

First Nations migration

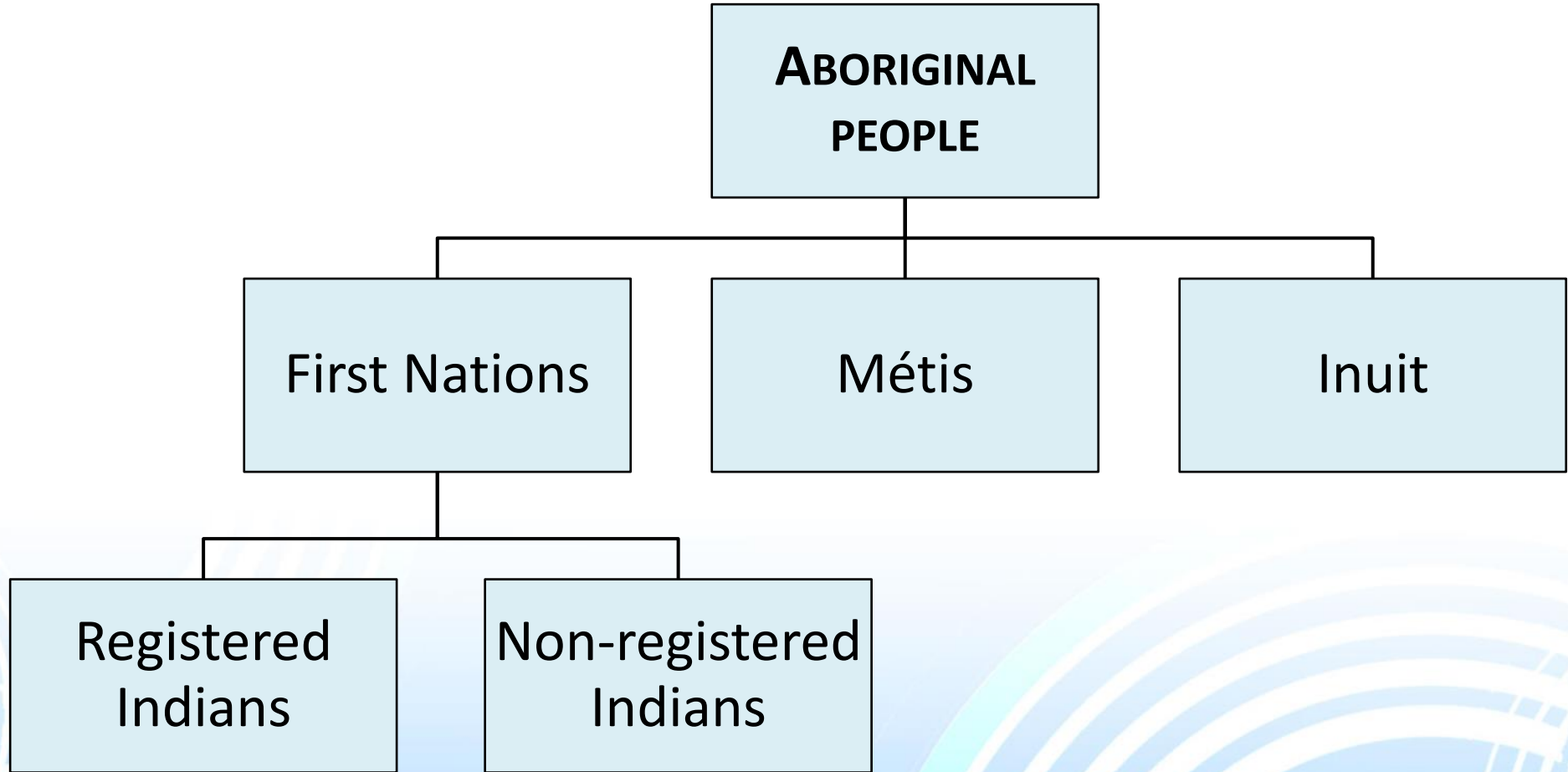
Reflections of inequalities

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DEFINITIONS

- **Registered Indian**

Person recognised by the Federal Government under the *Indian Act*. All Registered Indians are recorded in the Indian Register (held by Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development)

- **Non-Registered (“Non-Status”) Indian**

Person declaring him/herself Indian without formal recognition. Many are not eligible for registration under the Indian Act, because descended from 2 or more successive exogamous generations. Some would be eligible but have not applied for registration.

FIRST NATIONS - Provinces and Territories

PROVINCE	FIRST NATIONS						TOTAL		
	REGISTERED INDIANS			NON-REGISTERED INDIANS					
ATLANTIC REGION	31 965	5,0	54,3	26 880	12,6	45,7	58 845	6,9	100,0
QUÉBEC	52 645	8,3	63,9	29 775	13,9	36,1	82 420	9,7	100,0
ONTARIO	125 560	19,7	62,4	75 540	35,3	37,6	201 100	23,6	100,0
MANITOBA	105 815	16,6	92,6	8 410	3,9	7,4	114 225	13,4	100,0
SASKATCHEWAN	94 160	14,8	91,2	9 045	4,2	8,8	103 205	12,1	100,0
ALBERTA	96 730	15,2	82,9	19 945	9,3	17,1	116 675	13,7	100,0
BRITISH COLUMBIA	112 400	17,6	72,5	42 615	19,9	27,5	155 015	18,2	100,0
YUKON	5 715	0,9	86,7	875	0,4	13,3	6 590	0,8	100,0
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	12 575	2,0	94,2	775	0,4	5,8	13 350	1,6	100,0
NUNAVUT	90	0,0	69,2	40	0,0	30,8	130	0,0	100,0
CANADA	637 655	100,0	74,9	213 900	100,0	25,1	851 555	100,0	100,0

REGISTERED INDIANS – reserves/non-reserves

PROVINCE	REGISTERED INDIANS						TOTAL		
	RESERVES			NON-RESERVES					
ATLANTIC REGION	18 220	5,8	57,0	13 745	4,3	43,0	31 965	5,0	100,0
QUÉBEC	37 904	12,1	72,0	14 741	4,6	28,0	52 645	8,3	100,0
ONTARIO	46 457	14,8	37,0	79 103	24,8	63,0	125 560	19,7	100,0
MANITOBA	61 267	19,5	57,9	44 548	14,0	42,1	105 815	16,6	100,0
SASKATCHEWAN	53 954	17,2	57,3	40 206	12,6	42,7	94 160	14,8	100,0
ALBERTA	45 753	14,6	47,3	50 977	16,0	52,7	96 730	15,2	100,0
BRITISH COLUMBIA	49 681	15,8	44,2	62 719	19,7	55,8	112 400	17,6	100,0
YUKON ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 715	0,9	-
NORTHWEST TERRITOIRES	264	0,1	2,1	12 311	3,9	97,9	12 575	2,0	100,0
NUNAVUT ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	0,0	-
CANADA	314 366	100,0	49,3	323 294	100,0	50,7	637 655	100,0	100,0

Note : ¹ Aucun établissement indien ni réserve indienne du Yukon n'est inclus dans la définition du terme « réserves ».

² Il n'y a pas de réserves indiennes ni d'établissements indiens au Nunavut.

Source : Statistics Canada (2013, Tableau 3)

FIRST NATIONS – Region of residence

FIRST NATIONS	REGIONS				TOTAL
	CENSUS METROPOLITAN (CMA)	URBAN Non CMA	RESERVES	RURAL	
REGISTERED INDIANS	23,3	17,3	48,1	11,3	100,0
NON-REGISTERED INDIANS	50,2	24,3	3,5	22,0	100,0

Source : Statistics Canada, 2006 Census.

MIGRATION AND RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY

MIGRATION : “Migrants” - persons who have changed *community* or *region*

- Measured over a 5 year observation period

RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY: “Persons who have moved” – those who have changed home within *the same community* or *the same place of residence*.

- Measured over a 1 year observation period

Migration

- Proportion of the population who had changed place of residence (migrated) in 2001:
 - Non-Aboriginal Canadians :16,5%
 - Registered Indians: 18,8%
 - Non-Registered Indians: 23,7%

Non-Registered Indians make the most changes of area of residence.

They are also the most **urbanised** First Nations group

Duration and number of migrations

- 59 % of First Nations adults have lived outside their community at some time in their lives (RHS, 2008)
- 75% have been living outside their community for at least 1 year; 38% for over 5 years.
- 19% of respondents who leave their community return at least once; 13% at least twice.
- Proportion of those who have moved at least twice decrease with age (23% of those aged 18-29 ; 9 % of those aged 30-59; 5% of those over 60)

Individuals, families, communities and Canadian society

- Migration is also a strategy to reduce socio-economic inequalities.
- What are the main inequalities between First Nations and Non-Aboriginal Canadians?
 - Years of education
 - Employment and incomes
 - Access to health care

The depopulation of reserves: myth or reality?

- **Context:**

Rapid growth of Aboriginal populations in urban centres in Canada: especially Registered and Non-Registered Indians.

Wrong Explanation : Migration – reserves are losing population to cities.

- **The reality**

Reserves net migration has been positive since the 1970s

Simultaneous growth in Registered Indian population in both urban centres and reserves

Depopulation of reserves: myth or reality?

Explanation 1: Reintegration of Indians (in 1985 to 2005) who had lost status through mixed marriages, and registration of their descendants.

Explanation 2: ethnic mobility of First Nations people not eligible for inclusion in the Indian Register.

- Do not have rights to live on a reserve
- People of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal origin, who previously did not self-identify as First Nations members, were able to join this group through identity transfer at some point in their lives.

Interprovincial and International Migration

- Interprovincial migration: 10,000 + people who move between neighbouring provinces.
- 1 – 2,000 Registered Indians move back and forth between the US and Canada.

The First Nations migration profile is different from that of non-Aboriginal Canadians

CONCLUSION

- First Nations: a heterogeneous group
- Divisions and Differences:
 - Legal status, rights and privileges
 - Geographical distribution and access to services
 - Cultural differences: perception of migration, attachment to community, motivations
 - Socio-economic inequalities

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- An ongoing challenge to respond to the needs of the First Nations
- Reducing socio-economic inequalities: need to address their causes
- Respecting the values and culture of different population groups
- Not creating new divisions

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