origin together with other ethnic origins (of whom 2,825 combined Metis with non-Aboriginal ethnic origins). Statisticians at Statistics Canada have been hard-pressed to explain an unexpected increase of some 43% in Canada's Metis population since the previous census just five years ago. This problem has been addressed by Andy Siggner, the Senior Advisor on Aboriginal Statistics, in his paper, "A Demographic and Socio-economic Profile of the Metis in Canada", presented at the conference, "Metis People in the 21st Century", held in Saskatoon, June 2003. He noted that rather than increasing, Metis fertility had been declining and was lower than for other Aboriginal groups, while still higher than for the non-Aboriginal population in general. Siggner suggested that it is more likely that this increase could be due to such non-demographic factors as an increased awareness of Metis issues, a corresponding increase in interest in claiming or perhaps rediscovering Metis identification, and Metis politicization, resulting in what statisticians have been calling "ethnic drift" whereby people tend to change their claimed ethnic affiliations from one census to the next. However, while the inter-censal change in Metis identification in Saskatoon has been substantial, it has not been as dramatic as across Canada.

In absolute numbers, Saskatoon and Regina ranked respectively sixth and seventh in 2001 among Canadian CMAs by size of Aboriginal identity population (although given the rate of increase of Aboriginal population, Saskatoon could now possibly be ranked fourth), yet had among the highest proportionate number of Aboriginal residents; in fact, in 2001 Saskatoon CMA had the highest proportion of Aboriginal population of any CMA in Canada (Table 3). Whereas among smaller cities Prince Albert stands out as having a relatively high Aboriginal population, now approaching a third of the city's total population. Within Saskatchewan, Saskatoon would be ranked fifth by Aboriginal proportion, after Prince Albert, North Battleford, Yorkton, and Lloydminster; however in absolute numbers Saskatoon CMA contained approximately twice as many Aboriginal residents (20,275) as Prince Albert (11,640) (Table 1).

Within the city proper, in 2001 Saskatoon had an Aboriginal identity population numbering 19,020 (9.7% of the city population), compared to 15,300 (8.5%) in Regina, 10,185 (30.5%) in Prince Albert, 2,660 (19.7%) in North Battleford, 1,655 (11.2%) in Yorkton, and 1,295 (16.5%) in Lloydminster (Table 1).

Table 1.0

**ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION IN SASKATOON
COMPARED WITH OTHER SELECTED SASKATCHEWAN CITIES
2001***

	Total Pop.	Ab. ID Pop.	Ab. %⁰	N. Am. Indian¹	Metis²	Other Ab.³
Saskatoon CMA	225,927	20,275	9.0%	11,290	8,305	680
Saskatoon City	196,811	19,020	9.7%	10,730	7,650	640
Regina CMA	192,800	15,685	8.1%	9,200	5,990	495
Regina City	180,404	15,300	8.5%	9,110	5,700	495
Prince Albert CMA	41,460	11,640	28.1%	5,380	5,955	320
Prince Albert City	33,435	10,185	30.5%	4,955	4,950	275
North Battleford CMA	17,512	3,175	18.1%	1,875	1,285	25
North Battleford City	13,692	2,660	19.7%	1,685	955	15
Yorkton CMA	17,554	1,825	10.4%	1,050	760	10
Yorkton City	15,107	1,655	11.2%	980	665	10
Lloydminster CMA	20,988	2,000	9.5%	435	1,515	50
Lloydminster City	7,840	1,295	16.5%	195	1,055	35

Notes:

* Modified data from Aboriginal Population Profile, 2001

⁰ Aboriginal proportions calculated from revised total populations¹ "North American Indian" refers to First Nations single origin² "Metis" refers to people claiming only Metis identity³ "Other Aboriginal" includes multiple Aboriginal identities, Inuit, and any other Aboriginal identification

Table 2.0

**ABORIGINAL POPULATION BY TYPE OF MEASUREMENT
CITY OF SASKATOON
1996 AND 2001**

	1996	2001
Aboriginal Ethnic Origin	15,545	19,020
Single	8,695	11,000
Multiple	6,855	8,015
North American Indian	10,870	12,430
Single	6,470	7,740
Multiple	4,400	4,690
Metis	4,585	5,370
Single	1,370	1,640
Multiple	3,215	3,730
Inuit	85	120
Single	25	90
Multiple	60	30
Aboriginal Identity	15,550	19,020
Nrth. Am. Indian Only	8,900	10,735
Metis Only	6,130	7,650
Inuit Only	90	105
Mult. Ab.	160	160
Other Ab.	265	365
Abiginal Origin		17,010
Nrth. Am. Indian Only		7,740
Nrth. Am. Indian and Non-Aboriginal		3,780
Metis Only		1,640
Metis and Non-Aboriginal		2,825
Inuit Only		85
Inuit and Non-Aboriginal		25
Other Multiple Ab. Origins		910

Table 3.0

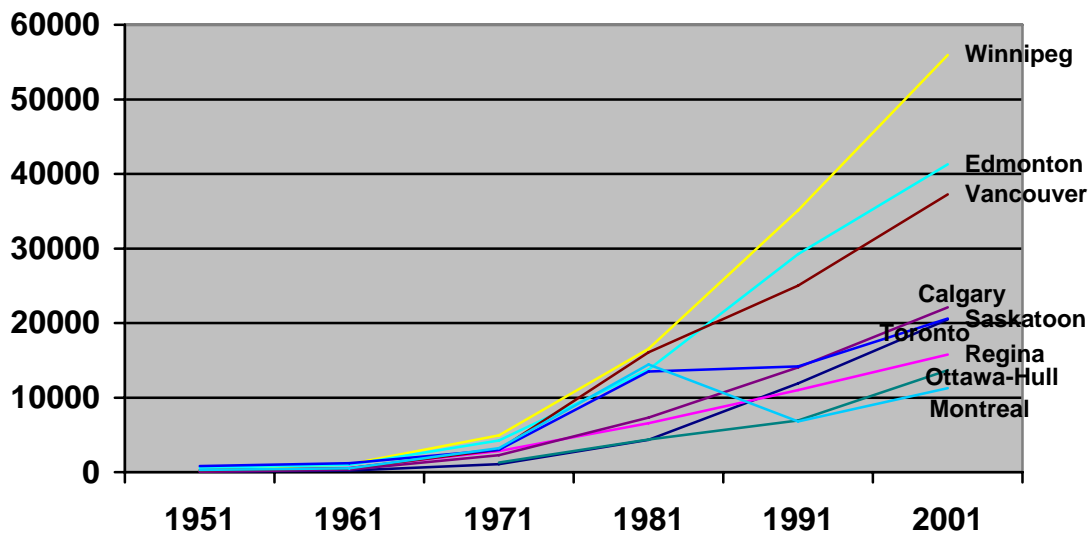
**GROWTH OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN SELECTED CANADIAN CMAs
(HAVING OVER 10 THOUSAND ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN 2001)
1951-2001
RANKED BY PROPORTION OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN 2001**

CITY	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Saskatoon (9.0%)	48	207	1,070	4,350	11,920	20,455
Regina (8.1%)	160	539	2,860	6,575	11,020	15,790
Winnipeg (8.1%)	210	1,082	4,940	16,575	35,150	55,970
Edmonton (4.4%)	616	995	4,260	13,750	29,235	41,295
Calgary (2.3%)	62	335	2,265	7,310	14,075	22,110
Vancouver (1.9%)	239	530	3,000	16,080	25,030	37,265
Ottawa-Hull (1.3%)			1300*	4,370	6,915	13,695
Toronto (0.4%)	805	1,196	2,990	13,495	14,205	20,595
Montreal (0.3%)	296	507	3,215	14,450	6,775	11,275

* Ottawa - Carleton plus Hull

Graph 1.0

**GROWTH OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN SELECTED CANADIAN CMAs
1951-2001**



Growth of Urban Aboriginal Population

A rapid urbanization of the “Native Indian” population in Saskatchewan occurred during the 1960s. The urban proportion within this population increased from just 5.5% in 1961 to 21.7% in 1971. Much of this change was in the two largest cities. In Regina the “Native Indian” population increased from 539 to 2,860, and in Saskatoon from 207 to 1,070. By 1971 Regina had almost three times as many Aboriginal residents as Saskatoon. Since 1971 the urban Aboriginal population has continued to increase, although at a slower rate each decade; moreover the Aboriginal population was increasing faster in Saskatoon than Regina. By 1991, Saskatoon’s Aboriginal population exceeded Regina’s. In 1991, in both Regina and Saskatoon, 5.7% of the total city population identified as Aboriginal. Note, however, that a greater number of residents claimed some Aboriginal ancestry than identified as Aboriginal (entirely or partially): in Regina, respectively 12,765 compared to 11,020 and in Saskatoon 14,225 compared to 11,920. This discrepancy remained in 2001: in Regina CMA 17,575 claimed to be solely or partially of “North American Indian” or Metis ethnic origin (11,950 Indian, 5,625 Metis), compared to 15,685 identifying as Aboriginal; and in Saskatoon CMA 22,850 claimed to be of “North American Indian” (14,970) or Metis (7,880) ethnic origin compared to 20,275 identifying as Aboriginal. Using the identity rather than ethnic origin data, one may note that the Aboriginal identity population has increased in absolute numbers and proportionately during the past decade: in Saskatoon CMA from 11,920 (5.7% of the city population) in 1991, to 15,550 (7.5%) in 1996 and 20,275 (9.0%) in 2001; today approximately one in every ten residents is Aboriginal.

So it is clear that the Aboriginal population is increasing far more rapidly than the general population in Saskatoon. From 1996 to 2001, the city population grew by 3.1%, not the least due to the increasing Aboriginal population, which during the same period had more than double the rate of growth (6.6%), and an even higher rate of growth (7.3%) to 2001.

Rapid urbanization of the Aboriginal population has been apparent across Canada for the past several decades. It is noteworthy that through the 1980s Saskatoon CMA was ranked ninth in absolute numbers of Aboriginal residents among CMAs in Canada, then jumped to sixth place in 1991 and 2001 and is likely to be currently ranked fourth after Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Vancouver; by 2001 the Aboriginal residents of Saskatoon were almost as numerous as those of Calgary and Toronto, and perhaps increasing faster (Table 3 and Graph 1).

Reasons for the increasing Aboriginal population in Saskatoon include the following:

- Saskatchewan has one of the highest proportions (likely the highest) of Aboriginal population for any Canadian province. This provides a large pool of potential Aboriginal migrants into the city.
- Between 1996 and 2001, the Aboriginal population of Saskatchewan increased by 17% while the provincial population decreased by 3.7%.
- Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan have a relatively higher birth rate than the provincial population as a whole. The total fertility rate among Registered Indian women is higher in Saskatchewan than any other province, while the

regional patterns for non-status Indians and Metis are similar (although not quite as high).

- The Aboriginal population is much younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan. In 2001, half (49.9%) of the Aboriginal population of Saskatchewan was under the age of 20, compared to just over a quarter (26.5%) of the non-Aboriginal population.
- The relatively higher migration out of Saskatchewan by non-Aboriginals means that the Aboriginal population tends to stay within the province.
- The demographic shift from predominantly rural to predominantly urban which has been occurring among Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan is part of a general trend across Canada.
- As many as 80% of the population of some First Nations are now living off reserve and especially in cities, and Saskatoon is a natural “catchment area” for many reserves located in the central region.

Thus it is likely that both the absolute number and proportion of Aboriginal residents will continue to increase in Saskatoon. Yet this may depend to some extent on positive net migration of Aboriginal people into the city (which will be discussed further below). Considering that the proportion of Aboriginal residents has virtually doubled in just a single decade, if the present trends continue – and if they are not counterbalanced by other factors which serve to substantially increase the non-Aboriginal resident population – then we could expect that in another decade (by 2011) the Aboriginal proportion may double again to approximately 20% (or one in every five residents).

Changing Distribution of Urban Aboriginal Population

The Aboriginal population of Saskatoon has gradually become more dispersed, while still remaining largely concentrated in poorer neighbourhoods. In Saskatoon, out of sixty-three neighbourhoods (excluding SDAs and the University of Saskatchewan campus), only three still lacked any Aboriginal residents at the last census (Table 4). This would seem to be indicative of the gradual emergence of an Aboriginal middle class. Most of the poorest neighbourhoods are located in the southwestern quadrant of the city. In two west side inner-city neighbourhoods (Pleasant Hill and Riversdale), which are among the poorest in the city, close to half the population were Aboriginal in 2001; in another two neighbourhoods (Confederation Suburban Centre and West Industrial), over a third of the residents were Aboriginal; in another six (Meadowgreen, Airport Business Area, Westmount, Caswell Hill, Massey Place, and Mayfair), 20-29%. Almost all of these neighbourhoods having substantial Aboriginal concentrations are located in the inner west side of the city, while a couple are adjacent to this area to the immediate west and north. In another eleven neighbourhoods Aboriginal residents comprised 10-19%; moreover, all but one of these neighbourhoods is in the inner or outer west side. All of the remaining neighbourhoods in the city contain less than 10% Aboriginal residents – many as few as 1-3%. In 1996 there were four largely middle class, more affluent and/or newer neighbourhoods (Arbor Creek, Southeast Development, Stonebridge, Briarwood) and a couple of industrial areas (Silverwood Industrial and Sutherland Industrial) which lacked any Aboriginal residents. In 2001 these were limited to just three (Briarwood, Silverwood Industrial, and Southridge East).

There has been significant movement of Aboriginal people into Hudson Bay Park, an inner west side neighbourhood, where in five years (1996-2001) the proportion of Aboriginal residents climbed from 6.0% to 9.8%; and on the east side in Nutana Park, where it changed from 1.8% to 9.6%, and Sutherland, from 6.2% to 9.0%. During this period, in all of Saskatoon only seven neighbourhoods witnessed very slight declines in Aboriginal residents; all other neighbourhoods revealed increases, with the exception of the three neighbourhoods which still did not have any Aboriginal residents (Table 5). While the rate of Aboriginal population change has been dramatic in some east side neighbourhoods, this can be misleading, as the actual number of Aboriginal residents remains minimal. Nevertheless, it is clear, comparing data at the neighbourhood level in 1996 and 2001, that increasing numbers of Aboriginal families are dispersing throughout the city, yet it is also evident that the increasingly heaviest concentrations of Aboriginal residents are in west side neighbourhoods. There has been progressive movement westward from the poorest inner-city neighbourhoods to relatively less poor and primarily middle class neighbourhoods farther west, although in these latter neighbourhoods many Aboriginal families are concentrated in apartment blocks rather than middle class housing. These westernmost neighbourhoods also tend to be the location of affordable housing developments which may serve to improve the living conditions of Aboriginal families with adequate yet modest income.

There has recently been much debate over whether Aboriginal people are forming ghettos in western cities. While collectively they constitute the largest minority group (if they could justifiably even be considered one ethnic group) in these cities, they remain rather less concentrated than, for example, some urban ethnic minorities in the largest Canadian cities. In Saskatoon it is incorrect to refer to the “largely Aboriginal” west side neighbourhoods, as none in 2001 were actually predominantly Aboriginal (although currently two neighbourhoods do likely have Aboriginal majorities). However, it would be equally misleading to suggest simply that the Aboriginal population is becoming dispersed; while this is true in a sense, both the most rapid growth and proportional concentration of Aboriginal population clearly is in west side neighbourhoods which are the poorest in the city. While this trend may not constitute “ghettoization” (an emotive term which should be avoided), it is nonetheless problematic in terms of improving living conditions for Aboriginal residents. One other important point should be made here: even the poorest neighbourhoods in Saskatoon have very mixed housing, and great effort has gone into improving these neighbourhoods. While Saskatoon, like any western city, has poor housing, such housing is quite scattered rather than concentrated; this city does not have any particular neighbourhood which could be defined as a slum.

Table 4.0

**ABORIGINAL POPULATION GROWTH AND CONCENTRATION
BY NEIGHBOURHOOD
1996 AND 2001**

1996				
NEIGHBORHOOD	NON- ABORIGINAL POPULATION	ABORIGINAL POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION	% ABORIGINAL
Saskatoon	175,665	15,545	191210	8.13%
Pleasant Hill	2,495	1,995	4490	44.43%
Riversdale	1,360	840	2200	38.18%
Confederation Suburban Centre	635	375	1010	37.13%
West Industrial	75	15	90	16.67%
Meadowgreen	3,155	750	3905	19.21%
Airport Business Area	520	90	610	14.75%
Westmount	1,960	480	2440	19.67%
Caswell Hill	3,135	505	3640	13.87%
Massey Place	2,785	795	3580	22.21%
Mayfair	2,030	415	2445	16.97%
Kelsey-Woodlawn	760	115	875	13.14%
Core Neighbourhoods SDA	26,325	5,130	31455	16.31%
Central Industrial	65	10	75	13.33%
King George	1,455	380	1835	20.71%
Fairhaven	4,200	780	4980	15.66%
Confederation Park	5,515	910	6425	14.16%
Mount Royal	3,845	460	4305	10.69%
Confederation SDA	41,235	6,390	47625	13.42%
Westview	2,800	445	3245	13.71%
Pacific Heights	3,800	745	4545	16.39%
Exhibition	2,315	175	2490	7.03%
Holiday Park	1,425	170	1595	10.66%
Parkridge	4,065	460	4525	10.17%
Hudson Bay Park	1,725	110	1835	5.99%
Nutana Park	2,760	50	2810	1.78%
Sutherland	4,265	280	4545	6.16%
Dundonald	4,540	325	4865	6.68%
City Park	4,260	365	4625	7.89%
College Park	4,970	385	5355	7.19%
Central Business District	2,355	125	2480	5.04%
Brevoort Park	3,150	155	3305	4.69%
Buena Vista	2,710	150	2860	5.24%
Greystone Heights	2,335	70	2405	2.91%
Eastview	3,555	145	3700	3.92%
Forest Grove	5,630	270	5900	4.58%
Nutana	6,035	315	6350	4.96%
Haultain	2,700	105	2805	3.74%
Queen Elizabeth	2,590	20	2610	0.77%
Nutana SDA	35,180	1,235	36415	3.39%

Lawson SDA	27,320	1,205	28525	4.22%
Holliston	3,425	95	3520	2.70%
University Heights SDA	16,130	645	16775	3.85%
North Park	1,990	60	2050	2.93%
U of S South	635	15	650	2.31%
Arbor Creek	280	0	280	0.00%
Richmond Heights	940	15	955	1.57%
Grosvenor Park	1,300	90	1390	6.47%
Adelaide/Churchill	3,460	80	3540	2.26%
Silverwood Heights	10,890	340	11230	3.03%
Varsity View	3,270	135	3405	3.96%
Lakewood SDA	28,350	835	29185	2.86%
Lakeview	7,595	135	7730	1.75%
River Heights	4,390	120	4510	2.66%
Silverspring	1,185	25	1210	2.07%
Lawson Heights	5,175	120	5295	2.27%
Lakeridge	3,810	65	3875	1.68%
Erindale	4,030	50	4080	1.23%
Montgomery Place	2,660	55	2715	2.03%
Wildwood	6,130	170	6300	2.70%
Avalon	2,845	75	2920	2.57%
U of S Management Area	75	0	75	0.00%
College Park East	4,730	80	4810	1.66%
Nutana Suburban Centre	1,880	30	1910	1.57%
Lawson Suburban Centre	1,085	10	1095	0.91%
Stonebridge	140	0	140	0.00%
Briarwood	890	0	890	0.00%
Southridge East				

2001

NEIGHBORHOOD	NON-ABORIGINAL POPULATION	ABORIGINAL POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION	% ABORIGINAL
Saskatoon	174,645	19,020	193,665	9.82%
Pleasant Hill	2,280	2,135	4,415	48.36%
Riversdale	1,210	930	2,140	43.46%
Confederation Suburban Centre	355	220	575	38.26%
West Industrial	140	70	210	33.33%
Meadowgreen	2,775	1,080	3,855	28.02%
Airport Business Area	425	155	580	26.72%
Westmount	1,730	510	2,240	22.77%
Caswell Hill	2,755	755	3,510	21.51%
Massey Place	2,780	730	3,510	20.80%
Mayfair	1,985	505	2,490	20.28%
Kelsey-Woodlawn	690	170	860	19.77%
Core Neighbourhoods SDA	24,810	5,690	30,500	18.66%
Central Industrial	110	25	135	18.52%
King George	1,460	325	1,785	18.21%
Fairhaven	4,105	885	4,990	17.74%
Confederation Park	5,200	1,100	6,300	17.46%
Mount Royal	3,455	660	4,115	16.04%
Confederation SDA	39,800	7,180	46,980	15.28%
Westview	2,895	515	3,410	15.10%
Pacific Heights	3,620	640	4,260	15.02%
Exhibition	2,215	265	2,480	10.69%
Holiday Park	1,255	145	1,400	10.36%
Parkridge	4,050	455	4,505	10.10%
Hudson Bay Park	1,650	180	1,830	9.84%
Nutana Park	2,540	270	2,810	9.61%
Sutherland	4,190	415	4,605	9.01%
Dundonald	4,850	430	5,280	8.14%
City Park	3,960	340	4,300	7.91%
College Park	4,670	395	5,065	7.80%
Central Business District	2,290	180	2,470	7.29%
Brevoort Park	3,080	240	3,320	7.23%
Buena Vista	2,650	195	2,845	6.85%
Greystone Heights	2,185	155	2,340	6.62%
Eastview	3,270	230	3,500	6.57%
Forest Grove	5,295	360	5,655	6.37%
Nutana	5,755	390	6,145	6.35%
Haultain	2,630	175	2,805	6.24%
Queen Elizabeth	2,400	155	2,555	6.07%
Nutana SDA	34,165	2,175	36,340	5.99%
Lawson SDA	26,595	1,580	28,175	5.61%
Holliston	3,180	185	3,365	5.50%
University Heights SDA	20,050	1,165	21,215	5.49%
North Park	1,810	105	1,915	5.48%
U of S South	520	30	550	5.45%

Arbor Creek	1,680	85	1,765	4.82%
Richmond Heights	895	45	940	4.79%
Grosvenor Park	1,305	55	1,360	4.04%
Adelaide/Churchill	3,405	130	3,535	3.68%
Silverwood Heights	10,695	405	11,100	3.65%
Varsity View	3,365	125	3,490	3.58%
Lakewood SDA	28,800	1,065	29,865	3.57%
Lakeview	7,305	265	7,570	3.50%
River Heights	4,235	150	4,385	3.42%
Silverspring	3,405	120	3,525	3.40%
Lawson Heights	4,655	155	4,810	3.22%
Lakeridge	3,995	130	4,125	3.15%
Erindale	4,325	140	4,465	3.14%
Montgomery Place	2,660	80	2,740	2.92%
Wildwood	6,595	195	6,790	2.87%
Avalon	3,075	90	3,165	2.84%
U of S Management Area	585	15	600	2.50%
College Park East	4,545	80	4,625	1.73%
Nutana Suburban Centre	2,085	30	2,115	1.42%
Lawson Suburban Centre	1,525	20	1,545	1.29%
Stonebridge	0	0	0	0.00%
Briarwood	1,685	0	1,685	0.00%
Southridge East	160	0	160	0.00%

Table 5.0

**CHANGE IN ABORIGINAL PROPORTIONS BY NEIGHBOURHOOD
FIVE YEARS: 1996-2001**

1996			
AREA	ABORIGINAL POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION	% ABORIGINAL
INNER WEST			
West Industrial	15	90	16.67%
Meadowgreen	750	3,905	19.21%
Caswell Hill	505	3,640	13.87%
Mount Royal	460	4,305	10.69%
Riversdale	840	2,200	38.18%
Pleasant Hill	1,995	4,490	44.43%
Hudson Bay Park	110	1,835	5.99%
Mayfair	415	2,445	16.97%
Westmount	480	2,440	19.67%
Holiday Park	170	1,595	10.66%
King George	380	1,835	20.71%
FAR WEST			
Confederation Park	910	6,425	14.16%
Fairhaven	780	4,980	15.66%
Confederation SDA	6,390	47,625	13.42%
Dundonald	325	4,865	6.68%
Westview	445	3,245	13.71%
Confederation Suburban Centre	375	1,010	37.13%
Montgomery Place	55	2,715	2.03%
Parkridge	460	4,525	10.17%
Pacific Heights	745	4,545	16.39%
Massey Place	795	3,580	22.21%
North West Industrial SDA	95	635	14.96%
NORTH			
Airport Business Area	90	610	14.75%
Lawson Heights	120	5,295	2.27%
River Heights	120	4,510	2.66%
Silverwood Heights	340	11,230	3.03%
Lawson Suburban Centre	10	1,095	0.91%
CENTRAL			
Kelsey-Woodlawn	115	875	13.14%
Central Industrial	10	75	13.33%
Richmond Heights	15	955	1.57%
North Park	60	2,050	2.93%
Central Business District	125	2,480	5.04%
City Park	365	4,625	7.89%
NORTH EAST			
Arbor Creek	0	280	0.00%
Sutherland	280	4,545	6.16%

U of S Management Area	0	75	0.00%
Erindale	50	4,080	1.23%
Forest Grove	270	5,900	4.58%
University Heights SDA	645	16,775	3.85%
Silverspring	25	1,210	2.07%
Silverspring	25	1,210	2.07%
Sutherland Industrial	0	85	0.00%
SOUTH EAST			
SE Development Area	0	220	0.00%
Nutana Park	50	2,810	1.78%
Queen Elizabeth	20	2,610	0.77%
Greystone Heights	70	2,405	2.91%
Exhibition	175	2,490	7.03%
U of S South	15	650	2.31%
Holliston	95	3,520	2.70%
Eastview	145	3,700	3.92%
Brevoort Park	155	3,305	4.69%
Haultain	105	2,805	3.74%
Lakeview	135	7,730	1.75%
Buena Vista	150	2,860	5.24%
Lakeridge	65	3,875	1.68%
Adelaide/Churchill	80	3,540	2.26%
Lakewood SDA	835	29,185	2.86%
College Park	385	5,355	7.19%
Avalon	75	2,920	2.57%
Wildwood	170	6,300	2.70%
College Park East	80	4,810	1.66%
Stonebridge	0	140	0.00%
Briarwood	0	890	0.00%
Nutana Suburban Centre	30	1,910	1.57%
Grosvenor Park	90	1,390	6.47%
Silverwood Industrial	0	415	0.00%
Southridge East			

2001

AREA	ABORIGINAL POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION	% ABORIGINAL	CHANGE IN %
INNER WEST				
West Industrial	70	210	33.33%	16.67%
Meadowgreen	1,080	3,855	28.02%	8.81%
Caswell Hill	755	3,510	21.51%	7.64%
Mount Royal	660	4,115	16.04%	5.35%
Riversdale	930	2,140	43.46%	5.28%
Pleasant Hill	2,135	4,415	48.36%	3.93%
Hudson Bay Park	180	1,830	9.84%	3.84%
Mayfair	505	2,490	20.28%	3.31%
Westmount	510	2,240	22.77%	3.10%
Holiday Park	145	1,400	10.36%	-0.30%
King George	325	1,785	18.21%	-2.50%
FAR WEST				
Confederation Park	1,100	6,300	17.46%	3.30%
Fairhaven	885	4,990	17.74%	2.07%
Confederation SDA	7,180	46,980	15.28%	1.87%
Dundonald	430	5,280	8.14%	1.46%
Westview	515	3,410	15.10%	1.39%
Confederation Suburban Centre	220	575	38.26%	1.13%
Montgomery Place	80	2,740	2.92%	0.89%
Parkridge	455	4,505	10.10%	-0.07%
Pacific Heights	640	4,260	15.02%	-1.37%
Massey Place	730	3,510	20.80%	-1.41%
North West Industrial SDA				-14.96%
NORTH				
Airport Business Area	155	580	26.72%	11.97%
Lawson Heights	155	4,810	3.22%	0.96%
River Heights	150	4,385	3.42%	0.76%
Silverwood Heights	405	11,100	3.65%	0.62%
Lawson Suburban Centre	20	1,545	1.29%	0.38%
CENTRAL				
Kelsey-Woodlawn	170	860	19.77%	6.62%
Central Industrial	25	135	18.52%	5.19%
Richmond Heights	45	940	4.79%	3.22%
North Park	105	1,915	5.48%	2.56%
Central Business District	180	2,470	7.29%	2.25%
City Park	340	4,300	7.91%	0.02%
NORTH EAST				
Arbor Creek	85	1,765	4.82%	4.82%
Sutherland	415	4,605	9.01%	2.85%
U of S Management Area	15	600	2.50%	2.50%
Erindale	140	4,465	3.14%	1.91%
Forest Grove	360	5,655	6.37%	1.79%

University Heights SDA	1,165	21,215	5.49%	1.65%
Silverspring	120	3,525	3.40%	1.34%
Silverspring	120	3,525	3.40%	1.34%
Sutherland Industrial				0.00%
SOUTH EAST				
SE Development Area				
Nutana Park	270	2,810	9.61%	7.83%
Queen Elizabeth	155	2,555	6.07%	5.30%
Greystone Heights	155	2,340	6.62%	3.71%
Exhibition	265	2,480	10.69%	3.66%
U of S South	30	550	5.45%	3.15%
Holliston	185	3,365	5.50%	2.80%
Eastview	230	3,500	6.57%	2.65%
Brevoort Park	240	3,320	7.23%	2.54%
Haultain	175	2,805	6.24%	2.50%
Lakeview	265	7,570	3.50%	1.75%
Buena Vista	195	2,845	6.85%	1.61%
Lakeridge	130	4,125	3.15%	1.47%
Adelaide/Churchill	130	3,535	3.68%	1.42%
Lakewood SDA	1,065	29,865	3.57%	0.70%
College Park	395	5,065	7.80%	0.61%
Avalon	90	3,165	2.84%	0.28%
Wildwood	195	6,790	2.87%	0.17%
College Park East	80	4,625	1.73%	0.07%
Stonebridge	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Briarwood	0	1,685	0.00%	0.00%
Nutana Suburban Centre	30	2,115	1.42%	-0.15%
Grosvenor Park	55	1,360	4.04%	-2.43%
Silverwood Industrial				
Southridge East	0	160	0.00%	

Migration and Mobility

Examination of recent five-year gross migration rates of Aboriginal population in Saskatoon reveals that in-migration into this city has usually been matched, more or less, by out-migration, yet this may now be changing in favour of in-migration. Recent research reveals that an increasing proportion of urban Aboriginal population consists of long-term or “permanent” residents.

Comparison of mobility in Saskatoon and Regina CMAs is indicative of very similar patterns (Table 6). In Saskatoon CMA, the 2001 Census revealed that for the urban Aboriginal identity population aged one year and over (19,690), 61.1% had lived in the same residence last year, 27.6% in the same city but at a different address, 8.8% in Saskatchewan but had changed residence, and 2.5% outside the province. Whereas for the Aboriginal identity population aged five years and over (17,560), 26.3% lived at the same city address five years ago, 46.3% had changed address within the city, 20.1% outside the city but within the province, and 7.3% outside the province. In Regina CMA, for the Aboriginal identity population aged one year and over (15,265) 63.9% had not moved in the past year, 26.9% had moved within the city, 6.3% outside the city but within the province, and 2.9% outside the province. And for the Regina Aboriginal identity population aged five years and over (13,360), 32.1% had not moved during the past five years, 49.2% had moved within the city, 13.2% within the province but outside the city, and 6.1% beyond the province. Thus these findings seem to be quite comparable for both Saskatoon and Regina, revealing a very substantial pattern of mobility within the city every few years yet less movement between urban and rural (eg. reserve) areas.

If data on migration and mobility within the City of Saskatoon in 2001 are examined, out of a total Aboriginal population aged one year and over (18,455), 59.7% had not moved in the past year, compared to 40.3% who had. 29.0% were non-migrants (ie. excluding mobility within the city), leaving just 11.3% who were migrants, most of whom had moved within the province rather than between provinces (Table 7). Whereas the profile changes when one examines mobility and migration within the past five years. Of the Aboriginal population aged at least five years (16,455), three-quarters (75.3%) had moved in the past five years, compared to just a quarter (24.6%) who had not. Almost two-thirds of these movers had only moved within the city. Of the remaining third who were migrants, three times as many had moved within the province rather than to or from another province. Among the Aboriginal population, extremely few have immigrated or emigrated internationally. High proportions (almost 87%) of Aboriginal residents of Saskatoon were born in the province (Table 8).

These data would seem to portray two countervailing trends. On the one hand, the Aboriginal population of this city is quite mobile within the city, especially over a period of several years. On the other hand, longer-distance migration is becoming more limited; it is primarily within the province. The commonly accepted view that Aboriginal people typically move frequently between reserve (or northern/rural community) and the city may be increasingly questioned for accuracy. Our several surveys of numerous

Aboriginal households in Saskatoon indicated that many Aboriginal residents have lived here for at least several years or longer and are content to stay here. However, the relatively high rate of mobility within the city may seem to reflect their quest for suitable housing in a satisfactory neighbourhood.

The city acts as an attractive draw to Aboriginal people living in poor conditions with limited opportunities on reserve or in a northern community. The city may seem to promise diverse employment opportunities, better education, ready access to quality health care, and improved affordable housing options. Again, our interviews with many residents revealed that the motives for migration and mobility are very complex indeed. Recent studies by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) have suggested that a net increase in reserve populations reflects net migration from city to reserve rather than an exodus from reserves. However, in our opinion this may be a misleading interpretation, in so far as reserve fertility rates are significantly higher than urban Aboriginal, our findings that long-term return migration from city to reserve may seem to be lessening, and despite certain attractions the reserve or northern community may have to offer, these tend to be outweighed by positive aspects of urban living in the minds of residents.

Table 6.0

**MOBILITY OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION
SASKATOON AND REGINA CMAs
2001**

	Saskatoon Ab. Pop.				Regina Ab. Pop.			
	1 yr + Number	%	5 yr + Number	%	1 yr + Number	%	5 yr + Number	%
Total Population	19,690	100%	17,560	100%	15,265	100%	13,630	100%
Lived in same address last year or 5 yrs ago	12,040	61.1%	4,625	23.6%	9,750	63.9%	4,285	32.1%
Lived in same city but changed address	5,425	27.6%	8,135	46.3%	4,105	26.9%	6,710	49.2%
Changed address within Saskatchewan	1,725	8.8%	3,515	20.1%	965	6.3%	1,805	13.2%
Changed address beyond Saskatchewan	500	2.5%	1,275	7.3%	440	2.9%	830	6.1%

Table 7.0

**MIGRATION AND MOBILITY
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS
2001**

	Ab. Pop. Aged 1 yr. + Over		Ab. Pop. Aged 5 yrs. + Over	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	18,455	100%	16,455	100%
Non-Movers	11,010	59.7%	4,055	24.6%
Movers	7,440	40.3%	12,395	75.3%
Non-Migrants	5,350	29.0%	7,950	48.3%
Migrants	2,090	11.3%	4,445	27.0%
Internal Migrants	2,070	11.2%	4,400	26.7%
Intraprovincial	1,650	8.9%	3,230	19.6%
Interprovincial	420	2.3%	1,170	7.1%
External Migrants	20	0.1%	40	0.2%

Table 8.0

**INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS
1996 AND 2001**

	1996	%	2001	%
Canadian-Born	15,475	100.00%	19,020	100.00%
Born in Saskatchewan	13,085	84.60%	16,460	86.50%
Born Outside Saskatchewan	2,390	15.40%	2,545	13.50%

Urban Aboriginal Families

Comparing data for 1996 and 2001, we can note that quite a high proportion of the adult Aboriginal population in Saskatoon had never been married; in fact the proportion is increasing (Table 9). However, these data are not precisely comparable due to changing census definition of common-law relationships (excluded from legal marital status in 1996 but included in marital status in 2001).

In Saskatoon, in all neighbourhoods where Aboriginal residents form significant proportions (over 10%), the proportion of Aboriginal families headed by lone parents far exceeds the proportion in non-Aboriginal families. In the city as a whole in 1996 32.5% of Aboriginal families were headed by single parents compared to 11.2% of non-Aboriginal families. The proportion in Aboriginal families ranged from a minimum of 23.8% to a maximum of 68.8% for particular neighbourhoods (Table 10 and Graph 2).

The incidence of lone parent families as well as common law relationships among Aboriginals continues to be relatively higher than among non-Aboriginals. In Saskatoon in 2001, 2,490 Aboriginal families were headed by lone parents, of whom 89.8% were female, and 1,795 common-law relationships were identified among Aboriginal partners. The incidence of lone parents in the total Aboriginal “census family status” population in Saskatoon was in fact higher in Saskatoon CMA (12.3%) than Regina CMA (10%) or Saskatchewan as a whole (9.9%); whereas the incidence of common-law relationships was lower in Saskatoon CMA (8.9%) than in Regina CMA (12.6%) or Saskatchewan (10%) (Table 11).

Later in this report we will examine the employment of Aboriginal residents. However at this juncture, in discussing family, it is instructive to look at unpaid work at home performed by the adult Aboriginal population (Table 12). Some conclusions which can be drawn from these data would include that females devote far more time to unpaid housework than males (with almost half – 48.7% - of females putting in “a lot” to “major” time compared to just 23.9% of males); that females also devote more time to child care (a third – 33.8% - as much as 30 hours a week or more, compared to half that proportion – 15% - of males); however that neither males nor females spend much time caring for seniors (reflecting the relatively sparse population of elderly among Aboriginals).

Table 9.0

**MARITAL STATUS OF ADULT ABORIGINAL POPULATION
SASKATOON
1996 AND 2001**

	1996	%	2001	%
Total Ab. Population by marital status*	9,195	100%	11,810	100%
Never married (single)	5,430	59.05%	7,250	61.38%
Legally married, not separated	1,975	21.47%	2,655	22.48%
Legally married, and separated	645	7.01%	630	5.33%
Divorced	915	9.95%	995	8.42%
Widowed	225	2.45%	275	2.33%
Common-law			1,730	14.65%

* In 1996, marital status refers to legal marital status, whereas in 2001 marital status includes common-law relationships.

Table 10.0

**PROPORTION OF LONE-PARENT FAMILIES
SELECTED SASKATOON NEIGHBOURHOODS*
1996**

	Adjusted Proportion (Ab. Pop.)	Lone Parent Proportion	
		Aboriginal	General Pop.
Saskatoon	8.1%	32.5%	11.2%
King George	20.7%	68.8%	16.0%
Confederation Park	14.2%	57.1%	18.9%
Confederation SC	37.1%	57.1%	37.6%
Mayfair	17.0%	45.5%	20.2%
Kelsey-Woodlawn	13.1%	44.4%	12.1%
Fairhaven	15.7%	40.0%	17.7%
Massey Place	22.2%	37.8%	20.7%
Pleasant Hill	44.4%	37.3%	21.1%
Westmount	19.7%	36.0%	17.2%
Holiday Park	10.7%	35.7%	16.6%
Westview	13.7%	34.8%	15.0%
Caswell Hill	13.9%	33.3%	14.6%
Airport Industrial	14.8%	33.3%	31.8%
Meadowgreen	19.2%	29.4%	15.3%
Riversdale	38.2%	28.6%	11.4%
Pacific Heights	16.4%	27.6%	15.0%
Mount Royal	10.7%	25.7%	11.2%
Parkridge	10.1%	23.8%	13.5%

*Neighborhoods with at least 10% Aboriginal population

Sources: City of Saskatoon Neighbourhood Profiles, 6th ed., Dec. 1998; and
City of Saskatoon Neighbourhood Profiles of Aboriginal Population, 2nd ed., Feb. 1999.

Graph 2.0

**PROPORTION OF LONE PARENT FAMILIES
SELECTED SASKATOON NEIGHBOURHOODS
ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS AND GENERAL POPULATION
1996**

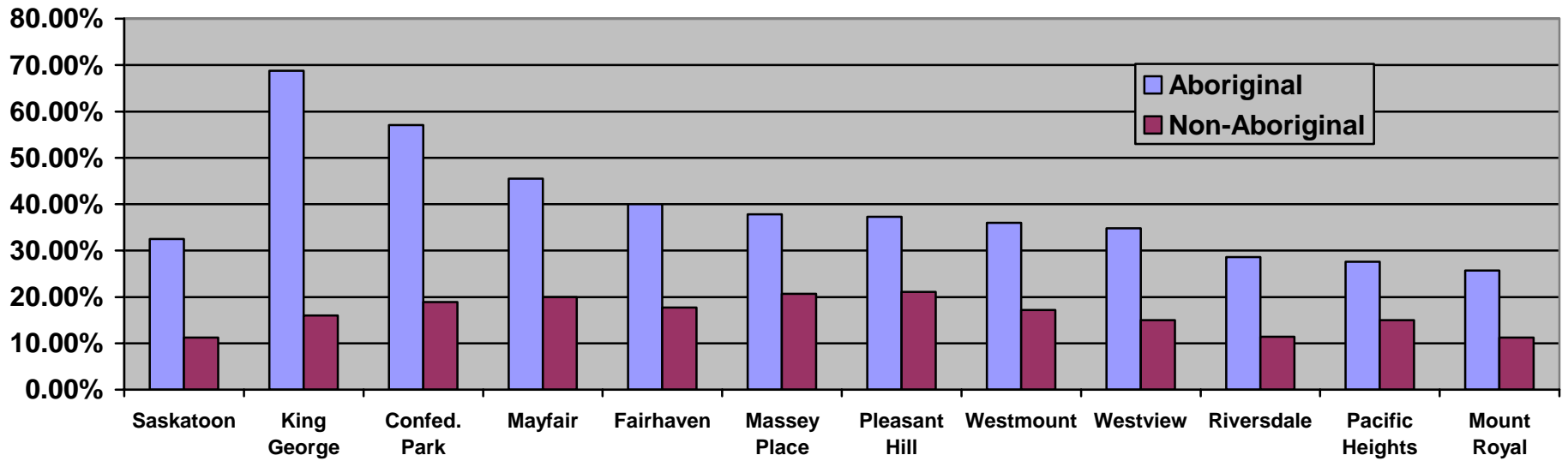


Table 11.0

**ABORIGINAL HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY
LONE PARENTS AND COMMON-LAW FAMILIES
2001**

	Saskatoon (CMA)		Regina (CMA)		Saskatchewan	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Census Families	20,220	100%	15,650	100%	130,020	100%
Lone Parents	2,490	12.3%	1,580	10%	12,900	9.9%
Common-law	1,795	8.9%	1,970	12.6%	13,020	10.0%

Table 12.0

**UNPAID WORK AT HOME PERFORMED BY
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER
2001***

	Unpaid Housework				Child Care				Seniors Care			
	Male	%	Female	%	Male	%	Female	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total Aboriginal population 15+	5,190	100%	6,620	100%	5,109	100%	6,620	100%	5,190	100%	6,620	100%
Little/ none (less than 5 hrs)	2,425	46.7%	1,425	21.5%	3,535	68.1%	3,200	48.3%	4,935	95.1%	6,090	92.0%
Some (5-14 hrs, seniors 5-9 hrs)	1,520	29.3%	1,975	29.8%	475	9.2%	700	10.6%	70	1.3%	265	4.0%
A lot (15-29 hrs, seniors 10-19 hrs)	725	14.0%	1,455	22.0%	395	7.6%	485	7.3%	260	5.0%	350	5.3%
Major (30+ hrs, seniors 20+ hrs)	515	9.9%	1,765	26.7%	780	15.0%	2,240	33.8%	110	2.1%	185	2.8%

* NOTE: Selected categories have been combined, and due to rounding error categories may not add precisely to 100%.

Age Cohorts

The urban Aboriginal population is young. In both Regina and Saskatoon CMAs close to half of the Aboriginal identity population is under twenty years of age (in Regina, respectively 50.4% and 48.7% in 1996 and 2001; in Saskatoon 49.8% and 47.9%)(Table 13). This means that an increasing number of young Aboriginal people are born and raised in the city, with little or no familiarity with the reserve or rural life. Within the City of Saskatoon proper, we have calculated the proportion of Aboriginal population under 20 years of age (totaling 9,045 out of 19,020 total Aboriginal population) at 47.6% and the proportion of the non-Aboriginal population under 20 (45,115 out of 174,645) at 25.8%. Thus Aboriginal youth constitute almost half of the Aboriginal residents whereas youth comprise just a quarter of the non-Aboriginal residents.

In addition to this very large proportion of youth, a significant proportion of Aboriginal residents in Saskatoon are relatively young adults. Another 34.5% are young adults in their 30s and 40s (Graph 3).

According to census data, there have been proportionately fewer residents in older age cohorts among Aboriginal residents than non-Aboriginal. In fact, among Aboriginal residents in Saskatoon, the 585 people aged sixty and over constitute only 3.1% of the total Aboriginal population in the city (Table 14).

An increasing proportion of females in the Aboriginal population is also evident, especially females in child-bearing years.

Graph 3.0

AGE STRUCTURE OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION SASKATOON 2001

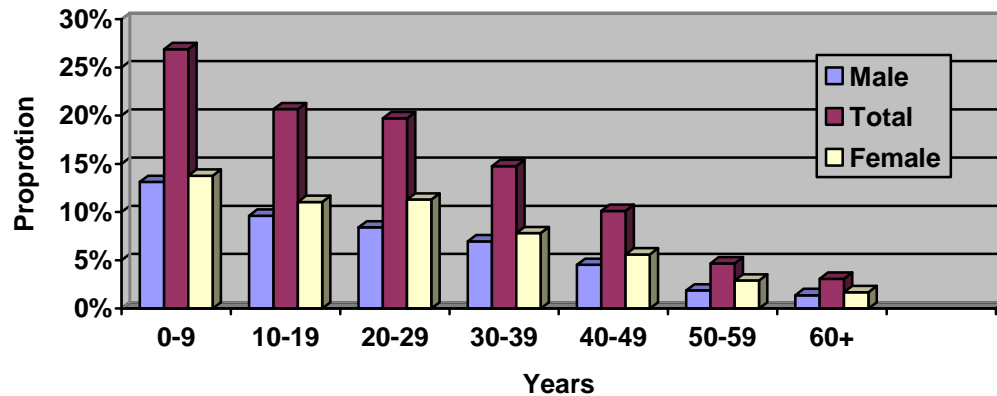


Table 13.0

**PROPORTION OF ABORIGINAL YOUTH
SASKATOON AND REGINA CMAs
1996 AND 2001**

	Saskatoon		Regina	
	1996	2001	1996	2001
Total Ab. Pop.	16,160	20,275	13,605	15,685
Proportion >20 yrs age	49.8%	47.9%	50.4%	48.7%

Table 14.0

**AGE STRUCTURE OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION
SASKATOON
2001**

	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	19,020	100.00%	8,730	45.90%	10,290	54.10%
0-9 yrs	5,115	26.89%	2,495	13.12%	2,620	13.77%
10-19 yrs	3,930	20.66%	1,830	9.62%	2,100	11.04%
20-29 yrs	3,750	19.72%	1,600	8.41%	2,150	11.30%
30-39 yrs	2,810	14.77%	1,325	6.97%	1,485	7.81%
40-49 yrs	1,925	10.12%	860	4.52%	1,065	5.60%
50-59 yrs	905	4.76%	355	1.87%	550	2.89%
60+	585	3.08%	265	1.39%	320	1.68%

Educational Attainment of Aboriginal Residents

The cities provide more opportunities for education, and urban Aboriginal youth are becoming better educated. Examination of data on the highest level of education attained in the adult Aboriginal population aged 25 years and over in 2001 reveals that in both Saskatoon and Regina significantly higher levels are attained in the urban context than in the province as a whole (Table 15); moreover this is especially the case for Saskatoon for the highest levels (university).

Several thousand Aboriginal students are enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan, First Nations University of Canada (FNUC), Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), and Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) in Saskatoon. At the University of Saskatchewan, enrolment of students voluntarily self-identifying as Aboriginal has been increasing rapidly since the advent of the 1990s and today is approaching two thousand (approximately 10% of the total student body). Despite a temporary decline in Aboriginal enrolment at SIAST Kelsey Campus during the late nineties, during the past several years' enrolment has more than doubled to about 650. Enrolment at SIIT has fluctuated recently, but is currently the highest ever. So, too, is enrolment at FNUC. Metis enrolment at DTI has fluctuated but has increased in the past year.

The education profile of the Aboriginal population has been changing markedly in recent years, especially in urban areas, notably Saskatoon (Graph 4). By 2001, a quarter of the Aboriginal population aged 15 and over had at least some university education, and almost 9% held a completed degree (Table 16).

It is interesting to note which subjects at the postsecondary level seem to attract male versus female students. Both male and female students are found in equal proportions in the social sciences; whereas males far out number females in technologies and trades and to a lesser extent in the humanities, while females far outnumber males in education, fine arts, commerce, and health (including nursing). Aboriginal enrolment in engineering and physical sciences has been sparse (Table 17).

Examination of data on current school attendance for the Aboriginal population aged 15-24 in Saskatoon reveals that almost equal numbers are currently attending (55.3%) as not attending (44.7%). Almost all attendance is on a full-time basis; part-time attendance is minimal (Table 18).

While the increasing urban Aboriginal presence is felt at virtually every level of education, it is especially dominant at the elementary level. In fact, several inner-city schools in Saskatoon and Regina now have a majority of pupils who are Aboriginal. In just a sample four-year transitional period, 1994-1998, increasing Aboriginal enrolments were substantially contributing to rapid increases in the number of pupils in several schools in neighbourhoods with increasing Aboriginal populations (Table 19). Moreover, since 1998 Aboriginal enrolments have continued to increase; St. Mary's currently

estimates its enrolment (235) to be virtually entirely Aboriginal (99%). This expanding Aboriginal presence has served to encourage schools to adopt more of a culturally sensitive curriculum. There are also high schools pursuing an Aboriginal curriculum, particularly Joe Duquette School. It is now possible for an Aboriginal student in Saskatoon to proceed all the way from elementary school through high school to university or technical school within a primarily Aboriginal setting.

Despite the marked improvement in educational levels attained by the Aboriginal population of Saskatoon, there remain gaps which must be closed with the non-Aboriginal population. Depending on various estimates, between approximately one-third to almost half of Aboriginal adults in this city have less than a grade 12 education; moreover certain areas of postsecondary education have hardly been penetrated by Aboriginal people. Education is absolutely crucial for more occupational diversity, which in turn is vital for improved standard of living and housing affordability.

Table 15.0

**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINMENT
ABORIGINAL POPULATION AGED 25 YEARS AND OLDER
2001**

	Saskatoon	Regina	Saskatchewan
Total Pop.	8,590	6,665	54,695
Less than high school grad.	32.8%	35.1%	44.9%
High school grad.	8.3%	8.3%	7.2%
Some post-secondary	17.2%	20.1%	13.9%
University/trade/college certificate	29.5%	27.5%	27.8%
University degree	12.2%	9.0%	6.1%

Table 16.0

**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER
1996 AND 2001**

	1996	%	2001	%
Total	9,200	100%	11,810	100%
Less than grade 9	1,270	13.80%	1,035	8.76%
Grade 9 – 13	3,770	40.98%	5,080	43.01%
Grade 9 -13 w/o graduation certificate	3,125	33.97%	4,010	33.95%
Grade 9 - 13 w/ graduation certificate	640	6.96%	1,075	9.10%
Trades certificate/diploma	225	2.45%	260	2.20%
Other non-university only	1,800	19.57%	2,510	21.25%
Other non-university w/o certificate/diploma	775	8.42%	870	7.37%
Other non-university w/ certificate/diploma	1,025	11.14%	1,635	13.84%
University	2,135	23.21%	2,920	24.72%
University w/o degree	1,450	15.76%	1,910	16.17%
University w/o degree, w/o certificate/diploma	905	9.84%	1,235	10.46%
University w/o degree, w/ certificate/diploma	545	5.92%	675	5.72%
University w/ bachelor's degree or higher	685	7.45%	1,010	8.55%

Graph 4.0

**CHANGES IN HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER
1996 AND 2001**

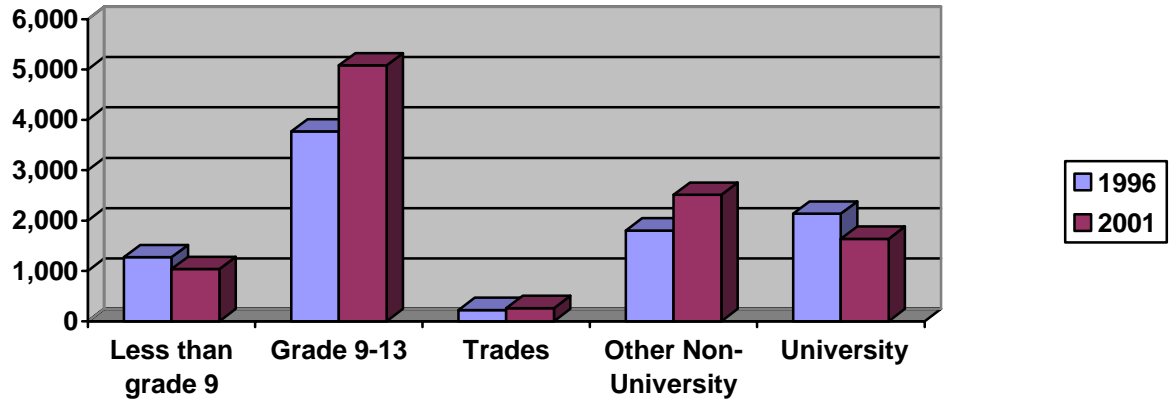


Table 17.0

**POSTSECONDARY QUALIFICATIONS OF
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION
BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY AND BY GENDER
2001**

	Male	%	Female	%
Total with Post-Secondary Education	1,515	100%	2,070	100%
Educational/recreational/ counseling services	115	7.59%	395	19.08%
Fine and applied arts	75	4.95%	170	8.21%
Humanities	95	6.27%	50	2.42%
Social sciences	270	17.82%	370	17.87%
Commerce/management/ business administration	180	11.88%	575	27.78%
Agricultural/biological/ nutritional/food sciences	85	5.61%	85	4.11%
Engineering	15	0.99%	10	0.48%
Applied science/ technologies/trades	615	40.59%	100	4.83%
Health professions	40	2.64%	290	14.01%
Mathematics/computer/ physical sciences	10	0.66%	10	0.48%
No specialization	10	0.66%	15	0.72%

Table 18.0

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATES OF
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION
AGED 15-24 YEARS
1996 AND 2001**

	1996	%	2001	%
Total Ab. Pop. Aged 15-24	2,965	100.00%	3,755	100.00%
Not Attending School	1,305	44.00%	1,680	44.70%
Attending School	1,660	56.00%	2,075	55.30%
Full-time	1,425	48.10%	1,870	50%
Part-time	235	7.90%	205	5.60%

Table 19.0

**INCREASE IN ABORIGINAL ENROLMENT
SELECTED SASKATOON SCHOOLS
1994 AND 1998**

	Total		Aboriginal		Aboriginal %	
	1994	1998	1994	1998	1994	1998
Pleasant Hill	151	236	128	207	84.8%	87.7%
St. Mary's	214	249			75%+*	80-90%*
Princess Alexander	158	264	121	201	76.6%	76.1%
King George	192	290	79	157	41.1%	52.1%
Confederation Park	501	529	126	188	25.1%	35.5%
W.P. Bate	246	371	62	122	25.2%	32.9%
Caswell Hill	306	420	66	105	21.6%	25.0%

* est.

Sources: City of Saskatoon Neighbourhood Profiles, 6th ed., Dec. 1998; and City of Saskatoon Neighbourhood Profiles of Aboriginal Population, 2nd ed., Feb. 1999; plus data provided by schools.

Employment

(a) Occupation

Given the disproportionately large numbers of Aboriginal residents in the youngest age cohorts, the question must be how these young people will be entering the future labour force. Clearly, with urbanization Aboriginal people have been diversifying within the labour force and earning higher incomes. Now almost one third of urban Aboriginals within the experienced labour force are in sales and service occupations; they are becoming relatively prominent in trades, business and finance, and education occupations; but fewer (although increasing numbers) are found in management, health, and science occupations. There are gender differences in types of occupations pursued. In Saskatoon in 2001, the largest numbers of Aboriginal males were concentrated in the trade/transport/equipment operator category (15.7%), followed by sales and service (10.4%), with modest numbers in processing/manufacturing/utilities (4.7%), management (3.1%), business/finance/administration (3.1%), and education/government service/religious occupations/social science (2.3%); relatively few (less than 2%) were found in other sectors. Whereas females were found particularly in sales/service (18.3%), business/finance/administration (9.9%), and education etc. (7.6%), with some in health care (2.9%), and fewer (less than 2%) in other occupations (Table 20).

A more detailed breakdown for total Aboriginal participation in the labour force is provided in data on labour force by industry, indicating that regardless of gender, the largest numbers were working in accommodation/food services (11.3%), public administration (8.9%), healthcare/social assistance (8.6%), education (8.3%), construction (8.1%), manufacturing (7.2%), and retail trade (7.2%)(Table 21). However, the accuracy of these Statistics Canada data for 2001 could be questioned; for example, no Aboriginal management of companies or enterprises were noted, when examples may increasingly be found in Saskatoon.

In our surveys, many residents commented on relative proximity of their home to work and whether this was an issue. So it is instructive to provide specific data on mode of transportation to/from work. A high proportion of both males and females (63.1% in 2001) drive to work themselves or are driven (10.5%); moreover more walk to work (11.4%) than take public transit (8.5%)(Table 22). This finding for minimal use of public transit seems surprising; we can note that more female workers than male use public transit. Perhaps one could conclude, however, that if public transit was more convenient and accessible in a city where winters can be extremely harsh, then more use would be made of this mode.

(b) Income

Analyzing income levels of Aboriginal residents can be very complicated. The average income for the Aboriginal labour force in 2001 in the Saskatoon CMA was \$20,267, slightly lower than Regina yet higher than for the province as a whole. However, this

average increased substantially to \$30,949 if the labour force member had worked full time for at least one year (Table 23).

If data are examined for the Aboriginal labour force within the City of Saskatoon in 2000 (Table 24 and Graph 5), several important points stand out: Males had higher average income than females: \$19,351 compared to \$15,663, and higher median income: \$13,331 compared to \$12,011. There were more females in the labour force than males (remember, though, that there is a disproportion of females in the Aboriginal population of the city). The greatest numbers of income-earners were concentrated in the relatively lower income levels. 10% of male workers earned less than \$1000 a year, compared to 5.7% of females. Another 13.7% of males earned between \$1000 and \$5000, compared to 15% of females. Two-thirds (65.9%) of potential male members of the labour force (aged 15 years and over) and three-quarters (74.9%) of female earned less than \$20,000 a year. However, it should be taken into consideration that the substantial proportion of Aboriginal residents in their late teens and twenties who may be students, not be working at all or not working full-time could skew these findings. While close to 10% of non-Aboriginal earners attain an income level of \$100,000, less than 1% of Aboriginal earners do, according to City of Saskatoon data.

Analyzing data on total labour force as well as gender differences in average employment income, comparing Aboriginal with non-Aboriginal earners in 1995 and 2001 (Table 25 and Graph 6), we note that income has been increasing for both male and female Aboriginal earners, with males consistently higher than females; however Aboriginal income still lagged well behind non-Aboriginal, averaging \$19,887 for all Aboriginal earners in 2001 compared to \$28,570 for non-Aboriginal. However, it could also be noted that male Aboriginals lagged further behind non-Aboriginal males (\$22,791 compared to \$35,280) than is the case for their female counterparts (\$17,064 compared to \$21,670). In the Aboriginal workforce, while earning less than male workers, female workers now tend to be better educated, are more present in the labour force, and may be in the process of occupying better positions.

There is wide variation in average family income in neighbourhoods having the largest Aboriginal concentrations. In 1996 in Saskatoon, for example, average income for Aboriginal families (\$20,800 rounded) was less than half that of Saskatoon families in general (\$48,900), and ranged from a low of approximately \$7,000 in one neighbourhood to a high of \$39,900 in another. In the neighbourhood having the highest Aboriginal proportion (Pleasant Hill) average family income was \$13,500. The more recent data (2001 census) reveal that of twenty neighbourhoods having at least 10% Aboriginal population, in only four (Fairhaven, Pacific Heights, Holiday Park, Parkridge) were average *personal* (not family) incomes above the Aboriginal average for the city as a whole; and in only a single neighbourhood (Holiday Park) above the city average for non-Aboriginal population. But in the two neighbourhoods where close to half the population is Aboriginal (Pleasant Hill and Riversdale), average income for Aboriginals was only a bit above half of the average Aboriginal income for the city, and in one neighbourhood (Airport Industrial) less than one-fifth of the city average for Aboriginals (Table 26).

A lessening proportion of total income for the Saskatoon Aboriginal population consists of government transfer payments: this has decreased from a third of all income (33.5%) in 1996 to a quarter (25.4%) in 2001 (Table 27). However, this dependency still remains proportionately larger than for the non-Aboriginal population.

(c) Labour Force Participation

The unemployment rate, as well as dependence upon government transfer payments, while slightly better for urban Aboriginals, are still excessive compared to the provincial rates for non-Aboriginal population: 23.0% unemployment for the total Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan, and respectively 22.3% and 20.7% in Saskatoon and Regina CMAs (refer to Table 23), whereas the unemployment rate for the non-Aboriginal population was 4.8%.

In data on labour force activity by total population and gender for the Aboriginal population aged fifteen and over in the City of Saskatoon in 2001, we can note that although there were more Aboriginal females than males in the potential labour force (6,625 compared to 5,190), far more females than males were not participants in the actual labour force (3,190 compared to 1,825); males had a higher participation rate (64.8% compared to 51.8%). These data record an unemployment rate of 23.2% for this portion of the Aboriginal population, with a higher unemployment level among males (24.5%) than females (21.8%). Similar conclusions may be drawn from data on Aboriginal population aged 15-24, except that the unemployment rates are higher (27.5% for these age cohorts) and slightly more females than males are unemployed (27.8% compared to 27.2%)(Table 28).

Examination of the effect which having young children may have on labour force participation reveals that unemployment substantially increases, and participation in the labour force decreases, particularly among women with young children. The unemployment rate for Aboriginal women with children only under six was 35.1% in 2001, and with children both under and over six was 28.2% (Table 29).

Table 20.0

**SASKATOON ABORIGINAL LABOUR FORCE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER,
BY OCCUPATION AND GENDER
2001**

	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	6,800	100.00%	3,365	49.49%	3,435	50.51%
Management	335	4.93%	210	3.09%	125	1.84%
Business/finance/administration	880	12.94%	210	3.09%	670	9.85%
Natural/applied sciences	155	2.28%	130	1.91%	25	0.37%
Health	230	3.38%	35	0.51%	195	2.87%
Social science/education/ government service/religion	705	10.37%	190	2.79%	515	7.57%
Art/culture/recreation/sport	190	2.79%	85	1.25%	105	1.54%
Sales/service	1,950	28.68%	705	10.37%	1,245	18.31%
Trades/transport/ equipment operators	1,120	16.47%	1,065	15.66%	55	0.81%
Primary industry	205	3.01%	125	1.84%	80	1.18%
Processing/manufacturing/utilities	395	5.81%	320	4.71%	75	1.10%
Occupation - Not applicable	635	9.34%	290	4.26%	345	5.07%

Table 21.0

**ABORIGINAL LABOUR FORCE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY INDUSTRY
SASKATOON
2001**

	Number	%
Total	6,800	100.00%
Agriculture/forestry/ fishing/hunting	80	1.18%
Mining/oil/gas extraction	165	2.43%
Utilities	40	0.59%
Construction	550	8.09%
Manufacturing	490	7.21%
Wholesale trade	195	2.87%
Retail trade	490	7.21%
Transportation/ warehousing	200	2.94%
Information/cultural	170	2.50%
Finance/insurance	110	1.62%
Real estate/rental/leasing	125	1.84%
Professional/scientific/ technical services	135	1.99%
Management of companies/ enterprises	0	0.00%
Administrative/support/waste management/remediation	305	4.49%
Educational services	565	8.31%
Healthcare/ social assistance	585	8.60%
Arts/entertainment/ recreation	260	3.82%
Accommodation/ food services	770	11.32%
Other services (except public admin.)	315	4.63%
Public administration	605	8.90%
Industry - Not applicable	635	9.34%

Table 22.0

**MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM WORK
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION, BY GENDER
2001**

	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	5,000	100.0%	2,445	48.9%	2,555	51.1%
Car/truck/ van(as driver)	3,155	63.1%	1,580	31.6%	1,575	31.5%
Car/truck/ van (as passenger)	525	10.5%	250	5.0%	275	5.5%
Public transit	425	8.5%	165	3.3%	260	5.2%
Walked	570	11.4%	240	4.8%	330	6.6%
Bicycle	165	3.3%	130	2.6%	35	0.7%
Motorcycle	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Taxicab	20	0.4%	0	0.0%	20	0.4%
Other method	140	2.8%	80	1.6%	60	1.2%

Table 23.0

**SELECTED EMPLOYMENT DATA
ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION
2001**

	Saskatoon CMA	Regina CMA	Saskatchewan
Average income	\$20,267	\$20,469	\$18,693
Average income if full time for 1 yr	\$30,949	\$32,661	\$30,140
Participation rate in labour force	58.4%	58.4%	54.4%
Population in labour force	6655	5055	39100
Employment rate	45.4%	46.3%	42.0%
Unemployment rate	22.3%	20.7%	23.0%
% income in gov't transfer payments	24.4%	25.2%	27.7%

Table 24.0

**TOTAL INCOME LEVELS
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER
2000**

	MALE	%	FEMALE	%
Total	5,190	100%	6,625	100%
No Income	495	9.54%	605	9.13%
Under \$1000	520	10.02%	375	5.66%
\$1000-\$4999	710	13.68%	995	15.02%
\$5000-\$9999	700	13.49%	1,145	17.28%
\$10000-\$14999	605	11.65%	1,090	16.45%
\$15000-\$19999	390	7.51%	750	11.32%
\$20000-\$24999	365	7.03%	495	7.47%
\$25000-\$29999	280	5.39%	275	4.15%
\$30000-\$34999	255	4.91%	280	4.23%
\$35000-\$39999	120	2.31%	200	3.02%
\$40000-\$44999	225	4.33%	195	2.94%
\$45000-\$49999	120	2.31%	65	0.98%
\$50000+	405	7.80%	155	2.34%
Average Income	\$19,351		\$15,663	
Median Income	\$13,331		\$12,011	

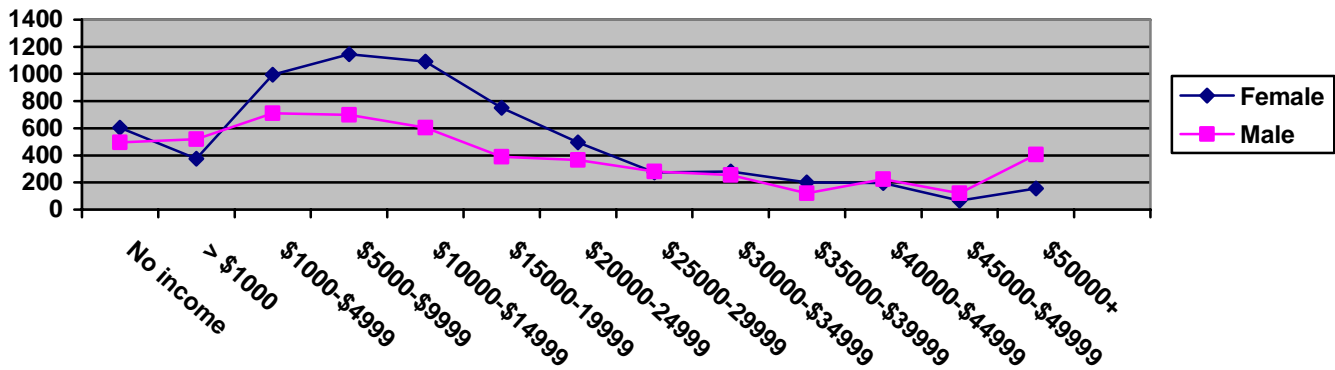
Table 25.0

**AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT INCOME
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL POPULATION
AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY GENDER
1995 AND 2001**

	Average Income		Full year/ Full time		Part year/ Part time	
	1995	2001	1995	2001	1995	2001
Total Aboriginal Population	\$16,585	\$19,887	\$28,644	\$30,682	\$10,457	\$12,243
Male	\$19,465	\$22,791	\$30,139	\$32,417	\$13,083	\$14,067
Female	\$13,705	\$17,064	\$27,149	\$28,521	\$7,831	\$10,724
Total Non-Aboriginal Population	\$24,732	\$28,570	\$34,592	\$39,888	\$13,902	\$16,473
Male	\$31,109	\$35,280	\$41,154	\$46,184	\$16,768	\$19,888
Female	\$18,356	\$21,670	\$28,031	\$31,379	\$11,036	\$13,879

Graph 5.0

**TOTAL INCOME LEVELS
ABORIGINAL FEMALES AND MALES AGED 15 AND OVER
SASKATOON, 2000**



Graph 6.0

**AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT INCOME
SASKATOON RESIDENTS 15 YEARS AND OVER
ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL
1995-2001**

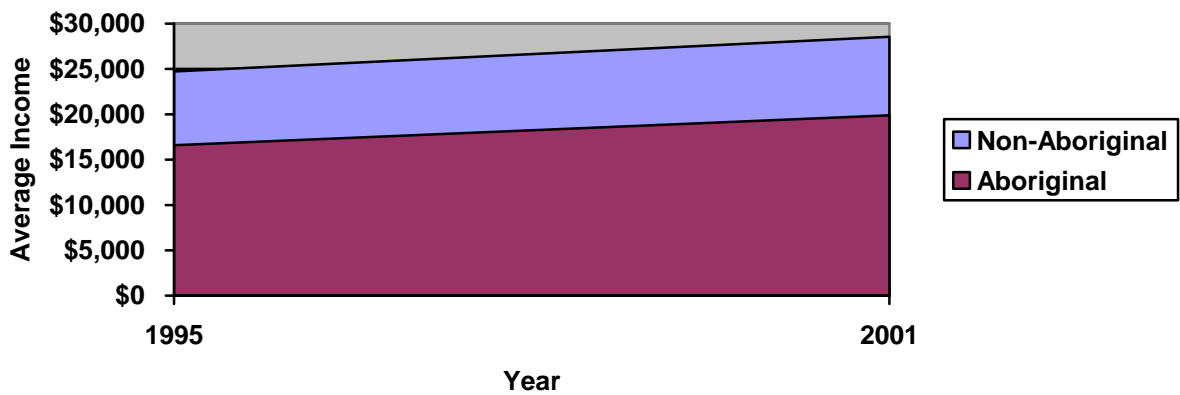


Table 26.0

**AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT INCOME
ABORIGINAL EARNERS
SASKATOON, SELECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS*
2001**

	% Aboriginal	Average Income
City Non-Ab. Total		\$28,570
City Ab. Total		\$19,887
Pleasant Hill	48.4%	\$11,337
Riversdale	43.5%	\$11,874
Confederation SC	37.4%	\$18,139
West Industrial	34.1%	-----
Meadowgreen	28.0%	\$13,147
Airport Industrial	26.7%	\$3,944
Westmount	22.8%	\$15,136
Caswell Hill	21.5%	\$16,737
Massey Place	20.7%	\$16,981
Kelsey-Woodlawn	19.8%	\$15,007
Mayfair	19.5%	\$10,793
King George	18.2%	\$13,468
Fairhaven	17.7%	\$23,228
Confederation Park	17.4%	\$18,134
Mount Royal	15.9%	\$18,318
Pacific Heights	15.1%	\$26,605
Westview	15.1%	\$17,859
Exhibition	10.7%	\$19,852
Holiday Park	10.4%	\$28,581
Parkridge	10.1%	\$24,620

*Neighborhoods with Aboriginal proportion 10% or higher

Table 27.0

**COMPOSITION OF TOTAL INCOME
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION
1996 AND 2001**

	1996	2001
Total Income	100%	100%
Employment	62.6%	69.7%
Govt. Transfer	33.5%	25.4%
Other	3.8%	4.9%

Table 28.0

**SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION
LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY, BY GENDER
2001**

	AGED 15 +			AGED 15-24		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	11810	5190	6625	3755	1655	2105
In Labour Force	6800	3365	3435	1690	790	900
Employed	5225	2540	2680	1220	575	645
Unemployed	1580	825	750	465	215	250
Not in Labour Force	5005	1825	3190	2065	860	1205
Participation Rate	57.6	64.8	51.8	45	47.7	42.8
Employment Rate	44.3	48.9	40.5	32.5	34.7	30.6
Unemployment Rate	23.2	24.5	21.8	27.5	27.2	27.8

Table 29.0

**SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION
AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS
BY PRESENCE OF CHILDREN AND LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY
2001**

	Participation Rate		Employment Rate		Unemployment Rate	
	TOTAL	FEMALES	TOTAL	FEMALES	TOTAL	FEMALES
Private Household (Total)	57.6%	51.9%	44.3%	40.5%	23.1%	21.9%
Households with no children	55.3%	50.9%	43.2%	42.0%	21.9%	17.5%
Households with children	60.4%	52.7%	45.6%	39.4%	24.6%	25.2%
Households with children under 6 only	52.2%	41.0%	37.3%	26.6%	28.5%	35.1%
Households with children over and under 6	56.3%	45.9%	40.8%	32.9%	26.8%	28.2%
Households with children over 6 only	66.4%	61.4%	51.8%	48.6%	22.2%	21.4%

Poverty

Saskatoon and Regina continue to have the highest proportions of Aboriginal population living below the statistical poverty line (the Low Income Cut-off) of any CMAs in Canada: in 1996 in Saskatoon 64% (almost two-thirds) of the Aboriginal population was below the LICO, compared to only 18% of the non-Aboriginal population; in Regina 63% of Aboriginals were below the LICO, compared to 14% of non-Aboriginals. The most recent data show that in 2001 in Saskatoon and Regina respectively 52% and 53% (more than half) of the Aboriginal residents were below the LICO, compared to about 15% of the non-Aboriginal population.

The Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) has been defined since 1992 as the average (34.7% of their total income) which Canadian families spent at that time on basic necessities (food, shelter, and clothing), plus 20%, with LICOs adjusted to income levels differentiated by family size and degree of urbanization, updated annually by changes in the consumer price index.

Despite the substantial reduction of this poverty rate among Aboriginal residents in these two Saskatchewan cities, there has been a concomitant reduction in all western CMAs: Winnipeg from 61% to 49%, Edmonton from 54% to 38%, Vancouver from 49% to 40%. However, these two Saskatchewan cities still retain the highest poverty levels. Aboriginal unemployment rates and the LICO rate in all census tracts having the highest Aboriginal concentrations far exceeded non-Aboriginal rates. Moreover, average income for Aboriginal identity population has lagged far behind the non-Aboriginal populations in Saskatoon and Regina (by approximately \$9,000 and \$12,000 respectively). On the whole, then, despite indications of increasing education, occupational diversity, and income among urban Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan, this population remains disproportionately poor. Despite gradual dispersion of the Aboriginal population, the highest proportions of Aboriginal residents are still found in the poorest neighbourhoods; moreover these concentrations are growing.

Wide discrepancies persist in median incomes for Saskatoon neighbourhoods, with differences between the most affluent and poorest ranging as much as sixfold. Furthermore, considering that in some affluent neighbourhoods few or even no Aboriginal families reside, the gulf between these well-to-do non-Aboriginal families and Aboriginal families living in the poorest neighbourhoods is even greater. Poverty in lowest income neighbourhoods impacts upon residents' quality of life, condition of housing, security, and self-respect.

Housing and Living Conditions

Housing conditions for urban Aboriginal population are improving. Much research and many policy recommendations have been reflected in increasing collaboration between Aboriginal organizations such as the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) and Central Urban Metis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and universities, civic government (particularly City Planning), housing consortia, and community organizations, all recently linked in the comprehensive Bridges and Foundations Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing in Saskatoon. Among urban Aboriginal population home ownership is increasing and overcrowding lessening; however many families are still struggling with relatively limited incomes and poor housing conditions, moreover demand for affordable housing far exceeds availability. In recent years Saskatoon has had one of the lowest (at times the very lowest) vacancy rates in Canadian cities. Moreover disproportions of Aboriginal residents are renters rather than home owners: according to CMHC, in 2001 Regina and Saskatoon had the highest proportion of Aboriginal renter households among Canadian cities, respectively 18.0% and 17.2%. Of 8,105 Aboriginal households in Saskatoon that year, approximately two-thirds were rented and one third were owned (Table 30). On average, for Aboriginal residents in Saskatoon lower incomes have meant that “affordability” of better or even adequate housing is out of reach; median Aboriginal household income in Saskatoon in 2001 was \$26,700. Corresponding barriers to finding suitable housing have been higher than average family size, lack of capital in moving into the city from a reserve or northern community, discrimination by landlords, lack of familiarity with financing assistance and mortgaging procedures, reduction of government assistance, difficulty in locating and maintaining regular employment, transiency and homelessness (both relative and absolute), non-familiarity with property maintenance.....the list could go on.

In 2001, 13.8% of all households in Saskatoon were found to be in “core housing need”, and these households typically spent half of total income on shelter; this was the second highest ratio for any CMA in Canada. 29.4% of rental households and 5.9% of owners were in “core housing need”. But among Aboriginal households, 44.5% of renters were in core housing need, as were 45% of Metis households and 78% of lone-parent households. In 2001 4,690 dwellings, representing 6% of all households in Saskatoon, were classified as needing major repair. Among Aboriginal households, though, the proportion needing major repair climbed to 11.9%, and another 34.9% needed minor repair (Table 30). According to Statistics Canada only 3.8% of Aboriginal households had more than one person per room; however according to the Survey of Aboriginal Peoples 18% of all Aboriginal households in this city are overcrowded. The greatest decreases in property values have been precisely in west side neighbourhoods both with the older housing stock and the highest concentrations of Aboriginal population.

Concerning the composition of Aboriginal households in Saskatoon, in 2001 a high proportion (83.7%) of household members consisted of family members. The remainder (16.3%) consisted of “non-family persons”, including people living with relatives, living with non-relatives, or simply living alone. Of just 375 Aboriginal residents aged 65 and

over, a bit more than half (57.3%) were domiciled with their families, 32.0% were living alone, 9.3% with relatives, and 2.6% with non-relatives (Table 31).

Table 30.0

**HOUSING CONDITIONS
ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION
2001**

	Saskatoon		Regina		Saskatchewan	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Number of dwellings	8,105		6,425		43,650	
Ownership	2,730	33.7%	2,055	32.0%	15,300	35.1%
Minor repairs needed	2,830	34.9%	2,020	31.4%	15,050	34.5%
Major repairs needed	965	11.9%	1,040	16.2%	9,780	22.4%
More than 1 person/ room		3.8%		3.0%		8.7%
Median household income	\$26,700		\$26,531		\$27,166	

Table 31.0

**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION
SASKATOON ABORIGINAL POPULATION
2001**

	Total Ab. Population	Proportion	Population Ages 65+	Proportion
Residents in private households	18,960	100%	375	100%
Family members	15,865	83.68%	215	57.33%
Non-family persons	3,090	16.30%	165	44.00%
Living with family	815	4.29%	35	9.33%
Living with non-family	1,065	5.61%	10	2.66%
Living alone	1,210	6.38%	120	32.00%

Crime and Security

There is contemporary concern among urban Aboriginal residents over increasing crime rates in poorer inner-city neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods, which have the highest Aboriginal concentrations, have the most prevalence of Aboriginal youth gangs, and of violent sexual assaults, armed robbery, both residential and business break and entry, vehicle theft, petty theft, and prostitution.

Examining police data for 1993 and 2003 (Table 32), in the city as a whole we can note extremely high increases in reported criminal harassment, armed robbery, and break and entry; and substantial increases in general robbery, arson, drug/substance abuse, and vehicle theft in these ten years. But how do these city-wide trends compare with inner-city neighbourhoods having the highest concentrations of Aboriginal residents? In a single year (2003), in Pleasant Hill, a neighbourhood where approximately half the population is Aboriginal, the most reported crimes were respectively assaults (477 a year), public mischief (472), theft under \$5000 (449), break and enter (431), residential thievery (324), and vehicle theft (182), robberies (72), armed robberies (61), prostitution (60), drug/substance abuse (60), business robberies (59), sexual assaults (36), arson (23), and stalking (14). In neighbouring Riversdale that year crimes reported were, in order of frequency, theft under \$5000 (236), assaults (185), public mischief (161), break and entry (159), residential robberies (98), vehicle theft (74), general robbery (49), business B+E (48), armed robberies (35), prostitution (11), and sexual assaults (10). In quieter King George neighbourhood, reported crimes were less frequent, but that year there was a significant problem with break and entry (142), theft under \$5000 (138), residential robberies (111), public mischief (80), and assaults (71). Caswell Hill had the most problems with minor theft (376), mischief (288), break and entry (269), residential robberies (196), and assaults (108); Westmount with minor theft (181), break and entry (139), residential robberies (104), and assaults (82). What seems troublesome to residents of these and other inner-city neighbourhoods is that almost all of these categories of crimes have been increasing, some of them very rapidly, especially vehicle thefts.

Clearly more effective policing, together with improved living conditions, seem essential in neighbourhoods where large and increasing numbers of Aboriginal residents reside. Many of these residents explained to us that they do not really wish to live in another neighbourhood, however they are very concerned about what they perceive to be decreasing security for themselves and particularly their young children in these areas. It goes without saying that a public impression of increasing criminal activity in certain neighbourhoods in Saskatoon may negatively affect improvements in housing, not to mention local support for the community.

Table 32.0

**CRIME RATES IN INNER-CITY NEIGHBOURHOODS
SASKATOON
1993 AND 2003**

	SASKATOON			PLEASANT HILL			KING GEORGE		
	1993	2003	% CHANGE	1993	2003	% CHANGE	1993	2003	% CHANGE
VIOLATIONS CAUSING DEATH	6	8	33.30%	3	3	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
ATTEMPTED MURDER	17	6	-64.70%	6	2	-66.70%	1	0	-100.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULTS	369	316	-14.40%	39	36	-7.70%	6	7	16.70%
ASSAULTS	1850	2723	47.20%	241	477	97.90%	41	71	73.20%
ROBBERY	106	325	206.60%	18	72	300.00%	2	7	250.00%
ARMED ROBBERY	67	410	511.90%	14	61	335.70%	1	7	600.00%
CRIMINAL HARASSMENT (STALKING)	4	221	5425.00%	0	14	1400%	0	2	200.00%
ARSON	57	158	177.20%	8	23	187.50%	1	6	500.00%
B&E - RESIDENTIAL	3039	3080	1.30%	322	324	0.60%	91	111	22.00%
B&E - BUSINESS	651	965	48.20%	48	59	22.90%	10	14	40.00%
B&E - OTHER	143	664	364.30%	14	48	242.90%	2	17	750.00%
TOTAL B&E	3833	4709	22.90%	384	431	12.20%	103	142	37.90%
VEHICLE THEFT	777	1778	128.80%	14	182	1200%	5	59	1080.00%
THEFT OVER	3720	82	-97.80%	2	0	-100.00%	10	0	-100.00%
THEFT UNDER	13483	9206	-31.70%	292	449	53.80%	39	138	253.80%
MISCHIEF	3088	5157	67.00%	248	472	90.30%	60	80	33.30%
PROSTITUTION	132	113	-14.40%	69	60	-13.00%	1	2	100.00%
CONTROLLED DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES	290	677	133.40%	26	60	130.80%	3	15	400.00%

	RIVERSDALE			CASWELL HILL			WESTMOUNT		
	1993	2003	% CHANGE	1993	2003	% CHANGE	1993	2003	% CHANGE
VIOLATIONS									
CAUSING DEATH	1	1	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	1	100.00%
ATTEMPTED MURDER	4	2	-50.00%	1	0	-100.00%	0	0	0.00%
SEXUAL ASSAULTS	13	10	-23.10%	7	8	14.30%	6	4	-33.30%
ASSAULTS	122	185	51.60%	72	108	50.00%	50	82	64.00%
ROBBERY	4	49	1125.00%	6	27	350.00%	1	12	1100.00%
ARMED ROBBERY	4	35	775.00%	4	12	200.00%	2	18	800.00%
CRIMINAL HARASSMENT (STALKING)	0	7	700.00%	0	12	1200.00%	0	6	600.00%
ARSON	4	7	75.00%	6	3	-50.00%	0	3	300.00%
B&E – RESIDENTIAL	57	98	71.90%	138	196	42.00%	106	104	-1.90%
B&E – BUSINESS	12	48	300.00%	19	30	57.90%	8	15	87.50%
B&E – OTHER	9	13	44.40%	11	43	290.90%	3	20	566.70%
TOTAL B&E	78	159	103.80%	168	269	60.10%	117	139	18.80%
VEHICLE THEFT	7	74	957.10%	10	69	590.00%	37	65	75.70%
THEFT OVER	16	2	-87.50%	36	1	-97.20%	11	0	-100.00%
THEFT UNDER	162	236	45.70%	152	376	147.40%	102	181	77.50%
MISCHIEF	102	161	57.80%	106	288	171.70%	58	100	72.40%
PROSTITUTION	33	11	-66.70%	0	3	300.00%	2	2	0.00%
CONTROLLED DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES	45	27	-40.00%	24	19	-20.80%	16	13	-18.80%

NOTES:

- the information provided does not include all criminal activity in a neighborhood, only a selection of categories.
- information is from January 1st to December 31st of the respective year.
- the coding of B&E changed in 1999. As a result, residential and other type from 1993 cannot be compared to 2003. Only the business and total break in from these years can be compared.
- since info. Is collected by quadrant rather than neighborhood, data will not match exactly to neighborhood boundaries
- in 1993, Theft Over referred to over \$1000; in 2003 Theft Over referred to over \$5000.

Source: Saskatoon Police Services

Aboriginal Culture in the City

Aboriginal businesses and institutions (such as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, and Metis Nation of Saskatchewan administrative offices, the First Nations Bank, White Buffalo Youth Lodge, Career Village in Saskatoon, and institutions of higher education in Regina and Saskatoon) are becoming a common part of the urban scene in Saskatchewan, some located on urban reserves. These not only serve the needs of the urban Aboriginal population, but they also serve to reinforce First Nations and Metis identities within an urban context, a pressing need.

Attrition of Aboriginal language use has tended to be most pronounced in urban areas: of 20,275 Saskatoon CMA residents who identified themselves as Aboriginal in 2001, 11.8% recognized an Aboriginal language that they first learned and still understood, compared to only 4.4% of the 15,685 Aboriginal residents in Regina and 25.5% of the 130,190 Aboriginals in Saskatchewan; 8.2% in Saskatoon still spoke that language at home, compared to only 2.0% in Regina and 22.4% in the province; and 15.5% in Saskatoon claimed at least some knowledge of an Aboriginal language, compared to 7.2% in Regina and 29.4% in Saskatchewan (Table 33).

The vast majority of Aboriginal residents of Saskatoon now recognize English rather than a Native language as their mother tongue, primary language in the home, and official language (Table 34). Cree/Nehiyawak is quite widely spoken by at least 2420 residents as their non-official language, and 1320 residents as their mother tongue, yet only 215 as their primary home language. Ojibwa/Saulteaux/Anishinabeg, too, is viewed by 390 residents as their non-official language, 350 as their mother tongue, yet just 20 as their home language. Other Aboriginal languages spoken in Saskatoon in modest numbers include Mechif, Sioux/Dakota, Athapaskan/Dene, Assiniboine/Nakota, Micmac, and Inuktitut.

The religious affiliations of Aboriginal residents are extremely diverse. By far the largest number are Roman Catholic (37.8%). All together, another 21.9% claim a wide variety of Protestant affiliations, especially Anglican, and to a lesser extent United Church, Pentecostal, Mormon, Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Mennonite. It is interesting to find that over 900 residents claim traditional Aboriginal spirituality or “pagan” religion. But 29.6% of Aboriginal residents would not claim any religious affiliation, and a few claim specific non-Christian affiliations (Table 35). Several denominations have established churches or missions which serve entirely or largely Aboriginal congregations; these may enhance maintenance of Aboriginal cultural identification in the urban environment.

Table 33.0

**ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE USE
SASKATOON CMA, REGINA CMA, AND SASKATCHEWAN
2001**

	Saskatoon	Regina	Saskatchewan
Aboriginal Id. Pop.	20,280	15,685	130,190
Ab. Lang. first learned and still understood	11.8%	4.4%	25.5%
Ab. Lang. spoken at home	8.2%	2.0%	22.4%
Some knowledge of Aboriginal language	15.5%	7.2%	29.4%

Table 34.0

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION
SASKATOON
2001**

	Mother tongue	Home Language	Knowledge of official language	First official language	Non-official lang. spoken
English	16,235	17,095	18,000	18,655	
French	420	75	15	340	
Both Eng. & Fr.	35	195	990	15	
Neither Eng. Nor Fr. Eng. & Ab. Lang.	390	1,350	15		
Cree	1,320	215			2,420
Ojimwa	350	20			390
Micmac	15				15
Inuktitut	40				45

Table 35.0

**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION
SASKATOON
2001**

Affiliation	Aboriginal Identity Population	% of Total Aboriginal Population
Total Reporting	19,015	100.00%
Roman Catholic	7,195	37.80%
United Church	710	
Anglican	1,805	
Baptist	200	
Lutheran	215	
Presbyterian	175	
Pentecostal	380	
Mennonite	155	
Jehovah's Witnesses	60	
Mormon	220	
Salvation Army	20	
Evangelical Missionary Alliance	15	
Adventist	20	
Other Protestant	160	
Total Protestant	4,155	21.85%
Non-Denominational	80	
Ukrainian Orthodox	50	
Other Christian Affiliations	765	
Total Other Christian	895	5.69%
Ab. Spirituality/"Pagan"	935	4.90%
Other Non-Christian	35	0.18%
Non-Religious	5,625	29.58%

Summary

Current Aboriginal Population:

- 20,275 residents of Saskatoon CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) claimed Aboriginal identity in 2001, including over 11 thousand Registered Indians and over 8 thousand Metis. Aboriginal residents of the City of Saskatoon proper numbered 19,020 in 2001.
- Saskatoon now has the highest Aboriginal proportion of any CMA in Canada. Aboriginal residents comprised 9.0% of the CMA population and 9.7% of the City population in 2001. Today approximately one in ten residents is Aboriginal.
- In absolute numbers, Saskatoon may now have the fourth largest Aboriginal population of any CMA in Canada.

Aboriginal Population Growth:

- Both the Aboriginal population and the Aboriginal proportion of the city population have almost doubled in the past decade.
- The Aboriginal population in Saskatoon is growing at more than double the rate of the general population, and there are diverse reasons why this relatively high rate of growth should continue.

Aboriginal Population Distribution:

- The Aboriginal population is becoming more dispersed throughout the city, particularly spreading westward.
- However, the Aboriginal population still remains largely concentrated in poorer neighbourhoods.
- In two inner-city neighbourhoods (Pleasant Hill and Riversdale) close to half the residents are now Aboriginal; and these are among the poorest neighbourhoods in the city.
- Aboriginal residents comprise over a third of the population in another two neighbourhoods; and over 20% (at least one in five residents) in another six or seven neighbourhoods.
- The proportion of Aboriginal residents is steadily increasing in these neighbourhoods.

Migration and Mobility:

- Increasing numbers of Aboriginal residents view themselves as actual or potential long-term residents of this city.
- Almost three-quarters (72.6%) of Aboriginal residents aged five years and over had lived in Saskatoon five years ago.
- Aboriginal residents are quite mobile within the city.
- Saskatoon continues to attract Aboriginal migrants from reserves and northern communities for a variety of reasons, notably including expectations of better employment, education, healthcare, and affordable housing options.

Family:

- The proportion of Aboriginal families headed by lone parents has been almost triple the proportion in non-Aboriginal families, ranging as high as two-thirds of all Aboriginal families in particular neighbourhoods in 1996.
- 2001 census data counted 2,490 Aboriginal lone parents in the city, 89.8% of them female.
- Aboriginal females devote far more time to unpaid housework and childcare than males.

Age:

- The urban Aboriginal population is young: almost half (48%) of the Aboriginal residents of Saskatoon are under 20 years of age, and most have grown up in this city.
- There are proportionately few older Aboriginal family members.
- Females outnumber males in the Aboriginal population.

Education:

- The urban Aboriginal population is becoming better educated. Apart from the large numbers of younger Aboriginal residents currently in school, of the Aboriginal residents aged 25 and over, 8.3% have attained high school graduation as their highest level, another 17.2% at least some postsecondary education, 29.5% a trade or college certificate (but not a university degree), while 12.2% hold a university degree.
- Enrolments of Aboriginal students in universities and institutions of higher education in Saskatoon have been steadily increasing; today almost one in ten students at the University of Saskatchewan is Aboriginal.
- By 2001, a quarter of the Aboriginal population aged fifteen and over had at least some university education, and almost 9% held a university degree.
- Aboriginal enrolment in engineering and physical sciences remains sparse.
- There have been rapid increases in numbers and proportions of Aboriginal pupils in elementary schools; today Aboriginal pupils predominate in several inner-city schools.

Employment:

- Occupational diversity of Aboriginal residents is increasing, as is Aboriginal involvement in business.
- However, while changing, Aboriginal households on the whole remain quite poor: average income of Aboriginal residents in the labour force comes to only 70% of average income for non-Aboriginal residents, while in the neighbourhoods having the highest Aboriginal concentrations average income for Aboriginal residents lags further behind.
- Wide differences between neighbourhoods in average employment income can be noted for Aboriginal residents.

- The unemployment rate for the Aboriginal labour force in Saskatoon (22.3%) still far exceeds the rate of the non-Aboriginal (4.8%).....
- Unemployment rates climb to over one-third (35.1%) of Aboriginal families in the city with young children under six years of age.....

Poverty:

- Saskatoon has had, in recent years, the highest proportion of Aboriginal population living below the statistical poverty line (LICO, the Low Income Cut Off) of any CMA in Canada – almost two-thirds of the Aboriginal population (64% in 1996)
- However, while still rivaling Regina for this dubious distinction, the poverty rate has fallen dramatically in just five years to just over half (52%) of the Aboriginal population in Saskatoon in 2001.

Housing:

- Housing conditions for the urban Aboriginal population are improving; home ownership – while still limited – is increasing, and overcrowding – while still prevalent – is decreasing.
- The demand for affordable housing for Aboriginal residents in Saskatoon far exceeds availability.
- Almost half (46.8%) of Aboriginal homes in Saskatoon are reported to be in need of repairs.
- Two-thirds of Aboriginal homes are rented.

Crime:

- Inner-city neighbourhoods have been experiencing substantial recent increases in certain types of criminal activities, including assaults, armed robbery, break and enter, and vehicle theft, while prostitution and drug abuse remain problematic.
- These activities have become a major concern of Aboriginal residents; yet residents do not necessarily want to move from their neighbourhoods but to improve living conditions and promote safer neighbourhoods.

Culture:

- Aboriginal families face considerable difficulty in maintaining aspects of Aboriginal culture in the city; for example, there has been a marked decline in familiarity with and use of Aboriginal languages.