

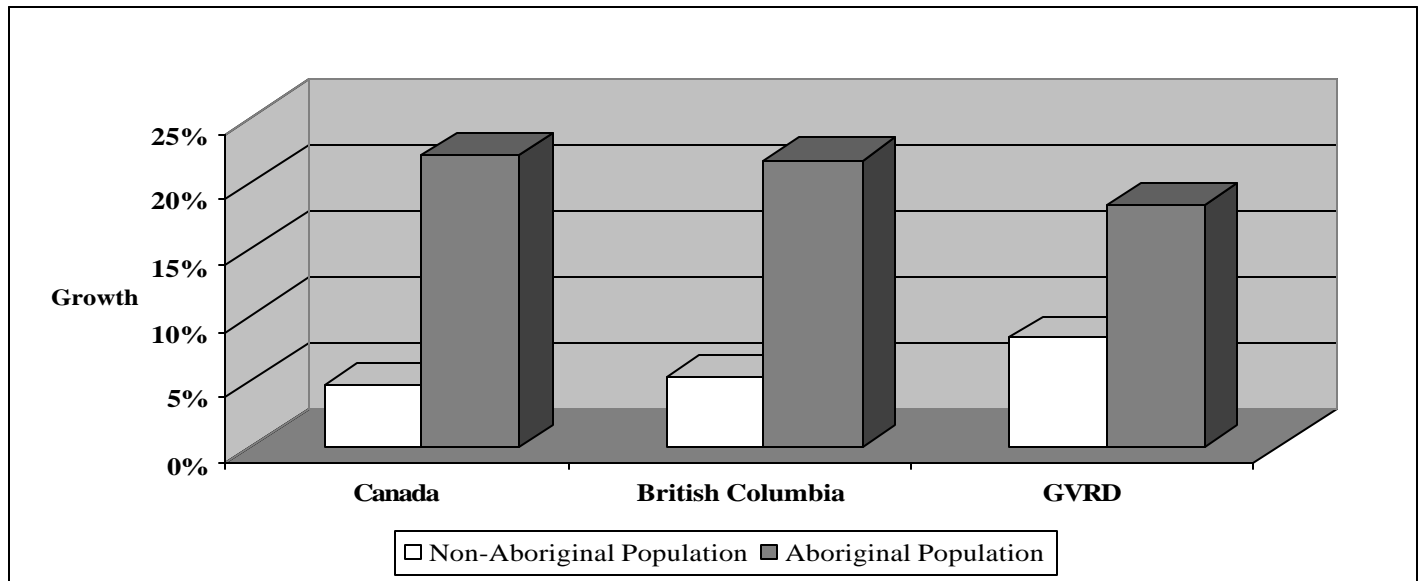
2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #7 – ABORIGINAL POPULATION

Aboriginal Population Growth Far Outpaces the Non-Aboriginal Population

According to the 2001 Census, Aboriginal people now make up 3.3% of Canada's population, compared with 2.7% five years earlier. A total of 976,305 people across Canada identified themselves as Aboriginal; this represents an increase of 22.2% from the 1996 Census, in which 799,010 people across the country reported Aboriginal identity. By comparison, Canada's non-Aboriginal population only grew by 4.7% between 1996 and 2001.

Aboriginal identity refers to those persons who reported identifying at least one Aboriginal group (North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit). This Census release uses the Aboriginal identity concept to provide an initial profile of the Aboriginal population. Subsequent data releases will provide additional data on Aboriginal peoples and their socio-economic characteristics.

Table 1 *1996 and 2001 Comparisons of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population Growth for Canada, British Columbia and the GVRD*



In BC, the rate of growth of persons identifying themselves as Aboriginal increased by 21.8% between 1996 and 2001, jumping from 139,655 to 170,025 in that five year period. By comparison, the Province's non-Aboriginal population increased by 5.3% during the same time period. BC's Aboriginals represent 4.4% of the Province's overall population.

In Greater Vancouver, there were 36,855 persons of Aboriginal identity in 2001 (or 1.8% of the region's population), compared to 31,140 in 1996 – an increase of 5,715 people (or 18.4%). This means that the rate of growth for persons of Aboriginal identity was more than twice the rate of growth of non-Aboriginal persons, which grew in absolute terms by 8.3%, between 1996 and 2001.

Overall, 21.7% of the Province's Aboriginal population lives in the GVRD. Other BC Census Metropolitan Areas having large Aboriginal populations include Victoria (with 8,695 Aboriginals), Prince George (7,980) and Kamloops (5,470).

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Regionally Speaking: Vancouver has the Largest Aboriginal Population, while Surrey Experienced the GVRD's Largest Increase in Aboriginals since 1996

According to Table 2 below, the City of Vancouver had the largest number of Aboriginals of all the GVRD-member municipalities in 2001 (10,445), followed by Surrey (6,900) and Burnaby (3,145). However, the City of Vancouver experienced a decrease in the number of Aboriginals between 1996 and 2001: a drop of approximately 500 people, which represents a decrease of 9.1% of the region's total.

Table 2 *Comparison of Aboriginal Population by GVRD Municipality, 1996 and 2001*

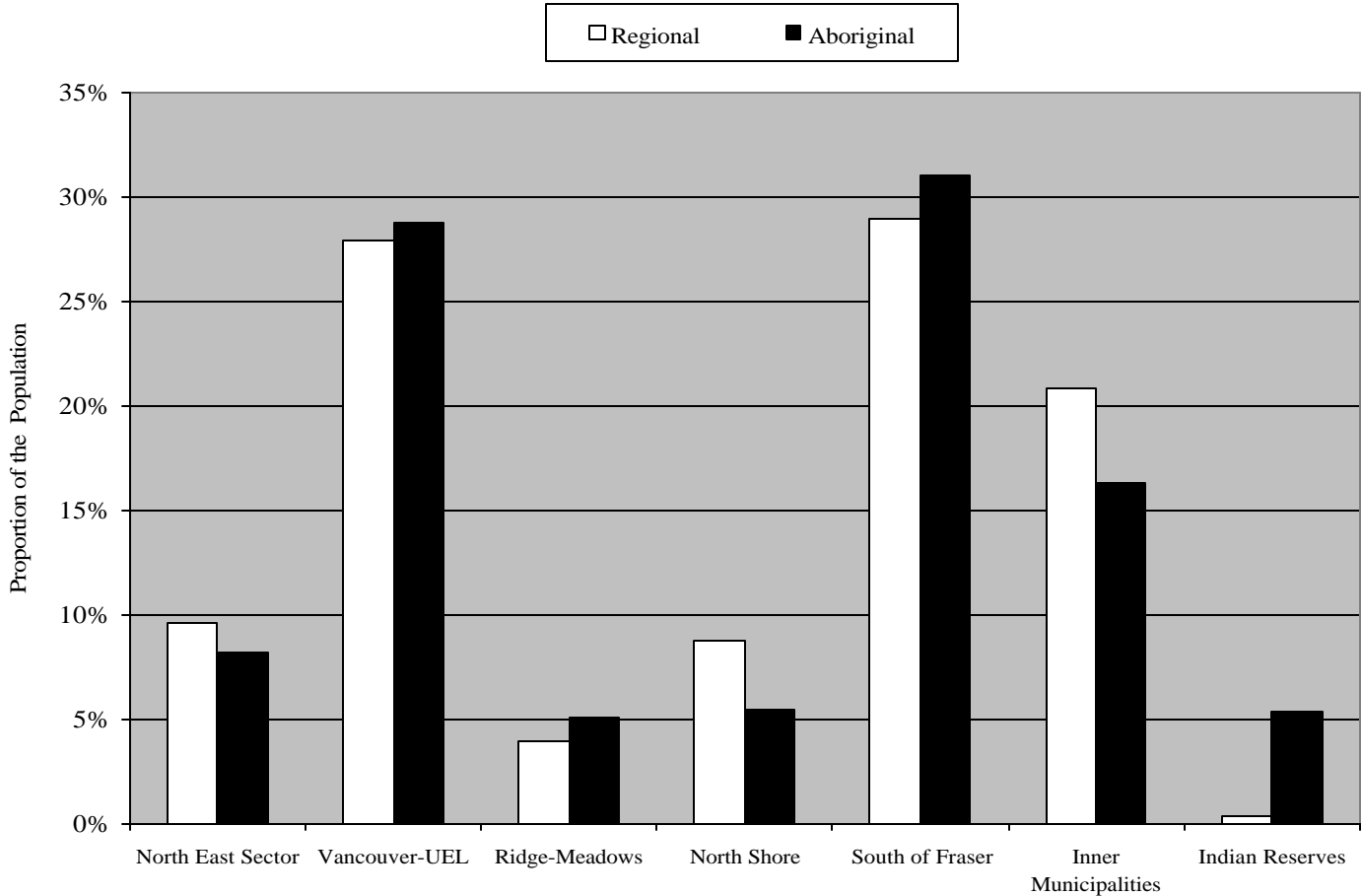
Municipality	1996 Total Aboriginal Population	2001 Total Aboriginal Population	Absolute Growth 1996-2001	Percentage Absolute Growth 1996-2001	Percentage Total Growth 1996-2001
Anmore	25	0	-25	-100.0%	-0.4%
Belcarra	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Bowen Island	NA	15	NA	NA	NA
Burnaby	2,500	3,145	645	25.8%	11.3%
Coquitlam	1,240	1,485	245	19.8%	4.3%
Delta	860	1,495	635	73.8%	11.1%
Electoral Area 'A'	70	160	90	128.6%	1.6%
Langley City	485	745	260	53.6%	4.5%
Langley Township	1,155	1,945	790	68.4%	13.8%
Lions Bay	10	0	-10	-100.0%	-0.2%
Maple Ridge	1,085	1,555	470	43.3%	8.2%
New Westminster	1,375	1,595	220	16.0%	3.8%
North Vancouver City	715	1,010	295	41.3%	5.2%
North Vancouver District	590	825	235	39.8%	4.1%
Pitt Meadows	190	305	115	60.5%	2.0%
Port Coquitlam	715	1,030	315	44.1%	5.5%
Port Moody	350	480	130	37.1%	2.3%
Richmond	1,210	1,165	-45	-3.7%	-0.8%
Surrey	5,070	6,900	1,830	36.1%	32.0%
Vancouver	10,965	10,445	-520	-4.7%	-9.1%
West Vancouver	75	95	20	26.7%	0.3%
White Rock	175	160	-15	-8.6%	-0.3%
Indian Reserves	1,960	1,920	-40	-2.0%	-0.7%
GVRD Area	31,140	36,855	5,715	18.4%	100.0%

Surrey had the largest influx of the region's Aboriginals during the same five year period and experienced a jump of 1,830 persons (or 32% of the region's total growth). Langley Township (790), Burnaby (645) and Delta (635) were the other GVRD municipalities experiencing the largest increases in Aboriginal population, in terms of absolute growth, between 1996 and 2001. In fact, these four municipalities – Surrey, Langley Township, Burnaby and Delta – experienced 68.2% of the region's growth in persons of Aboriginal identity in those same five years.

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Table 3 below depicts that the Vancouver-UEL area, as well as the municipalities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, along with the communities South of Fraser and the Indian Reserves (combined) have a higher proportion of the Aboriginal population than a proportional share of the region's overall population.

Table 3 *GVRD's Population in Relation to the Region's Aboriginal Population, by Sub-Regions, 2001*



GVRD Sub-Regions:

- ?North East Sector: Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody
- ?Vancouver-UEL: City of Vancouver, University Endowment Lands (UBC – Electoral Area A)
- ?Ridge-Meadows: Maple Ridge; Pitt Meadows
- ?North Shore: Lions Bay; Bowen Island; West Vancouver; City of North Vancouver; District of North Vancouver
- ?South of Fraser: White Rock; Surrey; Delta; Langley City; Langley Township
- ?Inner Municipalities: Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminister

Table 4, on the next page, reveals that only 5.2% (or 1,920 people) of Aboriginals within the GVRD live on Indian Reserves. This represents a decrease from the 1996 Census when 6.3% of Aboriginals were living on Indian Reserves. The data also reveals that 61.6% of Greater Vancouver's Aboriginals (or 22,700 persons) identify themselves as North American Indian. Just over 12,500 people identify themselves as Métis.

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Table 4 *Characteristics of the Aboriginal Data for the Greater Vancouver Region, 2001 Census*

GEOGRAPHY	Total Population by Aboriginal Groups and Non-Aboriginal Population (20% sample data)	North				Multiple Aboriginal Responses	Other Aboriginal Response	Total Non- Aboriginal Population
		Total Aboriginal Population	Indian (Single Response)	Metis (Single Response)	Inuit (Single Response)			
MUNICIPALITIES								
Anmore	1,340	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,340
Belcarra	680	-	-	-	-	-	-	680
Bowen Island	2,955	15	10	-	10	-	-	2,940
Burnaby	191,385	3,145	1,920	1,100	15	15	100	188,235
Coquitlam	111,425	1,485	785	635	10	10	45	109,940
Delta	96,370	1,495	915	555	-	10	20	94,875
Greater Vancouver, Subd. A	7,810	160	120	25	15	-	10	7,650
Langley City	23,405	745	340	350	-	45	10	22,660
Langley Township	86,220	1,945	920	940	20	30	30	84,275
Lions Bay	1,380	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,380
Maple Ridge	62,380	1,555	680	785	10	45	40	60,820
New Westminster	53,805	1,595	820	700	15	30	30	52,215
North Vancouver City	43,930	1,010	745	230	-	10	25	42,920
North Vancouver District	81,675	825	520	265	-	-	35	80,845
Pitt Meadows	14,660	305	185	115	-	-	-	14,350
Port Coquitlam	50,800	1,030	520	490	-	-	15	49,770
Port Moody	23,730	480	275	185	10	10	10	23,255
Richmond	163,395	1,165	690	425	-	-	50	162,230
Surrey	345,780	6,900	3,610	3,010	95	30	145	338,890
Vancouver	539,625	10,445	7,335	2,550	55	155	350	529,185
West Vancouver	40,860	95	50	45	-	-	-	40,760
White Rock	17,325	160	95	50	-	-	10	17,160
INDIAN RESERVES								
Barnston Island 3	45	45	35	-	-	10	-	10
Burrard Inlet 3	1,205	240	240	10	-	-	-	965
Capilano 5	2,230	535	505	10	-	-	15	1,700
Katzie 1	220	210	180	-	-	-	25	15
Matsqui 4	415	30	20	10	-	-	-	390
McMillan Island 6	60	55	50	-	-	-	-	10
Musqueam 2	1,275	525	495	-	-	-	25	755
Semiahmoo	130	50	40	10	-	-	-	80
Seymour Creek 2	55	25	30	-	-	-	-	30
Tsawwassen	480	205	200	10	-	-	-	275
GVRD	1,967,475	36,855	22,700	12,505	260	400	995	1,930,620

GVRD-area First Nations include Katzie, Musqueam, Squamish, Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh (Burrard), which are all involved in negotiating land claims within the BC treaty process. Other GVRD-area First Nations include Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, New Westminster and Semiahmoo. Off-reserve Aboriginals residing in GVRD municipalities may be from these or other Indian Bands located elsewhere in BC or across Canada.

The GVRD is a member of the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, which oversees treaty negotiations in the Lower Mainland and is part of the Provincial treaty negotiation team. The GVRD also responds to non-treaty aboriginal issues through its Corporate and Intergovernmental Committee, which advises the GVRD Board of Directors. Additional information on treaty negotiations and the GVRD's involvement in aboriginal issues is available and can be accessed from the GVRD's website using the following link:

http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/services/growth/projects/proj_treat.htm