



A FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION

- ***Saskatchewan's Strategy for Métis
and Off-Reserve First Nations People***

***PROGRESS REPORT
2001-02 and 2002-03***

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Saskatchewan's *Strategy for Métis and Off-Reserve First Nations People (MOR)* was introduced in 2001-02, as a way of better coordinating services and improving outcomes for Aboriginal people. The MOR Strategy evolved from conversations between the provincial government and Saskatchewan communities during 2000, and again in 2001, that led to the *Framework for Cooperation*.

In 1996, the federal government's Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) found that Canada's Aboriginal population was not enjoying the same standard of living as non-Aboriginal Canadians. As the young Aboriginal population continues to grow in Saskatchewan, parents and grandparents want to ensure a better life for young Aboriginal people.

The MOR Strategy is far-reaching and innovative because it is based on the advice of Aboriginal people in urban and northern communities, Aboriginal political leaders, community and business leaders, and many others. The Strategy was truly a cooperative effort and, most importantly, program services from twelve provincial departments, are improving the lives of Aboriginal people.

This document is the government's first report back to you - sharing our combined accomplishments, and outlining our challenges so that we can set a course for the years ahead.

Our Shared Vision

All residents of Saskatchewan, including Métis and off-reserve First Nations people, will have the opportunities and resources to participate fully in our communities and our economies. Through education, training, employment, quality health care, and other services, all people in Saskatchewan will contribute to, and benefit from the riches of our society. We will realize the potential of our shared future together.

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR WORK

- Fairness and equity;
- Partnerships among the federal and provincial governments, local governments, existing and evolving Aboriginal organizations and institutions, Crown corporations, businesses, unions, other non-governmental sectors, communities and individuals;

- Practical, timely, meaningful, and sustainable responses to needs that foster self-reliance;
- Recognition that the federal government is responsible for services to Aboriginal peoples while the province is responsible for addressing the needs of Aboriginal peoples as residents of Saskatchewan;
- Flexible administrative arrangements that are accountable to the Province, Aboriginal people, and the public;
- Respect for Aboriginal peoples' cultures and rights, as recognized in the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- Involvement of Aboriginal peoples in decision-making and the design and delivery of services; and,
- Ethical, fair and constructive reporting practices that focus on outcomes.

OUR GOALS

In discussion with the community, four goals were defined: education; preparing for work; participating in the provincial economy; and, individual and community well-being.

Community Priorities for Education

Community participants told us their priorities for the future include primary, secondary and post-secondary education with an emphasis on assisting Aboriginal children to stay in school until graduating from high school.

Goal One: *Enhance the successful entrance and completion of primary, secondary and post-secondary education for Métis and off-reserve First Nations people.*

Community Priorities in Preparing for Work

Community participants told us that their priorities for the future include skills training and work preparation so they can actively participate in the provincial workforce.

Goal Two: *Prepare Métis and off-reserve First Nations people to participate in a representative provincial workforce.*

Community Priorities - the Provincial Economy

Community participants told us their priorities for the future include jobs and economic development to facilitate family stability.

Goal Three: *Ensure representative workforce participation by Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in the provincial economy.*

Community Priorities for Well-being

Community participants told us their priorities for the future include youth (keeping children off the streets through sport and recreation activities), the rising incidence of diabetes among Métis and off-reserve First Nations people, culturally-sensitive social services, and housing.

Goal Four: *Improve individual and community well-being of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people.*

The vision, principles, goals, objectives and timelines guiding Saskatchewan's Strategy for Métis and Off-Reserve First Nations are presented in this report as Appendix A.

PROGRESS REPORT ON 2001-02 AND 2002-03 INVESTMENTS

During community discussions in 2000, community participants told us education was the top priority. Our 2001-02 investments supported this priority. The Progress Report outlines the accomplishments of Aboriginal people as a result of these investments.

Goal One: Success in Education

In 2001-02, Saskatchewan invested almost \$5 million to increase the number of Community Schools, and to provide and support Aboriginal content, programming and services. Specifically, Saskatchewan Learning:

- ✓ Increased the number of Community Schools from 41 in 1999 to 83 in 2002;
- ✓ Continued to enhance Aboriginal content and perspectives through the provincial Core Curriculum;
- ✓ Updated the *Aboriginal Resources List K-12* to supplement the renewed Native Studies program and other curricula;
- ✓ Partnered with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to produce a document on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS);
- ✓ Worked with the Gabriel Dumont Institute to produce Métis History Study Prints for K-12 schools;
- ✓ Significantly supported the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council in producing the *First Nations Diabetes Curriculum K-12*, for delivery in schools in 2002 and 2003; and,
- ✓ Provided an additional \$130,000 for nutrition programs in 65 elementary and secondary schools.

During subsequent community discussions in late 2001, community participants told us Aboriginal youth were the top priority – keep them in school, and engage them in constructive sport, culture and recreation activity. We were also told better quality housing and home ownership lead to stability in neighbourhoods, and safer communities. Education continues to be a priority, and our 2002-03 investments continued to support this priority. This Progress Report also outlines the accomplishments of Aboriginal people from various investments in Saskatchewan's Strategy for Métis and Off-Reserve First Nations People.

In 2002-03, Saskatchewan invested nearly \$30 million in the Foundation Operating Grant paid to school divisions to respond to the needs of Aboriginal students. As a result, Saskatchewan Learning:

- ✓ Increased the number of Community Schools from 83 in 2001-02 to 88 in 2002-03.
- ✓ Approximately 34,000 students, 55% of which are Aboriginal, benefit from the Community Schools Program. \$12.0 million was allocated for this program.
- ✓ Incorporated First Nations and Métis content and perspective into all provincial Core Curriculum.
- ✓ Continued to fund and support a number of programs, Community Schools, Indian and Métis Education Development, Aboriginal Elders/Outreach Program and PreKindergarten specifically to address the unique needs of Aboriginal students in provincial schools.
- ✓ Established the *KidsFirst Program* to address the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect. The program calls for a community-based network of supports and services that focus on the healthy growth and development of children and supports the primary role of families. The *KidsFirst Program* has been implemented in 9 targeted communities in the province and reaches out to high-risk women as early as possible in pregnancy through prenatal outreach and screening to assist in FAS/FAE prevention.
- ✓ Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) concerning collaboration between the provincial government and FSIN in support of improved outcomes for First Nations children in the provincial education system.
- ✓ Allocated funding for a number of targeted programs and services:
 - \$10.4 million to the Northern school divisions for the Northern Expenditure Allowance;
 - \$412,600 for the Northern Students Retention Program;
 - \$4.1 million toward the PreKindergarten Program;
 - \$789,000 for English as a Second Language program; and,
 - \$2.2 million toward the Indian and Métis Education Development (IMED) and the Aboriginal Elder/Outreach Programs.
- ✓ Provided home visiting services and other family supports for 850 vulnerable families. By March 31, 2003, the active caseload across the province totaled 578 families.

Goal Two: Skills Training and Work Preparation

In 2001-02, the provincial government invested over \$600,000 of new funding in skills training and work preparation for Aboriginal apprenticeship initiatives, expansion of the forestry training program, and created a program to help Aboriginal people in the North to access nursing training. Saskatchewan Learning:

- ✓ Provided \$400,000 to the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission to establish an Aboriginal Advisory Group, consult with stakeholders, hire an Aboriginal initiatives consultant, and develop and implement a plan to increase Aboriginal participation in apprenticeship. Approved nine apprenticeship projects during 2001-02 and created 102 new opportunities for Aboriginal people.
- ✓ Provided \$3.7 Million in partnership with other stakeholders for forestry training to provide formal academic training and education, as well as on-the-job training. Two hundred and twenty people, 97% of whom were Aboriginal, received training for forestry jobs.
- ✓ Made 40 seats available at Prince Albert in the Northern Nursing Access Program in September, 2001. SIFC administers the program in collaboration with SIAST and the University of Saskatchewan.

In 2002-03, the provincial government continued to invest in skills training and work preparation for Aboriginal apprenticeship initiatives and forestry training. Saskatchewan Learning also worked in partnership with Aboriginal post-secondary education institutions (e.g. - the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC), the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technologies (SIAST), and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) to help Aboriginal people in the North to enter nursing training. As a result, Saskatchewan Learning:

- ✓ Continued to provide \$400,000 to the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, which created 79 new opportunities through 10 approved projects.
- ✓ Invested \$544,000 of \$859,000 allocated for the forestry training Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The reduced expenditure was the result of decreased industry training requests due to the impacts of softwood lumber duties, and low lumber prices. This investment levered \$1.5 million in cash and in-kind support from other stakeholders to provide academic and on-the-job-training. An estimated 120 people benefited, the majority (estimated at 80%) were First Nations and Métis, and were from the Northern Administration District (NAD).
- ✓ Graduated 47 students in Prince Albert from the Northern Health Science Access Program (NHSAP) in 2002-03 (19 students in 2002, and another 28 students in 2003), to improve recruitment, admission and retention of First Nations and Métis students into health professions such as nursing.

- ✓ Enrolled 40 students in the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) at Prince Albert, where a partial nursing program started in the fall, 2002. This partnership between the SIFC, SIAST and the University of Saskatchewan follows the NEPS curriculum with the special feature of respecting First Nations and Métis cultural, spiritual and health care needs.
- ✓ Increased funding for Aboriginal post-secondary education institutions and programs including the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teachers Education Program (SUNTEP), the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) and the Northern Professional Access Program (NORPAC), and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC).
 - Assisted Aboriginal post-secondary education institutions to build capacity by providing over \$300,000 to three institutions (SIFC, SIIT, and GDI/DTI) to develop technology enhanced courses and learning resources.
- ✓ Jointly developed the SIFC, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Resource and Environmental Studies with the Woodland Campus of SIAST, and the University of Regina. This is the first program of its kind in Canada and will qualify First Nations and Métis students for employment in environmental and natural resource protection. The program was approved by SIFC and the University of Regina

Goal Three – Representative Provincial Workforce

The provincial government invested almost \$800,000 in 2001-02 to facilitate employment of Aboriginal people and economic development to facilitate family stability. A variety of provincial departments contributed in this area.

- ✓ Provided \$690,000 for a public service internship and management development program to attract Aboriginal people into the provincial public service;
- ✓ Invested an additional \$125,000 in the province's Aboriginal Employment Development Program. Through work between Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs and the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO):
 - Signed 8 new partnership agreements with various employers;
 - Facilitated approximately 147 additional jobs for Aboriginal people in 2001-02, bringing their total employment in the health sector to 1,420;
 - Completed 23 employment audits outlining all job opportunities available in each workplace;
 - Facilitated employment-related training for 105 Aboriginal people in the health sector; and,

- Assisted with incorporating Aboriginal language into the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Collective Agreement dated April, 2001 to March 31, 2004.

The provincial government continued to invest almost \$800,000 in 2002-03 to facilitate employment of Aboriginal people and economic development to promote family stability. Once again, a variety of provincial departments continued to contribute in this area.

- ✓ \$735,000 was invested in the Aboriginal Management and Professional Internship Program (AMPIP), which provides Aboriginal post-secondary education graduates with paid work placements in the provincial public service:
 - 16 interns participated in AMPIP during 2002-03: 10 were in the second year of the program; and, 6 in the first year.
 - One first year intern left the program after five months to pursue another opportunity within Executive Government.
 - Thirteen interns currently remain in the program (7 second year interns, and 6 first year interns), and 3 second year interns obtained other positions within the Saskatchewan public sector.
- ✓ The province's Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP):
 - Signed 7 new partnership agreements with various employers;
 - Facilitated approximately 150 additional jobs for Aboriginal people in 2002-03, bringing their total employment in the health sector to nearly 1,600;
 - Completed 2 employment audits outlining all job opportunities available in each workplace;
 - Continued to facilitate employment-related training for Aboriginal people in the health sector; and,
 - Continued to work with unions to incorporate Aboriginal language into collective agreements.
- ✓ Additional investments of \$400,000 were made to train Métis northerners in forest fire protection for 19 crews involving 114 Métis emergency fire fighters in 15 northern communities through the Northern Works Program.
- ✓ We continued to expand the involvement of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan's forest industry by issuing a Term Supply License to Northwest Communities Wood Products Ltd. (NWCWP), a Métis community-based development comprised of 7 northern communities, and enhanced business management skills for the Métis participants.
- ✓ We established a private/private partnership for forest management between Green Lake Métis Wood Products and Tolko Forest Products.

- ✓ The management and operating agreement was renewed for the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF), now known as the Métis Development Fund (MDF). The Métis Development Fund receives \$2.0 million each year from the province's gaming profits for Métis economic development and employment initiatives. The renewed agreement emphasizes accountability while providing greater flexibility for investment opportunities. It also provides resources to hire an economic development officer for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS) for two years to support long-term development goals.

Goal Four: Well-being

The Government of Saskatchewan invested additional resources to promote individual and community well-being.

- ✓ Provided an additional \$60,000 in 2001-02 to promote urban Aboriginal community development and support First Nations and Métis people in developing their own urban service delivery systems.
- ✓ Released the *Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care* in December, 2001, to provide a long-term blueprint for Saskatchewan's health care system. The plan's emphasis is to improve the health of all Saskatchewan residents, including Métis and off-reserve First Nations people.
- ✓ Recognized diabetes is a growing concern within Saskatchewan. Figures across North America seem to indicate as trends toward obesity rise, the number of people suffering from diabetes also increases. In response:
 - Developed a provincial plan for the control of diabetes that includes four components: surveillance; diabetes prevention; education; and, care and treatment;
 - Introduced a team approach for the provision of diabetes education care and treatment, recognizing the individual with diabetes is ultimately responsible for self-management of the disease;
 - Allocated \$530,000 to support a team approach within the Regional Health Authorities from the Department of Health's Primary Health Services Branch to:
 - Develop regional diabetes teams to improve access to services;
 - Submit regional proposals to Saskatchewan Health outlining how the teams would deliver services;
 - Purchase computer equipment for communication and development of a regional database; and,
 - Assess the extent of undiagnosed diabetes among First Nations, Métis and non-First Nations people in select communities identified as being at higher risk for diabetes.

- ✓ Supported development of an enhanced diabetes education program by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (SIAST) because an educated workforce is a valuable asset in the fight against diabetes. SIAST is also developing materials for “Risk Identification of the Foot in Diabetes” to be delivered in each health region.
- ✓ Hosted more than 320 people from several provinces in February, 2002, for the *Build Better Tomorrows* Conference in Saskatoon. The conference explored how communities use population health promotion approaches to create the conditions that support health and help prevent diabetes.
- ✓ Established and announced the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform on November 5, 2001.
- ✓ Hosted a roundtable with Aboriginal victims of crime and their families to determine their perspective on what is going well for them in the justice system, what is not, and what their priorities are for future action.
- ✓ Supported and established a Cree Court in Northern Saskatchewan on October 1, 2001, in four Provincial Court locations. The court party travels out of Prince Albert and include a Cree-speaking judge, prosecutor, a Cree Legal Aid counsel, two Cree-speaking court clerks, one of which serves as an interpreter, and a Cree-speaking probation officer.

The Government of Saskatchewan continued to invest additional resources to promote individual and community well-being in 2002-03. These investments focused primarily on individual well-being. Several initiatives addressed the growing incidence of diabetes in Saskatchewan’s population, including Métis and off-reserve First Nations people. The provincial government:

- ✓ Continued to provide funding for urban Aboriginal community development to support First Nations and Métis people in developing their own urban service delivery systems.

Sport, Culture and Recreation

- ✓ Undertook a review of lottery funding to Aboriginal organizations in 2001, and initiated many changes as a result of the review including:
 - Annual funding increases to the FSIN and MNS;
 - Targeted additional grant funding for urban Aboriginal programming through the Community Grant Program to Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Yorkton, North Battleford, and Lloydminster;
 - Initiated a pilot program in conjunction with Gabriel Dumont Institute to assist cultural programs within the Métis community;

- Identified thirteen “core sports” in conjunction with SaskSport for development within Aboriginal communities; and,
- Hosted an Aboriginal sport conference in Saskatoon during October, 2002, attracting 150 participants that brought together provincial and community sectors of Aboriginal and mainstream sport.

Diabetes Strategy

- ✓ Established a Provincial Diabetes Advisory Body including representatives of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS), and Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB). The Advisory Body will focus on: surveillance; diabetes prevention; education; and, care and treatment.
- ✓ Hired an Aboriginal Diabetes Consultant to coordinate diabetes services with Aboriginal communities, primarily off-reserve, and with collaboration with on-reserve.
- ✓ Involved the Aboriginal community in the design and delivery of the provincial multi-leveled diabetes education program.
- ✓ Awarded a contract to SIAST to develop diabetes education programs. Two diabetes education programs are being developed: the first course started in March, 2003, and is a basic diabetes education program for health care providers such as home care and special care aides, community workers and paramedics.
- ✓ Began to set up interdisciplinary teams and develop a plan for the effective management of diabetes within Regional Health Authorities (RHAs).
- ✓ Developed guidelines for a standard strategy of evaluating wounds, effective treatment and implementation of a diabetic foot program in consultation with physicians and other care providers. The diabetes plan will become part of the overall RHA primary health care plan.
- ✓ Implemented a targeted screening program to assess the diabetes status of undiagnosed persons living in high-risk communities. The northern community of La Loche was selected and targeted screening is underway.

Northern Health Strategy

- ✓ Established a partnership between Saskatchewan Health, northern regional health authorities (Athabasca Health Authority and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority), and the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada to develop a northern health strategy that will work to improve health for northern and Aboriginal people.

- The focus will be on the determinants of health, collaboration with all levels of government, and recognition of the unique characteristics of northern communities.
- The focus will be on the vision of the northern RHAs to develop partnerships based on shared goals, fair and equitable funding allocations, and a northern led process.

Primary Health Care Strategy

- ✓ Began to expand primary health care services in partnership with First Nations and Métis people to ensure the needs of the Aboriginal population are addressed as primary health care networks and teams are established.
- ✓ Worked with RHAs to organize primary health care services through a network of teams in the health regions based on health care needs.
 - Regional Health Authorities will examine the health needs of their populations, including the unique needs of Aboriginal people, to plan services around these needs.
 - A province-wide 24-hour telephone advice line is part of this strategy.

Indigenous Peoples Health Research Institute

- ✓ Committed \$2.75 million over six years to the Institute, led by the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in partnership with the First Nations University of Canada, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan.
 - Funding will support research projects in key areas of Aboriginal health including chronic diseases, Indigenous healing, health delivery, disease prevention, and environmental health, and increasing opportunities for people of Aboriginal ancestry to pursue health-related research and training.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- ✓ Cost-shared funding with Social Services (now Community Resources and Employment) to the Saskatchewan Institute for the Prevention of Handicaps for the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Prevention Program.
- ✓ Chaired an Interdepartmental Committee to develop a Framework for Action in Saskatchewan, based on community discussion groups.
- ✓ Established a planning sub-committee including representatives from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Women's Commission, and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.

Alcohol and Drug Addition Services

- ✓ Provided funding for a full range of services to Regional Health Authorities, the Métis Health and Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (MHACSI), and the St. Louis Alcoholism Rehabilitation Center including social detoxification, inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment (counseling and rehabilitation), day treatment, and long-term residential service (halfway houses).
 - All alcohol and drug services in Saskatchewan work closely together at a program level in providing referrals, case conferencing, support and follow up.
 - Approximately 45% of RHA services, 98% of MHASCI services and 80% of services at St. Louis Alcoholism Rehabilitation are offered to Aboriginal people.

Justice

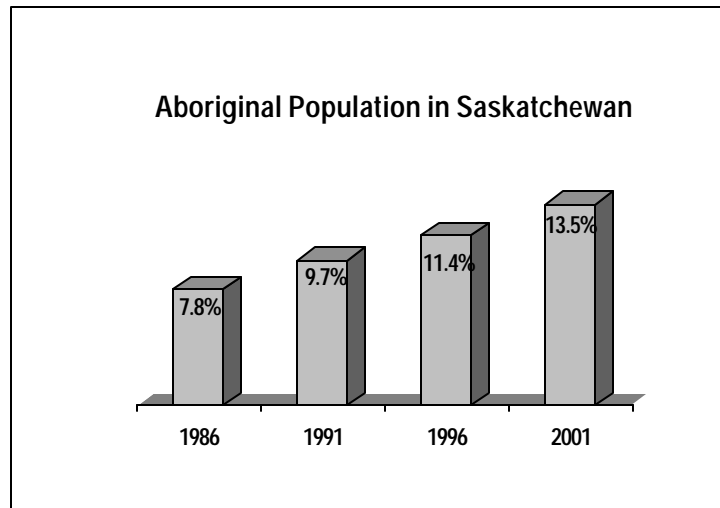
- ✓ Provided \$1.4 million to the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform.
- ✓ Made a joint submission with the Department of Corrections and Public Safety to the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform.
- ✓ Co-chaired an interdepartmental presentation to the Commission on the federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act* in August, 2002.
- ✓ Published reports on roundtable meetings held in June, 2002, to gather information on the extent to which Victims Services programs are meeting the needs of Aboriginal people.
- ✓ Continued to support community-based programs that provide diversion, crime prevention, community-based justice programs, and enhance capacity in the Aboriginal community. Provided community justice program funding for two new communities.
- ✓ Contracted an external evaluator to evaluate the Northern Cree Court Circuit with a final report due in March, 2004.

2001 STATISTICS CANADA POPULATION CENSUS

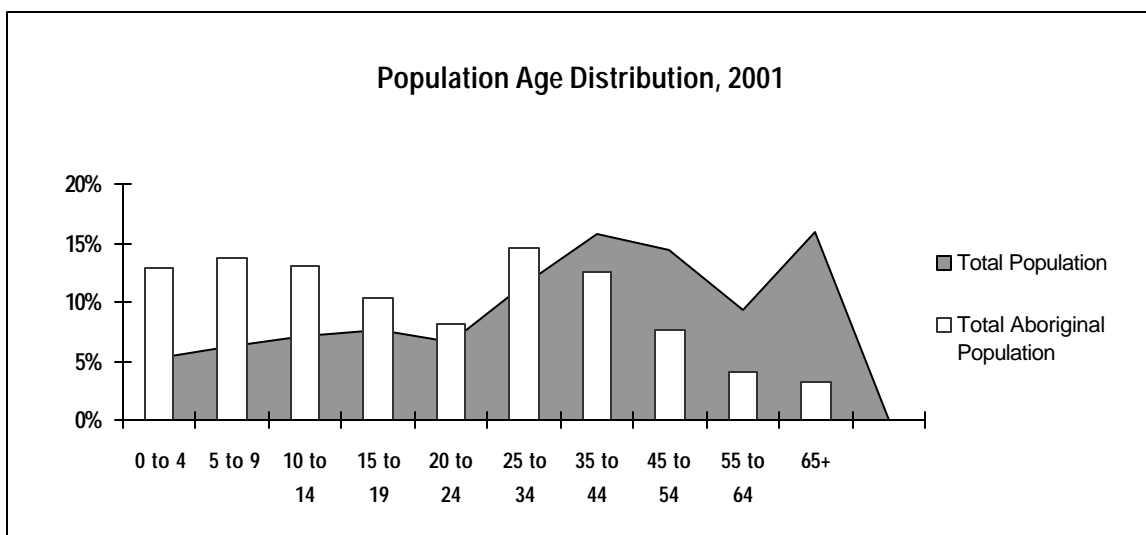
In January, 2003, Statistics Canada released 2001 Census information about Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. The information that follows in this report is based on data from the 2001 Statistics Canada Population Census.

Aboriginal Population

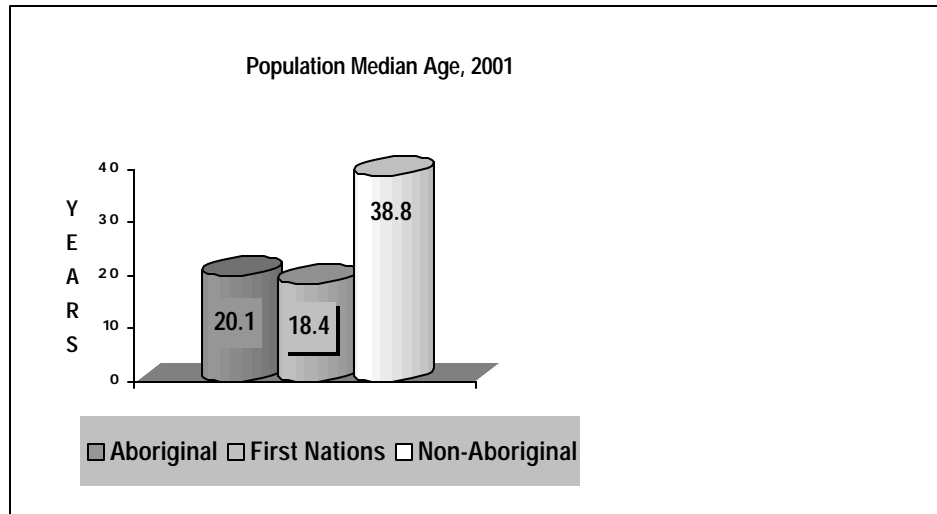
- 130,185 Aboriginal people lived in Saskatchewan in 2001, or 13.52% of the total population: two-thirds identified as First Nations people; one-third as Métis; and, 0.2% as Inuit people.



- Fifty-eight per cent (58%) of Aboriginal people were under 25 compared with 33% of the non-Aboriginal population, and one in four (25%) children in Saskatchewan was Aboriginal in 2001.

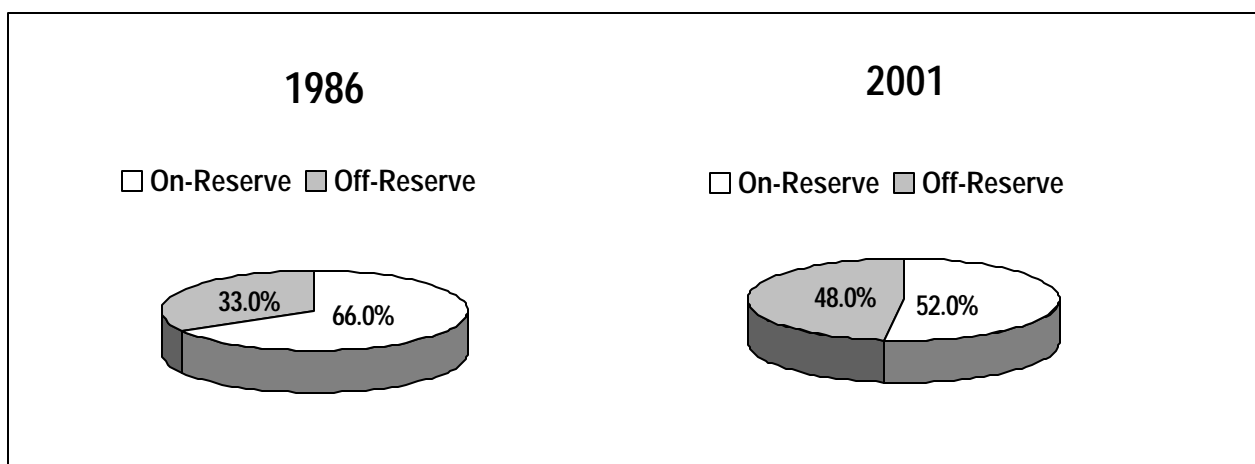


- Overall, Aboriginal people were 18 years younger than non-Aboriginal people. The median age is the point at which half of the population is younger, and half is older. The median age for Aboriginal people is 20.1 years, 18.4 years for First Nations people, and 38.8 years for non-Aboriginal people.

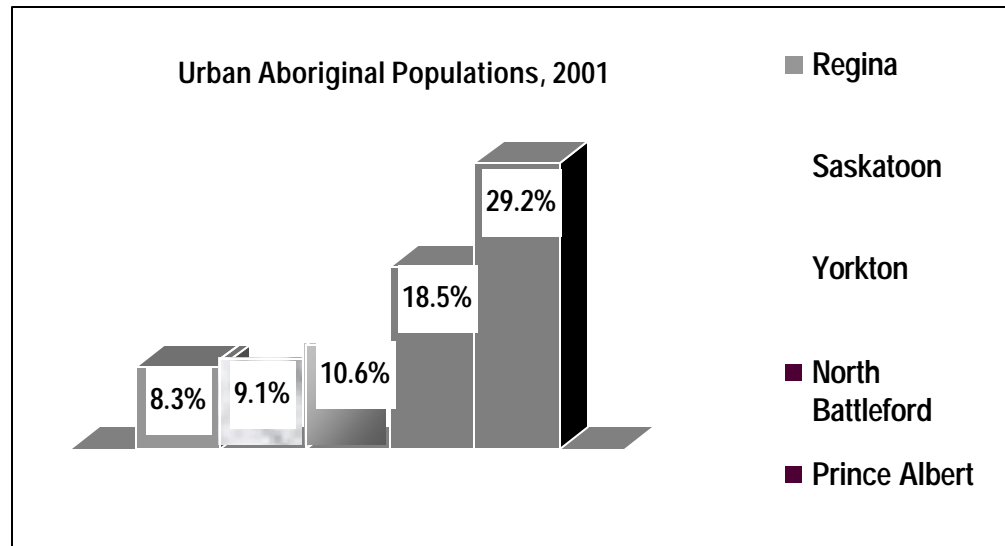


Where First Nations People Lived

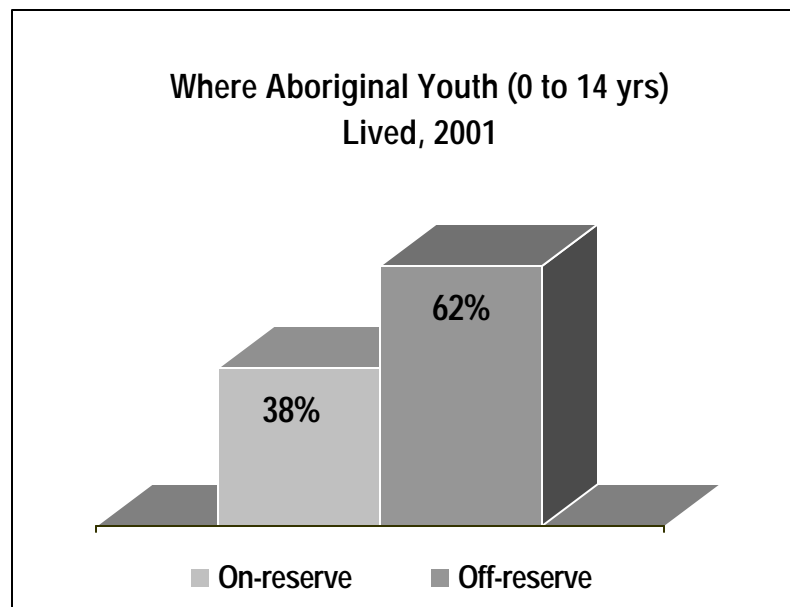
- Nearly half of all First Nations people lived off-reserve in larger urban centres including Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford and Yorkton.



- The number of young Aboriginal people under 25 years living in the larger urban centres grew quickly since 1996, especially in Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

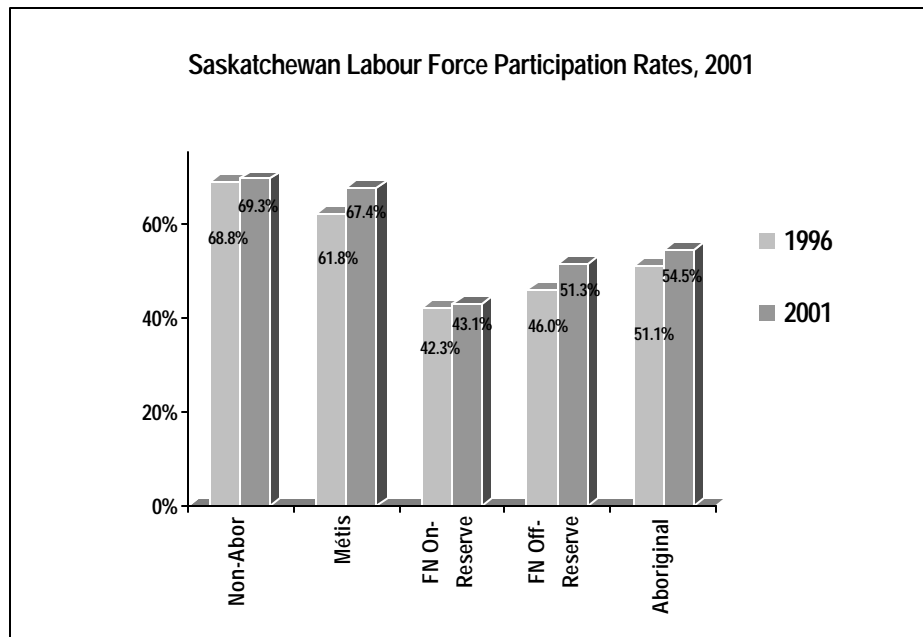


- Four in ten Aboriginal people living in the larger urban communities were under 15 years.
- Two-thirds of all Aboriginal children and youth under 15 years lived in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Yorkton, and North Battleford.



Aboriginal Labour Force Participation

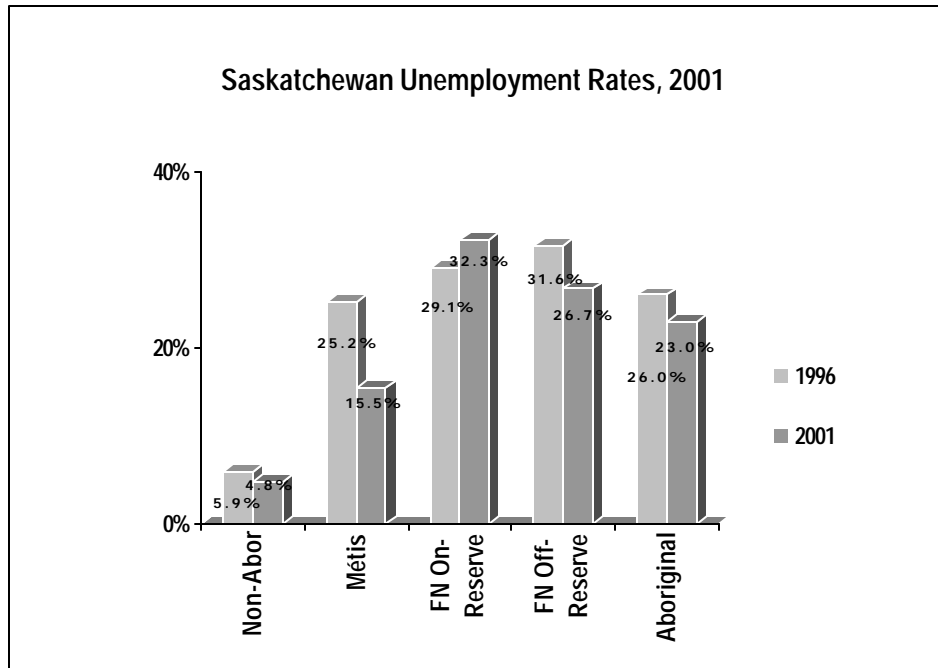
- Aboriginal people, 15 and over accounted for 13.6% of the provincial labour force in 2001, up from 12.2% estimated by Statistics Canada in 1999.



- The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal people was 54.5%, while the rate for non-Aboriginal people was 69.3%.
- For Aboriginal youth (15 – 24 years), the labour force participation rate was 39.2% versus 71.0% for non-Aboriginal youth.

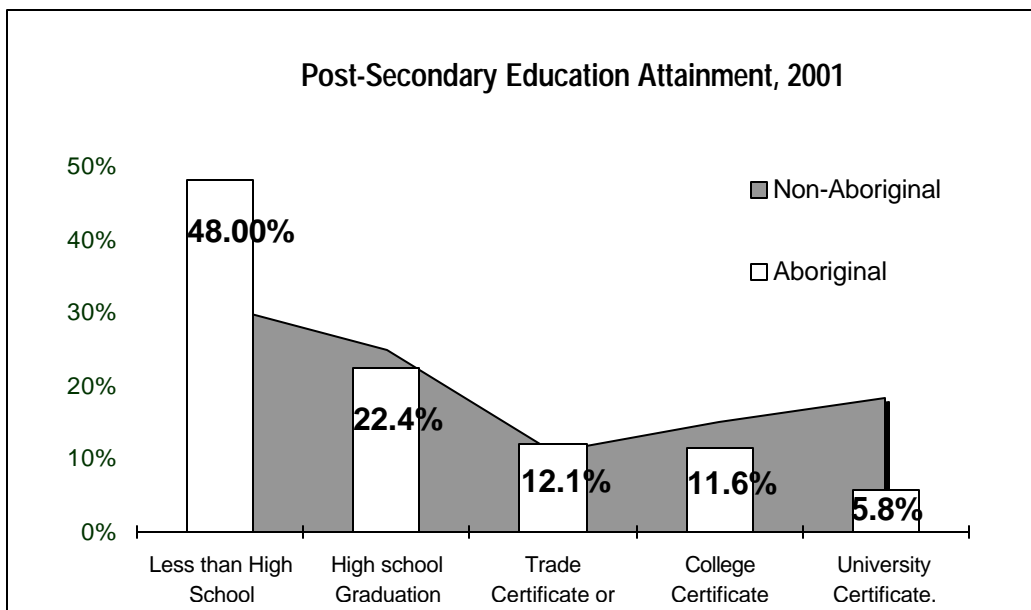
Aboriginal Unemployment

- The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people overall was five times higher than for non-Aboriginal people (23.0% vs 4.8%). The unemployment rate for Aboriginal youth (15 – 24 years) was 29.3%, and for non-Aboriginal youth was 10.8%.
- Overall, on-reserve First Nations people had the highest unemployment rate (32.3%). For First Nations youth (15-24 years) living on-reserve, the unemployment rate was 50.9%.



Educational Attainment by Aboriginal People

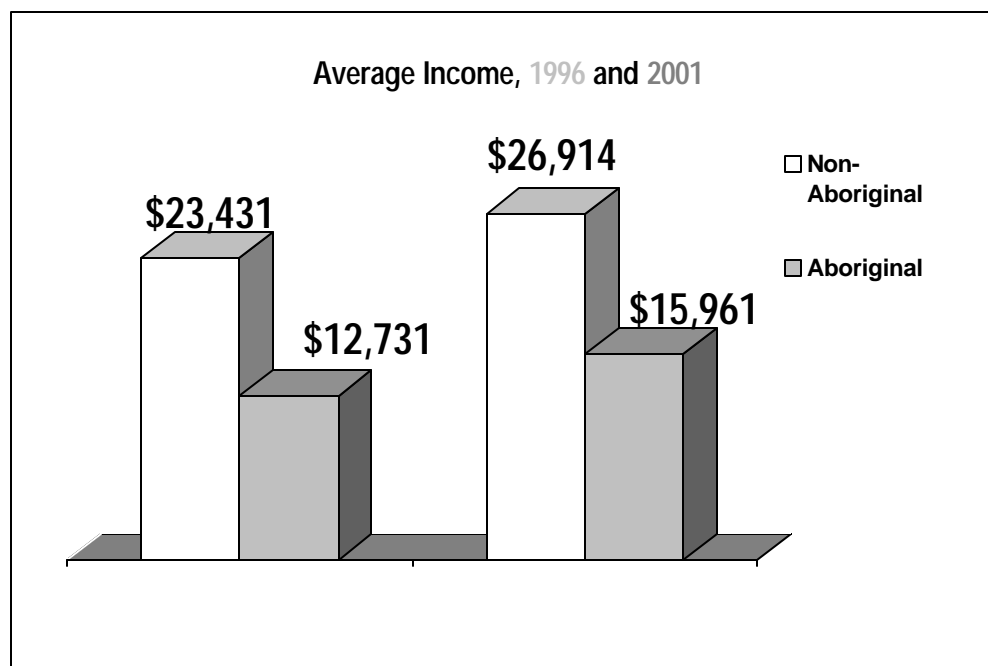
- Overall, 48% of Aboriginal people had less than high school education versus 30.8% of the non-Aboriginal population.



- 12.1% of Aboriginal people had a trade certificate or diploma versus 10.8% of non-Aboriginal people, the only area where the proportion for Aboriginal people was higher than non-Aboriginal people.
- 11.6% of Aboriginal people had a college certificate or diploma versus 15.1% of non-Aboriginal people.
- 5.8% of Aboriginal people had a university certificate, diploma or degree versus 18.3% of non-Aboriginal people.
- Aboriginal people who lived in Regina and Saskatoon were more likely to have college or university education.
- Aboriginal people who lived off-reserve in the major urban centres (e.g. – Regina, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Prince Albert, and North Battleford) were more likely to have a trade certificate or diploma.

Aboriginal Income

- In 2001, Aboriginal people who actively participated in the workforce continued to earn a lower average income (\$15,961) than non-Aboriginal people (\$26,914).
- Aboriginal workers earned 59.3% of the average income earned by non-Aboriginal people in 2001, up from 54.3% in 1996.



PROVINCIAL INVESTMENTS IN THE MOR STRATEGY

2002-03 and 2003-04 Investments

Despite challenging circumstances, the provincial government maintained the initial new investment of \$10 million in 2002-03 to promote further development of the programs. Also in 2002-03, Saskatchewan made modest new investments to help expand some of the programs that serve Métis and off-reserve First Nations people. The provincial government continued to invest in programs that respond to community priorities, and serve Métis and off-reserve First Nations people.

In 2003-04, the Government of Saskatchewan will launch the Aboriginal Participation Initiative through the Community Initiatives Fund. The programs within this initiative began to address the growing sense of urgency expressed by First Nations and Métis people about the need for substantial increases in the leadership and participation of Aboriginal people in sport, culture and recreation.

The focus of this initiative is on building opportunities for Aboriginal people living in urban communities and in the north through key partnerships, new grant programs and leadership programs. Aboriginal leaders at the local level will play a key role in initiating projects and adjudicating grants. The programs announced under the Aboriginal Participation Initiative will fall into three areas: programs in the north; programs focusing on Aboriginal people living in urban communities; and, funding for province-wide initiatives.

The Government of Saskatchewan will also continue to work with Aboriginal people in inner city neighbourhoods and the north to improve living conditions through the Centenary Affordable Housing Program, other home ownership programs, and repair programs.

The provincial government will also maintain other investments to ensure education, work preparation, jobs and economic development and well-being initiatives continue to improve the circumstances of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

In the future, we will continue to discuss issues at the community level, and respond to the priorities identified by community participants at community meetings. We will continue to hold the community meetings across the Province. In this way, we are confident this work will continue to be responsive to community priorities.

We encourage you to review the annual reports presented by the departments to get comprehensive information about provincial initiatives designed to benefit Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

In 2004-05, we will begin to report on 2003-04 accomplishments, and present the performance measures and key actions for all of the objectives in the Strategy for Métis and Off-Reserve First Nations People.

YOUR FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS ARE WELCOME

We appreciate your feedback and comments on this work as we continue to move forward together to build and strengthen our communities, and build our future together in Saskatchewan.

We invite you to send any comments you may have to:

Mary Tkach
Saskatchewan Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs
2nd Floor
1855 Victoria Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 3V7
Fax (306) 787-5832.

Please visit our website on a regular basis at www.graa@gov.sk.ca for additional information about the MOR Strategy, the Aboriginal Affairs Division, provincial initiatives with Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan, news and information updates, or to find out more about the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs.

APPENDIX A

Framework for Cooperation: Saskatchewan's Strategy for Métis and Off-Reserve First Nations People

Our Shared Vision

All residents of Saskatchewan, including Métis and off-reserve First Nations people, will have the opportunities and resources to participate fully in our communities and our economies. Through education, training, employment, quality health care, and other services, all people in Saskatchewan will contribute to, and benefit from the riches of our society. We will realize the potential of our shared future together.

Principles to Guide Our Work

- Fairness and equity;
- Partnerships among the federal and provincial governments, local governments, existing and evolving Aboriginal organizations and institutions, Crown corporations, businesses, unions, other non-governmental sectors, communities and individuals;
- Practical, timely, meaningful, and sustainable responses to needs that foster self-reliance;
- Recognition the federal government is responsible for services to Aboriginal people while the province is responsible for addressing the needs of Aboriginal people as residents of Saskatchewan;
- Flexible administrative arrangements that are accountable to the Province, Aboriginal people, and the public;
- Respect for Aboriginal peoples' cultures and rights, as recognized in the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- Involvement of Aboriginal peoples in decision-making and the design and delivery of services; and,
- Ethical, fair and constructive reporting practices that focus on outcomes.

Our Shared Goals, Objectives and Timelines

In discussion with the community, four goals were defined: education; preparing for work; participating in the provincial economy; and, individual and community well-being. The objectives were announced in 2001-02, and the timelines for achieving meaningful change in each of these areas. Appendix A summarizes the framework, vision, principles, goals, objectives and timelines to complete this work.

Community Priorities

Community Priorities for Education

In 2001, community participants told us their priorities for the future included primary, secondary and post-secondary education with an emphasis on assisting Aboriginal children to stay in school until graduating from high school.

Goal One: Enhance successful entrance and completion of primary, secondary and post-secondary education for Métis and off-reserve First Nations people.

Our Objectives:

- 1.1 Increase the success of Métis and off-reserve First Nations children and youth in the provincial primary and secondary (K-12) school systems over 10 years.
- 1.2 Increase literacy rates, academic upgrading and life skills of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people over 20 years.
- 1.3 Increase enrollment and completion rates for Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in university, technical education, apprenticeship and training programs in 5 years.
- 1.4 Increase Aboriginal children's readiness to learn, cope and problem-solve in the provincial school system over 10 years.

Community Priorities in Preparing for Work

Community participants told us that their priorities for the future include skills training and work preparation so they can actively participate in the provincial workforce.

Goal Two: Prepare Métis and off-reserve First Nations people to participate in a representative provincial workforce.

Our Objectives:

- 2.1 Increase enrollment and completion rates for Métis and off-reserve First Nations students in apprenticeship, training and post-secondary education programs that relate to growth sectors of the economy and sectors with stable employment opportunities over 20 years.
- 2.2 Ensure Métis and off-reserve First Nations youth make an effective transition from school to employment and training in 10 years.

Community Priorities - the Provincial Economy

Community participants told us their priorities for the future include jobs and economic development to facilitate family stability.

Goal Three: Ensure representative workforce participation by Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in the provincial economy.

Our Objectives:

- 3.1 Increase the proportion of employed Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in the labour market over 20 years.
- 3.2 Achieve a representative presence of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in the provincial public service by 2010.

- 3.3 Achieve a representative presence of Métis and off-reserve First Nations People in economic development, business involvement, and as employers in 10 years.

Community Priorities for Well-being

Community participants told us their priorities for the future include youth (keeping children off the streets through sport and recreation activities), the rising incidence of diabetes among Métis and off-reserve First Nations people, culturally-sensitive social services, and housing.

Goal Four: Improve individual and community well-being of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people.

Our Objectives:

- 4.1 Expand access to culturally appropriate social services and reduce the need for such services among Métis and off-reserve First Nations people over 20 years.
- 4.2 Increase Métis and off-reserve First Nations peoples' participation rates in sport, culture and recreation activities over 20 years.
- 4.3 Better meet the health needs of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people to improve their overall health status over 20 years.
- 4.4 Increase Métis and off-reserve First Nations peoples' representation on health governance structures over 20 years.
- 4.5 Develop culturally appropriate restorative justice strategies with Métis and off-reserve First Nations people and reduce crime rates over 20 years.
- 4.6 Enhance the safety and security of Métis and off-reserve First Nations women and children by reducing victimization over 20 years.
- 4.7 Reduce the incidence of repeat offending among Métis and off-reserve First Nations people through re-integrative and rehabilitative correctional services over 20 years.
- 4.8 Increase the proportion of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people living in adequate, affordable housing over 20 years.