

NO: R131

COUNCIL DATE: June 12, 2017

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

**TO: Mayor & Council** **DATE: June 8, 2017**

**FROM: General Manager, Planning & Development** **FILE: 5080-01**  
**Acting General Manager, Finance & Technology**

**SUBJECT: All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy – Phase 2 of the**  
**Surrey Urban Aboriginal Innovation Project**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Development Department and the Finance & Technology Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Authorize staff to partner with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (the “Leadership Committee”) on the implementation of All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy - Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project (the “All Our Relations Strategy”), attached as Appendix “I” to this report;
3. Approve City support of the recommendations for which the City can play a role; and
4. Approve a contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the implementation of the All Our Relations Strategy, attached as Appendix “II.”

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s commitment to support the Leadership Committee in implementing the All Our Relations Strategy and, specifically, to support those recommendations for which the City can play a role. In addition, this report serves as a request for a financial contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund to be assigned to support the facilitation of the Leadership Committee.

## BACKGROUND

Inspired by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in February 2015 the Social Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) identified Aboriginal issues and the development of an Aboriginal strategy as a priority focus area for the SPAC and Social Planning.

On September 28, 2015, Council received a report informing them that the City, with the support of Aboriginal agencies in Surrey, had been awarded funding by the BC Association of Aboriginal

Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) through the Urban Partnerships Program to convene the agencies to develop a social innovation strategy (Corporate Report No. R198; 2015, Appendix “III”).

On May 2, 2016, Council adopted the All Our Relations Strategy. Based on research and consultations, the Phase 1 report identified 14 key finding related to the Aboriginal population in Surrey (Corporate Report No. R100; 2016, Appendix “IV”).

## **DISCUSSION**

The Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project (the “Project”) is an initiative of the Leadership Committee. The overarching goal of the Project is to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Indigenous population in Surrey.

In 2016-2017, the Leadership Committee built on the 14 key findings identified in Phase 1 to develop the All Our Relations Strategy. The process included consultation with non-Aboriginal community stakeholders. Phase 2 was supported by a contribution of \$83,300.00 from the BCAAFC through the Government of Canada’s Urban Partnerships program. As with Phase 1, for Phase 2 the City supported the Leadership Committee by administering the BCAAFC contract.

### **Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee**

The Leadership Committee’s mission is to be the collective voice of the Urban Indigenous population in Surrey. Convened by the City, it is composed of representatives of Aboriginal service organizations, as well as representatives from Aboriginal programs within non-Aboriginal public agencies, including Surrey Schools; RCMP; Fraser Health; and Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Leadership Committee is chaired by Councillor Vera LeFranc, Vice-Chair of the SPAC.

The First Nations governments on whose traditional territory Surrey is located have an open invitation to participate in the Leadership Committee; this includes the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations.

Since the Leadership Committee was first convened in 2015, it has met regularly to guide the Project. Leadership Committee meetings also serve as an opportunity for City staff and other community groups to inform and seek the support and guidance of the Leadership Committee on initiatives that relate to the Urban Indigenous community in Surrey.

### **All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy**

The Vision of the All Our Relations Strategy is:

“A city that values Indigenous contributions to city life. A city that is committed to working towards reconciliation at all levels. A city where every Indigenous person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.”

The All Our Relations Strategy includes five strategic objectives, supported by 42 goals and 98 strategies.

The five strategic directions are:

1. Create and Strengthen Partnerships;
2. Expand Indigenous Leadership Capacity;
3. Improve and Grow Programs and Services;
4. Increase Education and Understanding; and
5. Increase Funding.

The document identifies the Leadership Committee as “the protagonist driving the change we want to see.” It also extends an invitation to other organizations and all levels of government to join the Leadership Committee in working together to implement the Strategy.

Since completing the All Our Relations Strategy, the Leadership Committee has formed working groups to focus on implementation of five initial priorities:

- Building leadership capacity among urban Indigenous residents;
- Planning a mixed use cultural and service hub;
- Increasing the community’s awareness and understanding;
- Supporting vulnerable women and girls; and
- Developing an urban Indigenous child poverty strategy.

### **Reconciliation and the City of Surrey**

The TRC has had a profound impact on Canadians’ awareness of the deep and lasting trauma of Indian residential schools on Indigenous peoples, and the urgent need for reconciliation to transform Canadian society. The TRC’s final report includes 94 Calls to Action “to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.” Thirteen of the TRC’s Calls to Action relate specifically to municipalities.

In 2016, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ responded to the TRC with a document entitled “Pathways to Reconciliation: Cities Respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action” (the “Report”). The Report highlights how municipal governments “are rolling up their sleeves to support reconciliation as a national challenge that is deeply felt at the local level.”

There are three somewhat overlapping groups of Indigenous people with whom the City could engage in reconciliation. These include:

1. Land-based First Nations governments in what is now the City;
2. Non-land-based Metis governments that represent Metis people living in the City; and
3. Urban Indigenous residents of Surrey.

The All Our Relations Strategy relates to Urban Indigenous residents of Surrey. It offers an opportunity for the City to make a commitment to reconciliation with the Urban Indigenous community in Surrey.

### **City of Surrey: Role in Implementing the All Our Relations Strategy**

The Leadership Committee has identified priorities for action and extended an invitation to the City to work alongside them.

Staff are recommending that the City should remain supportive of the Leadership Committee by committing to:

- Having a City representative on the Leadership Committee;
- Authorizing staff to provide support to the Leadership Committee;
- Leveraging City contacts and networks to advance the capacity of the Leadership Committee and the Urban Indigenous community more generally; and
- Continuing to channel requests for Urban Indigenous perspectives on City initiatives through the Leadership Committee.

Input from the City’s Senior Management Team indicates that there is support and a willingness to partner with the Leadership Committee to implement the All Our Relations Strategy. In some cases, engagement with Indigenous people is already embedded in existing plans. For example, a strategic priority for Surrey Libraries’ is to “engage with the community,” including Urban Aboriginals. The RCMP has confirmed that all of the goals in the All Our Relations Strategy are consistent with the current programs in the RCMP’s Diversity Unit and the service delivery model in Surrey. Cultural Services has confirmed that the public art program and Public Art Advisory Committee are very supportive of welcoming more artworks by Indigenous artists in the City’s public art collection, including acquiring works for City facilities.

The tables below highlight goals and strategies contained in the All Our Relations Strategy for which the City could play a role. It identifies the department(s) that could be involved in working with the Leadership Committee on specific strategies. In total, there are 17 goals and 32 strategies that Council and staff from various departments and/or the RCMP could partner with the Leadership Committee to implement. There may be additional goals and strategies that the City could play a role in supporting.

The tables also include notes and examples of current and past City initiatives that align with the Leadership Committee’s strategies. It shows that many City departments are already engaging with the Urban Indigenous community.

In the fall, staff will convene a series of inter-departmental consultations, as well as a consultation with the Leadership Committee, to identify new or additional actions or projects that the City could undertake to support the implementation of the All Our Relations Strategy. Following this consultation process, a report will be forwarded for Council’s consideration by early 2018.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION I: CREATE AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS**

**Goal #3: Strengthen the relationship with the City of Surrey.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Continue to have a City representative on the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor LeFranc chairs the Committee and Social Planning provides administrative support.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning &amp; Development (P&amp;D)</p>

<p><b>Continue to seek funding and partnerships by leveraging City relationships</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Planning staff has recently convened meetings with private foundations. The meetings are an opportunity for the Leadership Committee to share the Strategy and discuss possible partnership or funding opportunities.</li> <li>• The City’s Community Art Program partnered with the Friendship Centre on a project that engaged the Centre’s youth advisory committee in developing a committee image/logo.</li> </ul>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>
<p><b>Actively support and give guidance to City initiatives to build awareness of Urban Indigenous matters.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks staff met with the Leadership Committee regarding the creation of an Urban Indigenous youth mural project.</li> </ul>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>
<p><b>Actively support City initiatives in order to incorporate urban Indigenous perspectives into City policy, programs, and planning.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks staff met with the Leadership Committee on the Parks, Recreation and Culture (PR&amp;C) Strategic Plan.</li> <li>• Libraries staff met with the Leadership Committee to secure support and guidance on the Taan’s Moon childrens’ exhibit.</li> <li>• Human Resource (HR) staff met with the Leadership Committee to confirm an appropriate celebration format for Orange Shirt Day.</li> </ul>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION II: EXPAND INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP CAPACITY**

**Goal #6: Identify and cultivate more Indigenous people to take on leadership roles within Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations in Surrey.**

<p>STRATEGY</p>	<p>DEPT.</p>
<p><b>Create mentorship opportunities so that emerging Indigenous leaders can connect with experienced community leaders.</b></p>	<p>Multiple Depts.</p>

**Goal #7: More Indigenous people serving as directors of community organizations, on city committees, and other boards.**

<p>STRATEGY</p>	<p>DEPT.</p>
<p><b>Seek Indigenous representation for city committees.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPAC has recently designated a seat for an Indigenous youth. DAC has a member who is Indigenous.</li> </ul>	<p>Council/ Legislative Services</p>

**Goal #10: Indigenize public spaces.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Partner with the City of Surrey to increase Indigenous art in City Hall, City-owned buildings, and public spaces.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City website’s Arts &amp; Culture map includes a layer on Indigenous art which features 10 public art pieces.</li> <li>• Surrey Art Gallery has a free on-line teacher’s resource on Indigenous art in the Gallery’s collection; it includes interviews with Kwantlen artist Brandon Gabriel.</li> <li>• Surrey Art Gallery has increased the curriculum and school booking opportunities for the “Sharing Perspectives: Indigenous Contemporary Art Workshop,” led by a local First Nations artist/educator.</li> </ul>	PR&C
<p><b>Advocate for the City to consult local Coast Salish First Nations on appropriate ways to recognize their connections to the land (e.g., signage and designation of heritage sites, et cetera)</b></p>	Council/ Multiple Depts.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION III: IMPROVE AND GROW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Goal #13: More appropriate and affordable Indigenous-run housing options serving the diverse needs of the community.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Lobby all levels of government for more housing units and more diversified housing systems for the Urban Indigenous population.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Plan for Housing the Homeless identifies Aboriginal housing as one of the priorities.</li> <li>• The E. Fry project on a City-owned site will include 15 units for Indigenous female youth; the Friendship Centre will operate these units.</li> </ul>	Council/P&D

**Goal #14: Increase opportunities for career progression (Low wage to higher wage).**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Work with large employers in the City to create career development opportunities for urban Indigenous people.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2011/12 HR partnered with an Aboriginal employment agency (ACCESS) on an employment initiative.</li> <li>• The City’s Emerging Leaders Program has a project to develop employment opportunities for members of three under-represented groups, including Indigenous people.</li> </ul>	HR

**Goal #19: Increase early literacy for Indigenous children.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Partner with Surrey Libraries to increase utilization rates among Indigenous people.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Strategic Priorities #2 “Engage with Community” identifies Urban Aboriginals as one of the population groups to “identify community needs and invite participation in developing programs and services.”</li> </ul> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise the profile of Indigenous literature, Libraries hosted Taan’s Moon (Haida story) exhibit/activities in May 2017.</li> <li>• Growing trusted relationships with the Indigenous community through staff outreach to Aboriginal agencies (Friendship Centre, Awahsuk pre-school, et cetera).</li> <li>• Promoting Indigenous collections (displays, Bibliocommons booklists for children, teens, and adults, story-time kits).</li> <li>• To increase access to Indigenous literature, a book labeling discussion is underway to make the collection more visible on the shelves; creating a separate funded budget for Children’s Indigenous materials (supporting and aligning with new Curriculum First Nations Principals of Learning).</li> <li>• Helping to spread the awareness of Indigenous issues through programming or displays (Residential schools – Libraries hosted an author reading by Bev Sellars and had displays in branches), exposing the public to Indigenous culture (incorporating Indigenous titles into book clubs), and staff attends various aboriginal workshops.</li> <li>• Libraries has an active and ongoing Aboriginal Committee.</li> </ul>	<p>Libraries</p>
<p><b>Expand programs that get age appropriate Indigenous books and stories into the homes of Indigenous families.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taan’s Moon books available for borrowing.</li> <li>• UBC Library student conducted an analysis of Indigenous Teen Fiction collection in 2016.</li> <li>• Connecting to Indigenous families with newborns – Aboriginal Read to Baby kits.</li> <li>• Supporting literacy with Indigenous content in programs – Moe the Mouse workshop (InterLINK) – four staff attended.</li> </ul>	<p>Libraries</p>

**Goal #20: Increase police outreach to Indigenous youth.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Create opportunities for police to collaborate with Indigenous youth leaders.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCMP has a First Nations Officer as part of their Diversity Unit.</li> </ul>	RCMP
<b>Work with Surrey Schools to increase positive interactions between Indigenous youth and police.</b>	RCMP

**Goal #21: Improve the physical safety of Indigenous youth.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<b>Work with Surrey RCMP and others to develop a task force to address Indigenous youth physical safety issues.</b>	RCMP/ Public Safety

**Goal #22: Improve the physical safety of Indigenous women.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><i>Note:</i> Strategies identified do not include a specific role for the City. Surrey Vulnerable Women’s and Girl’s Working Group has a potential role (Social Planning, Public Safety, and RCMP are Working Group members.)</p>	N/A

**Goal #27: Increase Indigenous youth participation in sport.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<b>Partner with the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Council and/or PR&amp;C to develop strategies for increasing Indigenous youth participation in sport in Surrey.</b>	PR&C

**Goal #29: Increase the awareness of Indigenous programs and services available to Indigenous individuals and families.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Ensure information on Indigenous programs and services offered in Surrey are easily accessible on the City’s website.</b></p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An initiative is underway to create a community services web-portal on the City’s website.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.

**Goal #32: Build an appropriate space (or spaces) for the Aboriginal community to gather.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<b>Convene a Cultural Centre Working Group with the City of Surrey.</b>	PR&C/P&D



**STRATEGIC DIRECTION IV: INCREASE EDUCATION & UNDERSTANDING**

**Goal #35: Greater understanding of First Nation and Métis experiences and opportunities to explore the meaning of reconciliation.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Create and deliver a Métis cultural competency training module.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2012, the City partnered with the BC Métis Association to deliver Métis cultural competency training.</li> </ul>	HR
<p><b>Create and deliver a First Nation cultural competency training module.</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016, HR hosted a staff Lunch &amp; Learn with indigenous author Bev Sellars on the topic of Indian residential schools as part of Orange Shirt Day.</li> <li>Libraries staff attended the full day “Building Bridges” workshop hosted by the School District and Options.</li> </ul>	HR

**Goal #36: Individuals have the opportunity to learn about the history of residential school.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Host Orange Shirt Day in cooperation with the City of Surrey.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City and RCMP hosted Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2016.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.
<p><b>Partner with the City of Surrey to host a Truth and Reconciliation Commission event.</b></p>	Council
<p><b>Partner with Surrey Libraries to bring in authors and speakers that can share First Nation and Métis experiences of Indian Residential Schools.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016, Libraries hosted a public event with BC Indigenous author Bev Sellars on the topic of Indian residential schools.</li> </ul>	Libraries

**Goal #37: More First Nation and Métis cultural events and celebrations in Surrey.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<p><b>Expand Louis Riel Day activities.</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council proclaimed Louis Riel Day in 2016 and has done so a few times in past years.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.

<b>Investigate the potential to host North American Indigenous Games or other Indigenous sporting events in Surrey.</b>	PR&C
<b>Lead and coordinate National Indigenous Day events.</b>  <i>Note:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016 and 2017 PR&amp;C staff has worked with the Aboriginal Committee organizing a National Aboriginal Day event at Bridgeview on June 21.</li> </ul>	PR&C
<b>Participate in other cultural events and celebrations as requested.</b>  <i>Example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surrey International Children’s Festival includes an opening welcome by the local Circle of Elders Group. The programming expectation is to include Indigenous performances and art activities at every Festival.</li> <li>Surrey Civic Theatres includes Indigenous programming every year at Culture Days event.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.

**Goal #38: Combat negative stereotypes and discrimination in the city.**

STRATEGY	DEPT.
<b>Develop and implement an anti-racism campaign.</b>  <i>Examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Immigration Partnership’s “True Colours of Surrey” anti-racism campaign includes one Aboriginal poster. Marketing assisted the campaign by putting posters in bus shelters and the Web Team sent out social media messages.</li> <li>In 2017, staff are being updated on the City’s Respectful Workplace and Human Rights Policies through City Essentials. Both Policies were recently updated to expand their inclusive language.</li> </ul>	Multiple Depts.
<b>Seek commitment from Surrey Schools, RCMP, the City of Surrey and others to complete cultural competency training.</b>	HR/ Multiple Depts.
<b>Partner with the City of Surrey to increase the visibility of traditional Coast Salish place names.</b>	Multiple Depts.
<b>Create opportunities for visual representations of reconciliation.</b>	Multiple Depts.

**City of Surrey: Council Initiatives Funding**

Over the past two years, the work of the Leadership Committee was been supported by the BCAAFC through the Government of Canada’s Urban Partnerships program. The 2016-2017 contract with the BCAAFC was completed in April 2017.

In order to sustain momentum and begin to implement the All Our Relations Strategy, the Leadership Committee is requesting a contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund. This funding will be used to continue to retain an Indigenous consultant to facilitate

Leadership Committee and Working Group meetings, help prepare funding proposals and other documents, and provide City staff with as-needed advice and support. Council's contribution will assist in enabling the Leadership Committee to leverage additional resources.

The Council Initiatives Fund is attached to Appendix "II" of this report, based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendations included in this report.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

This Corporate Report supports the following Desired Outcome (DO) and Strategic Direction (SD) identified in the Sustainability Charter 2.0.

### **Inclusion**

- DO 7: Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment and opportunities for cultural connections.
- SD 2: Work with Aboriginal leaders to support and strengthen social innovation in the Surrey Urban Aboriginal community.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Receive this report as information;
- Authorize staff to partner with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (the "Leadership Committee") on the implementation of All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy - Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project (the "All Our Relations Strategy"), attached as Appendix "I" to this report;
- Approve City support of the recommendations for which the City can play a role; and
- Approve a contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the implementation of the All Our Relations Strategy, attached as Appendix "II."

*Original signed by*  
Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager, Planning & Development

*Original signed by*  
Kam Grewal, CPA  
Acting General Manager, Finance & Technology

AM/ss

Appendix "I" - All Our Relations: A Social Innovation Strategy - Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project

Appendix "II" - Council Initiatives - Allocations for 2017

Appendix "III" - Corporate Report No. R198; 2015

Appendix "IV" - Corporate Report No. R100; 2016

# ALL OUR RELATIONS

## A SOCIAL INNOVATION STRATEGY



.....  
**PHASE 2 of the  
Surrey Urban Aboriginal  
Social Innovation Project**  
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Prepared by Sheldon Tétreault  
for the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee



### **A Note on Terminology**

**For the purposes of this strategy, the term “Indigenous” means Métis, First Nations, and Inuit people.**

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**We recognize the traditional territories of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations.**

**We respectfully acknowledge the many Indigenous nations who are represented by the urban Indigenous population in Surrey.**

**We are grateful for the funding and support of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the Urban Partnership Program of the Government of Canada.**

**We hold our hands up to you. All my relations. All our relations.**

**The following organizations have actively supported Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee:**

Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS)

City of Surrey

Cwenengtel Aboriginal Society

First Nations Health Authority

Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

Kekinow Native Housing Society

Kwikwetlem First Nation

Métis Nation of British Columbia

Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

Ministry of Children and Family Development Circle 5

Nova Métis Heritage Association

RCMP

Surrey School District

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society (Xyolhemeylh)

# INTRODUCTION

We are the **Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee**. In 2015 we came together to facilitate the development of a Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project.

The overarching objective of the **Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project** is to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Indigenous population in Surrey.

In **Phase 1** our goal was to develop a deeper understanding of the urban Indigenous experience in Surrey. To this end, we released the **“All Our Relations”** report in May 2016. Our research showed that:

- The urban Indigenous population in Surrey is estimated to be the largest urban Indigenous population of any city in Metro Vancouver;
- Over the past decade Surrey’s urban Indigenous population has doubled in size;
- 50% of the urban Indigenous population in Surrey is younger than 25 years old; and,
- Surrey’s Indigenous child poverty rate of 45% is significantly higher than the national poverty rate for off-reserve Indigenous children and youth (31%).

These research findings and many others from the **“All Our Relations”** report are a wake-up call to all of us and require action.

**Phase 2** of the Social Innovation Project has been an opportunity to organize our thinking and ideas into a concrete strategy. However, we also recognized the need to bring more people and organizations to the table to create shared ownership in the strategies for change. To that end, we hosted a Solutions Workshop in October 2016. At the workshop we sought input for new and creative ways to tackle the most pressing needs of the urban Indigenous community.

What follows is our **Social Innovation Strategy**. You will see our Vision for the future, our Mission, the Values by which we will work, our five Strategic Objectives, and finally our Goals and Strategies for Change. This is our commitment to action. As the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee, we are the protagonist driving the change we want to see. More than that, however, this document is an invitation for you to work with us. **Join us.**

**All our relations.**



– Photo by Kelsie Marchand, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

# SOCIAL INNOVATION STRATEGY

## OUR VISION

A city that values Indigenous contributions to city life. A city that is committed to working towards reconciliation at all levels. A city where every Indigenous person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to be the collective voice of the urban Indigenous population in Surrey. We will advocate on behalf of all urban Indigenous people in Surrey and work collaboratively with other governments, organizations, and individuals that are committed to understanding and achieving our vision.

## OUR VALUES

- Respect for the political autonomy of the Coast Salish First Nations in Surrey.
- Respectful engagement with the Coast Salish First Nations in Surrey.
- Cultural understanding and competence.
- Commitment to address racism and intolerance.
- Collective action.
- Perseverance and determination.
- Space for First Nation and Métis voices.
- Inclusive of all Indigenous people regardless of status or membership.
- Caring for and nurturing relationships.
- Leading with our hearts.

## OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**I.** Create and strengthen partnerships that will benefit urban Indigenous people.

**II.** Expand the urban Indigenous leadership capacity in Surrey.

**III.** Improve and grow programs and services for urban Indigenous people.

**IV.** Increase education and understanding about the urban Indigenous community in Surrey.

**V.** Increase funding for urban Indigenous programs and services.





**ALL OUR RELATIONS: coming together in the spirit of reconciliation**

**Our Victory** captures the five strategic objectives identified by the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee. These objectives guided the creation of the All Our Relations strategy.

# I. CREATE AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

This strategic objective is important because we exist within a web of relationships in the city. All of these relationships are important to the health and wellbeing of the Indigenous community and, like any relationship, Indigenous relationships in the city must be cared for and nurtured. When we do that, relationships will be strong, healthy and self-sustaining.

## Goal #1

**Improve the relationship between Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations and the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.**

**Strategy:** Convene a Protocol Working Group.

**Strategy:** Open invitation to any representative appointed by any of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations to sit ex-officio on the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee or any of its sub-committees or working groups.

**Strategy:** Extend an invitation to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the Leadership Committee and each of the First Nations.

## Goal #2

**Formalize the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee**

**Strategy:** Approve a revised terms of reference.

**Strategy:** Seek operational funding from a variety of sources. For example, the Vancouver Foundation, Vancity Community Foundation, United Way, INAC, etc.

**Strategy:** Meet regularly and invite delegations from the community-at-large to present and seek input or collaboration.



## Goal #3

Strengthen the relationship with the City of Surrey.

**Strategy:** Continue to have a City representative on the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.

**Strategy:** Continue to seek funding and partnerships by leveraging City relationships.

**Strategy:** Actively support and give guidance to City initiatives to build awareness of urban Indigenous matters.

**Strategy:** Actively support City initiatives in order to incorporate urban Indigenous perspectives into City policy, programs and planning.

## Goal #4:

More opportunities for learning between Indigenous organizations and non-Indigenous organizations.

**Strategy:** Seek opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations to attend or co-host professional development workshops together.

**Strategy:** Present the Social Innovation Strategy to the Surrey Board of Trade and other associations and groups.

## Goal #5

More community partnerships, collaboration and more connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations.

**Strategy:** Host an annual event that highlights collaboration and partnerships.



Leadership Committee, Strategic Planning Workshop

– Photo by Jon Benjamin photography

We will know we have been successful when:

- Government is an active partner and ally to urban Indigenous people and organizations
- Indigenous people have a strong community of allies in Surrey
- Indigenous events and occasions are well-supported and well attended in Surrey
- The Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee is recognized as the voice of urban Indigenous people in Surrey



– Photo by Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

## II. EXPAND INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

This strategic objective is important because Indigenous people need to lead the changes that will support the urban Indigenous population. That means growing the pool of Indigenous candidates who are prepared to use their voice for positive change. According to the 2011 census, there are at least 13,000 urban Indigenous people living in Surrey. Who is ready to be part of our agenda for change?

### Goal #6

**Identify and cultivate more Indigenous people to take on leadership roles within Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations in Surrey.**

**Strategy:** Partner with educational institutions and/or non-profits that provide leadership training to develop and implement an urban Indigenous leadership program.

**Strategy:** Create mentorship opportunities so that emerging Indigenous leaders can connect with experienced community leaders.

### Goal #7

**More Indigenous people serving as directors of community organizations, on city committees, and other boards.**

**Strategy:** Request community organizations to dedicate a seat for an Indigenous person on their board of directors.

**Strategy:** Place graduates of the urban Indigenous leadership program onto community boards or committees.

**Strategy:** Offer non-profit director training for Indigenous organizations and potential leaders.

**Strategy:** Seek Indigenous representation for city committees.



## Goal #8

Recognize urban Indigenous leadership in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Create a leadership award that is presented to a urban Indigenous person, urban Indigenous organization, or successful program that provides services to urban Indigenous people.



## Goal #9

Policy and programs reflect the urban Indigenous community in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Welcome delegations seeking policy advice and input to attend Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee meetings.

**Strategy:** Seek a Métis representative for all sub-committees or working groups of the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.



Leadership Committee, Strategic Planning Workshop

– Photos by Jon Benjamin photography

## Goal #10:

### Indigenize public spaces.

- Strategy:** Partner with the City of Surrey to increase Indigenous art in City Hall, city-owned buildings and public spaces.
- Strategy:** Advocate for the City of Surrey to consult local Coast Salish First Nations on appropriate ways to recognize their connections to the land (e.g. – signage and designation of heritage sites etc.)



– Photo by Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

We will know we have been successful when:

- Indigenous people hold positions of power in local institutions
- Existing Indigenous leadership is recognized and celebrated
- Indigenous youth are actively developed into future leaders
- Indigenous presence is visible through spaces and places in Surrey
- The Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee plays a significant role in setting policies and programs in Surrey





– Photo by Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

# III. IMPROVE AND GROW PROGRAMS & SERVICES

This strategic objective is important because although there are a wide variety of social services and programs in Surrey, most of the services and programs are not designed to serve Indigenous needs or preferences. We need to strive for more culturally appropriate services because Indigenous people are more likely to access services that reflect their own values, experiences and ways of being.

## HOUSING

### Goal #11

Increase culturally appropriate services for Indigenous homeless people.

**Strategy:** Identify best practices for the provision of culturally appropriate services for Indigenous people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

### Goal #12

Develop an accurate picture of Indigenous homelessness in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Participate in the Metro Vancouver homeless count.

**Strategy:** Complete a needs assessment to determine how to improve services to Indigenous homeless people.



## HOUSING

### Goal #13

More appropriate and affordable Indigenous-run housing options serving the diverse needs of the community.

**Strategy:** Lobby all levels of government for more housing units and more diversified housing systems for the urban Indigenous population.

**Strategy:** Document innovative best practices of sustainable housing solutions from other jurisdictions.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Goal #14

Increase opportunities for career progression (Low wage to higher wage).

**Strategy:** Work with large employers in the city to create career development opportunities for urban Indigenous people.

### Goal #15

More youth participating in education and training that leads to employment.

**Strategy:** Work with Surrey Schools to identify opportunities to overcome youth education and training challenges.

**Strategy:** Engage university partners (for example SFU Radius) to investigate ways to support urban Indigenous entrepreneurs in Surrey.

## EDUCATION

### Goal #16

Expand programs that assist Indigenous adults to complete a high school degree.

**Strategy:** Advocate for the province to reinstate a new and improved version of Adult Basic Education programs.



### Goal #17

More urban Indigenous people from Surrey attending post-secondary institutions in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Partner with post-secondary educational institutions to develop strategies to achieve this goal.



Leadership Committee, Strategic Planning Workshop

– Photos by Jon Benjamin photography



## EDUCATION

# Goal #18

**Strengthen and expand culturally sensitive programs and services that support Indigenous youth to graduate from high school.**

**Strategy:** Work with Surrey Schools to explore opportunities for the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee to help achieve this goal.



# Goal #19

**Increase early literacy for Indigenous children.**

**Strategy:** Partner with Surrey Libraries to increase utilization rates among Indigenous people.

**Strategy:** Expand programs that get age appropriate Indigenous books and stories into the homes of Indigenous families.



Leadership Committee, Strategic Planning Workshop

– Photos by Jon Benjamin photography

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Goal #20

#### Increase police outreach to Indigenous youth.

**Strategy:** Create opportunities for police to collaborate with Indigenous youth leaders.

**Strategy:** Work with Surrey Schools to increase positive interactions between Indigenous youth and police.

### Goal #21

#### Improve the physical safety of Indigenous youth.

**Strategy:** Document barriers that limit Indigenous youth from accessing programs and services.

**Strategy:** Inventory existing programs and services targeted to Indigenous youth.

**Strategy:** Work with Surrey RCMP and others to develop a task force to address Indigenous youth physical safety issues.

### Goal #22

#### Improve the physical safety of Indigenous women.

**Strategy:** Develop a report of best practices from other jurisdictions.

**Strategy:** Work with women's advocacy organizations to develop a strategy for improving the physical safety of Indigenous women.

### Goal #23

#### Raise the profile of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Identify individuals that are willing to share their story.

**Strategy:** Host an annual event to raise the profile of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in Surrey.



## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### Goal #24

Strengthen and expand programs and services that focus on Indigenous children, youth and young families.

**Strategy:** Partner with MCFD to create an Indigenous Child task force to understand the root causes of Indigenous child poverty in Surrey and develop strategies for change.

**Strategy:** Work with MCFD to evaluate the effectiveness of resource deployment and utilization in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Advocate for more funding to increase programs for Indigenous children, youth and young families in Surrey.

### Goal #25

More resources to support children that age out of care.

**Strategy:** Advocate for more funding to support Indigenous children that age out of care.

**Strategy:** Work with MCFD and others to determine best practices for supporting Indigenous youth aging out of care.

### Goal #26

Increased food security for Indigenous families.

**Strategy:** Partner with Surrey/White Rock Food Action Coalition to pilot a “traditional foods” food bank or service.

**Strategy:** Develop a healthy eating or nutrition literacy type program or resources that can be used by organizations working with Indigenous families.

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### Goal #27

Increase Indigenous youth participation in sport.

**Strategy:** Partner with the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Council and/or City of Surrey Parks and Recreation to develop strategies for increasing Indigenous youth participation in sport in Surrey.



Leadership Committee, Solutions Workshop

## HEALTH

### Goal #28

Create a wellness plan specifically targeted to the urban Indigenous population in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Compile and review existing health statistics for the Indigenous population in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Partner with post-secondary institutions and others to develop the objectives and methodology for a wellness plan (including research, community engagement, etc.)



– Photos by City of Surrey





## GENERAL

### Goal #29

Increase the awareness of Indigenous programs and services available to Indigenous individuals and families.

**Strategy:** Create a website, webpage or an app for Indigenous services and activities in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Ensure information on Indigenous programs and services offered in Surrey is easily accessible on the City's website.

### Goal #30:

More Indigenous people hired to work in non-Indigenous service organizations.

**Strategy:** Host an annual job fair.

**Strategy:** Provide co-op placements for participants in the urban Indigenous leadership program in non-Indigenous organizations.

**Strategy:** Encourage non-Indigenous organizations to actively recruit Indigenous students from KPU and SFU.



– Photo by Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

## Goal #31

Service providers offering culturally appropriate programs and services.

**Strategy:** Seek a commitment from service organizations to complete a cultural competency training program.

**Strategy:** Seek a commitment from service organizations that they will endeavor to hire Indigenous people to deliver Indigenous programs.

## Goal #32

Build an appropriate space (or spaces) for the Aboriginal community to gather.

**Strategy:** Convene a Working Group to explore options for construction or acquisition of appropriate spaces.

## Goal #33

Create new Indigenous organizations or Indigenous led partnerships to address service gaps.

**Strategy:** Develop feasibility studies as directed by the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.

We will know we have been successful when:

- Indigenous people are served by programs in all key areas: housing, health, employment, etc.
- Indigenous people are working in diverse organizations providing services to the Indigenous community
- Access barriers are removed for all subpopulations of the Indigenous community such as Elders, youth, families, etc.
- Indigenous youth and children do not live in poverty
- Cultural gathering places are created and meet the needs of healing, integration and connection
- Services for Indigenous people are spread out across the City and not only concentrated in North Surrey



– Photo by Kelsie Marchand, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

## IV. INCREASE EDUCATION & UNDERSTANDING

This strategic objective is important because the collective Indigenous community is largely invisible in Surrey. Perhaps because of this, Indigenous individuals report facing negative stereotypes and ignorance on a daily basis. Greater education and understanding are critical for combating ignorance, racism and creating a city where every Indigenous person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

### Goal #34

**Media understands Surrey urban Indigenous issues and successes.**

**Strategy:** Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee hosts an annual media awareness day.

**Strategy:** Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee issues press releases on topical issues in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee issues press releases to highlight achievement and success in the Indigenous community.

**Strategy:** Assign a member of the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee to be a media liaison.

### Goal #35

**Greater understanding of First Nation and Métis experiences and opportunities to explore the meaning of reconciliation.**

**Strategy:** Create a cross-cultural dialogues project.

**Strategy:** Create and deliver a Métis cultural competency training module.

**Strategy:** Create and deliver a First Nation cultural competency training module.



## Goal #36

Individuals have the opportunity to learn about the history of residential schools.

**Strategy:** Host Orange Shirt Day in cooperation with the City of Surrey.

**Strategy:** Partner with the City of Surrey to host a Truth and Reconciliation Commission event.

**Strategy:** Partner with Surrey Libraries to bring in authors and speakers that can share First Nation and Métis experiences of Indian Residential Schools.

## Goal #37

More First Nation and Métis cultural events and celebrations in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Expand Louis Riel Day activities.

**Strategy:** Investigate the potential to host North American Indigenous Games or other Indigenous sporting events in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Lead and coordinate National Indigenous Day events.

**Strategy:** Participate in other cultural events and celebrations as requested.



**Orange Shirt** day events at City Hall honoured the resilience and bravery of Indian residential school survivors and their families, and remembered those who didn't make it home

– Photo by City of Surrey

## Goal #38

**Combat negative stereotypes and discrimination in the City.**

**Strategy:** Develop and implement an anti-racism campaign.

**Strategy:** Seek support from Surrey Board of Trade to promote cultural competency training for members.

**Strategy:** Seek commitment from Surrey Schools, RCMP, the City of Surrey and others to complete cultural competency training.

**Strategy:** Partner with the City of Surrey to increase the visibility of traditional Coast Salish place names.

**Strategy:** Create opportunities for visual representations of reconciliation.





– Photo by Kelsie Marchand, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

## Goal #39

**Raise the profile of First Nation and Métis people in the City.**

**Strategy:** Invite all local MLA's and MP's and promote awareness of the urban Indigenous population in Surrey, the All Our Relations Social Innovation Strategy and the work of the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.

**Strategy:** Host a workshop at the C2U Expo Community Jam 2017.

**Strategy:** Host an annual fundraising benefit for an Indigenous program.

We will know we have been successful when:

- The public is well-informed of First Nations and Métis histories and the legacies of colonialism
- Indigenous issues are well-understood in the Surrey context
- Media covers Indigenous successes and challenges fairly





- Photo by Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

## V. INCREASE FUNDING

This strategic objective is important because the Indigenous population in Surrey is more than 13,000. It is estimated to be larger than the Indigenous population in the City of Vancouver and has been growing at a much higher rate. The population is expected to grow quickly over the next 15 years. As a result, the demand for culturally appropriate services in Surrey will also grow significantly over the next 15 years. Given these facts, there needs to be more resources targeted to the urban Indigenous community in Surrey. In addition to more targeted resources, there must be greater accountability to Indigenous people for the use and outcomes associated with those resources.

### Goal #40

**Urban Indigenous people from Surrey have more control over the program design of services for the urban Indigenous population in Surrey.**

**Strategy:** Develop partnerships between Indigenous organizations and also between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations to access new funding sources.

**Strategy:** Invite government and other funders to seek advice and guidance from the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee on urban Indigenous funding priorities in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Invite government and other funders to commit to transparency with regards to the allocation and effectiveness of funds earmarked for urban Indigenous people, programs and services in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Offer training (like program design and proposal writing) to support the capacity of Indigenous individuals, organizations and groups to access funding.

**Strategy:** Seek urban Indigenous representation on non-profit boards, funding review committees, and other project teams.



## Goal #41

Greater levels of funding and diversity of programs, and services in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Meet and lobby the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, The Minister of Children and Family Development (MCFD), the Minister of Indigenous Affairs, and any other minister or foundation that provides funding for urban Indigenous services and programs.

**Strategy:** Continue to use the "Profile of the Aboriginal Population in Surrey" report to make the case for increased funding for urban Indigenous programs and services.

**Strategy:** Explore the possibility of partnerships with local Coast Salish First Nations for service delivery options that span on-reserve and off-reserve communities.



– Photo by Kelsie Marchand, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

## Goal #42

**More effective use of existing funding for Indigenous children and families.**

**Strategy:** Partner with MCFD to create an Indigenous child task force to understand the root causes of Indigenous child poverty in Surrey and develop strategies for change.

**Strategy:** Work with MCFD to evaluate the effectiveness of resource deployment and utilization in Surrey.

**Strategy:** Advocate for more funding to increase programs for Indigenous children, youth and young families in Surrey.



– Photo by City of Surrey

We will know we have been successful when:

- Adequate funding is available for Indigenous programs and services
- Indigenous organizations have the capacity to compete with non-Indigenous organizations for funding
- Funding and reporting mechanisms are transparent and effective
- Funding is used effectively – particularly to support children, youth and families



# CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SURREY URBAN INDIGENOUS SOCIAL INNOVATION STRATEGY

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**Ron Rice**, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

**Ronda Merrin Parker**, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

**Ronnie Takhar**, Surrey Women's Centre

**Sara Grant**, Surrey Libraries

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**Shilo St Cyr**, Elizabeth Fry Society

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**Tracy Moulaison**, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

**Tanya Tomina**, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

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**Tracy Steere**, Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

**Troy Derrick**, RCMP, Diversity Unit

**Wade Moses**, Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of BC



# Appendix "II"



## 2017 FINANCIAL PLAN COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	8,000		
<b>2017 Adopted Budget</b>	<u>250,000</u>		<b>\$ 258,000</b>
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 5 of 5)		40,000	
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 3 of 3)		10,000	
C <sub>2</sub> U Expo		20,000	
Indo-Canadian Dental Association Gala		2,500	
100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge Battle		2,000	
The Debaters		350	
Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society		3,500	
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association		3,500	
Surrey Hospice Society (Proposed)		2,500	
100 Year Journey (Proposed)		6,000	
West Coast Centre for Learning (Proposed)		2,000	
<b>Surrey Urban Aboriginal Strategy (Proposed)</b>		<b>25,000</b>	
Pulling Together Canoe Journey (Proposed)		8,500	
<b>Allocations for 2017</b>		<u><b>\$ 125,850</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 132,200</b></u>





## CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **R198**COUNCIL DATE: **September 28, 2015**

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**REGULAR COUNCIL**TO: **Mayor & Council**DATE: **September 28, 2015**FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**FILE: **5080-01**SUBJECT: **Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

**INTENT**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on a new initiative to develop a Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy (the "Strategy"). The Strategy will identify issues, needs, and priorities of Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community, and will assist in leveraging investments for Aboriginal organizations in Surrey.

The City of Surrey has received funds from the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres ("BCAAFC") to develop the Strategy. A Leadership Committee, composed of representatives of Aboriginal agencies in Surrey, has been established to guide the project. Guerin Tetreault Governance Consulting Inc. has been contracted to facilitate the planning process.

**BACKGROUND**

This new initiative involves a partnership between the City of Surrey and the Aboriginal agencies that serve Urban Aboriginal residents in Surrey. It will support the implementation of the Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents.

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ("TRC")**

In June 2015, after six years of hearings and testimony, the TRC released its final report. The report includes 94 broadly-based 'Calls to Action', several of which are directed toward local governments.

In recognition of the TRC's work, on June 1, 2015, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Big City Mayors' Caucus released a Statement of Reconciliation. The Mayors acknowledged the traumatic impact of Canada's Indian Residential schools, including the consequences that continue to be felt by Aboriginal people in Canada's largest cities. The Mayors committed to:

*"learning from the lessons of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and taking action to ensure the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people are fully acknowledged in policy, and in the great cities we seek to build .... (and) committing to a new equal partnership with Aboriginal people in Canada; one based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect".*

### **Surrey's Response to the TRC**

On February 4, 2015, inspired by the work of the TRC, the Social Planning Advisory Committee ("SPAC") identified Aboriginal issues and the development of an Aboriginal Strategy as a priority focus area for the SPAC and Social Planning in 2015-2016.

In mid-February, the BCAAFC issued a call for applications for Urban Partnerships program funding. The BCAAFC administers the Urban Partnerships program in BC, on behalf of the federal government. One of the key thematic areas of this program is social innovation. The City of Surrey was supported by Aboriginal agencies in Surrey in submitting an application.

In July 2015, the City of Surrey was awarded \$90,979. to convene the Aboriginal agencies in Surrey to develop a social innovation Strategy. The project must be completed by March 31, 2016.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Aboriginal population in Surrey is growing. According to 2011 census data, there were 10,955 Aboriginal people living in Surrey, up from 7,630 Aboriginal residents in 2006.

Surrey's Aboriginal population is young. In 2013/2014, there were 3,492 Aboriginal students enrolled in the Surrey School District in K-12. The Surrey School District has the highest number of Aboriginal students in Metro Vancouver. In comparison, the Vancouver School District had 2,227 Aboriginal students in 2013/2014.

### **Project Team**

A Leadership Committee has been established to guide the project. Chaired by Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair of the SPAC, the Leadership Committee includes Executive Directors and Board members from the following Aboriginal agencies:

- Aboriginal Community Career Employment Service Society (ACCESS);
- Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society;
- Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA);
- Kekinow Native Housing Society; and
- Metis Family Services.

Guerin Tetreault Governance Consulting Inc. has been contracted to facilitate the Leadership Committee, conduct research and consultations, and develop the Strategy. Michele Guerin and Sheldon Tetreault have extensive experience in facilitation, strategic planning and working with Aboriginal communities.

Social Planning staff is responsible for managing the contract with the BCAAFC.

### **Development of the Strategy**

The overall goals of the Strategy are to:

- Increase Aboriginal residents' participation in the economy;
- Increase Aboriginal residents' participation and achievement in education; and
- Promote healthy Aboriginal individuals, families, children and youth.

### **Activities**

The Leadership Committee, stakeholders and Aboriginal community members will be engaged in the development of the Strategy, which will include:

#### ***Research***

Existing data and information on the Aboriginal population in Surrey will be compiled. This will include information from the census, school district, health authority and other available sources. In addition, an inventory of Aboriginal services in Surrey will be compiled.

#### ***Stakeholder Interviews***

Interviews with key stakeholders from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal agencies will be conducted. Interview questions will focus on issues, needs, gaps and solutions related to Aboriginals' participation in education and employment, and the health and well-being of Urban Aboriginal individuals and families in Surrey.

#### ***Community Consultation***

The Aboriginal community in Surrey will also be consulted. This process will involve either a variety of small focus groups or a large all-ages community event.

The research and input from the consultations will form the basis of the Strategy. The "made in Surrey" Strategy will provide a blueprint for collective action over the next five years.

At the completion of the project in March 2016, a final report and the Strategy document will be forwarded to Council for consideration.

### **Leaders' Celebration**

When the Strategy is completed in late March 2016, a celebration will be held at Surrey City Hall. The reception will bring together the leaders from Surrey's Aboriginal agencies, Mayor and Council, and other community leaders to confirm the community's collective commitment to its implementation.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter, more particularly the following action items:

- SC4: Cultural Awareness in the Community; and
- SC5: Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

## **CONCLUSION**

The TRC's findings demonstrate the need for building new partnerships with Aboriginal people in Canada based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect. This initiative, the development of a Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy, represents a new partnership between the City of Surrey and Aboriginal agencies. The goal of this initiative is to work collaboratively to strengthen the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

*Original signed by*

Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager,  
Planning and Development

AM:saw

NO: R100

COUNCIL DATE: **May 2, 2016**

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**REGULAR COUNCIL****TO: Mayor & Council****DATE: May 2, 2016****FROM: General Manager, Planning and Development****FILE: 5080-01****SUBJECT: Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Adopt the Strategy titled "*All Our Relations: Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy*", a copy of which is attached as Appendix "II" to this report; and
3. Authorize staff to continue to work with the Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Committee on the development of Phase II of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy.

**INTENT**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the findings of the first phase of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy ("the Strategy") and on the plans for the next phase of the Strategy.

**BACKGROUND**

On February 4, 2015, inspired by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Surrey Social Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) identified Aboriginal issues and the development of an Aboriginal Strategy as a priority focus area for the SPAC and Social Planning in 2015-2016.

Supported by Aboriginal agencies in Surrey, the City of Surrey applied to the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) for funding through the Urban Partnerships program. In July 2015, the City of Surrey was awarded a grant of \$90,979.00 to convene the Aboriginal agencies in Surrey to develop a social innovation strategy. On September 29, 2015, Council received a report on the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy (Corporate Report No. R198, included as Appendix "I"). The report highlighted the project's goals, as well as the activities that would be undertaken to develop the strategy.

A Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Committee was established to guide the project. Phase I of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy identifies 14 key findings. The findings and associated conclusions are based on research and consultations conducted with Aboriginal residents and people who work directly with the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Aboriginal population in Surrey is young, diverse, and growing. It is estimated that the current size of the Aboriginal population in Surrey has surpassed the Aboriginal population in Vancouver and will grow exponentially over the next 15 years.

The overall goals of the Strategy are to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Aboriginal population in Surrey. At the same time, the project itself was an opportunity to build stronger working relationships between the City of Surrey and Aboriginal governments and organizations.

### **Aboriginal Leadership Committee**

An Aboriginal Leadership Committee was convened by the City of Surrey to guide the project, chaired by Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair of the SPAC. The Committee includes the First Nation governments in whose traditional territory Surrey is located, Aboriginal service organizations, and non-Aboriginal government agencies such as the Surrey School District, the RCMP, Fraser Health, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The Leadership Committee met regularly to provide advice and guidance on the development of the Strategy. Evaluations at the end of this phase indicated strong commitment from Committee members to continue to provide leadership in developing Phase II of the Strategy.

### **Research and Consultations**

Research and consultations provided a baseline for understanding the issues related to barriers and opportunities for Aboriginal people in Surrey. Activities included:

- **Research:** A profile of the Aboriginal Population in Surrey was compiled from existing data and information, including information from the 2011 Census and the National Household Survey. The profile is included as Appendix "II".
- **Key Informant Interviews:** Interviews were held with 40 participants representing 23 different organizations that interact with the Aboriginal community in Surrey.
- **Focus groups:** Focus groups were held with 32 Aboriginal residents of Surrey.

## **Leaders' Celebration**

A celebration was held on April 22, 2016 at Surrey City Hall. The reception brought together Mayor and Council, Aboriginal leaders, and other community leaders to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the project, and to confirm the community's collective commitment to building relationships and strengthening the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

## **All Our Relations Report**

The *All Our Relations* report, included as Appendix "I" to this report, summarizes activities and results of Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy. The report identifies 14 findings accompanied by 37 conclusions for the urban Aboriginal community and service organizations. The findings are:

- **Finding #1:** There is a distinction between the urban Aboriginal population and the legal and political rights of those First Nations on whose traditional territories the City of Surrey sits.
- **Finding #2:** It is estimated the current size of the Aboriginal population in Surrey has surpassed the Aboriginal population in Vancouver and will grow exponentially over the next 15 years.
- **Finding #3:** The urban Aboriginal community in Surrey is very diverse.
- **Finding #4:** While Aboriginal people live all over Surrey, some neighbourhoods have higher concentrations of Aboriginal people than others.
- **Finding #5:** The Aboriginal population in Surrey is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Surrey and Metro Vancouver. Aboriginal youth face unique challenges with personal safety, police relations, and age appropriate services.
- **Finding #6:** There is a disconcertingly high number of Aboriginal foster children living in Surrey. These children and their families face very significant challenges and barriers.
- **Finding #7:** Most Aboriginal adults in Surrey have a post-secondary education; however, a disproportionate number of Aboriginal adults in Surrey lack a high-school diploma, compared to non-Aboriginal adults in Surrey.
- **Finding #8:** The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal people in Surrey is on par with municipal and regional averages; however, the unemployment rate for the Aboriginal community is considerably higher than that of the Surrey population as a whole. The Aboriginal community in Surrey has one of the highest child and youth poverty rates in the region.
- **Finding #9:** The majority of Aboriginal people that move to Surrey stay in the city. Home ownership levels among Aboriginal households in Surrey are much higher than in Vancouver. More Aboriginal-specific housing options are needed for renters and the homeless.

- **Finding #10:** While the collective Aboriginal community in Surrey is largely invisible as a group, Aboriginal individuals report facing negative stereotypes and ignorance in daily life.
- **Finding #11:** There are a wide variety of social services and programs in Surrey; however, most of the services and programs are delivered by non-Aboriginal agencies and are not designed to serve Aboriginal specific needs or preferences.
- **Finding #12:** There is a need to augment existing services for Aboriginal people.
- **Finding #13:** Aboriginal people in Surrey do not have a central place to connect with the community.
- **Finding #14:** The Aboriginal community in Surrey can be better organized to give voice to their issues and the unique needs of the urban Aboriginal population.

### Next Steps

Phase II of the project will be an opportunity to build on the findings and conclusions contained in the *All Our Relations* report, and to build the commitment for collective action and positive change by:

- Convening a broader cross-section of non-Aboriginal organizations and funders to help develop solutions and strategies for addressing the findings and conclusions contained in the *All Our Relations* report; and
- Considering the establishment of the Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Council as a means to increase the capacity of the Aboriginal community to influence the policy, programs, and services that impact urban Aboriginal people the most.

Funding will be required to support Phase II. Staff will work with the Aboriginal Leadership Committee to secure the needed resources.

### SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly, the following action items:

- SC4: Cultural Awareness in the Community; and
- SC5: Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

### CONCLUSION

The title of the Phase I report – *All Our Relations* – emphasizes a relational worldview shared by many Indigenous peoples and points to the many relationships that need to be created, strengthened, or expanded in Surrey.

The objective of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy is to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Aboriginal population in Surrey. Phase I of



the project has provided an opportunity for collaboration with the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey and builds the groundwork for further collaborative action in Phase II.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Adopt the "*All Our Relations: Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy*", a copy of which is attached as Appendix "I" to this report; and
- Authorize staff to continue to work with the Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Committee on the development of Phase II of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy.

*Original signed by*  
Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager,  
Planning and Development

Appendix "I" – Corporate Report No. R198

Appendix "II" – All Our Relations: Phase I of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social  
Innovation Strategy

Appendix "III" – Profile of the Aboriginal Population in Surrey

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NO: **R198**

COUNCIL DATE: **September 28, 2015**

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### REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 28, 2015**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**

FILE: **5080-01**

SUBJECT: **Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy**

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

### INTENT

The purpose of this report is to update Council on a new initiative to develop a Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy (the "Strategy"). The Strategy will identify issues, needs, and priorities of Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community, and will assist in leveraging investments for Aboriginal organizations in Surrey.

The City of Surrey has received funds from the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres ("BCAAFC") to develop the Strategy. A Leadership Committee, composed of representatives of Aboriginal agencies in Surrey, has been established to guide the project. Guerin Tetreault Governance Consulting Inc. has been contracted to facilitate the planning process.

### BACKGROUND

This new initiative involves a partnership between the City of Surrey and the Aboriginal agencies that serve Urban Aboriginal residents in Surrey. It will support the implementation of the Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents.

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ("TRC")**

In June 2015, after six years of hearings and testimony, the TRC released its final report. The report includes 94 broadly-based 'Calls to Action', several of which are directed toward local governments.

In recognition of the TRC's work, on June 1, 2015, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Big City Mayors' Caucus released a Statement of Reconciliation. The Mayors acknowledged the traumatic impact of Canada's Indian Residential schools, including the consequences that continue to be felt by Aboriginal people in Canada's largest cities. The Mayors committed to:

*"learning from the lessons of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and taking action to ensure the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people are fully acknowledged in policy, and in the great cities we seek to build .... (and) committing to a new equal partnership with Aboriginal people in Canada; one based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect".*

### **Surrey's Response to the TRC**

On February 4, 2015, inspired by the work of the TRC, the Social Planning Advisory Committee ("SPAC") identified Aboriginal issues and the development of an Aboriginal Strategy as a priority focus area for the SPAC and Social Planning in 2015-2016.

In mid-February, the BCAAFC issued a call for applications for Urban Partnerships program funding. The BCAAFC administers the Urban Partnerships program in BC, on behalf of the federal government. One of the key thematic areas of this program is social innovation. The City of Surrey was supported by Aboriginal agencies in Surrey in submitting an application.

In July 2015, the City of Surrey was awarded \$90,979. to convene the Aboriginal agencies in Surrey to develop a social innovation Strategy. The project must be completed by March 31, 2016.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Aboriginal population in Surrey is growing. According to 2011 census data, there were 10,955 Aboriginal people living in Surrey, up from 7,630 Aboriginal residents in 2006.

Surrey's Aboriginal population is young. In 2013/2014, there were 3,492 Aboriginal students enrolled in the Surrey School District in K-12. The Surrey School District has the highest number of Aboriginal students in Metro Vancouver. In comparison, the Vancouver School District had 2,227 Aboriginal students in 2013/2014.

### **Project Team**

A Leadership Committee has been established to guide the project. Chaired by Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair of the SPAC, the Leadership Committee includes Executive Directors and Board members from the following Aboriginal agencies:

- Aboriginal Community Career Employment Service Society (ACCESS);
- Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society;
- Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA);
- Kekinow Native Housing Society; and
- Metis Family Services.

Guerin Tetreault Governance Consulting Inc. has been contracted to facilitate the Leadership Committee, conduct research and consultations, and develop the Strategy. Michele Guerin and Sheldon Tetreault have extensive experience in facilitation, strategic planning and working with Aboriginal communities.

Social Planning staff is responsible for managing the contract with the BCAAFC.

### **Development of the Strategy**

The overall goals of the Strategy are to:

- Increase Aboriginal residents' participation in the economy;
- Increase Aboriginal residents' participation and achievement in education; and
- Promote healthy Aboriginal individuals, families, children and youth.

### **Activities**

The Leadership Committee, stakeholders and Aboriginal community members will be engaged in the development of the Strategy, which will include:

#### ***Research***

Existing data and information on the Aboriginal population in Surrey will be compiled. This will include information from the census, school district, health authority and other available sources. In addition, an inventory of Aboriginal services in Surrey will be compiled.

#### ***Stakeholder Interviews***

Interviews with key stakeholders from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal agencies will be conducted. Interview questions will focus on issues, needs, gaps and solutions related to Aboriginals' participation in education and employment, and the health and well-being of Urban Aboriginal individuals and families in Surrey.

#### ***Community Consultation***

The Aboriginal community in Surrey will also be consulted. This process will involve either a variety of small focus groups or a large all-ages community event.

The research and input from the consultations will form the basis of the Strategy. The "made in Surrey" Strategy will provide a blueprint for collective action over the next five years.

At the completion of the project in March 2016, a final report and the Strategy document will be forwarded to Council for consideration.

### **Leaders' Celebration**

When the Strategy is completed in late March 2016, a celebration will be held at Surrey City Hall. The reception will bring together the leaders from Surrey's Aboriginal agencies, Mayor and Council, and other community leaders to confirm the community's collective commitment to its implementation.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter, more particularly the following action items:

- SC4: Cultural Awareness in the Community; and
- SC5: Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

## CONCLUSION

The TRC's findings demonstrate the need for building new partnerships with Aboriginal people in Canada based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect. This initiative, the development of a Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy, represents a new partnership between the City of Surrey and Aboriginal agencies. The goal of this initiative is to work collaboratively to strengthen the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

*Original signed by*

Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager,  
Planning and Development

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# "ALL OUR RELATIONS"

**Phase 1 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal  
Social Innovation Strategy**

Prepared by Sheldon Tetreault & Michele Guerin for the Surrey Aboriginal  
Leadership Committee

## Message from the Mayor



*The Truth and Reconciliation Commission opened the eyes and hearts of many Canadians to the terrible legacy of residential schools in Canada. More than 150,000 Aboriginal children attended residential schools over the century that they were in operation. The Commission exposed the cultural genocide of the system and the on-going trauma for survivors. Graciously, it also created an opportunity for the past to be acknowledged and reconciled with our present. In that way, it has created a movement for change – a change that we hope to advance here in our own community.*

*I want to acknowledge and thank the Aboriginal Leadership Committee for their commitment to this project. The time and dedication spent working on this project will benefit not only our community today but for generations to come.*

*Surrey is a healthy, vibrant, and livable community for everyone that chooses to live here including the urban Aboriginal population. As the largest Aboriginal community in the Metro Vancouver region, we recognize that the urban Aboriginal population has so much to contribute to the rich tapestry of our City.*

*On that point, as Mayor of Surrey I want to acknowledge the First Nation communities that have called the land upon which we have built our City their home since time immemorial – in particular I mean the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt and Tsawwassen First Nations.*

*This project has provided an opportunity for collaboration with the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey. In the spirit of reconciliation, our Council is committed to strengthen our relationship with the First Nations.*

*Linda Hepner  
Mayor*

## Message from the Chair



*In December, I had the pleasure of attending a seasonal gathering for Aboriginal families in the Surrey School District. Over 1,000 young children and parents came together to share a festive meal. The smiles and laughter I witnessed is a constant reminder to me that as we undertake this work, we cannot get caught up in the statistics and “deficits” of the community. Rather, we need to remember that the children are full of hope and opportunity and; with careful supports throughout their journey they will grow up in Surrey as active and valued contributors to our community. We want these young families to succeed in Surrey. That means growing up in safety and with access to culturally appropriate services and programs that help foster a healthy sense of identity and opportunity.*

*Phase I of the Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy has been an opportunity to engage the community, share some of their stories, and establish the groundwork for the future. Phase II of the Strategy will be more concrete in terms of specific strategies to address the priorities and conclusions of this report.*

*For me personally, this project has been a learning journey. As part of that journey I must acknowledge members of the Aboriginal Leadership Committee that was established to help guide this project. They have been very patient and their insights and observations have been invaluable for the success of this project. It has been an honour to work alongside them and learn from their experience and knowledge. I also wish to thank Michele Guerin and Sheldon Tetreault. I appreciate the tremendous knowledge, experience and skill that they contributed to this project. I am especially grateful for the thoughtful advice and guidance that they offered to me and the project team as we embarked on this important journey of strengthening all our relations.*

*Councillor Vera LeFranc  
Chair, Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Committee*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We recognize the traditional territories of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt and Tsawwassen First Nations.*

*We respectfully acknowledge the many nations who are represented by the urban Aboriginal population in Surrey.*

*We appreciate the many individuals and organizations that contributed to the findings contained in this report through their participation in focus groups or key informant interviews. They were able to share their experiences and enrich the outcome of our research. In particular, a large group of youth participated in a focus group we hosted at the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre and they shared openly their struggles to find a path forward. Their courage to be so open and honest with their hopes and fears impressed us greatly and we would like to dedicate this report to them.*

*We thank the Aboriginal Leadership Committee for giving freely their advice, guidance, and wisdom to ensure this project would truly reflect the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey.*

*We are grateful for the funding and support of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the Urban Partnership Program of the Government of Canada.*

*We hold our hands up to you. All my relations. All our relations.*



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is Phase I of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy. In this phase we have illuminated aspects of the Surrey urban Aboriginal population. As a result of our research we have found information that breaks down common misconceptions about the urban Aboriginal population while other statistics are simply distressing. For example:

- It is estimated that the current urban Aboriginal population in Surrey is greater than the urban Aboriginal population in Vancouver.
- In 15 years it will be significantly higher, reaching from between 19,000 to as high as 48,000 people.
- Aboriginal people in Surrey are not transient – they are often long-term residents in the community.
- They are almost equal parts homeowners and renters.
  - They are engaged in the labour force at similar rates to non-Aboriginal people.
- It is a very young population made up of many young families.

Too many Aboriginal children are in foster care, not graduating from high school, and living in poverty. Statistics tell one side of the story but not all of it. So we talked to Aboriginal residents of Surrey and those people that work directly with the urban Aboriginal community. From these conversations we were able to develop the following 14 key findings:

**FINDING #1:** There is a distinction between the urban Aboriginal population and the legal and political rights of those First Nations on whose Traditional Territories the City of Surrey sits.

**FINDING #2:** It is estimated the current size of the Aboriginal population in Surrey has surpassed the Aboriginal population in Vancouver and will grow exponentially over the next 15 years.

**FINDING #3:** The urban Aboriginal community in Surrey is very diverse.

**FINDING #4:** While Aboriginal people live all over Surrey, some neighbourhoods have higher concentrations of Aboriginal people than others.

**FINDING #5:** The Aboriginal population in Surrey is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Surrey and Metro Vancouver. Aboriginal youth face unique challenges with personal safety, police relations, and age appropriate services.

**FINDING #6:** There is a disconcertingly high number of Aboriginal foster children living in Surrey. These children and families face very significant challenges and barriers.

**FINDING #7:** A disproportionate number of Aboriginal adults in Surrey lack a high-school degree. However, most Aboriginal adults in Surrey do have a post-secondary education.



**FINDING #8:** The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal people in Surrey is on par with municipal and regional averages, however, the unemployment rate for the Aboriginal community is considerably higher than that of the Surrey population as a whole. The Aboriginal community in Surrey has one of the highest child and youth poverty rates in the region.

**FINDING #9:** The majority of Aboriginal people that move to Surrey stay in the city. Home ownership levels among Aboriginal households in Surrey are much higher than in Vancouver. More Aboriginal-specific housing options are needed for renters and the homeless.

**FINDING #10:** While the collective Aboriginal community in Surrey is largely invisible, Aboriginal individuals report facing negative stereotypes and ignorance in daily life.

**FINDING #11:** There are a wide variety of social services and programs in Surrey, however most of the services and programs are delivered by non-Aboriginal agencies and are not designed to serve Aboriginal specific needs or preferences.

**FINDING #12:** There is a need to augment existing services for Aboriginal people.

**FINDING #13:** Aboriginal people in Surrey do not have a central place to connect with community.

**FINDING #14:** The Aboriginal community in Surrey can be better organized to give voice to their issues and the unique needs of the urban Aboriginal population.

In addition, we have also outlined some of the major implications of these findings for the City and social service organizations that work with the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

Phase I of the project has helped to shine a light on the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey and some of the barriers or challenges that impede a positive experience of city life. Phase II of the project will be an opportunity to build on the findings and conclusions contained in this report. Our goal for Phase II is to build the commitment for collective action and positive change in our community.

Relationships are the defining feature of this report. Like any relationship, Aboriginal relationships in the City must be cared for and nurtured. When we do that they will become strong and sustain us. In this way, we recognize that all our relations are important.





## INTRODUCTION

Surrey is a refuge and a lifeline to many people. People come from all over Canada and the world to make a new start in Surrey. It is a growing, dynamic population and the City affords its residents the best opportunity for setting down roots that will grow and sustain them. This is no different for many Aboriginal people who choose Surrey as their home. For the most part they come from other parts of BC to find their way in the City. They come for many reasons – both positive and negative. When they get here, however, they need to find their place, and most importantly, their community of identity that will support them to survive and flourish. This means establishing relationships that will make the transition to success easier. Relationships are the defining feature of this report and

they are also at the centre of indigenous worldviews.

“All my relations” is a sacred phrase that is said at the end of prayers and thanksgiving. It is a phrase that evokes an Aboriginal worldview and acknowledges everyone’s place in a web of relationships. In the City, we have many relationships between: Aboriginal people and families; Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal neighbors; Aboriginal service organizations and non-Aboriginal service organizations; between all of these people and organizations and the City itself. All of these relationships are important to the health and wellbeing of the Aboriginal community and in turn to the health and wellbeing of Surrey. Like any relationship, Aboriginal relationships in the City must be

cared for and nurtured. When we do that they will become strong and sustain us. In this way, we recognize that all our relations are important.

The objective of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy is to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Aboriginal population in Surrey. At the same time, the project itself was an opportunity to build stronger working relationships between the City of Surrey and Aboriginal governments and organizations. To this end, the City convened an Aboriginal Leadership Committee to provide advice and guidance to the project. The Aboriginal Leadership Committee was an open invitation to the First Nations governments in Surrey, the Métis Nation leadership, Aboriginal service organizations, and a few non-Aboriginal organizations that have the most significant presence in the Aboriginal community (such as Surrey Schools). The role of the Committee as a partnership is invaluable because the City itself has very limited mandates for the provision of social services and programs to Aboriginal people. Rather the City sees itself as a “convener” and a “catalyst for action”. The Aboriginal Leadership Committee is a diverse group of individuals and organizations united by a shared commitment to improve the lives of urban Aboriginal people in the City. The first step towards achieving that goal was through developing a deeper understanding of the urban Aboriginal experience in Surrey and looking for new and creative ways to support the Aboriginal community. By

definition, this is social innovation and it was on this basis that a research plan was developed and approved by the Aboriginal Leadership Committee. The research was completed between August 2015 and February 2016. It involved the following:

- Review of existing studies and reports.
- Key informant interviews with 40 participants representing 23 different organizations that interact with the Aboriginal community in Surrey.
- Focus groups with 32 Aboriginal residents of Surrey.
- Regular meetings of the Aboriginal Leadership Committee.
- Compilation of data and analyses from the 2011 Census and National Household Survey.<sup>1</sup>

***“All my Relations” means all. When a speaker makes this statement it’s meant as recognition of the principles of harmony, unity and equality. It’s a way of saying that you recognize your place in the universe and that you recognize the place of others and of other things in the realm of the real and the living. In that it is a powerful evocation of truth. ...if we could all glean the power of this one short statement, we could change the world. We could evoke brotherhood and sisterhood. We could remind ourselves and each other that we need each other, that there is not a single life that is not important to the whole or a single thing that is not worth protecting and honoring.” Richard Wagamese***

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<sup>1</sup> This information is five years old, however it remains the most definitive data available to the public. A report of our data and analysis can be found at [www.surrey.ca](http://www.surrey.ca) “A Profile of the Urban Aboriginal Population in Surrey”. Census data from 2016 will be released in 2018.



*“Social innovation is the result of the intentional work of people trying to make a positive change by addressing complex problems at their roots. Social innovation is any initiative (process, product or programs) that profoundly changes the way a given system operates and changes it in such a way that it reduces the vulnerability of the people and the environment in that system.”*  
**Social Innovation Generation Knowledge Hub**

The findings were formulated from the research and tested against the lived experience of the Aboriginal Leadership Committee. Each finding led to a discussion of the implications for the urban Aboriginal community and service organizations.

These implications are included with the findings as “conclusions”. While the conclusions still necessitate action, we have completed Phase I of the project with these findings. Phase II, which we hope to begin immediately, will be our opportunity to bring more people and organizations to the table (such as funders and non-Aboriginal service organizations) to create a shared ownership in the development of solutions and strategies for change.

*“Where the City has primary responsibility, it is important that the City articulate goals and address the identified gaps. In the case of gaps for which the City has secondary, limited, or no responsibility, it is important for the City to articulate the needs of the community, and take a role in advocating and championing the needs of Surrey residents.”* **Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents (March 2006)**





## FINDINGS

**FINDING #1: There is a distinction between the urban Aboriginal population and the legal and political rights of those First Nations on whose Traditional Territories the City of Surrey sits.**

The City of Surrey was founded on the Traditional Territory of Coast Salish First Nations including the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations. The development of villages, towns and cities replicated a pattern of colonization that marginalized all First Nations in the lower mainland. As a result, the growth of the settler population over the last 150+ years has not been positive from the local First Nations perspective. In the last 30 years, however, the legal and political rights of First Nations have been recognized. It is established in law that First Nations are governments with legal authority and jurisdiction over their lands and their people and who may hold title to traditional lands. To reconcile this past and recognize the collective legal and political rights of these First Nations today, all governments have to acknowledge this history and forge a new relationship based on recognition and respect.

Strictly for the purpose of the Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy the members of Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and the Tsawwassen First Nations who live in and around Surrey will be considered a part of the urban Aboriginal community. They work, shop, socialize and access services within the City. It is important to note that this does not diminish the collective legal and political rights of these particular First Nations communities nor absolve the City from forging a new relationship with their governments.

**Conclusion:**

- Building on a foundation of recognition and respect, the relationship between Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations and the City of Surrey needs to be cultivated and strengthened on a government-to-government basis.



FRAFCA Staff Photo

**FINDING #2: It is estimated the current size of the Aboriginal population in Surrey has surpassed the Aboriginal population in Vancouver and will grow exponentially over the next 15 years.**

In 2011, 10,950 people in Surrey identified as Aboriginal. This was roughly the same number of Aboriginal people then living in Vancouver. What differentiates the Aboriginal population in Surrey from Vancouver, however, is how quickly it is growing. For example, between 1996 and 2011, the Aboriginal population in Surrey, effectively doubled in size.<sup>2</sup> This increase is equivalent to an annual growth rate of 7.7%, compared to 3.6% for all Surrey residents. In contrast, the Aboriginal population in Vancouver grew at only 0.6% annually. Based on the growth rate, it is estimated that the current Aboriginal population in Surrey has already surpassed the Aboriginal population in Vancouver. In 15 years it will be significantly larger, reaching from 19,000 to as high as 48,000 people. By contrast, the growth in the Aboriginal population in Vancouver over the next 15 years will be negligible.

These statistics have important implications for the funding of programs and services now and in the near future. For example, the general perception of key informants was that funding for Aboriginal programs and services in Surrey is based on the historical fact that at one time there were many more Aboriginal people in Vancouver than anywhere else in Metro Vancouver. The result is that funding for Aboriginal programs and services in Surrey is significantly less than funding in Vancouver and absolutely less than the demand for Aboriginal services in Surrey.

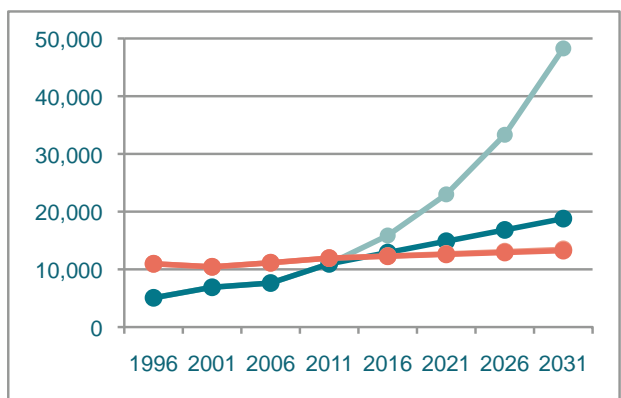
<sup>2</sup> 2011 was the last Census. At that time Vancouver had 1,000 more Aboriginal people than Surrey.

*"There are a disproportionate number of services available to urban Aboriginal people in Vancouver versus in Surrey yet almost identical populations."*

**Conclusions:**

- There should be a similar or greater level of funding, programs and services for Aboriginal people in Surrey as there is in Vancouver.
- The demand for culturally appropriate services in Surrey will grow significantly over the next 10 years.

**PROJECTED GROWTH, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE, SURREY**



Legend: Scenario 1 Surrey (dark blue), Scenario 2 Surrey (medium blue), Scenario 1 City of Vancouver (red), Scenario 2 City of Vancouver (orange). Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS



**FINDING #3:** The urban Aboriginal community in Surrey is very diverse.

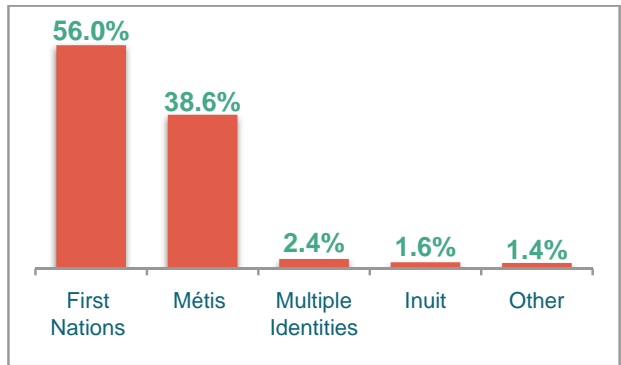
Aboriginal peoples in Canada share a similar history and legacy of colonialism, including residential schools. Having said that, the urban Aboriginal population is not all the same. "Aboriginal people" by definition are the Métis, First Nations, and Inuit peoples of Canada. Each group is a broad category of people within which there are significant differences. For example, the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey is composed of Aboriginal people that have different legal status (status, non-status, treaty, non-treaty), come from very different cultures (Coast Salish, Cree, Dene, Anishinaabe, Nuu-chah-nulth), and represent different socio-economic aspects of the population (elders, students, working class families, LGBTQ2S+, professionals, single parents, etc.). Similarly, Aboriginal people come to cities for different reasons (to attend school, to find work, to advance careers, to start fresh, to be part of city life). The key message is that the Aboriginal community is very diverse and shouldn't be considered a homogenous group.

**Conclusion:**

- Policy and programs need to reflect and appreciate the diversity of the urban Aboriginal community.

*"The needs of the community might be different than the needs of the First Nations in Surrey versus the needs of the urban Aboriginal population. How can we make people aware that the urban Aboriginal population is not homogeneous: Métis, First Nation, urban Aboriginal, status, non-status, vulnerable women, elders, working class families, single moms, etc."*

**ABORIGINAL GROUPS (%), SURREY, 2011**



*For total counts see Appendix  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS*

**DEFINITIONS:**

"Aboriginal People" - the collective name for indigenous (aka "original") peoples of North America. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal Peoples: First Nation (aka "Indian"), Métis, Inuit. In 2011 there were 1.4 million Aboriginal people in Canada.

"First Nations" - a specific political community (not Métis or Inuit) with a history and territory pre-dating Canadian sovereignty. There are 634 First Nations in Canada.

"Métis" - means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

"Urban Aboriginal People" - may be First Nation, Métis, or Inuit individuals living in cities or towns which are not part of their ancestral home community or territory. In 2011 56% of Aboriginal people in Canada are considered "urban Aboriginal people".





**FINDING #4: While Aboriginal people live all over Surrey, some neighbourhoods have higher concentrations of Aboriginal people than others.**

Aboriginal people can be found everywhere throughout Surrey. Some neighbourhoods, however, contain higher concentrations than others. In the north, Whalley is an important hub of the Surrey Aboriginal community. Important pockets of Aboriginal people are also found in Guildford, and in Newton in the area around Kwantlen Polytechnic and the stretch along King George Boulevard south of 88th Ave to the Newton Exchange Bus Loop. Aboriginal people can also be found in significant numbers in Cloverdale, both in its centre and in Clayton and in South Surrey west of Highway 99. Where people live has important implications for the geographic distribution of programs and services in Surrey.

**Conclusions:**

- Services for Aboriginal people need to be spread out across the City and not only concentrated in North Surrey.
- Social service agencies will have higher costs to service the Aboriginal population effectively due to Surrey's large geography and the distribution of Aboriginal people throughout the community.
- Accessible and affordable public transportation across Surrey is a high priority for the urban Aboriginal population.

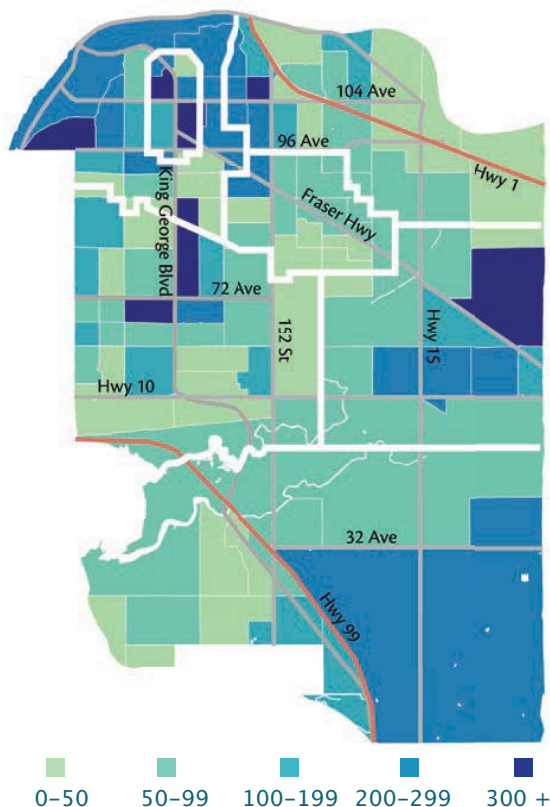
**FINDING #5: The Aboriginal population in Surrey is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population in Surrey and Metro Vancouver. Aboriginal youth face unique challenges with personal safety, police relations, and age appropriate services.**

The Aboriginal population in Surrey is exceptionally young. With a median age of 25.6 years, half of Aboriginal people in Surrey are younger than 26 years of age. This is younger than the Aboriginal population in Vancouver, the Aboriginal population in the province of BC, and even younger than the Aboriginal population in Canada as a whole. By comparison, the median age of all residents in Metro Vancouver is 40.2 years. Consequently, Surrey also has the largest population of Aboriginal children and youth in Metro Vancouver. There are 4,115 Aboriginal children and youth in Surrey, compared to 2,600 in Vancouver.<sup>3</sup> Interestingly, Aboriginal people in Surrey are more likely to live in a family unit than Aboriginal people in Vancouver.<sup>4</sup> The implication of these statistics is that significant investments in children and families is warranted and could have the largest net positive impact for the future.

<sup>3</sup> These are children and youth between the ages of 0 and 18 years

<sup>4</sup> There are 4,905 Aboriginal children living in census families in Surrey (this includes adult children, but excludes foster children) compared to about 3,000 in Vancouver.

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH ABORIGINAL IDENTITY, SURREY (BY CENSUS TRACT), 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

In addition to these findings, participants between the ages of 16 and 24 in an Aboriginal youth focus group identified other concerns including:

- Personal safety
  - Interaction with criminals, perverts, violent offenders, etc.
  - Negative interactions with police
  - Interaction with drugs and crime
  - Concern for physical assault and sexual assault
  - Traffic and pedestrian interaction
- Lack of connection to other Aboriginal youth and culture leading to isolation and loneliness
- The need for more education support that is accessible and affordable
- More employment services – especially training and support to get a first job
- Age appropriate drug and alcohol counseling
- Transportation and the high cost of transportation
- “Aging out of care” and the challenges associated with the sudden requirement to face the world without any help or support
- Lack of youth specific shelters

These voices added a unique insight into the world of Aboriginal youth living in Surrey. Given the demographics of the Aboriginal population, their concerns deserve our attention.



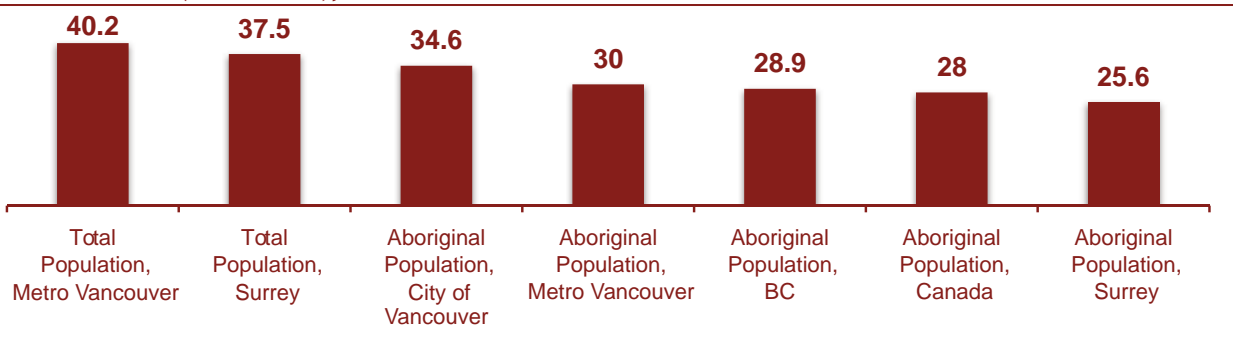
Kekinow Native Housing

**Conclusions:**

- Programs and services that focus on Aboriginal children, youth and young families need to be strengthened and expanded.
- Physical safety is a significant concern for Aboriginal youth (and women).
- Police outreach to Aboriginal youth needs to be given more attention and resources.

***“What works for the family that is thriving?  
How can we support a community to  
flourish?”***

***MEDIAN AGE (IN YEARS), 2011***



*The median age is the age where exactly one-half of the population is older and the other half is younger.  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS*



**FINDING #6: There is a disconcertingly high number of Aboriginal foster children living in Surrey. These children and families face very significant challenges and barriers.**

A small sub-set of the Aboriginal child and youth population in Surrey are foster children or “children in care”. While small in absolute number, it is high relative to the number of Aboriginal children in care elsewhere in Metro Vancouver and also compared to the number of non-Aboriginal children in care. For example, there are almost 300 Aboriginal foster children living in Surrey, compared to about 200 in Vancouver. Relative to the general population the numbers are shocking. For example, the Ministry of Children and Family Development reports that at least 60% of children in care in Surrey are Aboriginal even though the Aboriginal population is less than 3% of the total population in Surrey. These statistics are a wake-up call for all of us, especially given the significant challenges these children will face as they grow up in the City. For example, a report<sup>5</sup> on homelessness in Surrey from 2014 pointed out that “In Surrey, many of the Aboriginal youth who are homeless or at-risk have been “in the system” (i.e.-foster care) for most of their lives.” Additionally, among service providers, there is a growing awareness of and concern for children that are aging out of care. Many of these children are the most vulnerable and are left to fend for themselves when they turn nineteen.

One of the significant challenges for Aboriginal youth in general, and Aboriginal youth in care in particular, is maintaining a connection to the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal culture. This challenge is noted elsewhere in this report, however it is compounded for foster

children by the fact that over 95% of the children in foster care in Surrey live in non-Aboriginal foster homes.

These findings point to the fact that more resources could be directed at this segment of the population as they represent some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

**Conclusions:**

- There should be a similar or greater level of funding, programs, and services for children-in-care in Surrey as there is in Vancouver.
- Programs and services that focus on Aboriginal children, youth and young families need to be strengthened and expanded.
- More resources are needed to support children as they age out of care.

***“We have a young and growing Aboriginal population. We need to ensure that these young people have the best opportunity to succeed. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was not just about making recommendations but also about taking action.”***  
***Vera LeFranc Surrey Council, September 28.***

<sup>5</sup> Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey – Appendix A: Situation Report (March 2012 and updated June 2013)

**FINDING #7: A disproportionate number of Aboriginal adults in Surrey lack a high-school degree. However, most Aboriginal adults in Surrey do have a post-secondary education.**

Almost 20% of Aboriginal adults in Surrey lack a high-school degree, compared to 13% of all adults in Surrey. Despite the significant number of Aboriginal people in Surrey without a high-school degree, most Aboriginal adults do have a postsecondary education (52%), which is only slightly below the rate for all Surrey residents (59%). This does not mean that most Aboriginal people in Surrey with a postsecondary education have gone to university. In fact, only a small percentage of those with a postsecondary education have a bachelor-level university education or above (11% of Aboriginal men and 13% of Aboriginal women). These rates are significantly below broader municipal and regional averages.

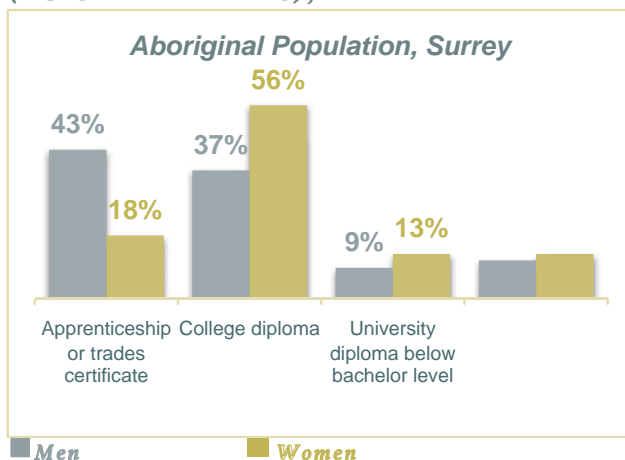
Among Aboriginal people in Surrey with a postsecondary education, men tend to participate in trades and apprenticeships programs (43%), while women are more inclined to go to college (56%).

There are a number of implications that one can draw from these statistics – from the need for greater supports for school aged children to the need to provide more adults with opportunities to complete high school. Additionally, the lack of university achievement raises questions about the reasons for post-secondary education choices.

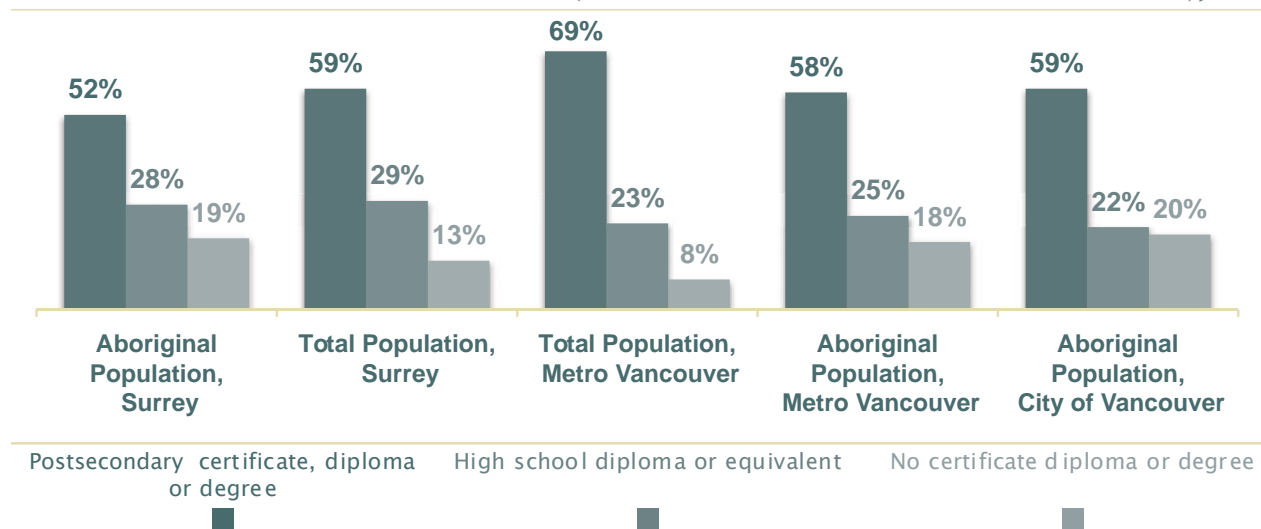
**Conclusions:**

- Culturally sensitive programs and services to support Aboriginal youth to graduate from high school need to be strengthened.
- Programs that assist Aboriginal adults to complete a high school degree need to be made more accessible.
- There needs to be a greater understanding as to whether Aboriginal people are strategically choosing trades/apprenticeships programs and college education over a university degree; or whether there are barriers that prevent Aboriginal people from going to university.

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (AGES 25-64 YEARS), 2011**

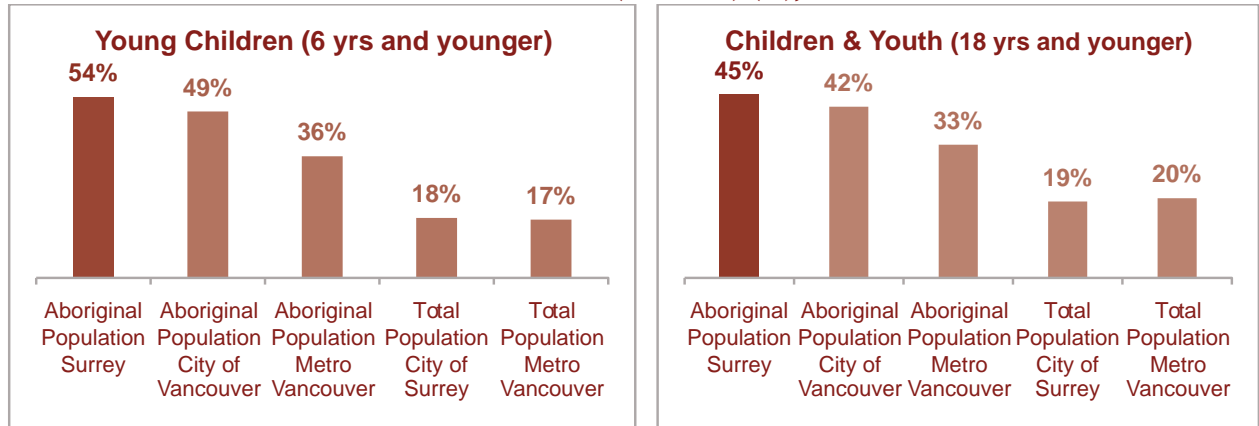


**HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (POPULATION AGED 25 TO 64 YEARS OLD), 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

## PEOPLE IN LOW INCOME BY AGE GROUPS (LIM-AT) (%), 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

In 2011, Statistics Canada used the "Low Income Measure" (LIM-AT) as an indicator to measure low-incomes status. LIM is a widely-used indicator, defined as half of the median adjusted household income.

**FINDING #8: The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal people in Surrey is on par with municipal and regional averages, however, the unemployment rate for the Aboriginal community is considerably higher than that of the Surrey population as a whole. The Aboriginal community in Surrey has one of the highest child and youth poverty rates in the region.**

The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal people in Surrey (67%) is on par with municipal and regional averages. In other words, Aboriginal people in Surrey are equally likely to be in the labour force as the rest of the population. However, the unemployment rate for the Aboriginal community in Surrey (13%) is considerably higher than that of Surrey as a whole (8%). Additionally, when they are working, Aboriginal people in Surrey earn about \$5,000 less than the average Surrey resident, and about \$6,000 to \$7,000 less than the average Metro Vancouver resident.<sup>6</sup> Perhaps not surprising then, 34% of Aboriginal people in Surrey live in low-income households. This is about twice the low-income rate for Metro Vancouver and Surrey as a whole (17% and 16% respectively). And as referenced earlier, the low-income Aboriginal population in Surrey is significantly younger than other low-income populations in Metro Vancouver. Sadly, this is reflected in the fact that the Aboriginal community in Surrey has one of the highest child and youth poverty rates in the region. 54% of Aboriginal children (6 years and younger) in Surrey live in a low-income household. 1,730 Aboriginal children and youth in Surrey live in low-income households compared to 1,025 in Vancouver.

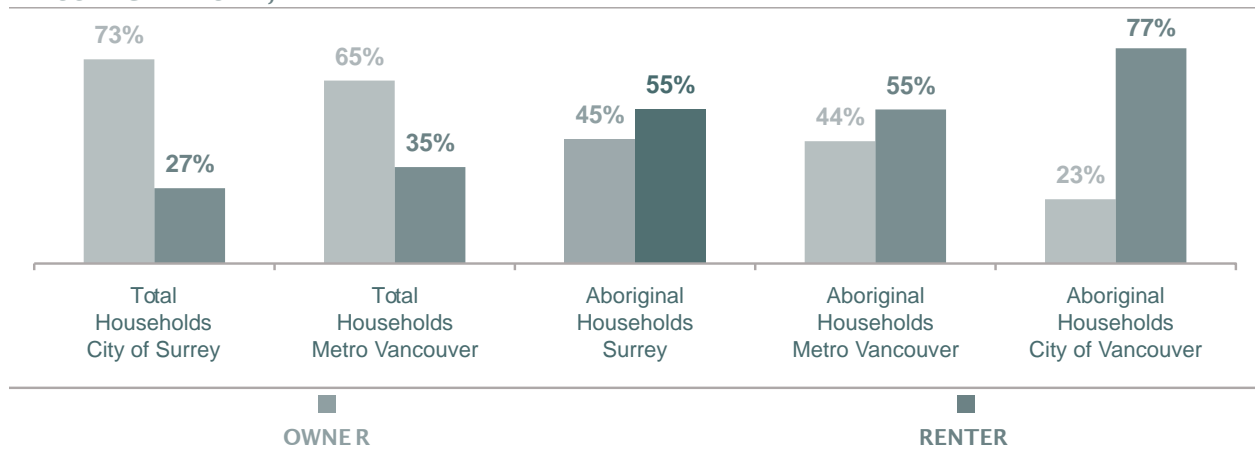
<sup>6</sup> The median after-tax individual income for Aboriginal people in Surrey is \$20,400. This is on par with the Aboriginal population in Vancouver. Disparities in income become more apparent when compared to the broader municipal and regional populations.

Employment is an obvious means to reducing child poverty in this segment of the population. These statistics provide a significant rationale for additional investments in children, youth and families as well as meaningful employment and training support for all Aboriginal people.

### Conclusions:

- Programs and services that focus on Aboriginal children, youth and young families need to be strengthened and expanded.
- Support youth through education and training that leads to employment.
- Increase opportunities for career progression (Low wage to higher wage).

## HOUSING TENURE, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FINDING #9: The majority of Aboriginal people that move to Surrey stay in the city. Home ownership levels among Aboriginal households in Surrey are much higher than in Vancouver. More Aboriginal-specific housing options are needed for renters and the homeless.**

Aboriginal people in Surrey are noticeably less transient than their counterparts in Vancouver. Having said that, 19% of Aboriginal people did move residence in the past year – a significant number that is higher than municipal and regional averages. However, the majority (67%) of Aboriginal people in Surrey who moved in the past year did so by staying within the City's boundaries. In other words, mobility among Aboriginal people in Surrey is largely 'intra-municipal.'

55% of Aboriginal households in Surrey are renters, compared to 45% who are owners. Ownership levels among Aboriginal households in Surrey (45%) are much higher than for Aboriginal households in Vancouver (23%). 41% of Aboriginal households in Surrey spend 30% or more of their household income on shelter costs.

The Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey Report<sup>7</sup> noted that Aboriginal people make up 24% of the homeless population in Surrey. It stated "This is disproportionate to the City's total population where less than 3% are Aboriginal. Aboriginal homeless people have a unique set of needs and circumstances and have greater success when services are tailored to their cultural needs. Aboriginal-specific housing and services are needed."

<sup>7</sup> Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey – Appendix A: Situation Report (March 2012 and updated June 2013)

Public transit use among Aboriginal people in Surrey is about twice as high as for all Surrey residents (22% compared to only 13%). These higher ridership rates reflect the importance of public transit to the Aboriginal population in Surrey.

The implications of these statistics are that Aboriginal people in Surrey, if given the opportunity, are likely to stay in Surrey, invest in their future, and set down roots in the urban Aboriginal community. Having said that, finding appropriate rental suites for Aboriginal people is a challenge and at the other end of the spectrum there is a particular need to develop culturally appropriate housing options for the Aboriginal homeless and at-risk population.

### Conclusions:

- The majority of the Aboriginal population will stay in Surrey over the long term.
- Aboriginal people are homeowners and taxpayers.
- The majority of Aboriginal people will still need appropriate rental housing: family orientated, in safe supportive environments, close to public transportation.
- Appropriate services and options for Aboriginal people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness are required.





**FINDING #10: While the collective Aboriginal community in Surrey is largely invisible, Aboriginal individuals report facing negative stereotypes and ignorance in daily life.**

Currently the Aboriginal community in Surrey is largely invisible. This is an observation relative to other municipalities in BC and confirmed by many of the key informants participating in this study.

At the population level, the community doesn't acknowledge the contribution that Aboriginal people make to the fabric of community life. For example, Aboriginal people are not represented in many public buildings, libraries, or Surrey parks. Aboriginal people are not consistently acknowledged in our public ceremonies, protocols, or festivals. As a result, people don't feel valued or welcome in Surrey. This invisibility affects funding organizations as well as they don't recognize the size and importance of the urban Aboriginal population in Surrey relative to other cities. At an individual level we heard many stories of racism that individuals experience in Surrey. These negative stereotypes affect the ability to find rental accommodation, employment, and physical safety.

All of these examples point to the negative impact of being invisible in one's community. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called on all levels of government in Canada to do more to acknowledge, respect, and support the healing and reconciliation of Aboriginal people in this country. We believe the City of Surrey, and the community more generally, can do more to raise the profile


of Aboriginal people in the City and to make the City a welcoming place for Aboriginal people.

***"No conversations on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women. Two women murdered in Surrey this year were our clients. Unless I sit on 72 committees, no one is talking about it."***

**Conclusions:**

- The profile of Aboriginal people in the City needs to be more visible.
- Aboriginal people face negative stereotypes and discrimination in the City.
- The City can take a leadership role by publicly declaring support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 "Calls to Action" and identify how the City of Surrey can implement or support the implementation of the Calls to Action.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Calls to Action directed specifically at local government: #43 endorse United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People; #57 education to public servants; #77 community archives identify records relevant to residential schools.



**FINDING #11: There are a wide variety of social services and programs in Surrey, however most of the services and programs are delivered by non-Aboriginal agencies and are not designed to serve Aboriginal specific needs or preferences.**

There are a wide variety of social services and programs in Surrey. An Aboriginal person may engage with many different service providers – some Aboriginal and many more non-Aboriginal. Most of the services or programs are not designed to serve Aboriginal specific needs or preferences.

While many of these services and the agencies delivering the services are invaluable for supporting the health and well-being of Aboriginal people it was generally agreed that we should strive to provide more culturally appropriate services to the Aboriginal community. Culturally appropriate services are important because Aboriginal people may be reluctant to access services that don't reflect their own values, experiences, or ways of being. Reinforcing Aboriginal culture and identity is also a central component of a positive personal identity and belonging – two things that are essential in healthy individuals.

Given this, it would be preferable for Aboriginal organizations to deliver services to the Aboriginal population. In the short to mid-term, however, this is not practical as there aren't enough Aboriginal organizations to deliver the full range of services that are needed. The implication therefore is that non-Aboriginal service agencies will continue to provide front line services to the Aboriginal community. As a result, it becomes necessary to find ways for non-Aboriginal service agencies to deliver culturally appropriate services – especially if they are funded by program dollars specifically targeted for service delivery to the Aboriginal population.

***“The legacy of colonialism and racism are ailing the Aboriginal community all across the country. There is a medicine for that ailment. That medicine is indigenous culture – in the broadest sense.” Paul Lacerte – presentation to Surrey Council September 28.***

Unfortunately, members of the Aboriginal community do not have confidence that non-Aboriginal service organizations can deliver services in a culturally appropriate manner. They cite as evidence that there are very few Aboriginal employees in these organizations and there is very little Aboriginal awareness training that is offered to non-Aboriginal employees. Importantly then, there needs to be a concerted effort to build trust between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal service agencies so that more collaborative relationships can exist which in turn will lead to more capacity to deliver culturally appropriate services. One way to do this is to give Aboriginal people greater control over the allocation of targeted Aboriginal funding and greater input into the design and delivery of Aboriginal targeted services and programs.

**Conclusions:**

- Aboriginal people should have more control over the funding and program design of services for the Aboriginal population in Surrey.
- Increase targeted funding to create new culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal people.
- More community partnerships, more connections between service providers, more collaboration and opportunities for learning between Aboriginal organizations and non-Aboriginal organizations are needed.
- Service providers must make greater efforts to offer culturally appropriate programs and services.
- Service providers must make greater efforts to hire Aboriginal people.
- Increase the awareness of Aboriginal programs and services available to Aboriginal individuals and families.







**FINDING #12: There is a need to augment existing services for Aboriginal people.**

While there are already many services available to the urban Aboriginal population, many more key informants identified gaps in services to the community. For example, people reported that there are:

- No youth recovery houses;
- Very few supports for Aboriginal men at all;
- No safe homes for children, youth (over 18 years) or women with children;
- A lack of appropriate, accessible, and affordable housing for Aboriginal people with a range of different needs;
- No detox or urban treatment facility in Surrey;
- Insufficient supports for children “aging-out-of-care”;
- A lack of appropriate services for Aboriginal women;
- A lack of services for Aboriginal youth; and,
- A resistance to culturally appropriate (or at least culturally friendly) health care services (including grieving support).

***“There is a lack of trauma services that are accessible. Surrey is a vast community with limited transportation services so vulnerable women are in isolation.”***

Some of these service gaps have been previously identified by the City of Surrey.<sup>9</sup> They need to be addressed as they are supports that can provide a lifeline to the most vulnerable segments of the population. As stated previously, the services should always be provided in culturally appropriate ways that build the capacity of the Aboriginal community and strengthen partnerships among Aboriginal people and organizations and non-Aboriginal service agencies.

**Conclusions:**

- Increase targeted funding to create new culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal people.
- Create new Aboriginal organizations or Aboriginal led partnerships to address gaps.

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<sup>9</sup> Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Research Project “In Their Own Words: a service and housing needs assessment for vulnerable women and youth in Surrey.” Final Report (April 2015)



**FINDING #13: Aboriginal people in Surrey do not have a central place to connect with community.**

It is difficult for Aboriginal people in Surrey to connect with culture, people, and services that would support and enhance their experience of the City. Currently there is no clear centre or gathering place for the Aboriginal community in Surrey. Almost all of the key informants pointed to the success of the Vancouver Friendship Centre to connect people with each other and would like to replicate that experience here in Surrey. Some people recognize that the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre currently fulfills this role even if the location of the centre is not ideal. Others, however, suggested that it might be unrealistic given the geographic size of the City to have just one center for Aboriginal people. They point to the possibility of a wheel “hub and spoke” model of gathering spaces. Either way, it is very clear that the Aboriginal community wants a gathering place that it can call its own. If the space has the ownership of the Aboriginal community then it can also become a focal point for connecting services to

Aboriginal individuals. An Aboriginal centre could be the physical and existential heart of the Aboriginal community in Surrey.

***“Where is the hub of the Aboriginal community in Surrey?”***

**Conclusion:**

- An appropriate space (or spaces) for gathering is critically important for the Aboriginal community and can serve to better connect individuals and families to each other and to programs and services.





**FINDING #14: The Aboriginal community in Surrey can be better organized to give voice to their issues and the unique needs of the urban Aboriginal population.**

Currently there isn't an Aboriginal organization or coalition of individuals or organizations that has the mandate to speak on behalf of the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey. This leaves a void in terms of community leadership and advocacy. Most key informants recognized that Aboriginal people and organizations need to be better organized in order to advocate for change in Surrey. This doesn't mean that existing Aboriginal organizations aren't constantly working to improve the lives of Aboriginal people but their input into civic planning and discourse isn't happening in a coordinated or impactful way. As a result, informants would like to see more collaboration, coordination and advocacy from within the Aboriginal community.

Specifically, an organized Aboriginal voice in the City could take responsibility to:

- Advocate for Aboriginal people in Surrey;
- Educate the broader community about Aboriginal history and people;
- Encourage coordination and collaboration among service providers;
- Develop policy and strategy through an urban Aboriginal lens; and
- Update the population profile of the urban Aboriginal community at every Census.

Even with the structure and mandate in place there still

need to be people to fill the leadership roles. Many people cited the challenge of identifying the next generation of urban Aboriginal leaders and asked how we can collectively support individuals to be engaged and groomed for leadership roles. Ideally, more Aboriginal individuals should be sitting on boards and committees and be employed by organizations that interact with the urban Aboriginal community. In other words, steps must be taken to build capacity at both an institutional and personal level that will strengthen the Aboriginal voice in Surrey.

***“Where is the next generation of Aboriginal leaders? How can we support them? It’s always the same people at Aboriginal advisory tables. Who will take their place?”***

**Conclusions:**

- Formalize the Aboriginal Leadership Committee to address the conclusions of this report.<sup>10</sup>
- Identify and cultivate more Aboriginal people to take on leadership roles within Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations in Surrey.

<sup>10</sup> It is important to clarify that the First Nations in Surrey are all represented by their own governments and so any collective group to represent the urban Aboriginal population would not be speaking for the legal or political rights of First Nations.



### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

The title of this report - All Our Relations - emphasizes a relational worldview shared by many Indigenous peoples and points to the many relationships that need to be created, strengthened or expanded in Surrey. The objective of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy is to build and strengthen relationships at all levels of the community so as to improve the economic participation, educational attainment, and health outcomes for the Aboriginal population in Surrey. Phase I of the project has helped to shine a light on the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey and some of the barriers or challenges that impede a positive experience of city life. Phase II of the project will be an opportunity to build on the findings and conclusions contained in this report in two significant ways.

First, we plan to formally establish the Surrey Aboriginal Leadership Council as a means to increase our own capacity to influence the policy, programs and services that impact us the most. As the Leadership Council, Aboriginal people will be the voice of the community as it relates to the urban Aboriginal population in Surrey. We will own the issues and take on the responsibility to advocate for Aboriginal people in Surrey; educate the broader community about Aboriginal people; cultivate the next

generation of Aboriginal leaders; encourage coordination and collaboration among service providers; and develop policy and strategy through an urban Aboriginal lens. We cannot do this alone, however, and we will continue to seek the support of the City and other allies that support our vision for the future. In light of this, our second step is to convene in Phase II a broader cross-section of non-Aboriginal organizations and funders to help us develop solutions and strategies for addressing the findings and conclusions contained in this report. Our goal is to build the commitment for collective action and positive change in our community.

All our relations.



# PROFILES

## **Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Assoc. (FRAFCA)**

FRAFCA is dedicated to providing culturally based programs and services to respond to the needs of the urban Aboriginal population in Surrey. They support activities that promote the health and well-being of Aboriginal people and promote the resurgence of Aboriginal culture, language and teachings. The organization started in the early 1990s as the Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society and eventually became Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre. This grass roots organization facilitated tremendous work to provide much needed support to First Nations, Metis and Inuit residents in the city. In 2012, the organization joined the National Association of Friendship Centres, becoming the newest of 25 Friendship Centres in BC. FRAFCA's community outreach is extremely broad and programs fall into the general categories of Wellness, Education, Housing and Community. They offer programs such as: Positive Health Outreach, Indigenous Women's Violence Prevention; Aboriginal Infant Development; Community Action Program for Children; Awahsuk Aboriginal Head Start; Adult Basic Education; and Aboriginal Homeless Outreach. These are only some of the programs and services offered by FRAFCA and the organization is continually seeking ways to expand its capacity and outreach to better serve Aboriginal people in the Fraser Valley. It is clear that FRAFCA will play a central role in addressing the well-being of the urban Aboriginal population in Surrey well into the future and looks forward to growing with our community members.

## **Surrey Schools**

For many Aboriginal families in Surrey, schools are the most consistent element in their children's early development. Given the large and youthful nature of the Aboriginal population in Surrey, it is clear that a successful future is bound together with a positive school experience. To improve that experience, the Surrey School District has developed a multi-stakeholder agreement for supporting Aboriginal learner success.<sup>11</sup> The top three goals of the agreement are to: 1. Increase positive identity and sense of belonging for all Aboriginal learners; 2. Increase students' knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal history, traditions, and cultures; 3. Increase achievement for Aboriginal learners. Practically speaking, this means the Aboriginal Education Services staff work directly with teachers and about 3,200 Aboriginal

<sup>11</sup> Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

students to provide a range of support services that keep students and families engaged with the school system and improve student connections to Aboriginal people and cultures. For example, Aboriginal Education Services runs: the Little Eaglets program which builds a connection between Aboriginal families and the school system prior to beginning kindergarten; an afterschool literacy program for Aboriginal children and parents called 'Bannock and Books'; regular cultural workshops in Surrey schools that expose students to traditions and practices like cedar bark basket weaving; an annual winter family gathering and feast that last year brought out over 1,000 Aboriginal children and families to share a meal together; a leadership program called 'Windspeaker' that builds leadership capacity in Aboriginal youth through experiential outdoor education; and, a traditional honoring ceremony for grade 12 graduates that recognizes their accomplishment through culture and ceremony. These initiatives highlight how Surrey Schools brings together learning and culture to strengthen Aboriginal student outcomes.

## **Surrey RCMP**

Surrey RCMP are part of the First Nations Policing Program (FNPP) with a goal to provide police services that are professional, effective, culturally appropriate and accountable to the communities they serve. Under the program, First Nations work with the RCMP to identify risks and develop policing services to enhance the safety of their communities. Surrey RCMP Constable Troy Derrick (of the Gitxsan Nation) acts as a liaison to Surrey's urban Aboriginal residents, and provides dedicated policing services to Semiahmoo First Nation. The program incorporates principles and objectives to ensure sensitivity to Aboriginal culture. A highlight for the program was in 2015 when Surrey RCMP was a partner in the 'Pulling Together Canoe Journey'. Hosted by Semiahmoo First Nation, the 100 mile canoe journey began on Harrison Lake and finished at Semiahmoo. Eight Surrey RCMP police officers and municipal employees participated, along with 500 other individuals. Participants were able to witness and participate in long standing traditions and cultural protocols, such as sharing of songs and prayers, stories and teachings, meals, gift giving and friendship. These kinds of initiatives – big and small – allow RCMP officers to develop meaningful relationships with the urban Aboriginal community based on respect and positive cultural awareness. It is



good work that can be the basis for strengthening the connection and outreach to the urban Aboriginal community in the future.

### **Kekinow Native Housing Society**

Since 1986, Kekinow Native Housing has provided housing for people of Aboriginal ancestry living on limited incomes in Surrey. This service has been a lifeline for many Aboriginal people in Surrey as safe, secure, and affordable housing is the foundation for moving from survival to success in the city. This is particularly true of young families in Surrey. For this reason, Kekinow constructed five family townhouse complexes with 199 units – all which have a special emphasis on the family. For example, each housing complex has a ‘common room’ for tenants to host family events and gatherings, and include an outdoor playground area for children. A positive experience and connection to Aboriginal culture is critically important for families and young children. As such, Kekinow encourages the healthy expression of Aboriginal culture in all of its complexes. For example, each of the housing complexes run by the Society has an Aboriginal name from Sohkeyak (meaning ‘robin’s nest’) to Ama-huuwilp (or ‘good home’). Furthermore, tenants of each complex are encouraged to have a committee that plans culturally based activities and events such as traditional workshops (on medicinal herbs, food preservation or drum building for example) or graduation celebrations for tenants and children of the complex. Recognizing the great demand for its services in Surrey, Kekinow has worked tirelessly with the City and other partners to lay the groundwork for a large expansion of housing units in the near future. Soon they will be able to offer even more Aboriginal individuals and families appropriate housing options and the opportunity to build a safe and secure life in the city.

### **Cwenegitel Support House**

Cwenegitel (which means ‘helping one another’) is a recovery house for men. It provides safe, accessible, and suitable housing for homeless Aboriginal men while helping them break the cycle of substance and alcohol abuse. The Support House has successfully served all Nations in the Surrey area since 1995. It provides a family-orientated atmosphere for up to 12 men. Resources include individual and group counseling services, support meetings, and financial education assistance. Residents build wellness through long-term support, skills development, community involvement,

cultural and spiritual guidance, educational mentoring and counseling. Pride in Aboriginal culture is fostered in smudge ceremonies, drumming, and medicine sharing circles, anger management programs, and a large sweat lodge. The site and programs are open for all members of the community. Cwenegitel also provides cultural work and education for the Surrey School District, Fraser Aboriginal Health; Gateway Mental Health and local First Nations. They operate seven days a week, 24 hours a day (with funding only provided for 17 hours a day). Due to the shared commitment and perseverance of staff and residents many former Support House residents have gone on to complete their post-secondary education, become business owners, successful artisans, and highly skilled tradesmen. The work of Cwenegitel is one of the quiet success stories of the urban Aboriginal community in Surrey.

### **Xyolhemeylh**

Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society, Xyolhemeylh, provides culturally appropriate and holistic services through prevention, community development, and child welfare programs to Aboriginal children, youth and their families residing in the Fraser Valley including Surrey. The Surrey program, called Supported Connections, in partnership with Circle 5, Aboriginal Family and Child Services, provides support to parents, social workers, and caregivers by facilitating visits between children who are in care and their families. The program uses a strength-based practice, and the guiding principle is that a child is entitled to have safe, positive and meaningful contact with their family and culture. The primary service goal is to support families in making changes required to have their children returned to their care as quickly as possible. The program is staffed by support workers who arrange and support visits on site or in the community, attend meetings, and provide intensive outreach to families. Although this can be challenging work at times, it is very rewarding to witness the families make positive changes in their lives, which results in their children returning home. The experience of Xyolhemeylh in Surrey has emerged as a best practice that serves as an example of how to deliver critically important services in ways that build and strengthen the urban Aboriginal community.



# APPENDIX A – CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SURREY URBAN ABORIGINAL SOCIAL INNOVATION STRATEGY

## Aboriginal Leadership Committee

- Councillor Vera LeFranc, City of Surrey (Chair)
- Dina Lambright, Fraser Health Authority (Aboriginal Health)
- Dwight Yochim, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
- Gloria Raphael, Surrey School District (Aboriginal Education)
- Joanne Charles, Semiahmoo First Nation
- Joanne Mills, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre (FRAFCA)
- June Laitar, Kekinow Native Housing Society
- Frieda Vairo, Kekinow Native Housing Society
- Mindi Moren, Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services
- Rebecca Easson, Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services
- Pat Reid, Kekinow Native Housing
- Phil Hall, First Nations Health Authority
- Rocky James, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
- Samantha Wells, Semiahmoo First Nation
- Shannon Courchene, Kwikwetlem First Nation
- Shelly Hill, Kekinow Native Housing Society
- Sol Lee, Surrey School District (Aboriginal Education)
- Tom Oleman, Cwenengitel Support House
- Troy Derrick, RCMP
- Christine Simmons, Ministry of Children and Family Development (Circle 5)

## Project Team

- Sheldon Tetreault & Michele Guerin, Guerin Tetreault Governance Consulting
- Aileen Murphy, Marlis McCargar, Kristin Patten, City of Surrey
- Jacopo Miro, School of Community and Regional Planning, UBC
- Brandon Gabriel, Brandon Gabriel Fine Art and Design
- Byron Smith, Greenhouse PhotoGraphix Inc.

## Key informant interviews

- Surrey RCMP: Constable Troy Derrick
- ACCESS: John Webster & Lynn White
- Surrey Food Bank: Marilyn Hermann
- Cwenegitel: Tom Oleman
- Kekinow: Frieda Vairo, Pat Reid, June Laitar
- Options : Christine Mohr & Aboriginal Engagement Team: Joe Woodworth, Stacie Prescott, Cori Kleisinger, Jen Mantyka, Vanessa Masters
- Fraser Health Authority: Dina Lambright
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University: Diane Purvey
- FRAFCA: Joanne Mills; Harley Wylie; Kyla Bains; Theresa Anderson; Vanessa Hickman; Leah Bull
- SFU: Natalie Wood-Wiens
- Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC: Arthur Paul
- Surrey Womens Centre: Sarah Rehim; Corrine Arthur
- Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS): James Musgrave; Erin Harvie
- Xyolhemeylh Child & Family Services: Mindi Moren
- Elizabeth Fry Society: Bonnie Moriarty; Shilo St. Cyr
- MCFD Aboriginal Family and Child Services: Sheila Wilkins
- Surrey Schools: Gloria Raphael
- Kwikwetlem First Nation: Shannon Courchene
- City of Surrey: Councillor Vera LeFranc
- Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council: Kevin Barlow
- Probation Services: Koulis Kyriakos
- Surrey Libraries: Laurie Cooke & Caroline Johnson









Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Strategy (UASIS)

## **A Profile of the Aboriginal Population in Surrey, BC**

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## POPULATION

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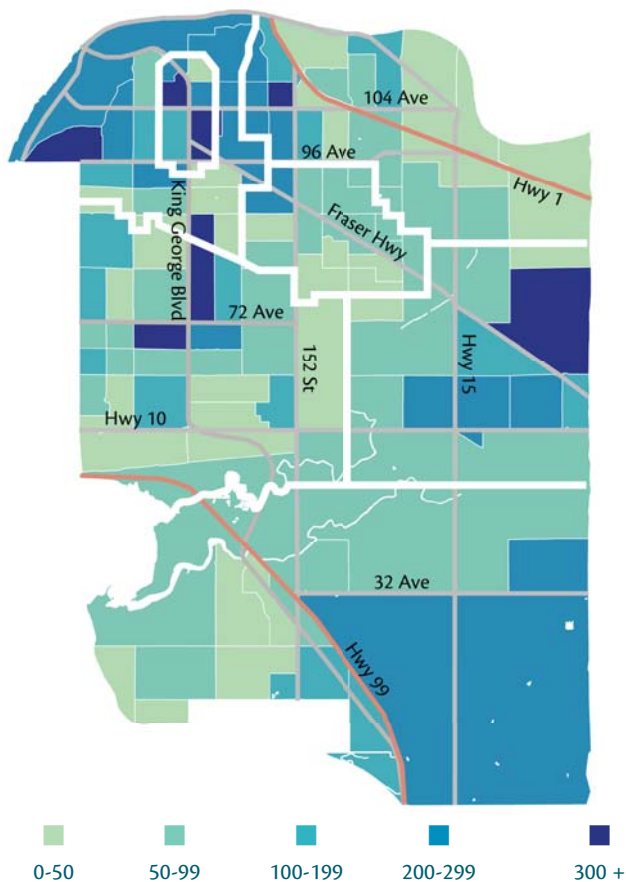
### 1.1 Aboriginal Population, Surrey

Statistics Canada provides five metrics to define the Aboriginal population: (1) Aboriginal Identity, (2) Aboriginal Group, (3) Registered or Treaty Indian Status, (4) Membership in a First Nation or Indian Band, and (5) Aboriginal Ancestry (ethnic origin). Of these five, 'Aboriginal Identity' is the preferred unit of analysis for most social statistics programmes (Statistics Canada, 2015). As a metric, it strikes a good balance between the narrowness of 'Registered/Treaty Indian Status,' and the broadness of 'Aboriginal Ancestry.'

Aboriginal Identity, as defined by Statistics Canada, refers to persons who report being Aboriginal, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or Registered or Treaty Indian, and/or a member of a First Nations or Indian band (for more information see Statistics Canada Aboriginal Peoples Reference Guide, 2013).

As of 2011, about 10,950 people in Surrey identified as Aboriginal, comprising 2.4% of all Surrey residents (for more information on Aboriginal population counts see the Aboriginal Population Factsheet, 2014).

**FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH ABORIGINAL IDENTITY, SURREY (BY CENSUS TRACT), 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Aboriginal people can be found throughout Surrey. But some neighbourhoods contain higher concentrations than others.

In the north, Whalley and City Centre are two important hubs of the Surrey Aboriginal community. Particularly, along the rapid-transit stretch between Gateway Station and King George Station.

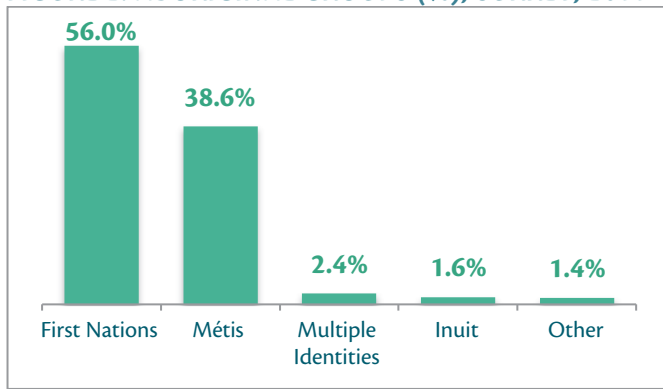
Important pockets of Aboriginal people are also found in Guildford, especially in the areas surrounding the Guildford Rec Centre and the Guildford Mall.

The area around Kwantlen Polytechnic, and the stretch along King George Boulevard south of 88<sup>th</sup> Ave to the Newton Exchange Bus Loop also house significant numbers of Aboriginal people.

Important concentrations can also be found in Cloverdale, both in its centre and north of the Fraser Highway, and in South Surrey west of Highway 99.

Note that Statistics Canada categorizes Indian Reserves as distinct Census Subdivisions (CSDs). Figure 1 shows data pertaining only to the city of Surrey (that is, Census Subdivision 5915004), and not the Semiahmoo Indian Reserve (that is, Census Subdivision 5915801).

**FIGURE 2: ABORIGINAL GROUPS (%), SURREY, 2011**



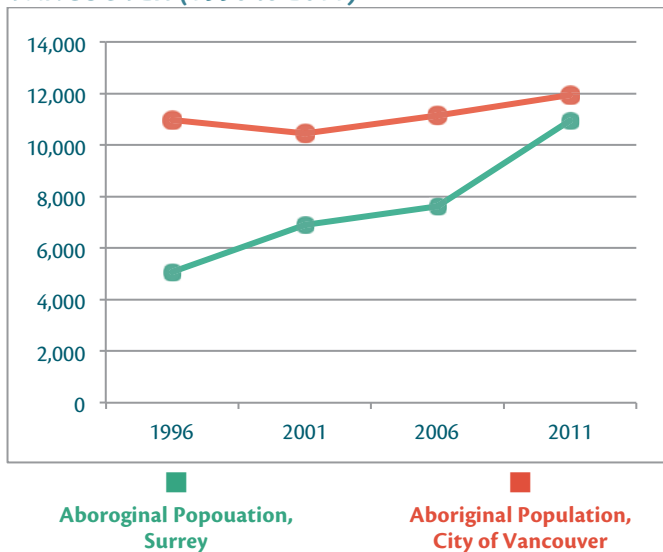
For total counts see Appendix  
 Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

A majority of Aboriginal people in Surrey are First Nations (56%), compared to 38% who are Métis.

Only a small majority of people identify as Inuk/Inuit (1.6%).

## 1.2 Population Growth

**FIGURE 3: ABORIGINAL POPULATION, SURREY & VANCOUVER (1996 to 2011)**



For total counts see the Appendix  
 Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

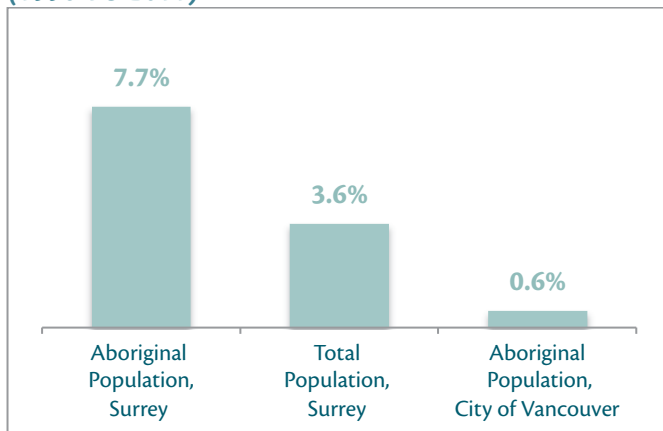
Between 1996 and 2011, the Aboriginal population in Surrey grew from 5,070 to 10,950 individuals, effectively doubling in size.

This increase is equivalent to an annual growth rate of 7.7%, compared to 3.6% for all Surrey residents. In other words, from 1996 to 2011, the Aboriginal population grew twice as fast as for all of Surrey, one of Canada's fastest growing major cities.

In contrast, the Aboriginal population in Vancouver grew from 10,965 to 11,945, or 0.6% annually, which is a much slower pace (see the Appendix for the total numbers).

There are several factors that can contribute to the higher growth rate for Aboriginal peoples, including demographic factors (such as birth rates), and reporting changes (such as the increasing tendency for people to identify themselves as Aboriginal; see Statistics Canada, 2013).

**FIGURE 4: ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH (1996 TO 2011)**

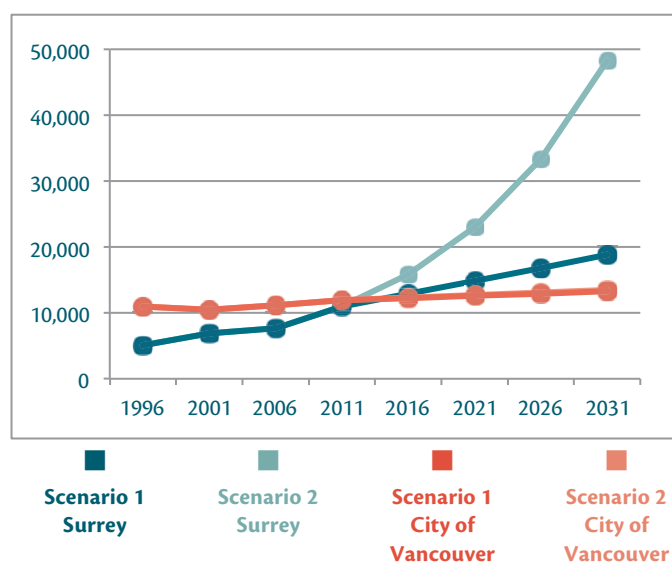


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

Also, comparability of data over time has its limitations, created in large part by changes in methodology and by changes in the wording of the Aboriginal identity questions from one census year to another. Statistics Canada voices great caution when analyzing trends in Aboriginal population, especially before 1996 (Statistics Canada, 2007; Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Statistics at a Glance, 2010).

### 1.3 Population Projections

**FIGURE 5: PROJECTED GROWTH, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE, SURREY**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

Population projections for Aboriginal people in Surrey vary. If the current rate of growth of 7.7%/year holds, the Aboriginal population can be expected to reach ~14,900 to ~23,000 people by the year 2021, and ~19,000 to ~50,000 people by the year 2031.

In contrast, projected growth for the Aboriginal population in Vancouver is expected to be more modest, reaching between 13,245 and 13,463 by the year 2031 (see Table 1). This assumes a growth rate of %0.6/year.

Scenario 1 follows a linear/arithmetical method, while Scenario 2 follows a geometric progression. Both are accepted and standard ways of projecting population growth. Note that for the Aboriginal population in Vancouver, there is little difference between Scenario 1 and 2 (i.e. they virtually overlap).

Cohort component analysis is another widely-used method for calculating population growth. However, it requires data on the Aboriginal population in Surrey that is currently not publicly available.

**TABLE 1: PROJECTED GROWTH, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE (1996 to 2031)**

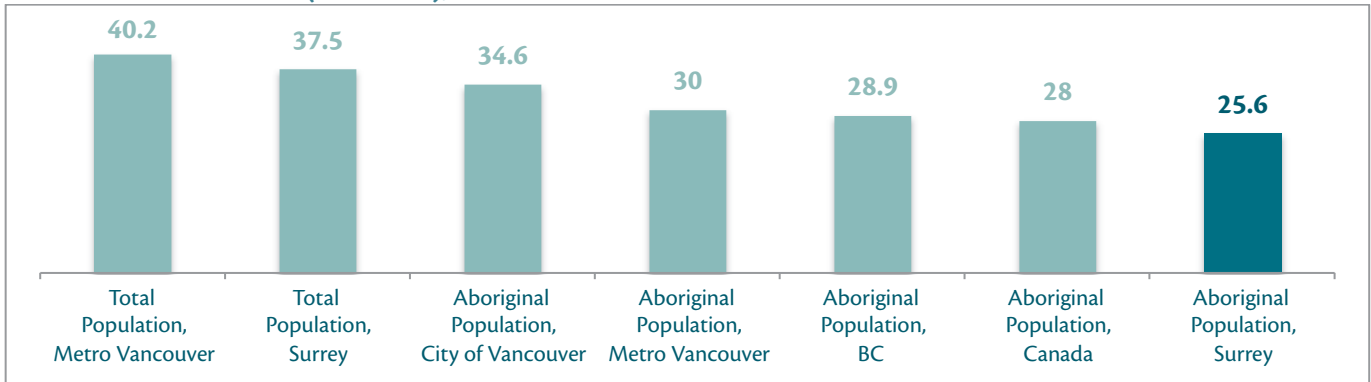
Year	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver	
	Scenario 1 (no. of people)	Scenario 2 (no. of people)	Scenario 1 (no. of people)	Scenario 2 (no. of people)
1996	5,070	5,070	10,965	10,965
2001	6,895	6,895	10,440	10,440
2006	7,630	7,630	11,145	11,145
2011	10,950	10,950	11,945	11,945
2016	12,910	15,867	12,270	12,308
2021	14,870	22,992	12,595	12,681
2026	16,830	33,316	12,920	13,066
2031	18,790	48,276	13,245	13,463

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

## AGE

### 2.1 Median Age

**FIGURE 6: MEDIAN AGE (IN YEARS), 2011**

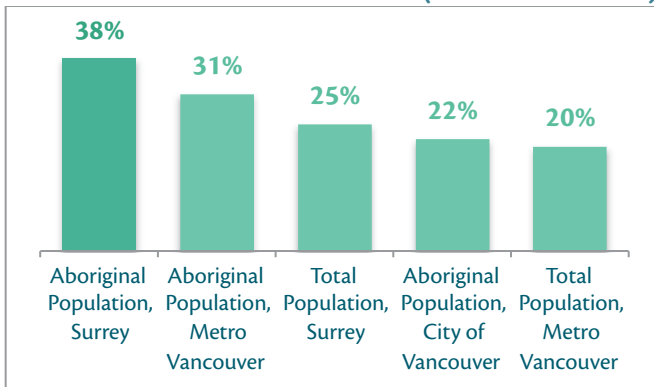


The median age is the age where exactly one-half of the population is older and the other half is younger.  
 Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

The Aboriginal population in Surrey is exceptionally young. With a median age of 25.6 years, half of Aboriginal people in Surrey are younger than 26 years of age. Comparatively, the population of Metro Vancouver has a whole as a median age of 40.2 years, and Surrey 37.5 years.

Aboriginal people in Surrey are even younger relative to other Aboriginal populations, such as the Aboriginal population in Vancouver which has a median age of 34.6 years.

**FIGURE 7: CHILDREN AND TEENS (0 TO 18 YR-OLDS)**

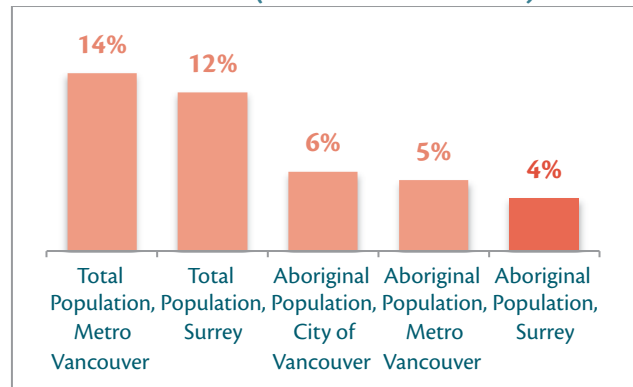


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS  
 For total counts see the Appendix

Children and teens make a very significant portion of the Aboriginal population in Surrey. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Aboriginal people living in Surrey are 18 years old and younger, compared to 25% of all Surrey residents, and only 20% of all Metro Vancouver residents.

In contrast, seniors make up only 4% of the Aboriginal population in Surrey, compared to 14% of all Metro Vancouver residents.

**FIGURE 8: SENIORS (65 YEARS AND OVER)**



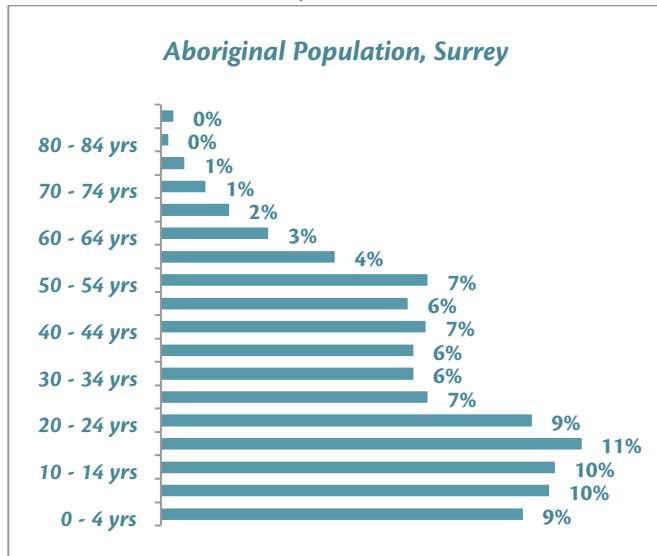
**TABLE 2: 'CHILDREN & YOUTH', and 'SENIORS', 2011**

Age Groups	Aboriginal Population Surrey	Aboriginal Population City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population Metro Vancouver	Total Population Surrey	Total Population Metro Vancouver
0 to 18 yrs	4,115	2,600	16,005	115,525	469,750
65 yrs and over	435	720	2,815	56,570	312,905

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

## 2.2 Age Distribution

**FIGURE 9: AGE GROUPS, 2011**

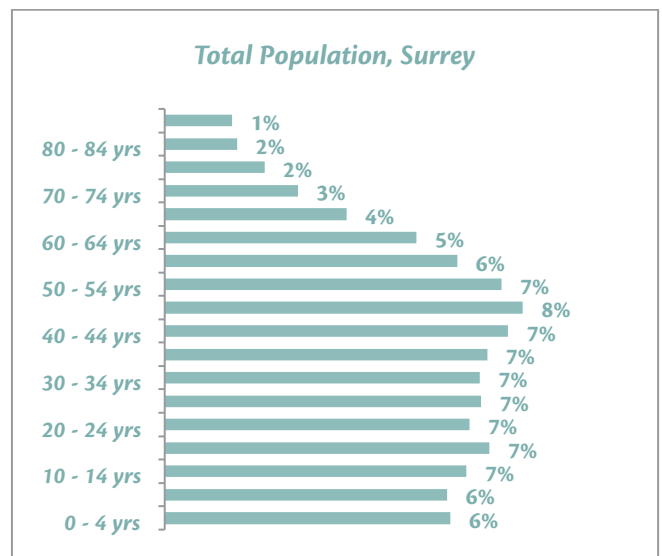
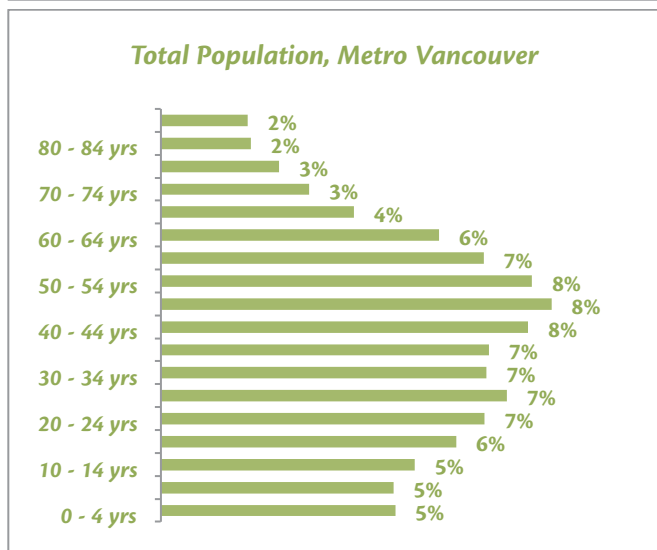
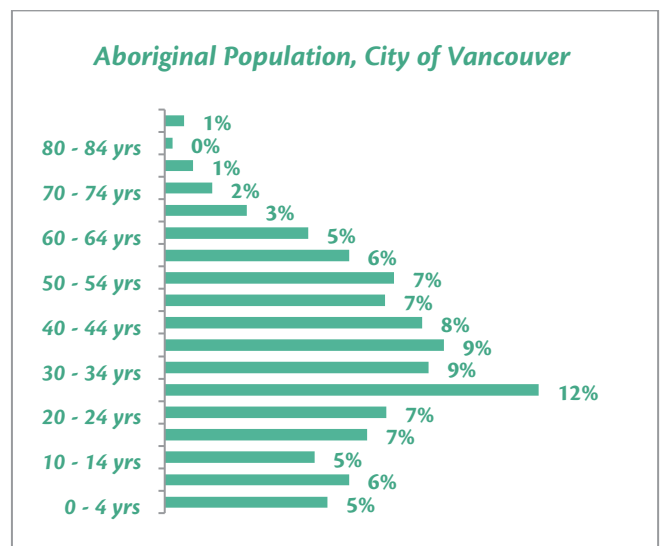
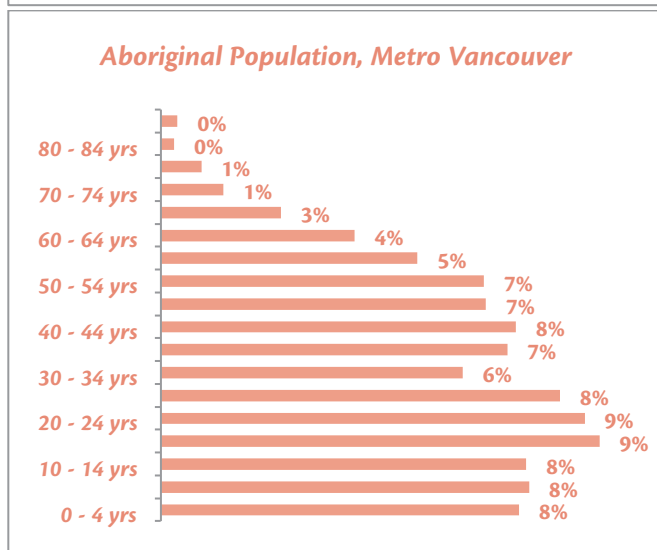


The age composition of Aboriginal people in Surrey is unique.

The Surrey Aboriginal population is very young, with almost 40% of its people under 19 years of age (Figure 7).

Surrey has also the largest population of Aboriginal children and youth in Metro Vancouver (Table 2).

There are 4,115 Aboriginal children and youth in Surrey, compared to 2,600 in Vancouver.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

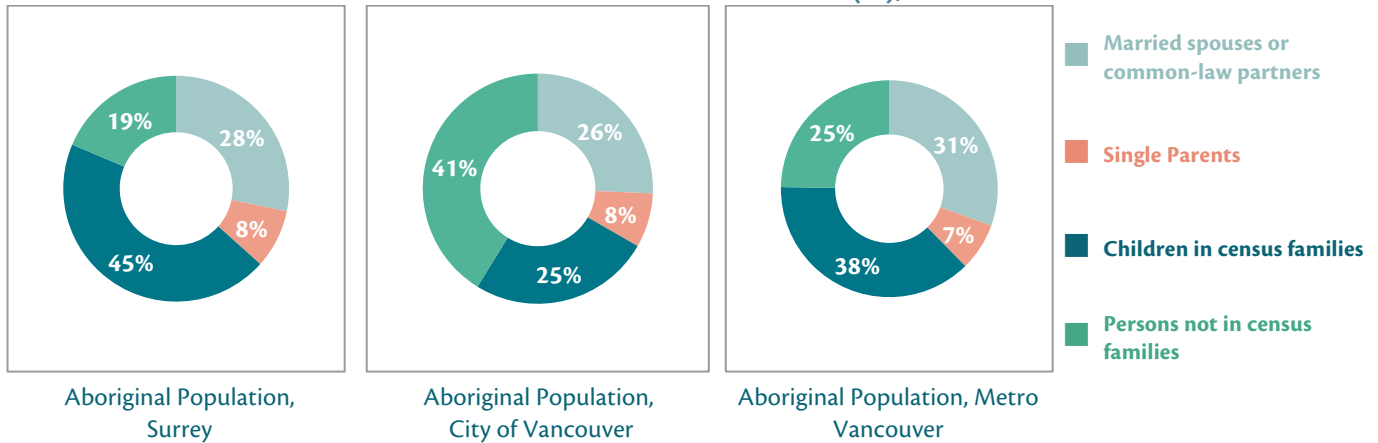
For total counts see the Appendix



## FAMILY

### 3.1 Family-Related Traits

**FIGURE 10: ABORIGINAL POPULATION & FAMILY-RELATED TRAITS (%), 2011**



Note that the unit of analysis is 'individuals' not families. In other words, the percentages shown in Figure 10 are NOT of families, but of individuals (for total counts see Table 3 below).

**TABLE 3: ABORIGINAL POPULATION AND FAMILY-RELATED TRAITS (%), 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Total Aboriginal identity population</b>	<b>10,955</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,945</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>52,375</b>	<b>100%</b>
Married spouses or common-law partners	3,090	28%	3,065	26%	15,990	31%
Single parents	925	8%	915	8%	3,730	7%
Children in census families	4,905	45%	3,045	25%	19,690	38%
Persons not in census families	2,040	19%	4,925	41%	12,970	25%

- 'Census families' are family groups consisting of married or common-law couples with or without children, or single parents with at least one child. Note that Statistics Canada defines 'foster children' as living outside of 'census families' (Statistics Canada, National Household Survey Dictionary, 2013).
- 'Persons not in census families' include (1) persons living alone, (2) persons living with non-relatives, or (3) persons living with relatives (other than married spouse, common law partner, or children).
- Since 2001, the concept of 'children' includes sons or daughters of any age, whether or not they have been married, provided they do not have a married spouse, common-law partner or children living in the household.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

There are 925 single parents who identify as Aboriginal in Surrey, accounting for 8% of the total Aboriginal population in the city. This is on par with the Aboriginal populations in Vancouver (8%) and Metro Vancouver (7%).

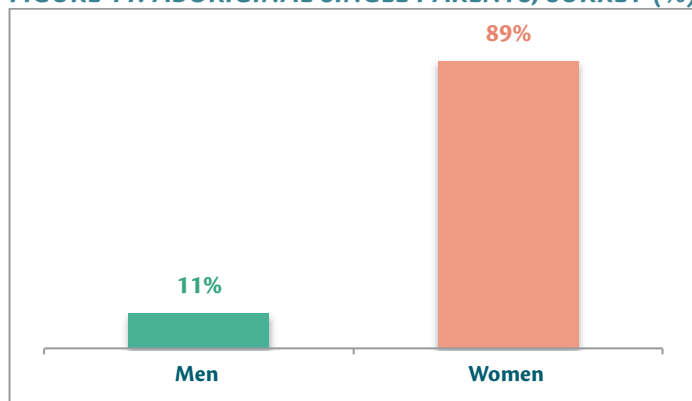
A similar percentage of Aboriginal people in Surrey, Vancouver and Metro Vancouver are married spouses or common-law partners (28%, 26% and 31% respectively).

There are about 4,900 Aboriginal children living in census families in Surrey, compared to about 3,000 in Vancouver.

Children in census families account for 45% of all Aboriginal people in Surrey. This is significantly higher than in Vancouver (25%), and above the regional average (38%).

19% of Aboriginal people in Surrey do not live in census families, compared to 41% for Vancouver, and 25% for Metro Vancouver. Aboriginal people in Surrey are more likely to live in a family unit than Aboriginal people in Vancouver.

**FIGURE 11: ABORIGINAL SINGLE PARENTS, SURREY (%)**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

Of the 925 Aboriginal single parents in Surrey, 89% are women, and only 11% are men.

### 3.2 Children

**TABLE 4: CHILDREN IN CENSUS FAMILIES, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Children in census families	4,905	100%	3,045	100%	19,690	100%
Children living with two parents	2,515	51%	1,370	45%	11,135	57%
Children living with a single-parent	2,255	46%	1,520	50%	7,970	40%
Children living with their grandparent(s) with no parents present	130	3%	155	5%	585	3%

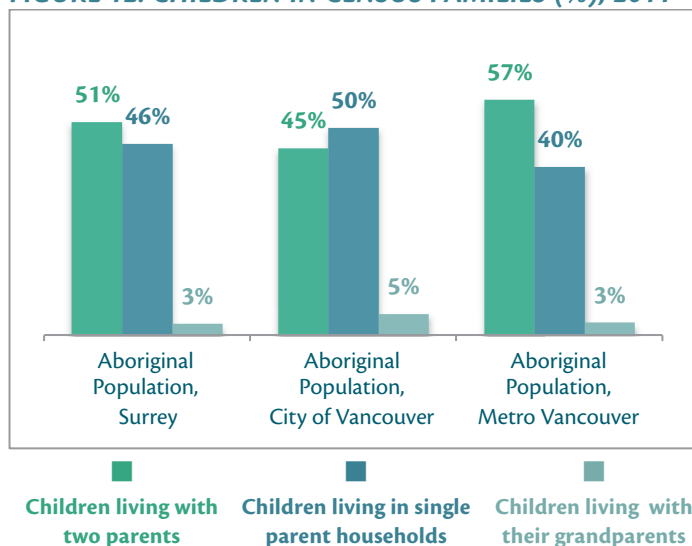
'Children' refer to blood, step or adopted sons and daughters (regardless of age or marital status) who are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s), as well as grandchildren in households where there are no parents present (Statistics Canada, Census Dictionary, 2012).

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

There are 4,905 Aboriginal children living in census families in Surrey (this includes adult children, but excludes foster children). When compared to Vancouver, Surrey has roughly 2,000 more Aboriginal children.

2,255 Aboriginal children in Surrey live in single-parent households, compared to 1,520 in Vancouver. Another 130 Aboriginal children in Surrey live with their grandparents, rather than their parents.

**FIGURE 12: CHILDREN IN CENSUS FAMILIES (%), 2011**



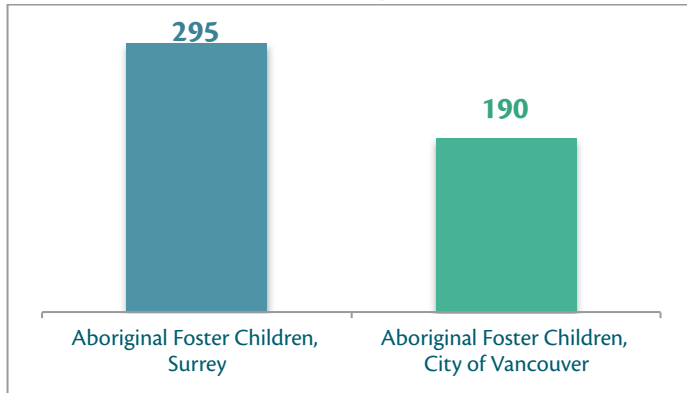
51% of Aboriginal children in Surrey live in families with two parents.

Just less than half (46%) of Aboriginal children in Surrey live in single-parent households.

3% of Aboriginal children in Surrey live with their grandparents, and not their parents. This is on par with the broader Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver (3%), and slightly below that of Vancouver (5%).

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 13: FOSTER CHILDREN, 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

There are almost 300 Aboriginal foster children living in Surrey, compared to about 200 in Vancouver.

Note that data on all foster children (not just Aboriginal) at the regional (CMA) and municipal level (Census Subdivision) is only available as a custom order from Statistics Canada.

## LANGUAGE

### 4.1 Language

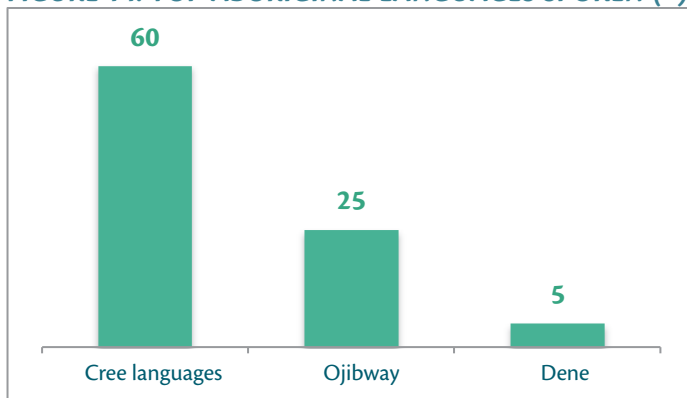
**TABLE 5: ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION WITH KNOWLEDGE OF AN ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE, SURREY**

#	%
142	1,3%

For total counts see the Appendix

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 14: TOP ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES SPOKEN (#)**



Note: Counts are low enough that they do not always add up

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

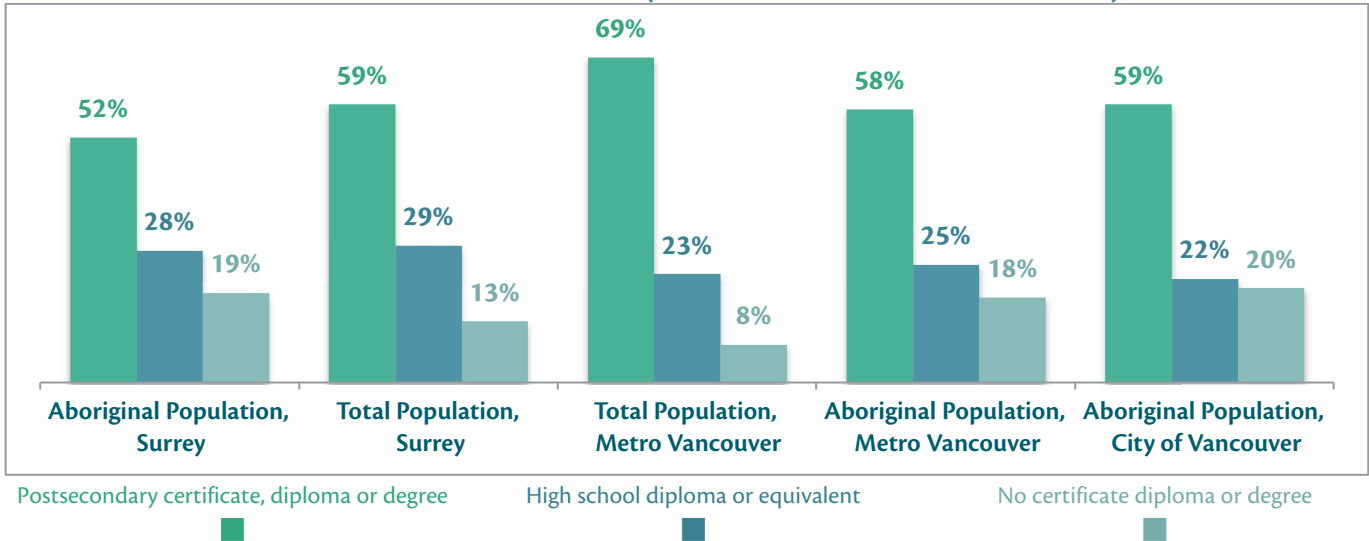
Only a small minority (142) of the 10,955 Aboriginal people in Surrey report having knowledge of an Aboriginal language.

Cree languages are the most known, followed by Ojibway, and Dene.

## EDUCATION

### 5.1 Educational Attainment

**FIGURE 15: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (POPULATION AGED 25 TO 64 YEARS), 2011**



For total counts see the Appendix  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

52% of Aboriginal people (ages 25 to 64 years) in Surrey report having a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree as their highest level of educational attainment. This is below the Surrey municipal average (59%), and that of Aboriginal people living in Vancouver (also 59%).

Postsecondary educational attainment among Aboriginal people in Surrey is significantly below that of the regional average as a whole (52% compared to 69%).

19% of Aboriginal people (ages 25 to 64 years) in Surrey do not have a high-school diploma. This is about one and a half times higher than for all Surrey residents (13%), and more than twice as high as the regional average (8%).

For 28% of Aboriginal people (ages 25 to 64) in Surrey a high-school diploma is the highest level of educational attainment. This is on par with Surrey's municipal average (29%).

**TABLE 6: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (POPULATION AGED 25 TO 64 YEARS), 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey	Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey	Total Population, Metro Vancouver
Total population (aged 25-64yrs) by highest certificate, diploma or degree	<b>5,115</b>	<b>7,625</b>	<b>27,815</b>	<b>256,930</b>	<b>1,330,725</b>
No certificate, diploma or degree	<b>990</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>32,700</b>	<b>111,340</b>
High school diploma or equivalent	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>6,805</b>	<b>73,755</b>	<b>306,890</b>
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	<b>2,675</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>16,015</b>	<b>150,475</b>	<b>912,495</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

Interestingly, the percentage of people with a high-school diploma as their highest level of education is fairly even regardless of the geographic area or demographic group (it ranges from 22% to 28%, only a 6% points difference).

Disparities across geographic area and demographic group tend to be more pronounced at the ends of the educational spectrum.

Having a high-school diploma as one's highest educational attainment can be interpreted in two different ways. It can be read as low-level of educational achievement, but it can be also read more positively as an achievement in its own right, or as a more preferable outcome than not graduating from high school at all.

Note that although 52% of Aboriginal people in Surrey achieve a postsecondary education, this does not always translate to a university education (see Figure 16 in section 5.2 below).

**TABLE 7: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (POPULATION AGED 25 TO 64 YEARS) BY SEX, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
No certificate, diploma or degree	21%	18%	24%	16%	21%	16%	13%	12%	9%	8%
High school diploma or equivalent	26%	30%	21%	22%	24%	25%	29%	29%	23%	23%
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	53%	52%	55%	62%	56%	59%	58%	59%	68%	69%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

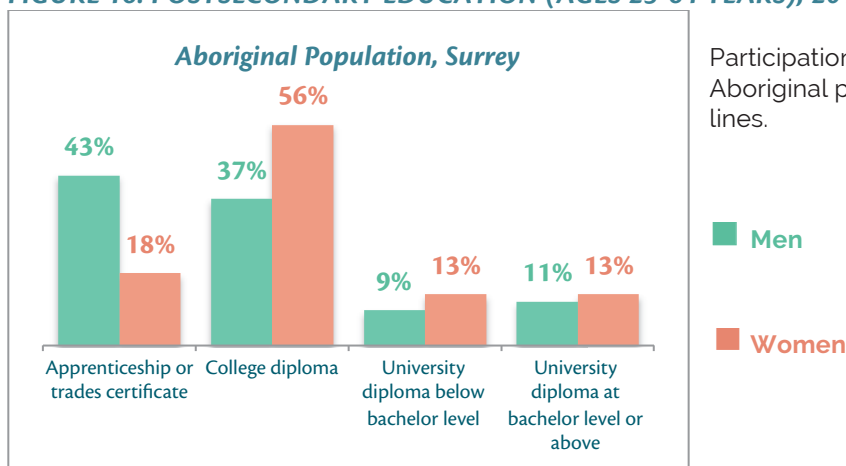
Gender is not a significant determinant of educational attainment for Aboriginal people in Surrey, a pattern that is in line with trends at the broader regional level, and for Surrey as a whole (Table 7).

Almost an equal share of Aboriginal men and women (ages 25 to 64 years) in Surrey lack a high school diploma (21% and 18% respectively). Similarly, about an equal share of Aboriginal men and women in Surrey have a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree (53% and 52% respectively).

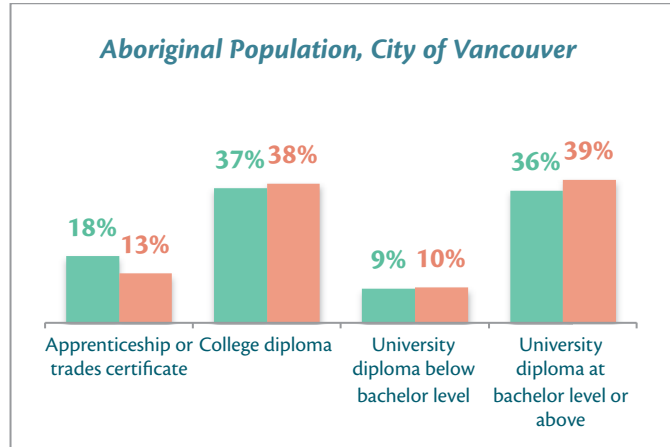
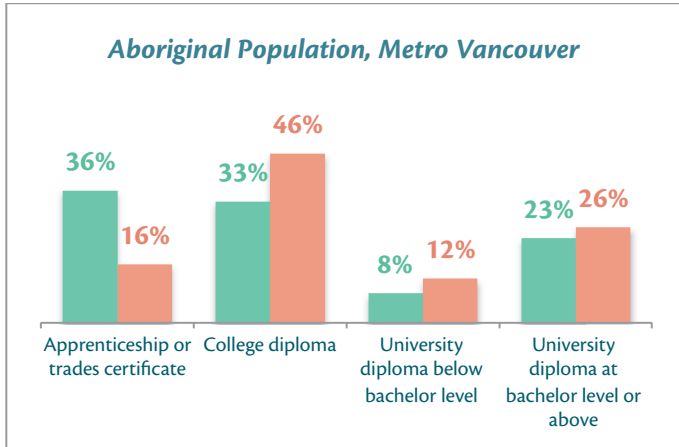
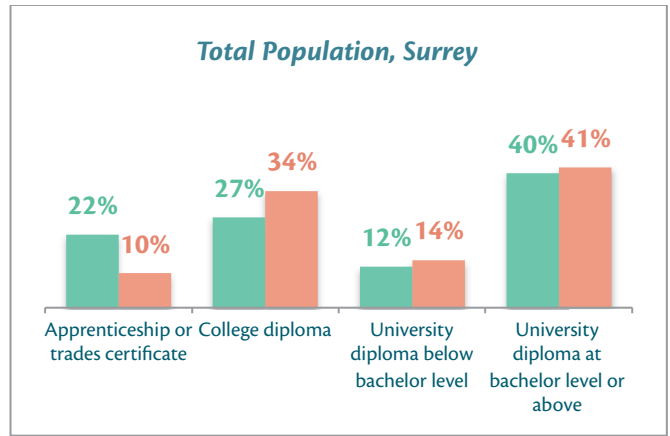
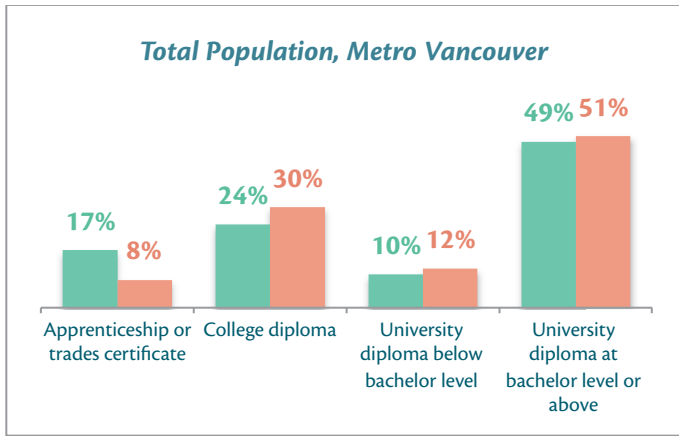
Gender disparities in educational attainment are more important for Aboriginal people living in Vancouver, and for the broader regional, Aboriginal community.

## 5.2 Postsecondary Education

**FIGURE 16: POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (AGES 25-64 YEARS), 2011**



Participation in postsecondary education varies among Aboriginal people in Surrey, especially along gender lines.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS  
For total counts see the Appendix

In Surrey, 43% Aboriginal men with a postsecondary education have 'Apprenticeships or Trades Certificates.' In contrast, 56% of Aboriginal women with a postsecondary education in Surrey have 'College Diplomas'. This might reflect the importance of local community colleges to Aboriginal women in Surrey, and the importance of apprenticeships/trade programs to Aboriginal men in Surrey.

Gender is a much weaker determinant of a university education for Aboriginal men and women. Of those Aboriginal men with a postsecondary education, 20% have attended university, compared to 26% for Aboriginal women.

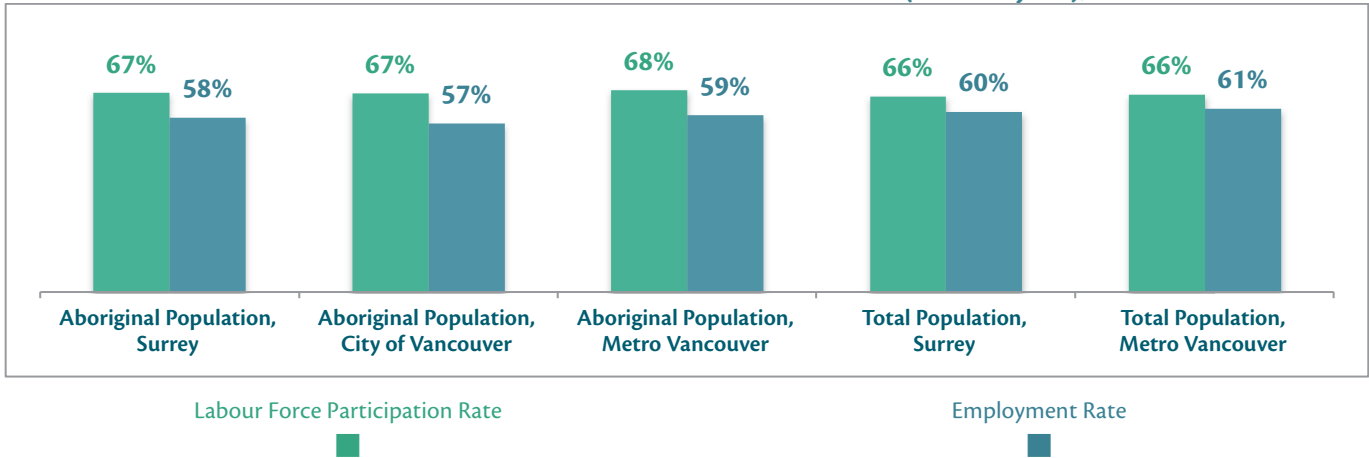
Participation in postsecondary education for Aboriginal people in Surrey mirrors that of the wider Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver.

A key difference, however, is the higher participation rate in a university education for the regional Aboriginal population, compared to that of Surrey. This discrepancy is even more pronounced when contrasted to the regional population as a whole, to Surrey's overall population, and even when compared to the Vancouver Aboriginal population. All three cases show significantly higher rates of university education, among both men and women, than the Surrey Aboriginal community.

## LABOUR FORCE

### 6.1 Labour Force Status

**FIGURE 17: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT RATES (AGES 15yrs+), 2011**

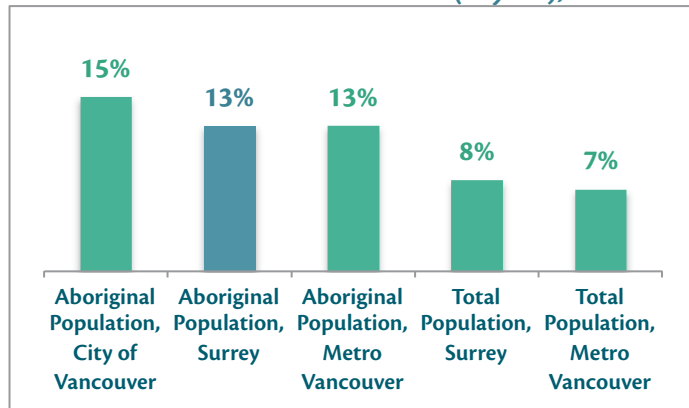


For total counts see the Appendix  
 Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal people in Surrey (67%) is on par with municipal and regional averages. In other words, Aboriginal people in Surrey are equally likely to be in the labour force as the rest of the population.

To be "in the labour force" means that people are (1) employed, (2) unemployed but actively looking for work, or (3) on temporary leave and expected to return to their job. Labour force participation rates tend to drop in troubled economic times as people stop looking for work discouraged by poor-job prospects (Statistics Canada, 2013c).

**FIGURE 18: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (15yrs+), 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

As of 2011, 13% of Aboriginal people (ages 15 and over) in Surrey in the labour force were unemployed.

This is slightly below that of Vancouver (15%), and on par with the regional Aboriginal average (13%).

However, the unemployment rate for the Aboriginal community in Surrey is considerably higher than that of the Surrey as a whole (8%), and that of Metro Vancouver as a whole (7%).

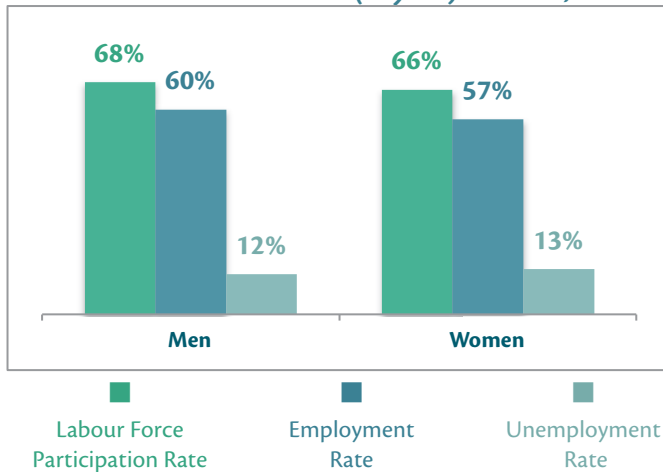
Notes, Statistics Canada calculates the "employment rate" differently than the "unemployment rate." The former is expressed as percentage of the total population (ages 15 years and over), while the latter as a percentage of the total population (ages 15 years and over) in the labour force (Statistics Canada, 2013c).

**TABLE 8: LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY SEX (ABORIGINAL POPULATION, 15yrs+, SURREY), 2011**

	MEN	WOMEN
Population aged 15 years and over	<b>3,705</b>	<b>4,055</b>
In the labour force	<b>2,515</b>	<b>2,660</b>
Employed	<b>2,220</b>	<b>2,310</b>
Unemployed	<b>295</b>	<b>350</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 19: LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY SEX, ABORIGINAL POPULATION (15yrs+) SURREY, 2011**



For total population counts see the Appendix  
 \*Note that the "Employment rate" is calculated as a percentage of the total population (ages 15 and over), while the "Unemployment rate" is calculated as a percentage of the labour force population.

There is little difference between the labour force status of Aboriginal men and women in Surrey.

68% of Aboriginal men (ages 15 and over) in Surrey participate in the labour force, compared to 66% for Aboriginal women.

The unemployment rate between Aboriginal men and women in Surrey is almost the same (12% against 13% respectively).

Gender differences in educational attainment between Aboriginal men and women in Surrey do not translate to differences in labour force participation rates, and unemployment rates.

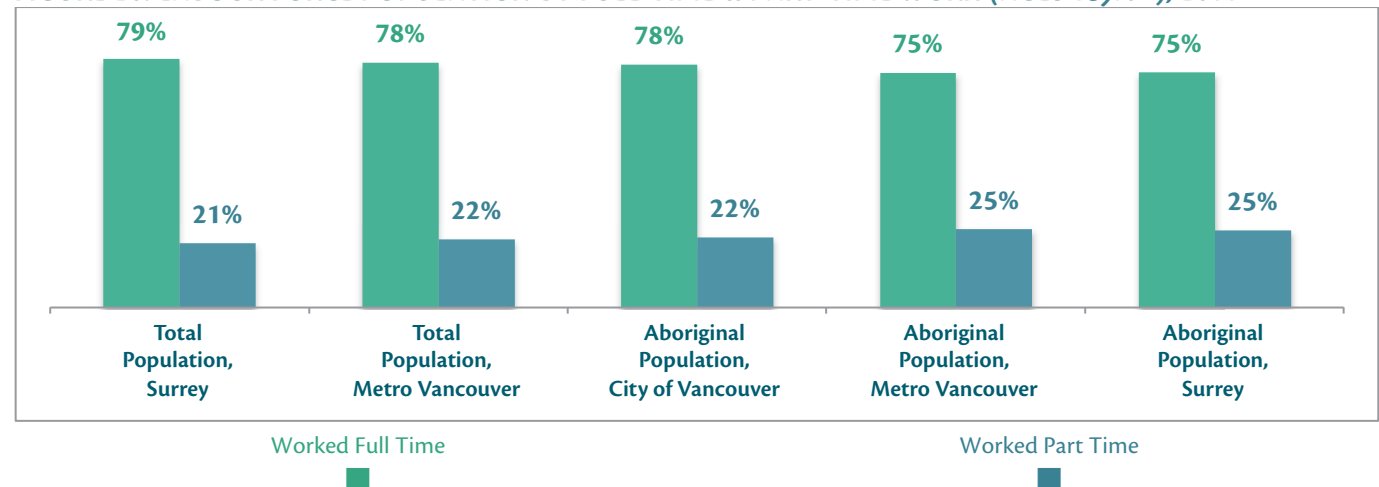
## 6.2 Full-Time and Part-Time Work

**TABLE 9: LABOUR FORCE POPULATION BY FULL-TIME & PART-TIME WORK (AGES 15yrs+), 2011**

	Aboriginal Population Surrey	Aboriginal Population City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population Metro Vancouver	Total Population Surrey	Total Population Metro Vancouver
Worked full-time in 2010	<b>3,570</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>18,875</b>	<b>183,165</b>	<b>941,600</b>
Worked part-time in 2010	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>6,290</b>	<b>47,275</b>	<b>262,430</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 20: LABOUR FORCE POPULATION BY FULL-TIME & PART-TIME WORK (AGES 15yrs+), 2011**

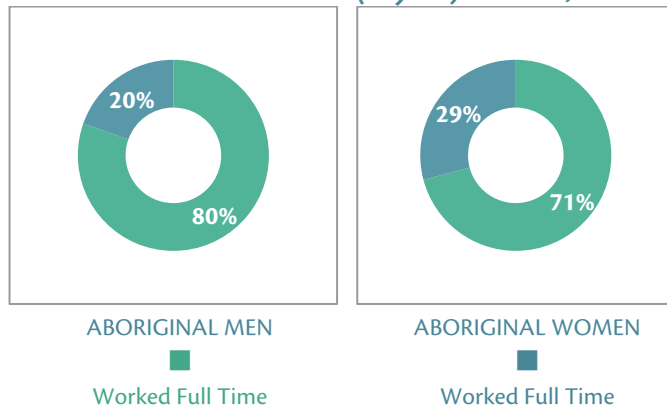




75% of Surrey Aboriginal people (ages 15yrs and over) in the labour force work full time, and 25% work part time.

The level of full time work for Aboriginal people in Surrey is only slightly below that of Surrey as a whole (79%), and seats on par with other population groups in Metro Vancouver.

**FIGURE 21: PART-TIME & FULL-TIME WORK, ABORIGINAL POPULATION (15yrs+) SURREY, 2011**



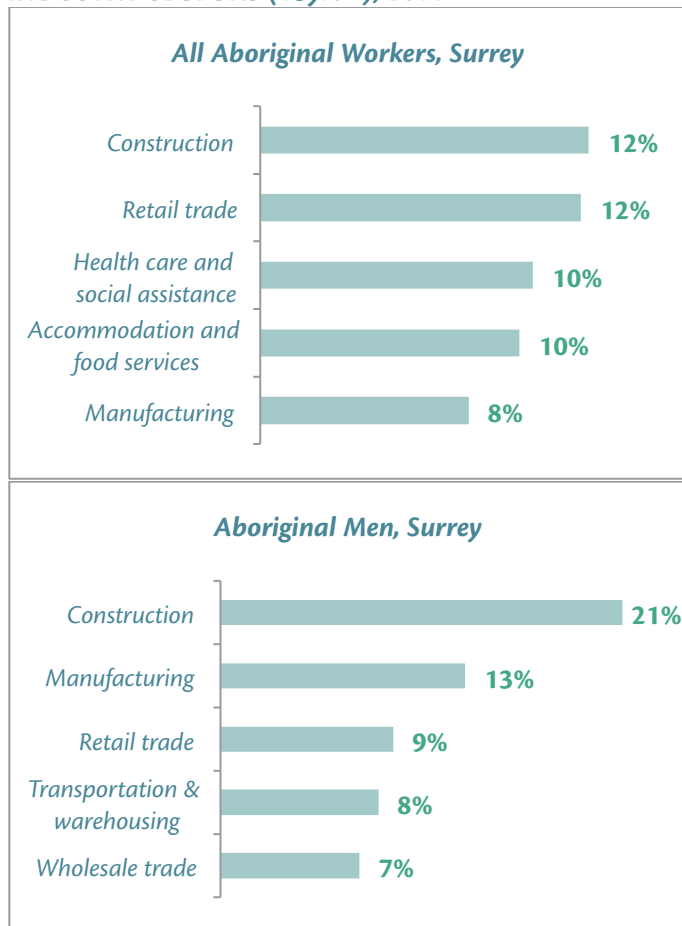
Full- and part-time work patterns differ between Aboriginal men and women in Surrey.

29% of Surrey Aboriginal women work part time, compared to only 20% of Aboriginal men.

Conversely, 80% of Surrey Aboriginal men work full time, in contrast to 71% of Aboriginal women.

### 6.3 Industries

**FIGURE 22: LABOUR FORCE POPULATION BY TOP 5 INDUSTRY SECTORS (15yrs+), 2011**



Aboriginal people in Surrey work in a variety of occupational sectors (see Appendix for complete list).

The top 5 sectors employing Aboriginal workers are (1) Construction, (2) Retail trade, (3) Health Care and Social Assistance, (4) Accommodation and Food Services, and (5) Manufacturing.

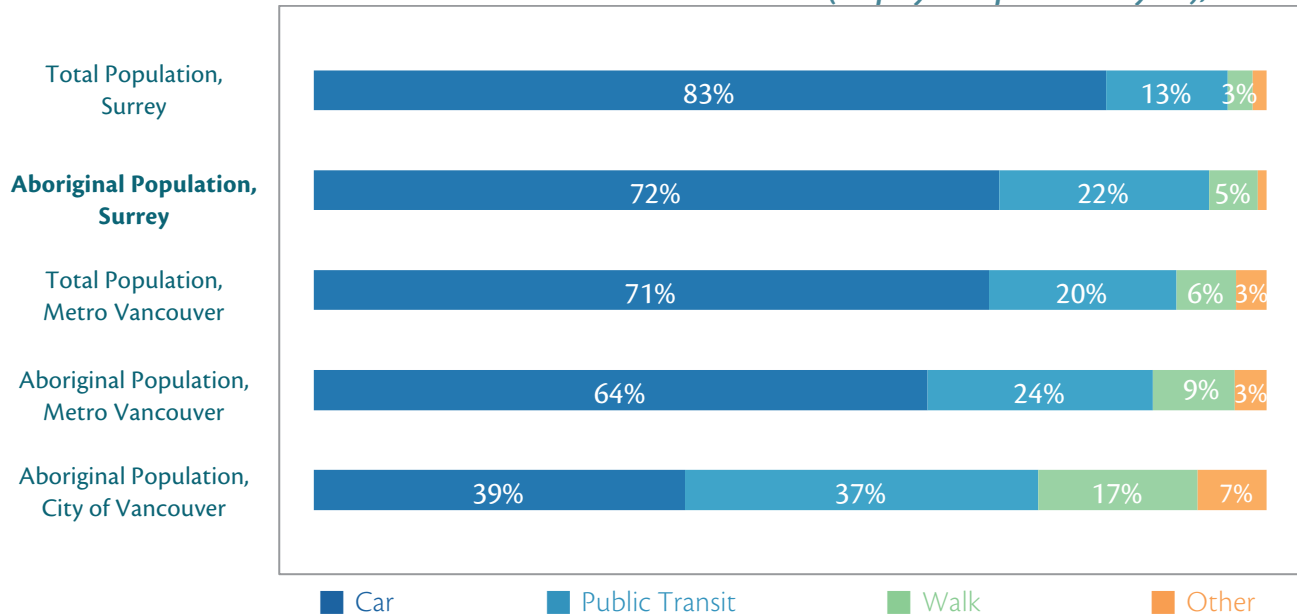
Apart from the "Retail Trade" sector, Aboriginal men and women tend to work in different sectors of the economy, with 21% and 13% of Aboriginal men working in Construction and Manufacturing, while 17% and 14% of Aboriginal women working in Health Care & Social Assistance and Retail Trade.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

## COMMUTING

### 7.1 Mode of Transportation

**FIGURE 23: MODE OF TRANSPORT WHEN COMMUTING TO WORK (Employed Population 15yrs+), 2011**



For total counts see the Appendix  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

72% of Aboriginal people in Surrey commute to work by car, while 22% take public transit, a comparable trend to the broader population of Metro Vancouver, where 71% of people commute by car, and 20% take public transit.

Public transit use among Aboriginal people in Surrey is about twice as high as for all Surrey residents (22% compared to only 13%). These higher ridership rates reflect the importance of public transit to the Aboriginal population in Surrey.

Important differences exist in the mode of transport between Aboriginal people in Surrey and in Vancouver.

Car use among Aboriginal people in Surrey is significantly higher than for Aboriginal people in Vancouver (72% compared to 37% respectively).

Lower car use among Aboriginal people in Vancouver, is likely a result of greater transit and walking options.

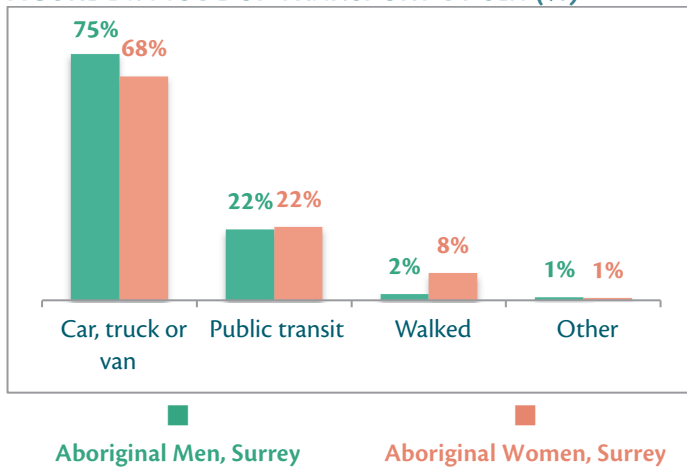
Only 28% of Aboriginal people in Surrey get to work without driving, compared to 61% of Aboriginal people in Vancouver.

**TABLE 10: MODE OF TRANSPORT BY SEX (ABORIGINAL POPULATION, 15yrs+) SURREY, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		
	Total	Men	Women
Total employed population aged 15 years and over	4,330	2,150	2,180
Car, truck or van	3,110	1,615	1,490
Public transit	955	465	490
Walked	220	40	180
Other (eg. bicycle)	40	20	15

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 24: MODE OF TRANSPORT BY SEX (%)**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

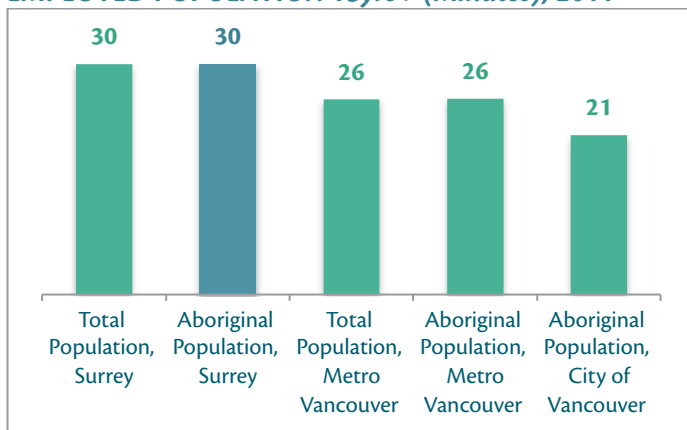
75% of Aboriginal men in Surrey commute by car, compared to 68% of Aboriginal women.

Aboriginal men and women in Surrey are equally likely to use public transit when commuting to work (22% respectively).

Only a small percentage of Aboriginal people in Surrey get to work by walking. Aboriginal women are more likely to walk to work than Aboriginal men (8% vs. 2%).

## 7.2 Commuting Time

**FIGURE 25: MEDIAN COMMUTING TIME FOR EMPLOYED POPULATION 15yrs+ (Minutes), 2011**

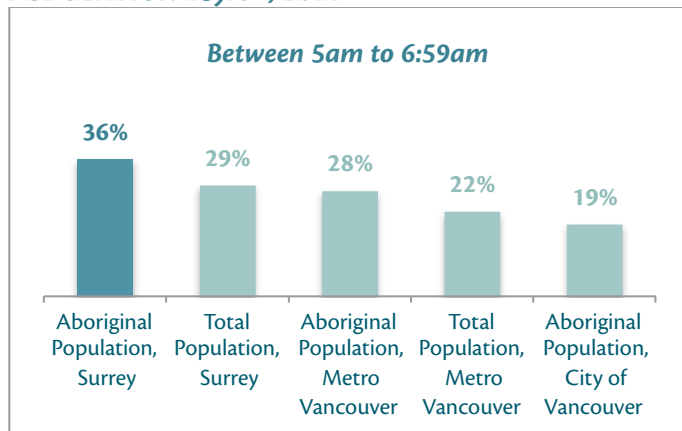


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

The median commuting time for Aboriginal people in Surrey is 30 minutes. This is on par with other population groups, but considerably higher than Aboriginal people in Vancouver (21 minutes).

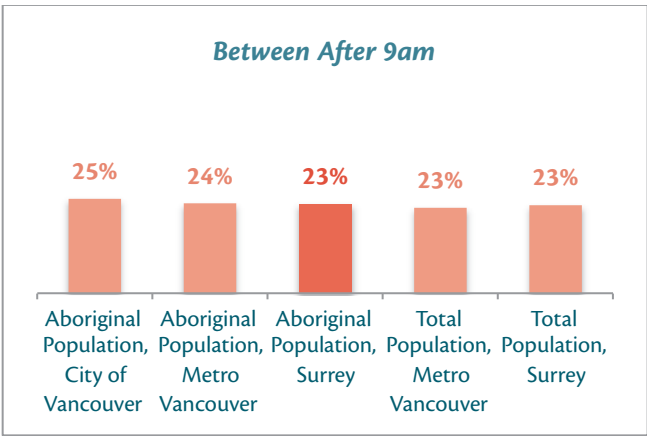
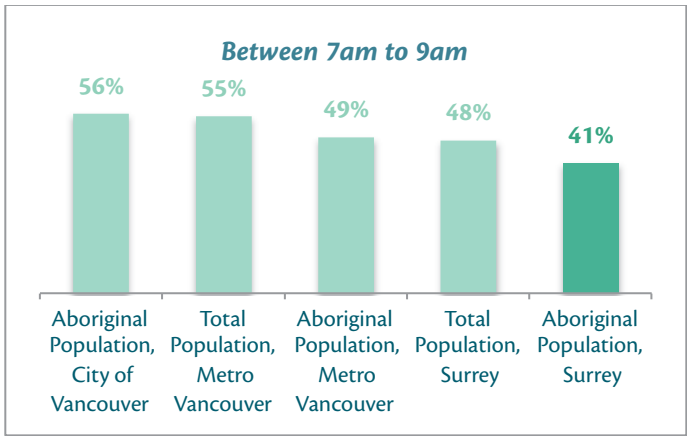
There is a correlation between automobile use and median commuting times. The higher the rate of automobile use, the higher the commuting time. Conversely, the high public transit ridership translate to lower commuting times.

**FIGURE 26: TIME LEAVING FOR WORK, EMPLOYED POPULATION 15yrs+, 2011**



Many Aboriginal people in Surrey (36%) leave for work early in the morning (between 5am and 6:59am). They are among the largest groups in the region to do so. This is compared to 29% of all Surrey commuters, and only 19% for Aboriginal people in Vancouver.

Aboriginal people in Surrey are underrepresented among commuters who leave for work between 7am and 9am (41% compared to 55% for all Metro Vancouver commuters).

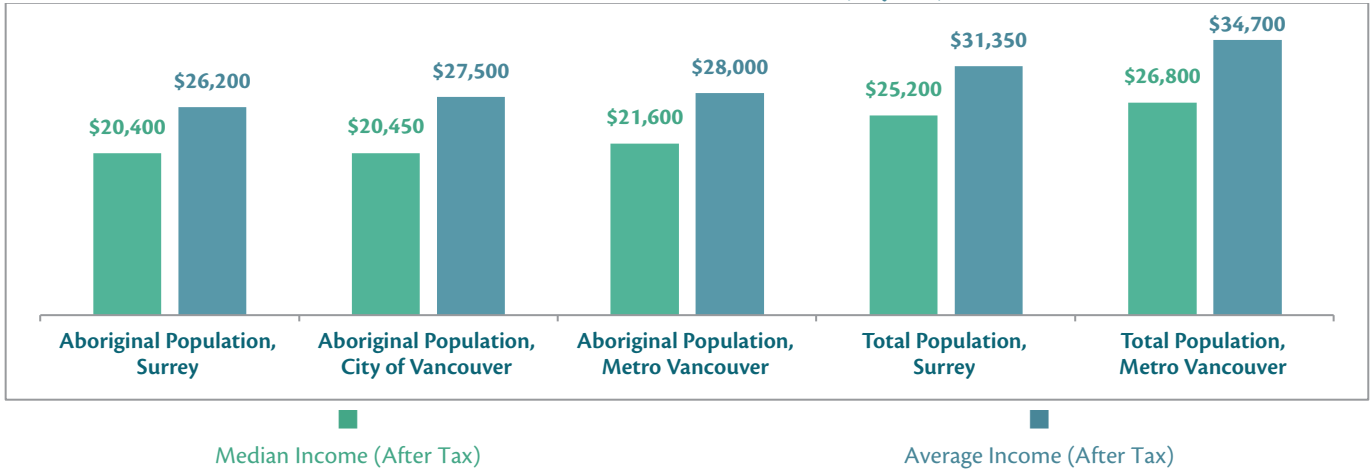


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

## INCOME

### 8.1 Median and Average Income

**FIGURE 27: AFTER-TAX MEDIAN & AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL INCOME (15yrs+), 2011**

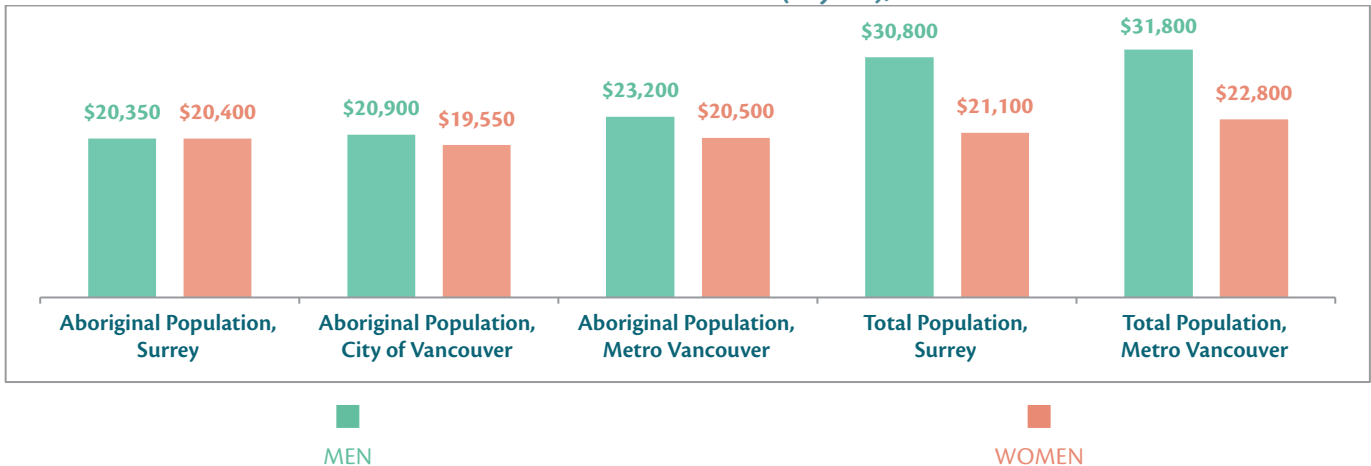


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

The median after-tax individual income for Aboriginal people in Surrey is \$20,400. While the average individual income is \$26,200. This is on par with the Aboriginal population in Vancouver (\$20,450 and \$27,500), and slightly below that of the broader Aboriginal community in Metro Vancouver (\$21,600 and \$28,000).

Disparities in income become more apparent when compared to the broader municipal and regional populations. Aboriginal people in Surrey earn about \$5,000 less than the average Surrey resident, and about \$6,000 to \$7,000 less than the average Metro Vancouver resident.

**FIGURE 28: AFTER-TAX MEDIAN INDIVIDUAL INCOME BY SEX (15yrs+), 2011**



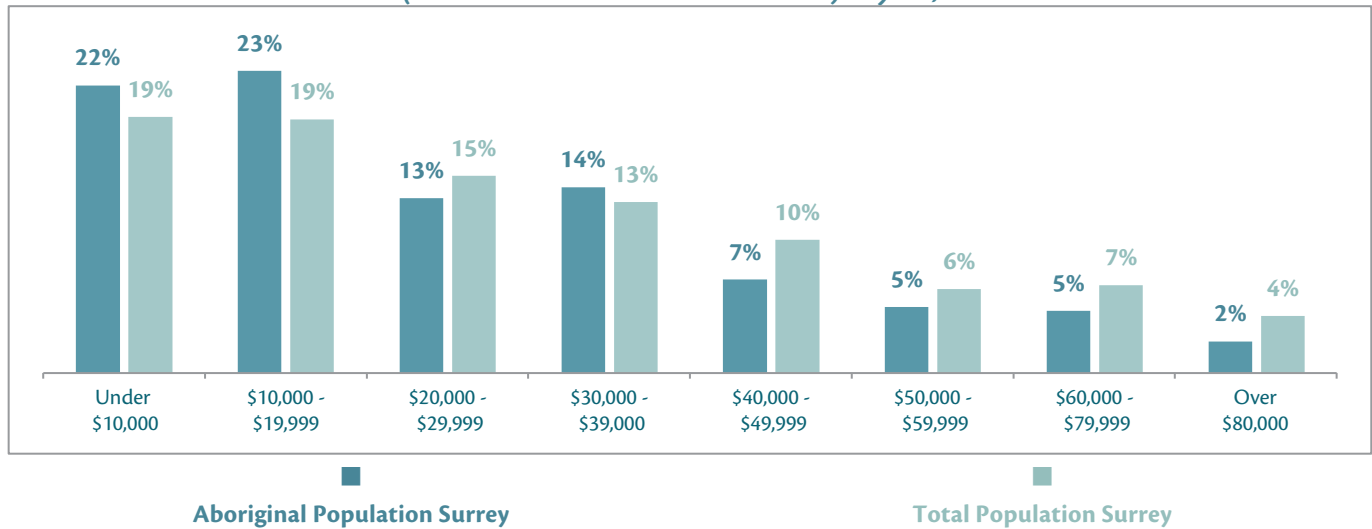
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

Income inequalities between Aboriginal men and women are much less significant than for the broader population.

The median individual income of Aboriginal men and women in Surrey is virtually the same (\$20,350 vs \$20,400). This is also true for Aboriginal people in Vancouver.

## 8.2 Income Distribution

**FIGURE 29: INCOME BRACKETS (AFTER-TAX INDIVIDUAL INCOME) 15yrs+, 2011**



For total population counts see the Appendix  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

Overall, the income distribution of Aboriginal people (ages 15 and over) in Surrey is in line with the broader population of the city.

With this in mind, the Surrey Aboriginal community has a higher representation at the bottom-end of the income spectrum (44% of Aboriginal workers earn under \$20,000 annually, compared to 38% for Surrey as a whole).

Surrey Aboriginal workers are also slightly under-represented in higher income brackets.

## 8.3 Low-Income Status

**TABLE 11: POPULATION IN LOW INCOME BASED ON THE AFTER-TAX LOW-INCOME MEASURE (LIM-AT), 2011**

	Aboriginal People, Surrey	Aboriginal People, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal People, Metro Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey	Total Population, Metro Vancouver
All age groups	3,735	4,125	13,050	71,695	395,095
Less than 18 years	1,730	1,025	4,645	20,355	85,535
Less than 6 years	615	410	1,605	6,160	23,805
18 to 64 years	1,910	2,810	7,765	44,840	264,285
65 years and over	95	295	640	6,505	45,270

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

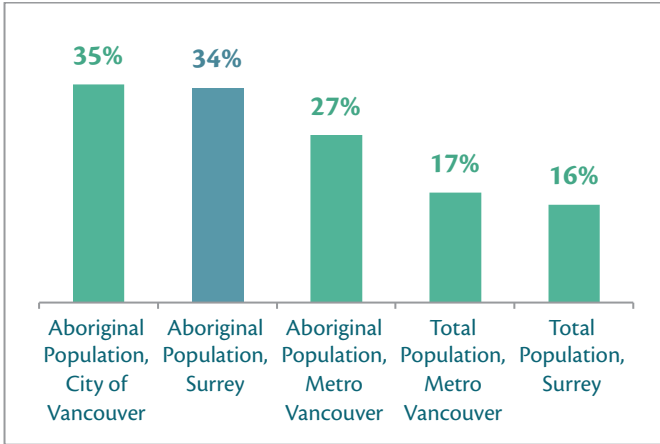
In 2011, Statistics Canada used the "Low Income Measure" (LIM) as an indicator to measure low-incomes status. LIM is a widely-used indicator defined as half (50%) of the median adjusted household income. For more see the Appendix page 36.

**TABLE 12: ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN LOW INCOME BY SEX (LIM-AT), SURREY, 2011**

	Men		Women	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	1,695	33%	2,035	35%
Less than 18 years	840	47%	890	61%
Less than 6 years	270	43%	340	47%
18 to 64 years	800	26%	1,105	31%
65 years and over	60	28%	40	19%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 30: PEOPLE IN LOW INCOME (LIM-AT), ALL AGE GROUPS, 2011**



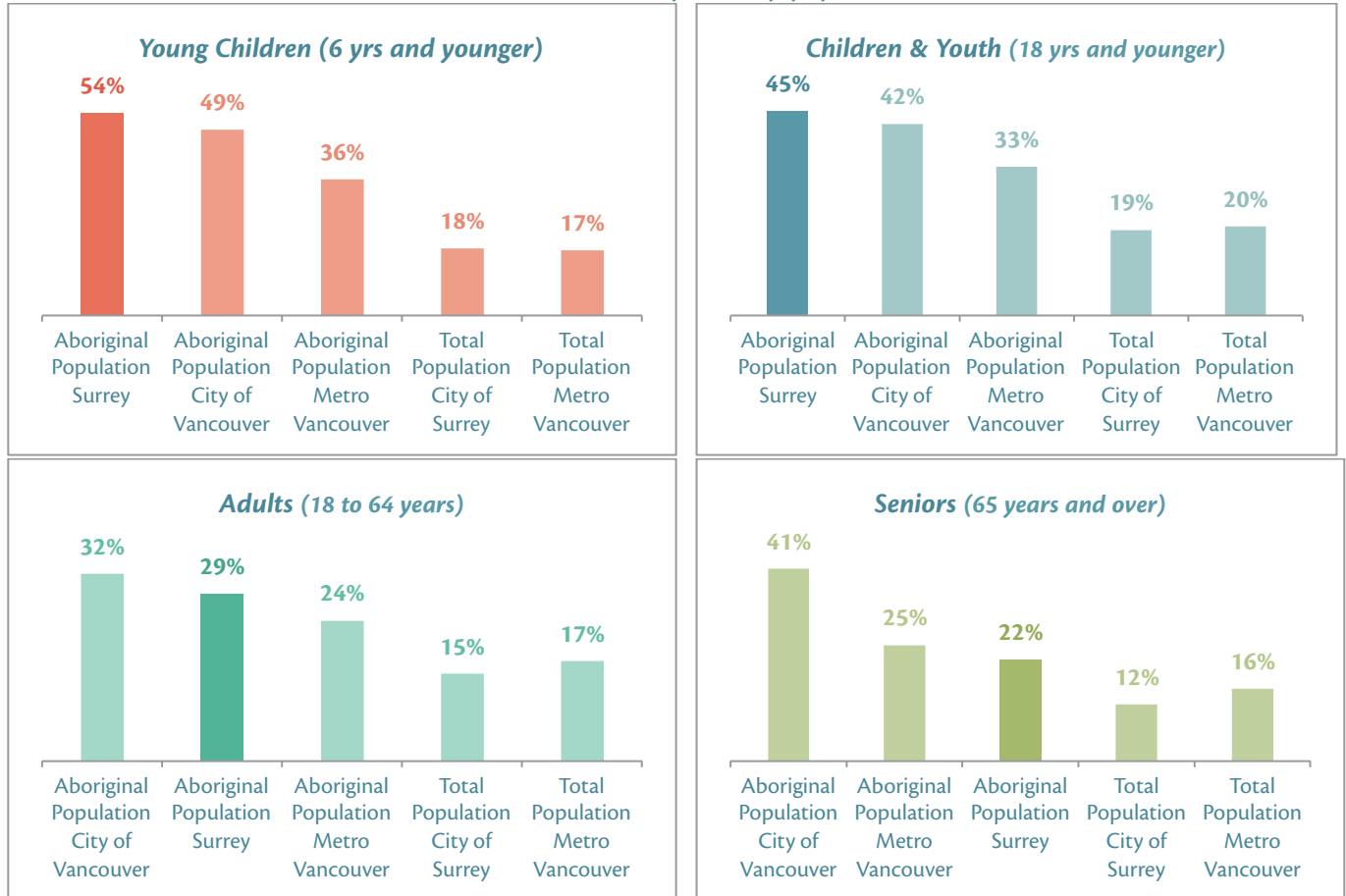
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

34% of Aboriginal people in Surrey live in low-income households. This is about twice the low-income rate for Metro Vancouver and Surrey as a whole (17% and 16% respectively).

Low-income Aboriginal people in Surrey are almost evenly split between men (33%) and women (35%), see Table 12.

Age is an important determinant of low-income status for the Aboriginal population in Surrey.

**FIGURE 31: PEOPLE IN LOW INCOME BY AGE GROUPS (LIM-AT) (%), 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS  
For total counts see the Appendix

54% of Aboriginal children (6 years and younger) in Surrey live in a low-income households, compared to 22% of Aboriginal seniors (65 years and over).

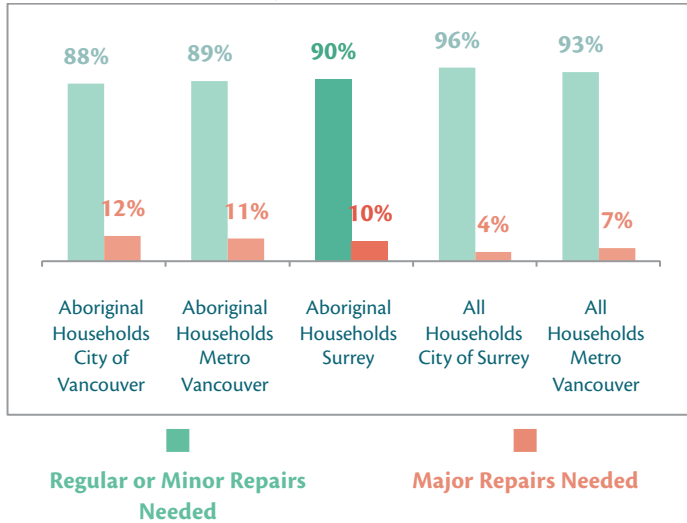
The low-income Aboriginal population in Surrey is significantly younger than other low-income populations in Metro Vancouver.

The Aboriginal community in Surrey has one of the highest child and youth poverty rates in the region.

## HOUSING

### 9.1 Condition of Dwelling

**FIGURE 32: CONDITION OF DWELLING BY POPULATION GROUP, 2011**

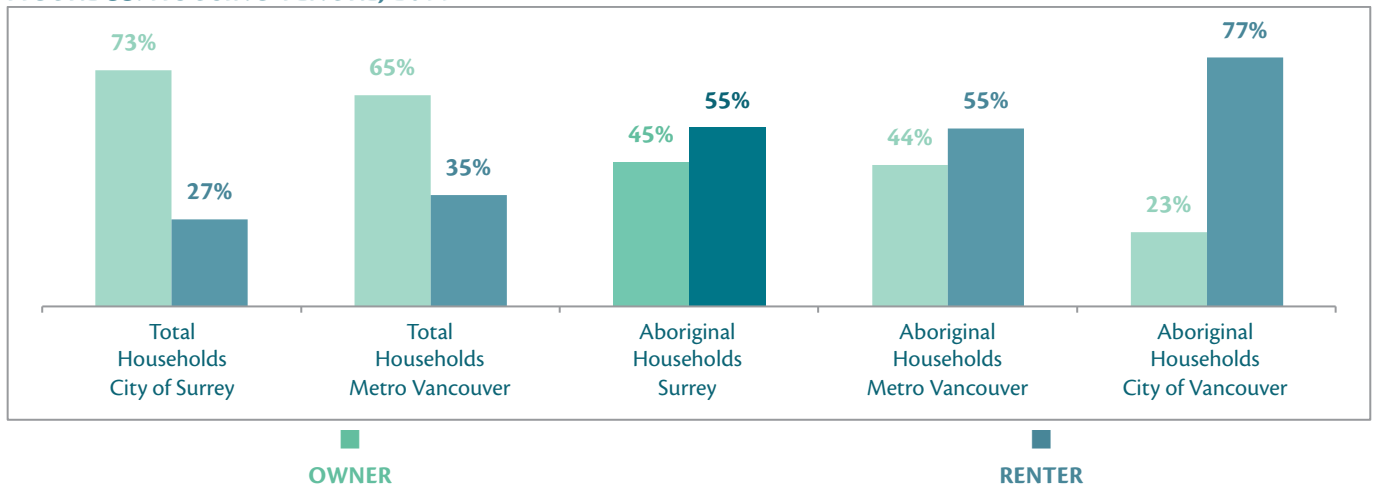


10% of Aboriginal households in Surrey live in dwellings in need of major repair. This is slightly above municipal and regional averages (4% and 7% respectively), but in line with other Aboriginal populations in the region.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

### 9.2 Housing Tenure

**FIGURE 33: HOUSING TENURE, 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

55% of Aboriginal households in Surrey are renters, compared to 45% who are owners.

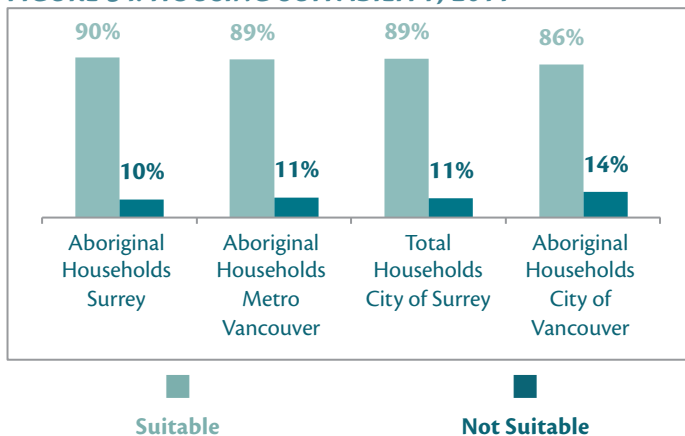
Housing tenure for Aboriginal households in Surrey is comparable with the broader Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver, but is significantly different from other population groups.

For example, ownership levels among Aboriginal households in Surrey (45%) are much higher than for Aboriginal households in Vancouver (23%), but lower than all households in Surrey (73%).



### 9.3 Housing Suitability

**FIGURE 34: HOUSING SUITABILITY, 2011**



90% of Aboriginal households in Surrey report suitable housing accommodations, in line with other population groups, and slightly higher than for Aboriginal households living in Vancouver.

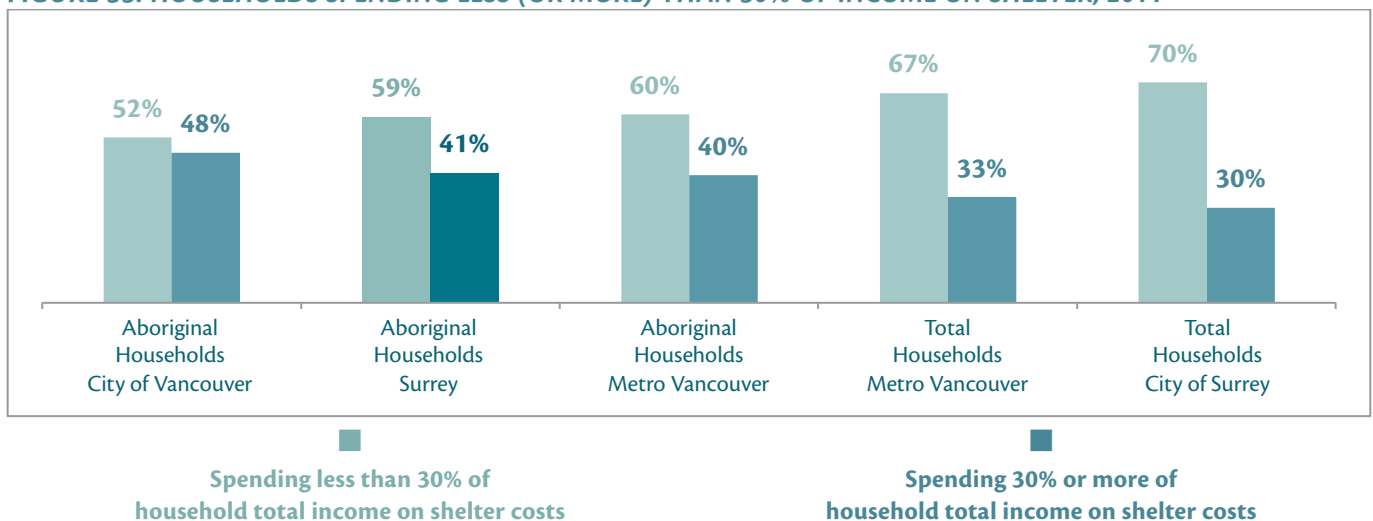
### 9.4 Shelter-to-Income Ratio

**FIGURE 13: SHELTER COSTS TO INCOME RATIO, 2011**

	Aboriginal Households, Surrey	Aboriginal Households, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Households, Metro Vancouver	Total Households, Surrey	Total Households, Metro Vancouver
Total number of households	5,225	7,690	26,685	152,150	883,185
Spending less than 30% of total income on shelter costs	3,080	4,035	15,910	106,400	587,460
Spending 30% or more of total income on shelter costs	2,150	3,660	10,780	45,755	295,720

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 35: HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING LESS (OR MORE) THAN 30% OF INCOME ON SHELTER, 2011**

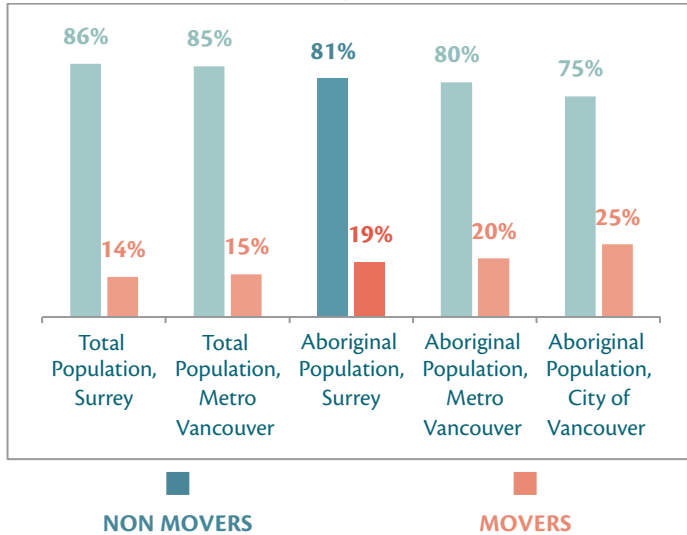


41% of Aboriginal households in Surrey spend 30% or more of their household income on shelter costs, which is comparable to the broader Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver (40%), but significantly higher than regional and municipal averages (33% and 30% respectively).

The percentage of Aboriginal households spending 30% or more of their income on shelter is higher in Vancouver (48%), compared to 41% for Aboriginal households in Surrey.

10.1 Mobility Status

**FIGURE 36: PERSONS WHO HAVE AND HAVE NOT MOVED IN THE PAST YEAR, 2011**



Almost 20% of Aboriginal people in Surrey moved residence in the 'past year' (the year leading to the NHS, i.e. 2010).

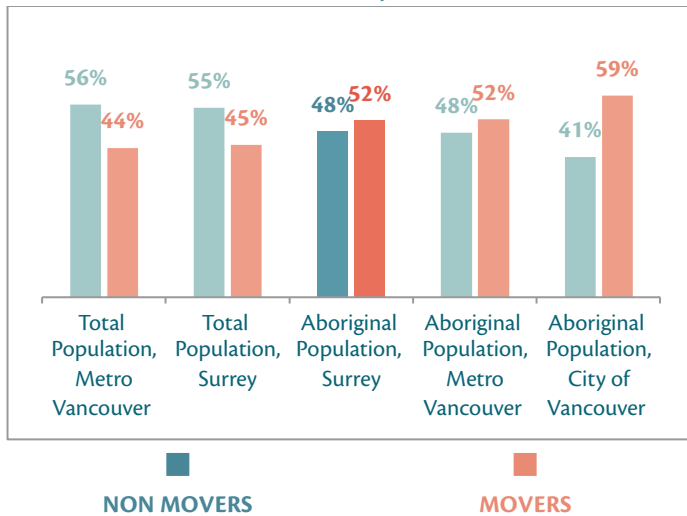
This is slightly above municipal and regional averages (14% and 15% of all residents in Surrey and Metro Vancouver respectively), and on par with the broader Aboriginal population in the region (20%).

Aboriginal people in Surrey are noticeably less transient than their fellow counterparts in Vancouver (19% vs. 25%).

Mobility rates for the Aboriginal population in Surrey should not be underestimated, as about 2,000 (or 19%) Aboriginal people did move residence in the past year alone, a significant number.

For total counts see the Appendix  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 37: PERSONS WHO HAVE AND HAVE NOT MOVED IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, 2011**



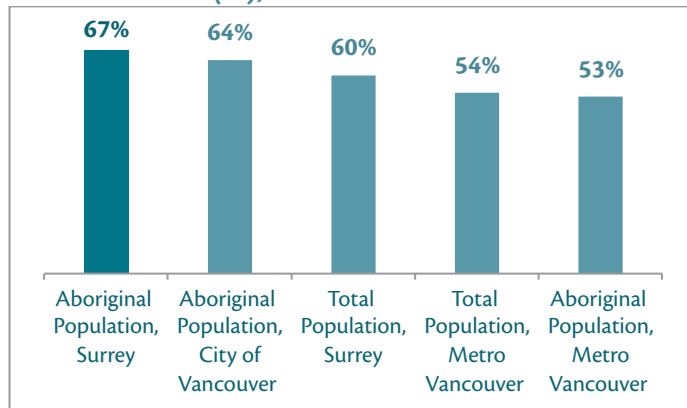
Over the course of 5 years, transiency rates increase for Aboriginal people in Surrey (as with all other population groups).

Aboriginal people in Surrey experience higher moving rates than municipal and regional averages (52% compared to 44% and 45% respectively). The real outlier, here, is the Aboriginal population in Vancouver which is significantly more transient than other groups.

For total counts see the Appendix  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

## 10.2 Type of Move

**FIGURE 38: PEOPLE WHO MOVED BUT REMAINED IN THE SAME CITY (%), 2011**

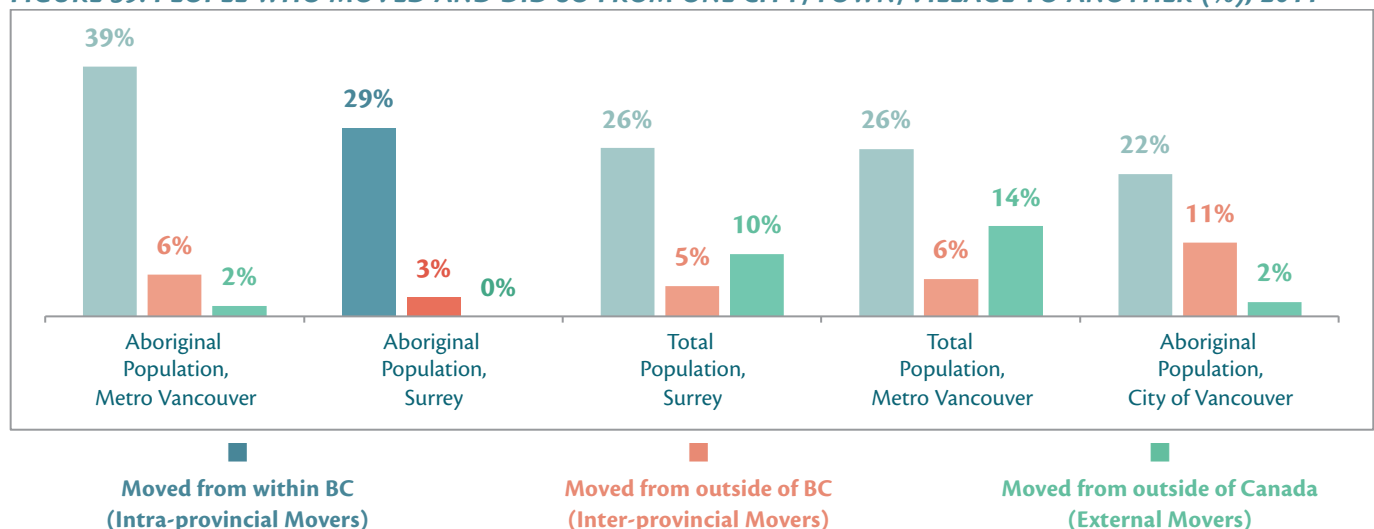


The majority (67%) of Aboriginal people in Surrey who moved in the past year did so by staying within the city's boundaries. Only 32% of Aboriginal people in Surrey who moved in the past year, moved to Surrey from outside the city. In other words, mobility among Aboriginal people in Surrey is largely 'intra-municipal.'

The same is true of the Aboriginal population in Vancouver.

For total counts see the Appendix  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

**FIGURE 39: PEOPLE WHO MOVED AND DID SO FROM ONE CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE TO ANOTHER (%), 2011**



'Intra-provincial Movers' are persons who moved within British Columbia.  
'Inter-provincial Movers' are persons who moved from outside of BC, but from within Canada.  
'External Movers' are persons who moved from outside of Canada.  
For total counts see Appendix

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 NHS

29% of Aboriginal people in Surrey who moved in the past year, did so from a community within British Columbia. Only 3% of Aboriginal movers in Surrey moved from another Canadian province, compared to 11% for Aboriginal movers in Vancouver.

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## SOURCES & REFERENCE GUIDES

---

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Statistics Canada, "NHS Aboriginal Population Profile, 2011" (Release date: November 2013)

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Statistics Canada, "Census Profile, 2011" (Release date: February, 2012)

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Statistics Canada, "NHS Focus on Geography Series, 2011" (Release date: May 2013)

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### **Key Reference Guides**

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Statistics Canada (2015), Definitions, Data Sources and Methods, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/concepts/definitions>

Statistics Canada (2015), Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, Catalogue 91-552-X.

Statistics Canada (2013a), Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit, Catalogue 99-011-X2011001.

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Statistics Canada (2007), How Statistics Canada Identifies Aboriginal Peoples, Catalogue 12-592-X.

**APPENDIX**

## POPULATION

### 1.1 Aboriginal Identity

**TABLE 1: ABORIGINAL GROUPS, SURREY, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey	
	#	%
Total Persons with Aboriginal identity	<b>10,955</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
First Nations	<b>6,135</b>	<b>56.0%</b>
Métis	<b>4,225</b>	<b>38.6%</b>
Multiple Identities	<b>175</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Inuit	<b>265</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
Other	<b>155</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

### 1.2 Population Growth

**TABLE 2: POPULATION GROWTH, 1996 TO 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey	Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey
1996	<b>5,070</b>	<b>10,965</b>	<b>302,755</b>
2001	<b>6,895</b>	<b>10,440</b>	<b>345,785</b>
2006	<b>7,630</b>	<b>11,145</b>	<b>392,450</b>
2011	<b>10,950</b>	<b>11,945</b>	<b>468,251</b>
Percent Change (1996 to 2011):	<b>116.0%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>54.7%</b>
Population Growth Annual Rate:	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

### 1.3 Population Projections

**TABLE 3: GROWTH PROJECTION FOR ABORIGINAL POPULATION, SURREY (2011 to 2031)**

Year	Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
	#	%	#	%
1996	<b>5,070</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>5,070</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
2001	<b>6,895</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>6,895</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
2006	<b>7,630</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>7,630</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
2011	<b>10,950</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>10,950</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
2016	<b>12,910</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>15,867</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
2021	<b>14,870</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>22,992</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
2026	<b>16,830</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>33,316</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
2031	<b>18,790</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>48,276</b>	<b>5.6%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

% = number of Aboriginal people as a percentage of total Surrey population.

Scenario 1 is based on a linear growth method.

Scenario 2 is based on a geometric growth method.

**TABLE 4: GROWTH PROJECTION, TOTAL POPULATION, SURREY**

Year	#
2011	<b>468,251</b>
2016	<b>521,130</b>
2021	<b>558,350</b>
2026	<b>608,760</b>
2031	<b>673,070</b>

Source: City of Surrey Planning & Development

## AGE

**TABLE 5: AGE GROUPS, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
All age groups	10,955	100%	11,945	100%	52,375	100%	468,250	100%	2,313,330	100%
0 to 4 years	1,010	9%	635	5%	3,985	8%	29,160	6%	115,185	5%
5 to 9 years	1,085	10%	720	6%	4,095	8%	28,800	6%	114,390	5%
10 to 14 years	1,100	10%	585	5%	4,065	8%	30,785	7%	124,880	5%
15 to 19 years	1,175	11%	790	7%	4,880	9%	33,130	7%	145,190	6%
20 to 24 years	1,035	9%	865	7%	4,715	9%	31,085	7%	159,080	7%
25 to 29 years	745	7%	1,460	12%	4,440	8%	32,275	7%	170,065	7%
30 to 34 years	705	6%	1,030	9%	3,360	6%	32,150	7%	160,010	7%
35 to 39 years	705	6%	1,090	9%	3,855	7%	32,900	7%	161,245	7%
40 to 44 years	740	7%	1,005	8%	3,950	8%	35,030	7%	180,535	8%
45 to 49 years	690	6%	860	7%	3,615	7%	36,530	8%	192,085	8%
50 to 54 years	745	7%	895	7%	3,595	7%	34,340	7%	182,430	8%
55 to 59 years	485	4%	720	6%	2,855	5%	29,825	6%	158,570	7%
60 to 64 years	300	3%	560	5%	2,155	4%	25,670	5%	136,760	6%
65 to 69 years	190	2%	320	3%	1,335	3%	18,530	4%	94,860	4%
70 to 74 years	125	1%	185	2%	695	1%	13,585	3%	72,890	3%
75 to 79 years	65	1%	110	1%	450	1%	10,180	2%	58,155	3%
80 to 84 years	20	0%	30	0%	150	0%	7,400	2%	44,235	2%
85 years and over	35	0%	75	1%	185	0%	6,875	1%	42,765	2%

Source: 2011, Census

**TABLE 6: CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SENIORS, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>All age groups</b>	10,955	100%	11,945	100%	52,375	100%	468,250	100%	2,313,330	100%
<b>0 to 18 years</b>	4,115	38%	2,600	22%	16,005	31%	115,525	25%	469,750	20%
<b>65 yrs and over</b>	435	4%	720	6%	2,815	5%	56,570	12%	312,905	14%

Source: 2011, NHS

## FAMILY

### 3.1 Family Status

**TABLE 7: FAMILY STATUS, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Aboriginal identity population in private households	<b>10,955</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,945</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>52,375</b>	<b>100%</b>
Married spouses or common-law partners	<b>3,090</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>3,065</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>15,990</b>	<b>31%</b>
Lone parents	<b>925</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>7%</b>
Children in census families	<b>4,905</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>19,690</b>	<b>38%</b>
Persons not in census families	<b>2,040</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>4,925</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>12,970</b>	<b>25%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

### 3.2 Lone Parents

**TABLE 8: LONE PARENTS BY SEX, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Lone Parents	<b>925</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>100%</b>
Men	<b>100</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>15%</b>
Women	<b>820</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>86%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

### 3.3 Children

**TABLE 9: CHILDREN IN CENSUS FAMILIES, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Children in census families	<b>4,905</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19,690</b>	<b>100%</b>
Sons and daughters of only one spouse in a couple (stepchildren)	<b>545</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>11%</b>
Sons and daughters of both spouses in a couple; excluding stepchildren	<b>1,970</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>8,980</b>	<b>46%</b>
Sons and daughters of lone parents	<b>2,255</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>7,970</b>	<b>40%</b>
Grandchildren living with grandparent(s) with no parents present	<b>130</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>3%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

## LANGUAGE

**TABLE 10: ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION BY LANGUAGE, SURREY**

	Total		Men		Women	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Population with an Aboriginal language as mother tongue	<b>99</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Population who speak an Aboriginal language most often at home	<b>22</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Population with knowledge of an Aboriginal language	<b>142</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

Note: Counts are low enough that they do not always add up



## EDUCATION

### 5.1 Educational Attainment

**TABLE 11: HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (AGES 25 TO 64 YEARS), 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total population aged 25 to 64 years by highest certificate, diploma or degree	<b>5,115</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,625</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>27,815</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>256,930</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,330,725</b>	<b>100%</b>
No certificate, diploma or degree	<b>990</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>32,700</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>111,340</b>	<b>8%</b>
High school diploma or equivalent	<b>1,450</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>6,805</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>73,755</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>306,890</b>	<b>23%</b>
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	<b>2,675</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>16,015</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>150,475</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>912,495</b>	<b>69%</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	<b>775</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23,630</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>113,380</b>	<b>12%</b>
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	<b>1,275</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>6,480</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>46,145</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>247,680</b>	<b>27%</b>
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	<b>295</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>19,720</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>97,550</b>	<b>11%</b>
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	<b>325</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>3,905</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>60,980</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>453,890</b>	<b>50%</b>
Bachelor's degree	<b>220</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>38,375</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>287,230</b>	<b>63%</b>
University certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor level	<b>105</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>22,605</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>166,660</b>	<b>37%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

### 5.2 Postsecondary Education

**TABLE 12: POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION BY SEX (AGES 25 TO 64 YEARS), 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>7,240</b>	<b>8,775</b>	<b>73,125</b>	<b>77,350</b>	<b>440,485</b>	<b>472,015</b>
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	<b>505</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>15,790</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>74,580</b>	<b>38,800</b>
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	<b>435</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>19,515</b>	<b>26,635</b>	<b>107,685</b>	<b>139,995</b>
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	<b>105</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>8,855</b>	<b>10,870</b>	<b>42,870</b>	<b>54,685</b>
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	<b>130</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>28,975</b>	<b>32,005</b>	<b>215,355</b>	<b>238,540</b>
Bachelor's degree	<b>105</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>18,050</b>	<b>20,320</b>	<b>134,390</b>	<b>152,845</b>
University certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor level	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>10,920</b>	<b>11,685</b>	<b>80,965</b>	<b>85,695</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

## LABOUR FORCE

### 6.1 Labour Force Status

**TABLE 13: LABOUR FORCE STATUS, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey	Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey	Total Population, Metro Vancouver
Total population aged 15 years and over	7,760	10,005	40,230	374,315	1,926,225
In the labour force	5,175	6,650	27,235	245,645	1,273,335
Employed	4,530	5,650	23,800	226,155	1,182,395
Unemployed	650	1,005	3,435	19,490	90,940
Not in the labour force	2,580	3,350	12,995	128,670	652,895
Participation rate	66.7%	66.5%	67.7%	65.6%	66.1%
Employment rate	58.4%	56.5%	59.2%	60.4%	61.4%
Unemployment rate	12.6%	15.1%	12.6%	7.9%	7.1%

Source: 2011, NHS

Statistics Canada classifies people in the "labour force" as any of the following:

- Persons who are employed
- Persons who are unemployed but looking for work
- Persons who are on temporary lay-off but expected to return to their job

The "Labour Force Participation Rate" is the number of people in the labour force, expressed as a percentage of the total population (ages 15 and over).

The "Employment Rate" is the number of people employed, expressed as a percentage of the total population (ages 15 and over).

**TABLE 14: LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY SEX, ABORIGINAL POPULATION, SURREY, 2011**

	Aboriginal Men, Surrey	Aboriginal Women, Surrey
Total population aged 15 years and over	3705	4055
In the labour force	2515	2660
Employed	2220	2310
Unemployed	295	350
Not in the labour force	1190	1390
Participation rate	67.9%	65.6%
Employment rate	59.9%	57.0%
Unemployment rate	11.7%	13.2%

Source: 2011, NHS

Note that the "Employment rate" is calculated as a percentage of the total population (ages 15 and over), while the "Unemployment rate" is calculated as a percentage of the labour force population.

## 6.2 Full-Time and Part-Time Work

**TABLE 15: TOTAL LABOUR FORCE POPULATION (AGES 15yrs and over) BY FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WEEKS WORKED, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population Surrey	Aboriginal Population City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population Metro Vancouver	Total Population Surrey	Total Population Metro Vancouver
Labour force pop. (ages 15 years and over) by weeks worked	<b>5,180</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>27,235</b>	<b>245,640</b>	<b>1,273,335</b>
Did not work in 2010	<b>430</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>15,205</b>	<b>69,305</b>
Worked in 2010	<b>4,750</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>25,165</b>	<b>230,440</b>	<b>1,204,025</b>
Worked full-time in 2010	<b>3,570</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>18,875</b>	<b>183,165</b>	<b>941,600</b>
Worked part-time in 2010	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>6,290</b>	<b>47,275</b>	<b>262,430</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

Note, that the "Total labour force population (ages 15 years and over) by full-time or part-time weeks worked in 2010" is slightly less than the "Total population aged 15 years and over by labour force status."

**TABLE 16: FULL TIME & PART TIME WORK BY SEX (ABORIGINAL POPULATION, SURREY), 2011**

	Aboriginal Men Surrey	Aboriginal Women Surrey
Labour force pop. (ages 15 years and over) by weeks worked	<b>2,515</b>	<b>2,665</b>
Did not work in 2010	<b>245</b>	<b>185</b>
Worked in 2010	<b>2,275</b>	<b>2,475</b>
Worked full-time in 2010	<b>1,825</b>	<b>1,745</b>
Worked part-time in 2010	<b>445</b>	<b>730</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

## 6.3 Industries

**TABLE 17: ABORIGINAL LABOUR FORCE POPULATION BY INDUSTRY, SURREY, 2011**

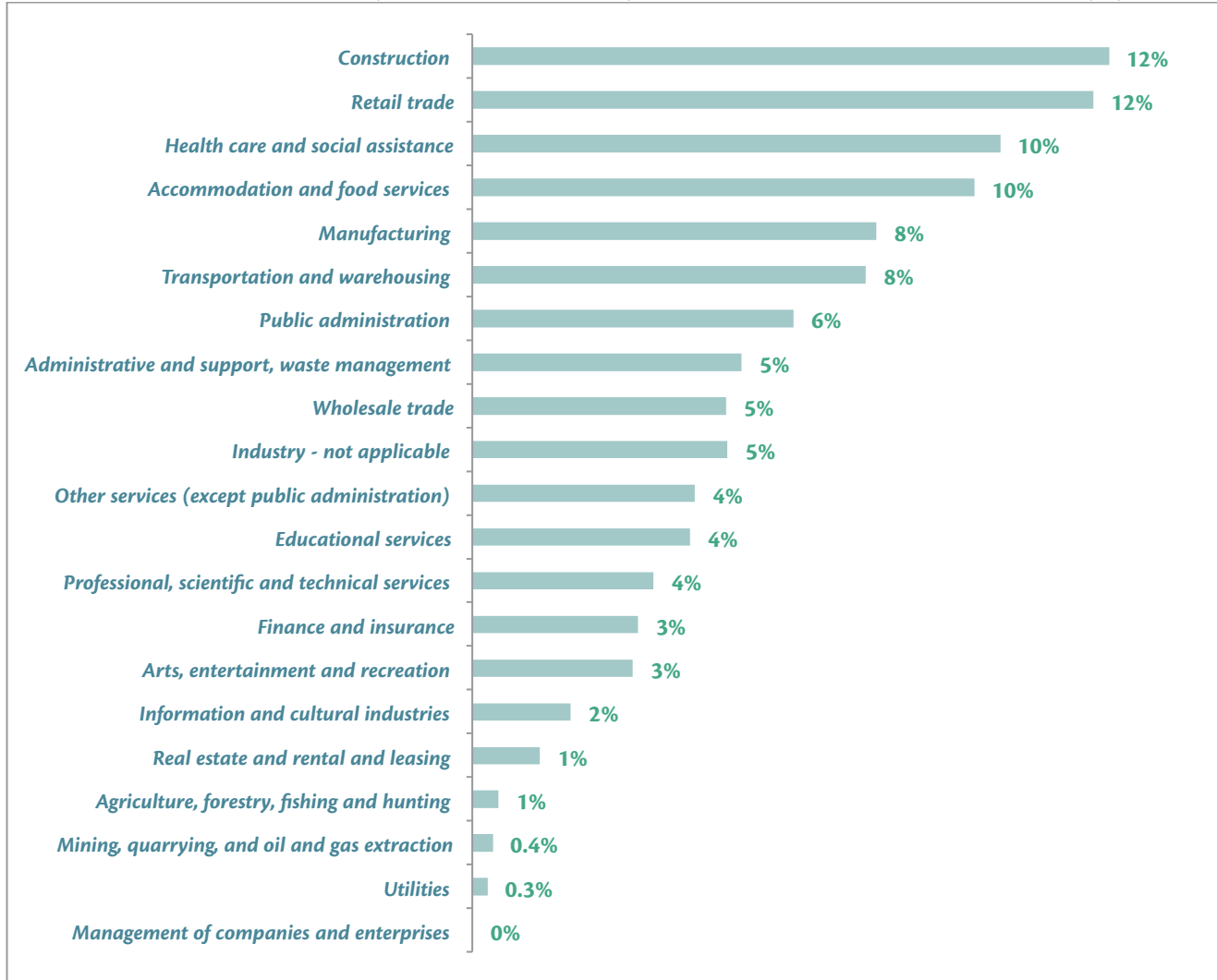
	Total		Men		Women	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total labour force population aged 15 years and over by industry	<b>5,180</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Industry - not applicable	<b>245</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
All industries	<b>4,930</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>2,540</b>	<b>95.5%</b>
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	<b>25</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
21 Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	<b>20</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
22 Utilities	<b>15</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
23 Construction	<b>615</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
31-33 Manufacturing	<b>390</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
41 Wholesale trade	<b>245</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
44-45 Retail trade	<b>600</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>13.9%</b>
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	<b>380</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
51 Information and cultural industries	<b>95</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
52 Finance and insurance	<b>160</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	<b>65</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	<b>175</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
55 Management of companies and enterprises	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
56 Administrative and support, waste management & remediation	<b>260</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

61 Educational services	210	4.1%	40	1.6%	170	6.4%
62 Health care and social assistance	510	9.8%	40	1.6%	465	17.5%
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	155	3.0%	55	2.2%	100	3.8%
72 Accommodation and food services	485	9.4%	175	7.0%	310	11.7%
81 Other services (except public administration)	215	4.2%	90	3.6%	125	4.7%
91 Public administration	310	6.0%	130	5.2%	175	6.6%

Source: 2011, NHS

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007

**CHART 1: ABORIGINAL PEOPLE (AGES 15 Yrs and over) IN THE LABOUR FORCE BY INDUSTRY (%), 2011**



Source: 2011 NHS

## COMMUTING

### 7.1 Mode of Transportation

**TABLE 18: EMPLOYED POPULATION (15yr and over) BY MODE OF TRANSPORT WHEN COMMUTING TO WORK, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total employed population aged 15 years and over	<b>4,330</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,245</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22,360</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>211,720</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,084,110</b>	<b>100%</b>
Car, truck or van	<b>3,110</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>14,405</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>176,075</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>767,925</b>	<b>71%</b>
Public transit	<b>955</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>5,285</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>27,040</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>213,680</b>	<b>20%</b>
Walked	<b>220</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>68,020</b>	<b>6%</b>
Bicycle	<b>15</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>19,545</b>	<b>2%</b>
Other methods	<b>25</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>14,940</b>	<b>1%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

### 7.2 Commuting Time

**TABLE 19: EMPLOYED POPULATION (15yrs and over) BY THE TIME LEAVING FOR WORK, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total employed population aged 15 years and over	<b>4,325</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,245</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22,360</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>211,720</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,084,110</b>	<b>100%</b>
Between 5 and 6:59 a.m.	<b>1,555</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>6,185</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>61,530</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>241,250</b>	<b>22%</b>
Between 7 and 9:00 a.m.	<b>1,755</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>10,870</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>100,900</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>597,810</b>	<b>55%</b>
Anytime after 9:00 a.m.	<b>1,015</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>5,305</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>49,290</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>245,045</b>	<b>23%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

## INCOME

### 8.1 Median and Average Income

**TABLE 20: MEDIAN AND AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL INCOME (AFTER TAX), 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey	Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey	Total Population, Metro Vancouver
Total population 15 years and over	7,760	10,005	40,230	374,315	1,926,225
Median income	\$20,373	\$20,452	\$21,568	\$25,197	\$26,796
Average income	\$26,183	\$27,524	\$27,997	\$31,352	\$34,728
Men Median income	\$20,351	\$20,912	\$23,215	\$30,793	\$31,781
Men Average income	\$29,068	\$27,200	\$30,225	\$36,947	\$40,856
Women Median income	\$20,403	\$19,557	\$20,480	\$21,076	\$22,830
Women Average income	\$23,779	\$27,810	\$26,070	\$25,892	\$28,906

Source: 2011, NHS

### 8.2 Income Distribution

**TABLE 21: INCOME BRACKETS (INDIVIDUAL INCOME AFTER TAX), 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total population 15 years and over	7,760	100%	10,005	100%	40,230	100%	374,315	100%	1,926,225	100%
Without after-tax income	740	10%	565	6%	2,990	7%	25,230	7%	108,990	6%
With after-tax income	7,020	90%	9,440	94%	37,245	93%	349,080	93%	1,817,240	94%
Under \$5,000	1,015	13%	1,050	10%	5,425	13%	45,020	12%	243,845	13%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	665	9%	865	9%	3,295	8%	27,065	7%	129,145	7%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	855	11%	1,555	16%	4,845	12%	36,160	10%	176,265	9%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	910	12%	1,175	12%	4,030	10%	35,295	9%	175,960	9%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	1,020	13%	1,520	15%	5,770	14%	55,495	15%	260,665	14%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	1,085	14%	1,165	12%	4,780	12%	48,205	13%	239,860	12%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	545	7%	795	8%	3,335	8%	37,465	10%	191,285	10%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	385	5%	385	4%	2,155	5%	23,615	6%	132,560	7%
\$60,000 to \$79,999	365	5%	665	7%	2,540	6%	24,725	7%	150,505	8%
\$80,000 to \$99,999	130	2%	160	2%	585	1%	8,720	2%	58,385	3%
\$100,000 and over	55	1%	105	1%	475	1%	7,330	2%	58,760	3%

Source: 2011, NHS

### 8.3 Low-Income Status

**TABLE 22: TOTAL POPULATION IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey	Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey	Total Population, Metro Vancouver
Total population	10,955	11,940	49,245	463,340	2,272,730
Less than 18 years	3,865	2,435	14,240	109,045	439,425
Less than 6 years	1,145	830	4,445	34,665	137,420
18 to 64 years	6,655	8,790	32,410	300,920	1,542,145
65 years and over	435	715	2,595	53,370	291,160

Source: 2011, NHS

**TABLE 23: POPULATION IN LOW INCOME BASED ON THE AFTER-TAX, LOW-INCOME MEASURE (LIM-AT), 2011**

	Aboriginal People, Surrey	Aboriginal People, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal People, Metro Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey	Total Population, Metro Vancouver
Total population	3,735	4,125	13,050	71,695	395,095
Less than 18 years	1,730	1,025	4,645	20,355	85,535
Less than 6 years	615	410	1,605	6,160	23,805
18 to 64 years	1,910	2,810	7,765	44,840	264,285
65 years and over	95	295	640	6,505	45,270

Source: 2011, NHS

**TABLE 24: PREVALENCE OF LOW INCOME, 2011**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey	Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver	Total Population, Surrey	Total Population, Metro Vancouver
Total population	34.0%	34.5%	26.5%	15.5%	17.4%
Less than 18 years	44.8%	41.9%	32.6%	18.7%	19.5%
Less than 6 years	53.7%	49.4%	36.1%	17.8%	17.3%
18 to 64 years	28.6%	32.0%	24.0%	14.9%	17.1%
65 years and over	21.8%	41.3%	24.9%	12.2%	15.5%

Source: 2011, NHS

**TABLE 25: ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS, SURREY, 2011**

	Men	Women
Total population	5,200	5,755
Less than 18 years	1,950	1,915
Less than 6 years	575	570
18 to 64 years	3,035	3,625
65 years and over	215	220

Source: 2011, NHS

**TABLE 26: ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN LOW INCOME, BY SEX, 2011**

	Men		Women	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	1,695	33%	2,035	35%
Less than 18 years	840	47%	890	61%
Less than 6 years	270	43%	340	47%
18 to 64 years	800	26%	1,105	31%
65 years and over	60	28%	40	19%

Source: 2011, NHS

### Low-Income Measure Thresholds (LIM-AT)

Household Size	After-Tax Income (\$)
1 Person	19,460
2 Persons	27,521
3 Persons	33,706
4 Persons	38,920
5 Persons	43,514
6 Persons	47,667

The "Low-Income Measure" (LIM) is defined as half (50%) of the median adjusted household income. In other words, it seeks to identify those who are substantially worse off than average. LIM takes into account the reduced spending power of households based on their size. Note that prior to 2011, Statistics Canada's preferred measure of low-income was the Low-Income Cut-off (LICO). Source: 2011, NHS Dictionary

## HOUSING

### 9.1 Condition of Dwelling

**TABLE 27: NUMBER OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY CONDITION OF DWELLINGS, 2011**

	Dwellings Occupied by Aboriginal Households, Surrey		Dwellings Occupied by Aboriginal Households, City of Vancouver		Dwellings Occupied by Aboriginal Households, Metro Vancouver		Dwellings Occupied by Total Households, Surrey		Dwellings Occupied by Total Households, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total number of private dwellings	5,245	100%	7,720	100%	27,920	100%	152,850	100%	891,305	100%
Only regular maintenance or minor repairs needed	4,720	90%	6,765	88%	24,795	89%	146,070	96%	832,575	93%
Major repairs needed	525	10%	960	12%	3,125	11%	6,780	4%	58,730	7%

Source: 2011, NHS

### 9.2 Housing Tenure

**TABLE 28: NUMBER OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSING TENURE, 2011**

	Aboriginal Households, Surrey		Aboriginal Households, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Households, Metro Vancouver		Total Households, Surrey		Total Households, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total number of private households	5,245	100%	7,720	100%	27,915	100%	152,845	100%	891,310	100%
Owner	2,340	45%	1,775	23%	12,215	44%	111,660	73%	583,425	65%
Renter	2,905	55%	5,945	77%	15,385	55%	41,185	27%	307,555	35%
Band housing	0	0%	0	0%	315	1%	0	0%	335	0%

Source: 2011, NHS

### 9.3 Housing Suitability

**TABLE 29: NUMBER OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSING SUITABILITY, 2011**

	Aboriginal Households, Surrey		Aboriginal Households, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Households, Metro Vancouver		Total Households, Surrey		Total Households, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total number of private households	5,245	100%	7,720	100%	27,915	100%	152,850	100%	891,310	100%
Suitable	4,705	90%	6,625	86%	24,750	89%	136,025	89%	808,040	91%
Not suitable	535	10%	1,100	14%	3,170	11%	16,820	11%	83,265	9%

Source: 2011, NHS

### 9.4 Shelter-to-Income Ratio

**TABLE 30: SHELTER COST TO INCOME RATIO, 2011**

	Aboriginal Households, Surrey	Aboriginal Households, City of Vancouver	Aboriginal Households, Metro Vancouver	Total Households, Surrey	Total Households, Metro Vancouver
Total number of households	5,225	7,690	26,685	152,150	883,185
Spending less than 30% of household total income on shelter costs	3,080	4,035	15,910	106,400	587,460
Spending 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs	2,150	3,660	10,780	45,755	295,720



## MOBILITY

### 10.1 Mobility Status

**TABLE 31: PERSONS WHO HAVE AND HAVE NOT MOVED RESIDENCE IN THE PAST YEAR**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total - Mobility status 1 year ago	<b>10,820</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,785</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51,535</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>458,230</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,258,660</b>	<b>100%</b>
Non-movers	<b>8,795</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>8,870</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>41,265</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>395,880</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>1,930,150</b>	<b>85%</b>
Movers	<b>2,025</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>10,275</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>62,350</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>328,510</b>	<b>15%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

**TABLE 32: PERSONS WHO HAVE AND HAVE NOT MOVED RESIDENCE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total - Mobility status 5 years ago	<b>9,940</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,310</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>48,385</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>434,010</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,165,390</b>	<b>100%</b>
Non-movers	<b>4,810</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>4,635</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>23,235</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>240,615</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>1,220,650</b>	<b>56%</b>
Movers	<b>5,130</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>6,670</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>25,150</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>193,390</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>944,745</b>	<b>44%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

### 10.2 Type of Move

**TABLE 33: POPULATION THAT HAS MOVED IN THE PAST YEAR**

	Aboriginal Population, Surrey		Aboriginal Population, City of Vancouver		Aboriginal Population, Metro Vancouver		Total Population, Surrey		Total Population, Metro Vancouver	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Movers	<b>2,025</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,275</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>62,350</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>328,510</b>	<b>100%</b>
Non-migrants	<b>1,365</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>5,470</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>37,215</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>178,840</b>	<b>54%</b>
Intraprovincial migrants	<b>590</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>16,195</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>84,885</b>	<b>26%</b>
Interprovincial migrants	<b>60</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>19,005</b>	<b>6%</b>
External migrants	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6,015</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>45,775</b>	<b>14%</b>

Source: 2011, NHS

Statistics Canada defines 'non-migrants' as persons who did move but remained within the same city (i.e. intramunicipal movers).

Intraprovincial migrants are persons who moved to Surrey from somewhere else in British Columbia.

Interprovincial migrants are persons who moved to Surrey from another Canadian province.

External migrants are persons who moved to Surrey from outside of Canada.