

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN ALBERTA

DEFINITIONS

Aboriginal – Refers to the descendants of the original inhabitants of what is now Canada. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people: First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

First Nations – People who are members of a First Nation living on- or off-reserve. Traditions and protocols vary from community to community.

Métis – People of mixed First Nations and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis people and are accepted as such by a Métis leadership. They are distinct from First Nations, Inuit or non-Aboriginal peoples.

Inuit – Aboriginal people in northern Canada living generally above the tree line.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Alberta's Aboriginal ancestry population is close to 250,000 and has increased 23 per cent in five years (2001-2006).
- Alberta has Canada's third-largest Aboriginal population.
- Alberta has one of the youngest Aboriginal populations in the country. Almost a third (31 per cent) of the province's Aboriginal population is under 14 years of age compared to 19 per cent for the non-Aboriginal population.
- 63 per cent of Alberta's Aboriginal people now live in urban areas.
- Edmonton and Calgary are among the top 10 census metropolitan areas with the largest Aboriginal populations in Canada
- There are 47 First Nations Chiefs and Councils and 134 reserves covering three Treaty areas: Treaty 6 (central); Treaty 7 (south); and Treaty 8 (north).
- Alberta is home to Canada's largest Métis population – approximately 85,000 and growing.
- There are eight Métis Settlements in Alberta, comprising 528,000 hectares (1.2 million acres). This is the only recognized Métis land base in Canada.