



Indigenous Data Landscape in Canada: An Overview

Tim Leonard

Strategic Research and Statistics
Indigenous and Northern Affairs



INAC·AANC





Strategic Research and Statistics Directorate at INAC

Role and Mandate

To support INAC and the federal government's policy-making in Indigenous and Northern matters by providing evidence-based knowledge through a program of data development, statistics, research, and knowledge transfer.

Data Development

Lead and advocate for the development of partnerships, tools, methods, and processes for collecting relevant demographic and socio-economic data

Statistics and Research

Act as a centre of excellence that produces authoritative statistics and analysis, and conducts policy research in partnership with a variety of national and international actors in relevant disciplines and topic areas

Knowledge Transfer

Provide innovative products and interactive forums for effective dissemination of research findings to federal policy makers, Indigenous stakeholders, academia, and the general public



Government Priorities

- Renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples
- Support the development of healthier, more self-sufficient communities
- Address the socio-economic gap
- Collaborate and support the work of reconciliation

“No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.”

- PM Trudeau's Mandate
Letter to INAC Minister Bennett



Significant Policy-Research Drivers

- Truth and Reconciliation: Calls to Action
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Deliverology
- To make real progress on issues that matter to First Nation, Métis and Inuit people such as housing, employment, health, mental health, community safety and policing, child welfare, language and education.

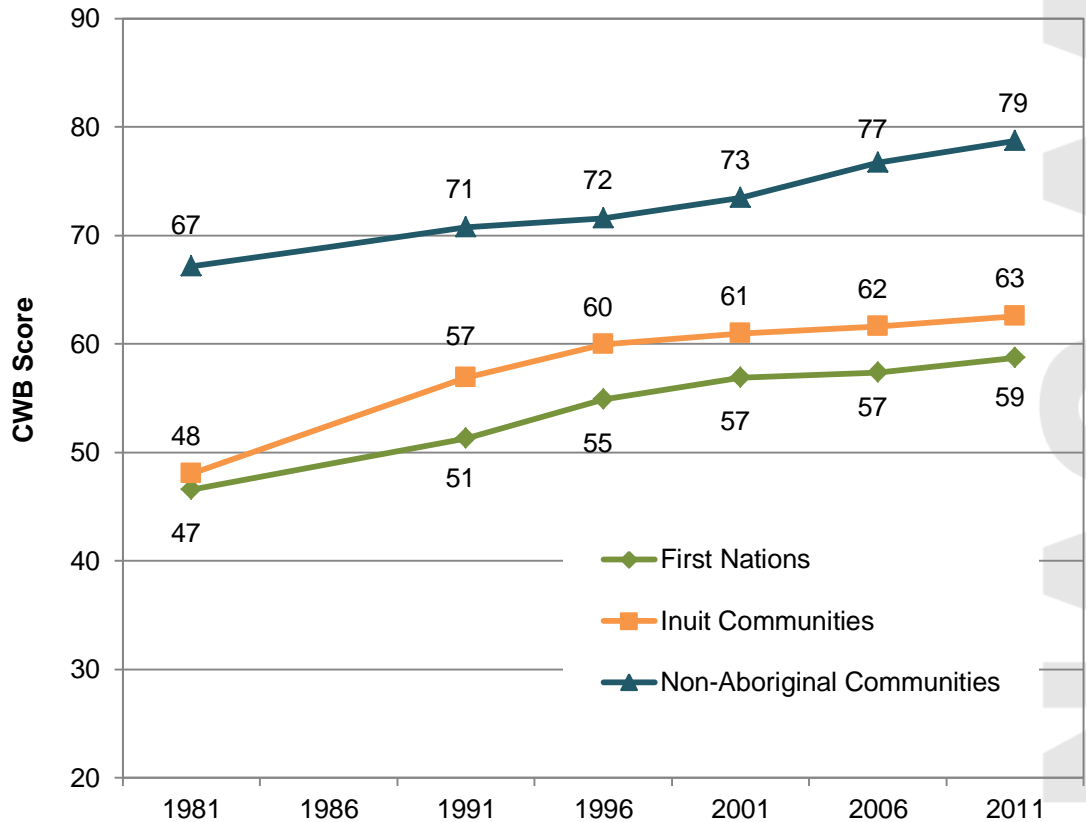




Improving Outcomes

- Quality research and data are a very high priority
- Need to expand the evidence base to help make a difference
- Research has a key role to play - need to be strategic
- Collaborative approaches are very important
- Need also to improve research capacity in Indigenous policy, people, and organizations

Socio-economic outcomes have improved, but gaps remain: Community Well-Being Index 1981-2011





Indigenous Data Landscape – Observations

- Data gaps are a long standing challenge, but evolving
- Number of data sources has multiplied
- Costs of traditional surveys
- At the same time, so are opportunities for innovative new approaches to data development (e.g. data sharing, repurposing administrative data, technology/social-media)
- Data governance is key





General Scan of Data Sources

- **The Census Program**
 - Source of basic demographic and socioeconomic information on all Canadians
 - National, regional, and community level statistics
- **The Aboriginal Peoples Survey**
 - National and regional statistics
 - Off-reserve only
- **RHS, FNREEES, and the FNIGC Community Survey**
 - Unprecedented data for on reserve population
 - Respects OCAP™
- **Other surveys**
 - Generally no Indigenous identifiers and/or the Indigenous sample is small (e.g., General Social Survey, Labour Force Survey and Canadian Community Health Survey)
- **Administrative Data**
 - Has potential, but important issues exist (research-readiness, data governance)





Good Data – Good Governance

- Identifying deficiencies/gaps relative to other populations or regions provides evidence of need
- Identifying levers to success provides evidence that a program can build on strengths to achieve desired results
- Demonstrating improvements following program implementation provides evidence of effectiveness.

The Narrative – Making the Case



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Mutual Needs and Priorities

The future of the Indigenous Data Landscape is very promising

- The mutual need for **accurate, targeted** information to plan, develop, monitor, and improve on policies and programs for Indigenous Peoples.
- Indigenous **increased autonomy** and **movement to self-government**, means increased capacity so Indigenous peoples and organizations have the information they need to conduct their daily business and make improvements.
- Collaboration and partnerships are **key**

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