



# INDIGENIZING CITIES

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*...and decolonizing the system*





# IT STARTED WITH THE BASIC FOUNDATION OF

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*Who are we?*



# The 2010 Environics Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study

## A national focus

- ▶ Conducted with First Nations, Metis, Inuit in major Canadian cities
- ▶ Focussed on values, identities, experiences, and aspirations (vs economic and social statistics)

## Why we need to pay attention

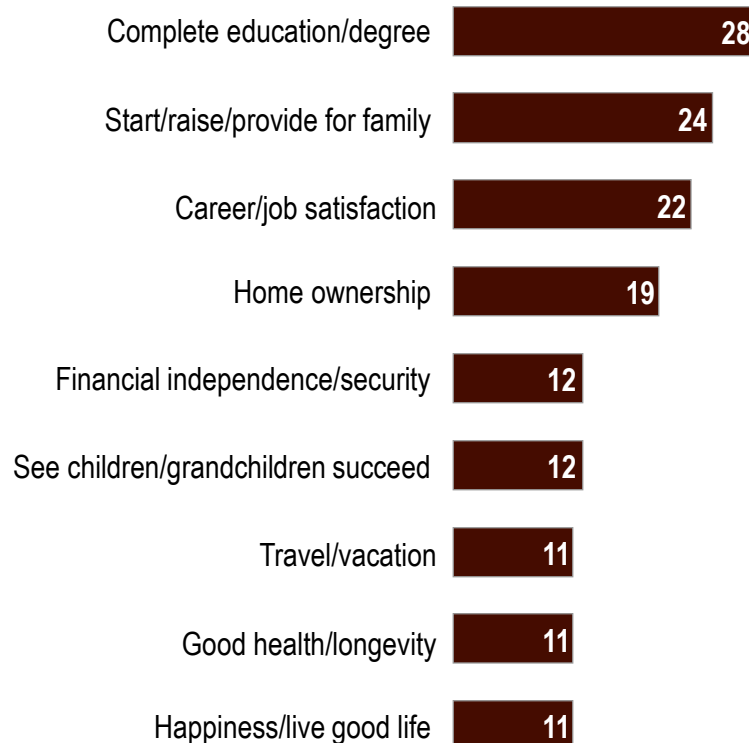
- ▶ Growing presence in our cities today
- ▶ Canada has yet to come to terms with this reality
- ▶ Our focus has been on reserve issues and on problems

**In-person survey with 2,614 urban Aboriginal peoples in 11 cities ...the 10 main cities encompassed 46% of the urban Aboriginal 2006 census population.**



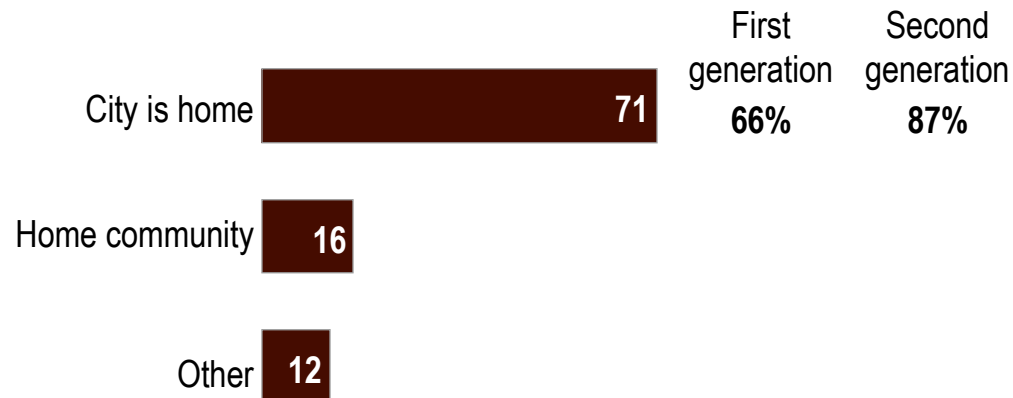
# First Nations, Métis and Inuit desire to be successful in mainstream ways...

What are the things you most want to achieve in your lifetime? (top mentions)



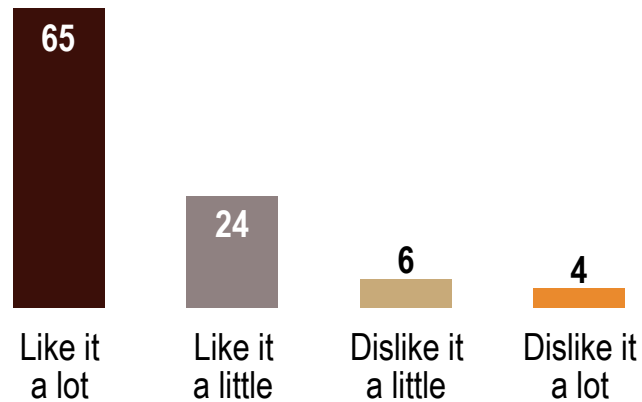
# Most feel their current city of residence is home...

Where is home for you?



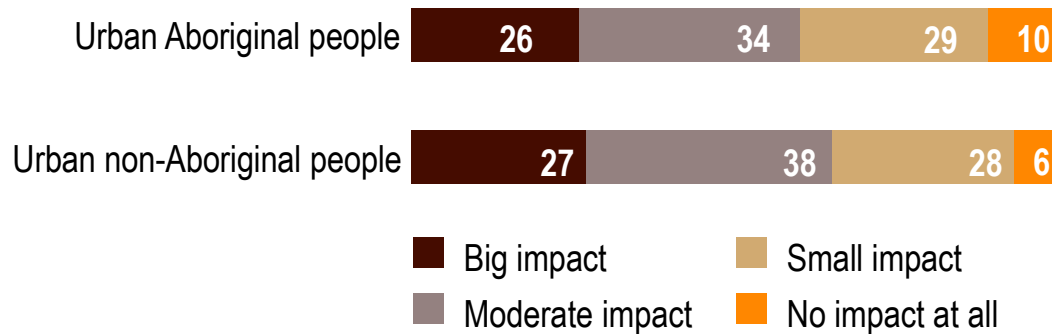
... and like living in their cities.

How much do you like living in your city?



# They feel they can make their city a better place to live.

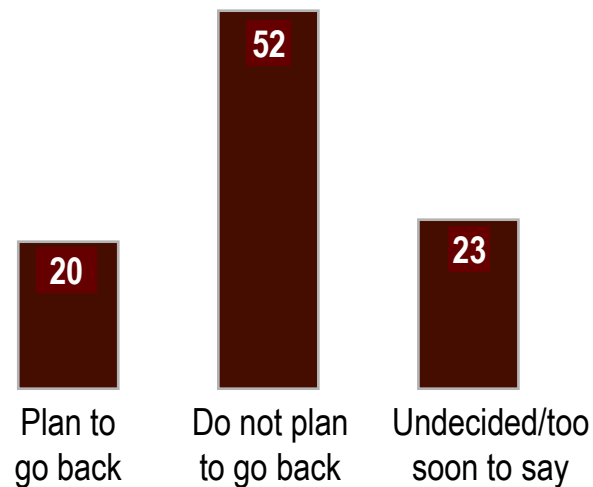
Impact on making city a better place to live





**...only a minority plan to return to their home communities permanently.**

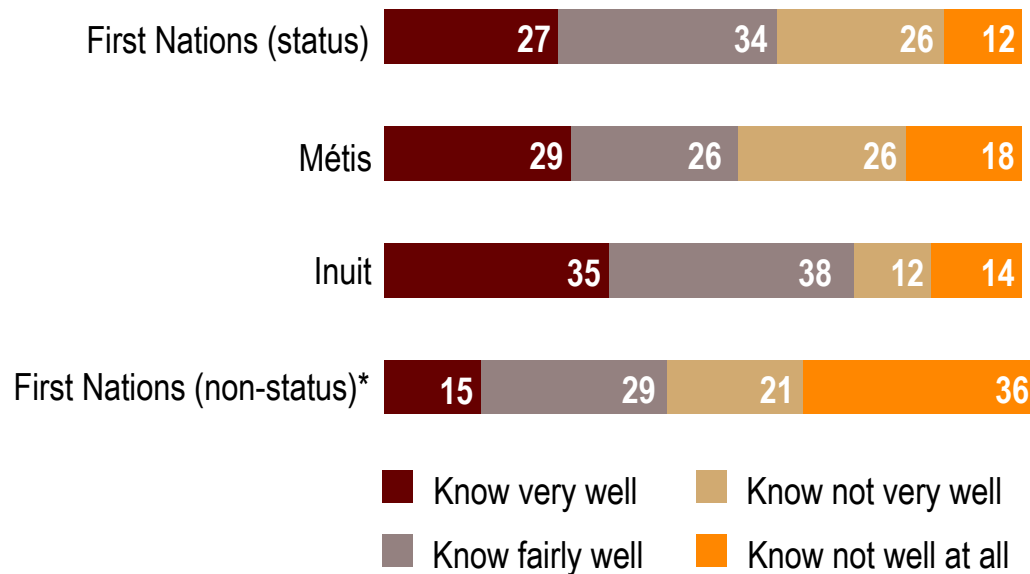
Do you plan to go back to live in your home community/community of origin permanently one day, or not?\*



\*Subsample: First and second generation UAPS participants.

# And the majority has a connection to their heritage, although some do not.

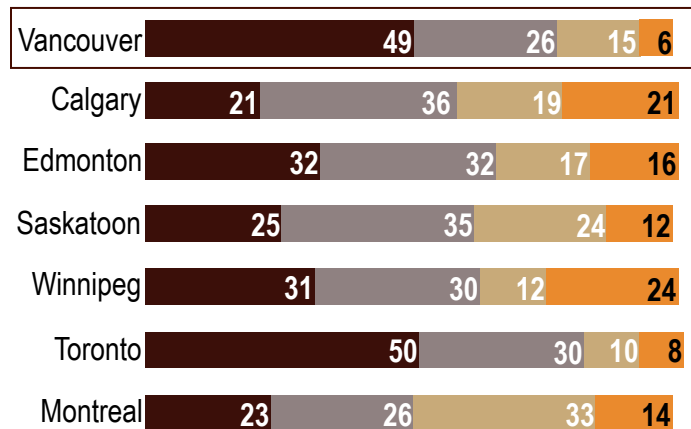
## Knowledge of family tree



\*7% of our First Nations sample is non-status.

# Majorities say Aboriginal cultural activities are regularly available....

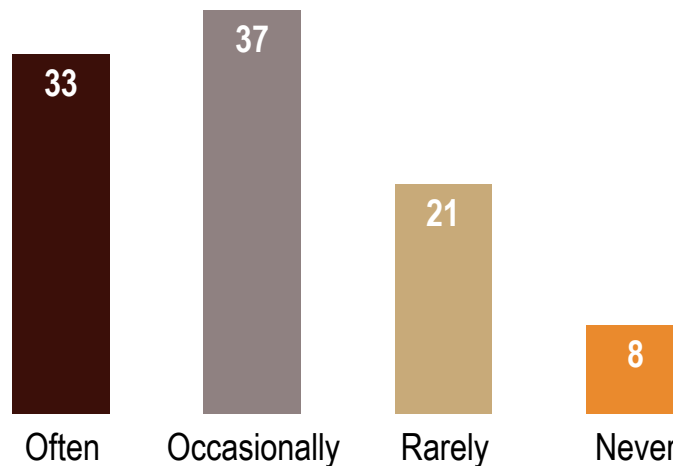
Are there a lot, some, a few or no Aboriginal cultural activities available in your community?



■ A lot   ■ Some   ■ Few   ■ None

... participate in them regularly.

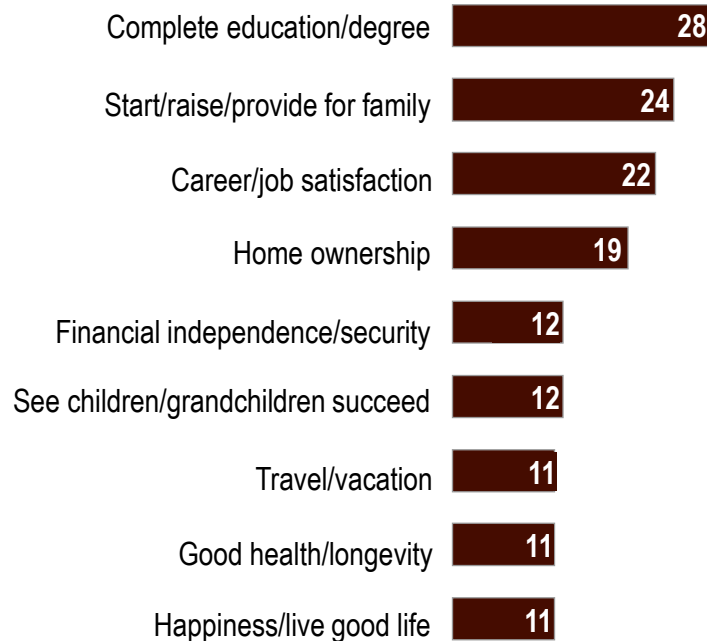
How often do you personally participate in these Aboriginal cultural activities?



\*Subsample: Those who have Aboriginal cultural activities available in their community.

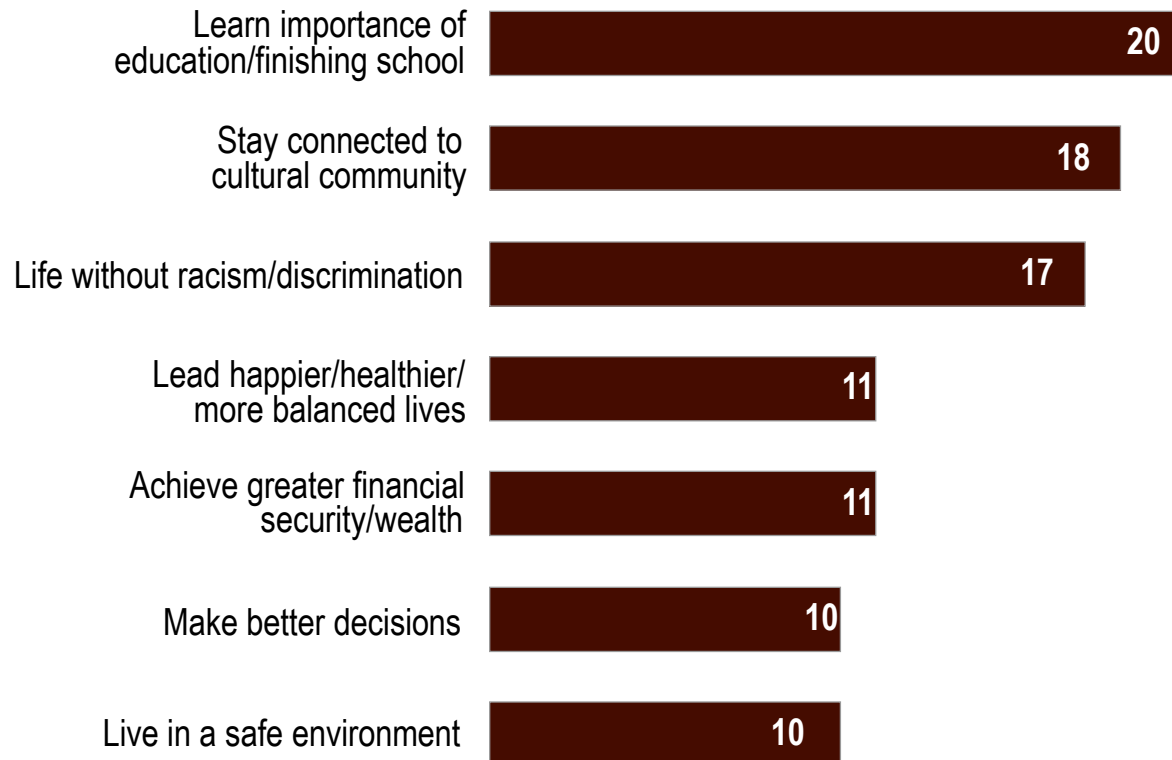
# A good education is the top aspiration...

What are the things you most want to achieve in your lifetime? (top mentions)



## ... and a top priority for the next generation...

Are there ways in which you hope your childrens' and grandchildrens' lives will be different from yours?



# The Canadian public possess distinct perspectives, some more negative than others.

## Dismissive Naysayers (24%)

Tend to view Aboriginal peoples and communities negatively, i.e., entitled and isolated from Canadian society.

## Cultural Romantics (45%)

Idealistic and optimistic, they have a strong belief in Aboriginal peoples' artistic and cultural contributions.

## Inattentive Sceptics (14%)

Uninformed and unaware, they typically think Aboriginal peoples are no different from other Canadians.

## Connected Advocates (17%)

High level of contact and strong belief that Aboriginal peoples often experience discrimination.

## Concluding observations

- A large majority of urban Aboriginal people consider the city home
- They aspire to the “good life”, but they don't want to be just like other Canadians
- Identity is crucial, as important as basic needs
- The city is a venue for creative development of Aboriginal culture
- Education is valued for self and children, but there are barriers
- Non-Aboriginal Canadians are open to engagement, but current attitudes are characterized by a mixture of idealism, ignorance, indifference and stereotypes





# THE URBAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IS A PERMANENT COMMUNITY

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*~stating the obvious!*

























**In February 2013, Vancouver City Council passed a motion to proclaim June 21, 2013 – June 20, 2014 as the Year of Reconciliation in Vancouver, and endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**






**In June 2014, Council formally acknowledged that the City of Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.**



**In July, 2014, after a successful year of encouraging Indigenous communities and the general Vancouver population to participate in City services, events, and programs during the Year of Reconciliation, Vancouver City Council passed the motion to reaffirm it's commitment to designate Vancouver as the world's first City of Reconciliation.**

# In 2014 a framework was developed for Vancouver as a City of Reconciliation

- ▶ **Cultural Competency:** All City staff should have access and opportunity to learn about the history of Indigenous peoples, starting with acknowledging the history of residential schools and the impact of harm from the loss of land and culture. City staff should provide access and opportunities for Indigenous Vancouverites to engage in City businesses and services.
- ▶ **Strengthening Relations:** Continue building and strengthening relationships with Reconciliation Canada, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, as well as with Vancouver's urban Indigenous community with a focus on the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council.
- ▶ **Effective Decision-making:** Enhancing how the City of Vancouver works with First Nations and urban Indigenous communities, conducting work differently and taking thoughtful risks, making exceptions to normal processes that still align within the City mandate, while having better alignment with First Nations and urban Indigenous priorities.



**On June 23, 2015 Vancouver City Council passed a motion stating that many of the TRC Calls to Action were actionable by the City and that staff report back to Council by September with recommendations on how to move forward on the actions recommended by the TRC, and were within the City's jurisdiction to act.**

## In 2015 a long term vision was developed to guide the incorporation of reconciliation into City work

- ▶ As a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver will form a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Aboriginal community, including key agencies, to incorporate a First Nations and Urban Aboriginal perspective into the work undertaken and decisions made by the City of Vancouver and, ultimately, to provide services that benefit members of these communities.

# Development of Long Term Goals provided clarity, guidance, and accountability for all City departments to adopt

- ▶ Strengthen local First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Relations
- ▶ Promote Aboriginal Peoples Arts, Culture, Awareness and Understanding
- ▶ Incorporate First Nations and Urban Aboriginal perspectives for effective City services



Canada 150+

Moving forward together  
Ensemble, allons de l'avant

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*How do you decolonize  
this???*











# CANADA 150+ MURAL PROGRAM







## VANCOUVER INDIGENOUS FASHION WEEK

"This is totally reclaiming  
what is ours"

- Joleen Mitton



# FILM & SPEAKER SERIES

xREDx  
TALKS








# 'Namwayut

WE ARE ALL ONE  
NOUS NE FAISONS QU'UN







**WHERE DO  
WE GO FROM  
HERE?**

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## We want to hear from you!



Canada Lands Company and the MST Partnership (Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation) invite you to the launch of planning for a new future for the Heather Street Lands (former RCMP Lands).

Come and meet the partners, and learn about the planning process ahead.

Transit to King Edward Station or Oakridge Station. Parking is available on site.

Learn more or contact us:  
[heatherstreetlands.ca](http://heatherstreetlands.ca)



## **Future of historic Vancouver building that once housed RCMP in jeopardy**

**First Nations property owners want building on Heather Street Lands moved**

Posted: May 26, 2018 10:00 AM PDT

Last Updated: May 26, 2018

**CBC News**

The City of Vancouver says it's looking at options to move and renovate a historic building that once housed the RCMP headquarters, but there are no guarantees it will be able to do so.



# Vancouver looks to honour Indigenous culture in plan for downtown park

FRANCES BULA >

SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

PUBLISHED JULY 16, 2018



## TRENDING

1

IN DEPTH

A closer look: The 11 people Wilso Raybould said were involved in the SNC-Lavalin affair

2

OPINION

I'm ashamed for my country 🔑

MARGARET WENTE

3

Ontario asks school districts to 'exercise prudence' around hiring decisions ahead of expected changes to class-size guidance

4

OPINION

Justin Trudeau is uniting the court – against him 🔑

KONRAD YAKABUSKI



# Future of 90-acre Jericho Lands subject of upcoming open houses

Development planning program for site launches at March 2nd and March 7th events

Naoibh O'Connor / Vancouver Courier

FEBRUARY 26, 2019 04:49 PM



