

Fact Sheet (Project Beyshick)

Information on Nishnawbe Aski Nation and general facts about Aboriginal population in Canada can be found below. Feel free to send us any additional facts and suggestions.

Information on Nishnawbe Aski Nation

- The Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political affiliation of all First Nations within their territory. More than 45 communities are represented by Nishnawbe Aski Nation.
- Name is based on a principle which is sacred to our people: the notion of the people and the land, especially the unique relation between them.
- Members of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation speak one of two distinctly separate languages: Cree or Ojibway.
- The area of Nishnawbe Aski Nation runs from the Manitoba border to the Quebec border within the Hudson Bay's and James Bay's watersheds.
- It occupies between one-half and two-thirds of the whole of Ontario, spanning a land mass 700 x 400 miles across the north of the province.
- Estimated population of the more than 45 communities is 25,000

For more information, visit the Nishnawbe Aski Nation's website at: www.nan.on.ca

General Facts

- The median age of the Aboriginal population in Canada is 24.7 years compared with 37.7 years for all Canadians. (Source: Canadian Council on Social Development, 2001)
- The median pre-tax income of Aboriginal persons in Canada is \$13,526, compared with \$22,120 for the entire population of Canada. (Source: Canadian Council on Social Development, 2003)
- While Canada as a whole ranks near the top of the UN's Human Development Index, Canada's Aboriginal peoples would rank 78th on the same scale. (Source: "Same Country; Same Lands; 78 Countries Away"; Cindy Blackstock)
- Percentage of children who are poor among Aboriginal people – 52.1%

Percentage of children who are poor among all Canadians – 15.5%

(Source: Canadian Council on Social Development and UNICEF. Child Poverty in Rich Nations, June 2000)

- The rate of suicide among Aboriginal youth in Canada 5 to 6 times higher than the rate among their non-aboriginal peers. Youth deaths by suicide account for more than 15,000 years of potential life lost in Canada each year.

(Source: Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Decade for Youth & Development Office)

- Aboriginal youth aged 15-25 are at the highest risk of suicide. Those living on a reserve are 6 times more likely to die by suicide than their non-native peers; those living within cities have a suicide rate equal to non-native youth.

(Source: Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Decade for Youth & Development Office)

- Within Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory, over 68% of the population is under the age of 29.

(Source: Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Decade for Youth & Development Office)

- The Nishnawbe Aski Nation lost over 240 youths to suicide since 1990.

(Source: Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Decade for Youth & Development Office)