

Aboriginal population experiences rapid growth

The Aboriginal population is defined using the concept of [Aboriginal identity](#). In New Brunswick, all 18 Indian reserves participated in the 2016 Census. In Canada, there were a total of 14 Indian reserves and Indian settlements that were incompletely enumerated in 2016. For these reserves and settlements, dwelling enumeration was either not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed.

- New Brunswick’s Aboriginal population exhibited significant growth from 2006 to 2016, up 67.1%. By comparison, the non-Aboriginal population grew by only 0.3% over the same period.
- In 2006, there were 17,585 Aboriginal people in the province, accounting for 2.5% of the total population. In 2016, Aboriginal people numbered 29,385 and represented 4.0% of the total population.
- The majority of the Aboriginal population reported a single Aboriginal identity in 2016—either First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit). Of New Brunswick’s Aboriginal population, 59.8% (17,570) were First Nations people, 34.7% (10,200) were Métis, and 1.3% (385) were Inuit. A further 1.6% reported more than one Aboriginal identity and 2.6% had an Aboriginal identity that was not included elsewhere.
- Nationally, the Aboriginal population grew by 42.5% from 2006 to 2016, more than four times the growth rate of the non-Aboriginal population over the same time frame. In 2016, there were 1,673,785 Aboriginal people in Canada, accounting for 4.9% of the total population. This was up from 3.8% in 2006.

Total population by Aboriginal identity, N.B. and Canada, 2016						
Aboriginal identity	New Brunswick			Canada ¹		
	Number	% of total population	% of Aboriginal identity population	Number	% of total population	% of Aboriginal identity population
Total – Population by Aboriginal identity	730,710	100.0	...	34,460,065	100.0	...
Aboriginal identity	29,385	4.0	100.0	1,673,785	4.9	100.0
Single Aboriginal responses	28,160	3.9	95.8	1,629,800	4.7	97.4
First Nations (North American Indian)	17,570	2.4	59.8	977,230	2.8	58.4
Métis	10,200	1.4	34.7	587,540	1.7	35.1
Inuk (Inuit)	385	0.1	1.3	65,025	0.2	3.9
Multiple Aboriginal responses	470	0.1	1.6	21,310	0.1	1.3
Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere	755	0.1	2.6	22,670	0.1	1.4
Non-Aboriginal identity	701,325	96.0	...	32,786,280	95.1	...

... not applicable
¹Excludes counts for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements.
 Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population