

## Métis Population, 1996

---

### Abstract

The term Métis is broadly used in Canada to designate people who have both European and First Nations ancestors. Two-thirds of the Métis population of Canada live on the Prairies. This map is derived from answers to the question: "Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is, a North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo)?" in Statistics Canada 1996 Census.

---

This map is the first to illustrate the distribution of the Métis population in Canada. Historically, the term Métis was applied in the Prairies to children born of Cree women and French merchants, and in the North to children born of Dene women and English or Scottish merchants. Today the term is broadly used to designate people who have both European and First Nations ancestors. In considering themselves Métis, these persons distinguish themselves from members of First Nations or Indian, Inuit and non-Aboriginal persons. Many Canadians have both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ancestors, but not all refer to themselves as Métis. <sup>1</sup>

The Métis Population is represented by means of point symbols located at the centre of the 1783 census subdivisions (CSDs) containing a population of more than 10 Métis. Each symbol increases in size with the size of the population, and the shade and shape of the symbol changes to facilitate reading of the map. An attempt has been made to group the population into five classes with each representing roughly one-fifth of the Métis.

Two-thirds of the Métis population of Canada (210 000 persons) live on the Prairies. In 1996, there were 51 000 Métis enumerated in Alberta, 46 000 in Manitoba and 36 600 in Saskatchewan, representing in total, over a third of the Aboriginal population of the Prairie Provinces. Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Regina are the CSDs with the largest number of Métis (a total of 60 000). There are a number of northern villages that are predominantly Métis in northern Saskatchewan, notably La Loche, Ile-à-la-Crosse, Pinehouse and Buffalo Narrows.

Thirteen per cent of the Métis population of Canada lives in British Columbia and a total of 18% lives in Ontario and Quebec. Nearly half of the Canadian population identifying themselves as Métis are scattered in CSDs containing less than 500 Métis.

The Aboriginal population of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is about equally divided between Métis, Indians and Inuit. The Métis are located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and many of the villages of Labrador are predominantly Métis.

1. Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Communications Branch. Words First: An Evolving Terminology Relating to Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. Ottawa, December 2000. (unpublished)
- 

## Definition of underlined term

**Census Subdivision (CSD):** Census subdivision is the general term applying to municipalities (as determined by provincial legislation) or their equivalent (for example, Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories). In Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, the term also describes geographic areas that have been created by Statistics Canada in cooperation with the provinces as equivalents for municipalities for the dissemination of statistical data. According to the national hierarchy, census subdivisions add together to form census divisions. The CDs form provinces and territories. Two additional levels are defined in the national hierarchy to facilitate special data analysis. A special aggregation of census subdivisions called census consolidated subdivision (CCS) provides a level of geography between the CSD and CD which facilitates data analysis. In the rural context, the CCS is a grouping of smaller municipalities, usually contained within a larger municipality. For instance, a town located within a surrounding township will be grouped together with the township to form a CCS. In urban areas, CCSs are formed by contiguous groupings of CSDs. A principal user of the CCSs is the Census of Agriculture. (Source: 1996 Census Dictionary, Statistics Canada)

---

## Map Sources

### Aboriginal Population, 1996

Statistics Canada. 1996 Census of Population.

## References

Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Communications Branch. 2000. Words First: An Evolving Terminology Relating to Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. November. Ottawa: (unpublished)

Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Corporate Information Management Directorate. 2001. Aboriginal Labour Force Characteristics from the 1996 Census. Ottawa. ([http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/sts/alfc\\_e.pdf](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/sts/alfc_e.pdf))

Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Corporate Information Management Directorate. 2001. Basic Departmental Data - 2000. Ottawa. ([http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/sts/bdd00/bdd00\\_e.pdf](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/sts/bdd00/bdd00_e.pdf))

Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Research and Analysis Directorate. 1997. Implications of First Nations Demography. Final Report prepared by Four Directions Consulting Group, Winnipeg, Manitoba. ([http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/ra/execs/index\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/ra/execs/index_e.html))

Canada. Statistics Canada. 1998. 1996 Census: Aboriginal Data. The Daily, January 13, 1998. Ottawa. (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/980113/dq980113-eng.htm>)

Canada. Statistics Canada. 1999. First nations Profiles. Canadian Social Trends. Catalogue Number 11-008. Ottawa.

## **Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)**

### **Federal Government**

Aboriginal Canada Portal

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/980113/dq980113-eng.htm>

A gateway to national and provincial Aboriginal organizations, economic development, claims and treaties, environment and natural resources, language, heritage and culture.

Government of Canada. Canada's Digital Collections. Aboriginal Digital Collections

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/e/adc.asp>

Gateway to web sites of Canadian Aboriginal images and information, created by Aboriginal youth with funding from Industry Canada.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/>

Information on the Department and on services offered to First Nations People. See "Publications and Research" for recent data on Aboriginal population, First Nations Profiles, news on treaties and land claims, etc.

### **Other**

Inuit Tapisirat.

<http://www.itk.ca/>

A site on Inuit culture created by the Inuit Tapisirat.