



## LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

6

# aboriginal

**Our research shows that there were 40,310 Aboriginal people living in Metro Vancouver in 2006, representing approximately 2% of the population.**

In Surrey there were 7,630 Aboriginal people. This accounts for 19% of all Aboriginal people living in Metro Vancouver and 2% of the population of Surrey.



**this** is a campaign to end poverty in Surrey.  
transportation / housing / income / support



ADRIANA GALESÌ PHOTO

Approximately 49% of all Aboriginal people (24 to 64) in Surrey had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program.

**this**

TRANSPORTATION / HOUSING / INCOME / SUPPORT

IS HOW WE  
END POVERTY  
IN SURREY

## What we know from our research

### Aboriginal people in the work force

There were 5,435 Aboriginal people in Surrey who were 15 years or older. Of these, approximately 3,750 were part of the labour force while 1,685 were not. There were also 335 Aboriginal people in the labour force who were looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census. This represents an unemployment rate of approximately 10% among Aboriginal people living in Surrey.

### The quality and nature of work opportunities

Of those in the labour force, approximately 1,675 (44%) reported that they worked for a full year, full time. There were an additional 51% who worked part-time and 5% where the nature of their employment was undefined.

Of those who worked full-time, their average earnings were \$43,101 while the median earnings were \$38,354. Among those working part-time, the average earnings were \$19,174 while the median earnings were \$10,737.

### Average hourly wage for full-time employment

Based on average earnings of \$ 43,101, the hourly wage among those who worked for a full-year, full-time was approximately \$22.10 per hour assuming a 37.5 hour week and 52 weeks of employment. Based on the median full-time earnings reported, the hourly wage was \$19.67.

### Access to employment opportunities

Of the 3,750 Aboriginal people living in Surrey who were part of the labour force, 2,510 reported that that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those, 1,245 (50%) reported that they worked in Surrey while 1,225 worked elsewhere in Metro Vancouver. The remaining respondents worked outside Metro Vancouver.

### Travel to Work

There were approximately 3,210 Aboriginal people in Surrey who provided information on how they get to work. Of these approximately 600 (19%) take public transit to work while 2,085 (65%) reported that they drive to work, and 300 (9%) came as a passenger in a vehicle.

### Unemployment rate among Aboriginal youth (15 to 24)

Among Aboriginal youth (those 15-24) in Surrey, the unemployment rate was approximately 15%, which translated into 115 Aboriginal youth who were in the labour force and looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

### Access to education

Approximately 24% of Aboriginal people (24 to 64) living in Surrey reported that they did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2006. There were an additional 27% who had at least high school or the equivalent. Approximately 49% of all Aboriginal people (24 to 64) in Surrey had a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program.

**TABLE 1** ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN LOW INCOME

	Aboriginal People	In Low Income (Before Tax)		In Low Income (After Tax)		# Change (After vs Before Tax)
Metro Vancouver	37,185	35	13,015	30	11,156	-1,859
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>7,605</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>-456</b>
Burnaby	2,995	32	958	29	869	-90
Coquitlam	1,545	19	294	15	232	-62
Delta	1,700	20	340	17	289	-51
Greater Vancouver A	55	50	28	42	23	-4
Langley City	855	37	316	36	308	-9
Langley District	2,450	14	343	10	245	-98
Maple Ridge	1,875	24	450	21	394	-56
New Westminster	1,820	40	728	38	692	-36
North Vancouver City	930	36	335	32	298	-37
North Vancouver District	755	16	121	14	106	-15
Pitt Meadows	385	25	96	21	81	-15
Port Coquitlam	905	22	199	21	190	-9
Port Moody	465	26	121	24	112	-9
Richmond	1,270	30	381	24	305	-76
Vancouver	10,975	51	5,597	45	4,939	-659
West Vancouver District	155	26	40	29	45	5
White Rock	285	30	86	21	60	-26
Other*	140	62	81	0	0	-81

\*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra and Bowen Island



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### Aboriginal people living in poverty

Our research shows that of the 40,310 Aboriginal people living in Metro Vancouver, approximately 12,900 (32%) were considered to be living in poverty in 2006. In Surrey, 2,390 Aboriginal people (31%) were living in poverty.

### Aboriginal children living in poverty

Among the Aboriginal people living in poverty in Surrey in 2006, approximately 1,030 were children between the ages of 0-17. Of these, approximately 385 (37%) were between the ages of 0 and 5 while 645 (63%) were between the ages of 6 and 17.



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### Aboriginal seniors living in poverty

There were approximately 355 Aboriginal people 65 or older living in Surrey at the time of the 2006 Census. Of these, approximately 30% were living in poverty. A significant majority (81%) of those 65 or older who were living in poverty were women.

### Aboriginal families living in poverty

There were approximately 16,100 economic families living in poverty in Surrey in 2006. Of these, approximately 600 were Aboriginal-led families. Of the Aboriginal families living in poverty in Surrey, almost two-thirds (63%) were single parent family households.

### Aboriginal women living in poverty

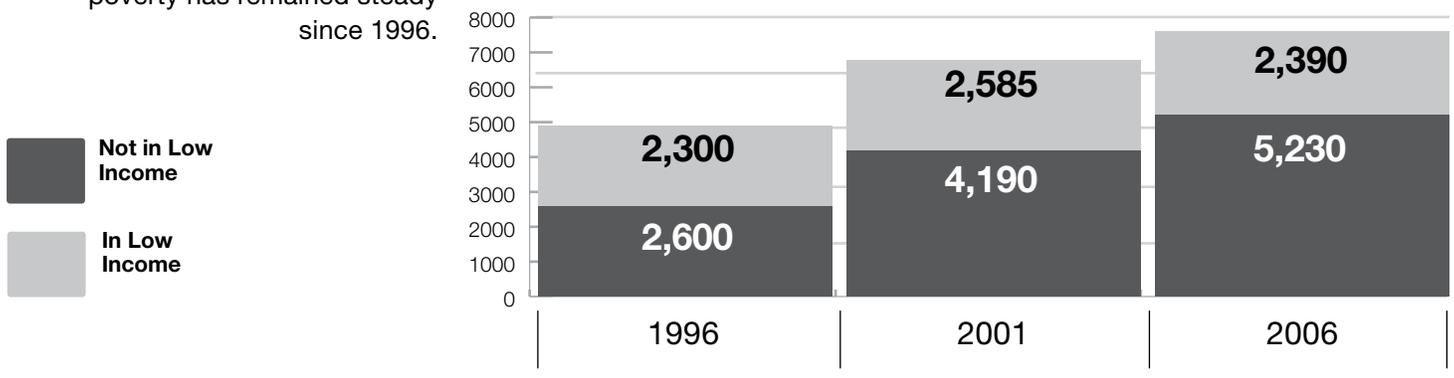
There was a higher incidence of poverty among Aboriginal women. Our research shows that Aboriginal women accounted for 59% of all Aboriginal people living in poverty.

Our research also shows that the highest incidence of poverty among Aboriginal women was among those in the 25 to 34 age cohort and those who were 65 and older.

## How does poverty affect Aboriginal people?

PORTION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN LOW INCOME (1996 – 2006)

GRAPH 1 The number of Aboriginal people living in poverty has remained steady since 1996.



### Aboriginal households in core housing need

Across Metro Vancouver, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need. Of these, 4,025 (5%) were Aboriginal-led households. In Surrey there were 570 Aboriginal-led households in core housing need in 2006. This represents 5% of all renter households in core housing need in Surrey or 14% of all Aboriginal households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver.



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### Aboriginal households in “worst case” need

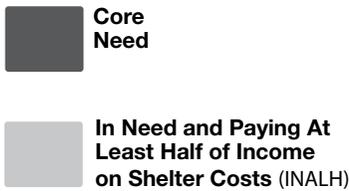
Of the 4,025 Aboriginal households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver in 2006, 1,595 (40%) were in core housing need and spending at least half (“INALH”) of their income on their housing costs.

These are households that are considered to be in “worst case” need; that is, households where a change in their income or an increase in their rent could push them deeper into poverty and homelessness. Our research shows that of the 570 Aboriginal-led renter households in core housing in Surrey in 2006, 215 (38%) were in “worst case” need.

### Homelessness among Aboriginal people

The 2011 homeless count reported 360 homeless people in Surrey. Of these, 89 (35%) identified themselves as Aboriginal. Given Aboriginal people comprise only 2% of the population of Surrey, it is evident that they are over-represented among the homeless population.

GRAPH 2 Many vulnerable populations in core housing need are paying more than 50% of their income on housing.



## Who is in core housing need in Surrey?

HOUSEHOLDS IN “CORE” NEED AND “WORST CASE” NEED

