



## **Profile of the Quebec Aboriginal Communities**

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# Aboriginal Population

- **In 2001, Aboriginal people accounted for 2% of Quebec's total population (140,915 Indians and Inuit).**
- **They lived primarily in five regions: Northern Quebec (57%), North Shore (12%), Outaouais (5%), and Abitibi–Témiscamingue (5%) and the Gaspé (3%).**
- **A strong Aboriginal presence was also reported in the Montreal (24,470) and Montérégie (20,495) regions.**
- **There was a far-reaching geographical distribution of Indians in all regions of Quebec.**
- **According to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), the ten Indian communities included 70,375 people, and the Inuit community included 10,423 people.**

# Aboriginal Population by Age Group

- **Quebec's Aboriginal population is relatively young: 30% of the population is under the age of 14, compared with 18% for Quebec's non-Aboriginal people.**
- **Conversely, the percentage of Aboriginal people over the age of 65 was 6% in Quebec, whereas the figure for non-Aboriginal people was 12%.**



# Schooling

- In Quebec, Aboriginals have a higher rate of *under-education* than non-Aboriginals.
- The situation is critical: 5.2 out of every 10 Aboriginals in Quebec do not have a high-school diploma, whereas the ratio is 3.2 out of 10 among non-Aboriginals.
- Furthermore, Aboriginal women seem to do better at school, as witnessed by the fact that their level of schooling slightly exceeds that of their male counterparts.
- *Under-education* is a widely acknowledged phenomenon in all regions of Quebec, particularly among Aboriginals.



# The Labour Market

- **The unemployment rate for Aboriginals (18.5%) remains higher than that observed among non-Aboriginals (8.1%).**
- **The situation is particularly acute among Quebec's Aboriginal men, who posted an unemployment rate of 21%.**
- **Along the same lines, the employment rate for Aboriginals in Quebec (47.1%) is lower than that of the non-Aboriginal population (59.0%).**
- **This difficult situation can be explained by the elevated school dropout rate among young males and a critical level of under-education among Aboriginals, which effectively shuts them out of the labour market, since it is becoming increasingly difficult for workers without qualifications to find jobs.**



# Industry Sectors

**Aboriginals in Quebec were employed in the following industry sectors:**

- **Government (5,395 people; 18% of the total Aboriginal labour force)**
- **Health care and social assistance (3,815 people; 13%)**
- **Manufacturing (2,890 people; 10%)**
- **Retail trade (2,865 people; 9%)**
- **Educational services (2,450 people; 8%)**
- **Construction (1,990 people; 7%)**
- **Accommodation and food services (1,845 people; 6%).**



# Occupational Categories

- **In 2001, over 70% of Quebec's Aboriginal people held jobs in sales/service, trades/transport/machinery, business/finance/administration and social sciences/education/government.**
- **Women worked in sales/service, business/finance/administration and social sciences/education/government.**
- **Aboriginal men worked in trades/transport/machinery, sales/services, occupations unique to primary industry and in management.**
- **The occupational profile observed among Aboriginals in the province is more or less the same as that recorded for non-Aboriginals.**



# Average Employment Income

- In Quebec, the average employment income of Aboriginals is lower than that of non-Aboriginals.
- In 2001, the average employment income of Aboriginals was \$21,725 compared with Quebec non-Aboriginals, who earned \$29,999.
- Although average employment income was higher among Aboriginal men (\$24,072), non-Aboriginal men province-wide reported average earnings of \$35,374. Moreover, a significant gap was observed as concerns the difference between the average employment income of Aboriginal men compared with Aboriginal women (\$4,942).



## **Outlook by Sector and Occupation**

- **Job prospects are good in the mining industry in the Abitibi–Témiscamingue, North Shore, Northern Quebec and Saguenay–Lac St Jean regions. In Quebec, for the 2007–2009 period, an average annual growth of 2.1% is expected.**
- **The outlook is good for**
  - 2143 Mining Engineers**
  - 2212 Geological and Mineral Technologists and Technicians**
  - 2241 Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technologists/Technicians**
  - 7321 Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanical Repairers**
  - 7411 Truck Drivers**
  - 8231 Underground Production and Development Miners**
  - 9511 Machining Tool Operators**



## Outlook by Sector and Occupation

- **In the forest industry, the situation is much more difficult. The drop in supply, US protectionism, protected areas, Kyoto standards, low raw-material market prices, the slowdown in the US, and the extremely high exchange rate have undermined the competitiveness of companies. From 2007 to 2009, negative growth ranging from  $-2.7\%$  to  $-1.2\%$  is anticipated in the Quebec forest industry.**
- **The outlook is good for**
  - 1431 Accounting Clerks**
  - 2122 Forestry Professionals**
  - 2241 Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technologists/Technicians**
  - 9215 Supervisors, Forest Products Processing**



## Outlook by Sector and Occupation

- **Since 2000, the construction industry in both Quebec and Canada has been performing well, with most of the construction starts taking place in urban areas. The outlook remains positive for certain regions of Quebec, namely Northern Quebec, Saguenay–Lac St Jean and Abitibi–Témiscamingue, primarily as a result of Eastmain 1A. Negative growth of –0.6% is forecasted for the 2007–2009 period.**
- **The outlook is good for**
  - 7241 Electricians**
  - 7251 Plumbers**
  - 7261 Sheet Metal Workers**
  - 7264 Ironworkers**
  - 7294 Painters and Decorators**
  - 7421 Heavy Equipment Operators**



## **Outlook by Sector and Occupation**

- **The social and community economy sector is crucial to community life. Services are fairly diversified and the outlook is relatively good. Annual growth of 1.1% is expected from 2007 to 2009 in the consumer services sector.**
- **The outlook is good for**
  - 1221 Administrative Officers**
  - 1431 Accounting Clerks**
  - 3233 Licensed Practical Nurses**
  - 4141 Secondary School Teachers**
  - 4153 Family/Marriage Counsellors**
  - 4212 Community and Social Service Workers**
  - 4214 Early Childhood Educators**
  - 4215 Instructors and Teachers of Persons with Disabilities**
  - 1241 Secretaries**
  - 3152 Registered Nurses**
  - 3413 Patient Service Associates**
  - 4142 Elementary School Teachers**



# Outlook for Quebec

- ✓ **The large number of baby boomers set to retire over the coming years will create a wealth of opportunities.**
- ✓ **Demand is high in specialized occupations and many job openings are not filled owing to a lack of qualified workers.**
- ✓ **The number of unskilled jobs has been declining steadily in recent decades**
  - **From 80% (in the 1950s and 1960s)**
  - **To 60% (in the 1970s and 1980s)**
  - **To 40% (in the 1990s and 2000s)**
  - **And will soon be 20% (in the 2010s and 2020s).**
- ✓ **The jobs of the future will require a specialized workforce.**



# Outlook for Quebec

- ✓ **The best way for Aboriginal workers to ensure they will be able to find a job is to complete a professional training program (vocational diploma), a college diploma (DEC) or a university degree (Bachelor's degree).**
- ✓ **50% of all job openings for semiskilled labour require vocational-school graduates.**