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## 11.A Reflections on the Canadian Experience

### **A brief summary of socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples, 1951 – present <sup>1</sup>**

In this appendix the terms ‘Aboriginal,’ ‘non-Aboriginal’ and ‘Indian’ are used, in conformity with the practices of Statistics Canada.

Where cells are empty, there is no data available.

The socioeconomic outcomes summarized in the following five tables, pertain to health, education, economic participation, family and community functioning of Aboriginal people, and, when possible, of First Nations, Inuit and Métis, separately.

The tables contain mostly numbers for the most recent time period (last decade or so) while the tables’ notes contain some information on earlier time period (from 1960s and on). Different sources were used to fill in the existing information and they are indicated in notes of each table. The empty cells in the tables indicate that the comparative information was not available/not found yet.

Gaps reported in the tables indicate the difference between total Aboriginal and total non-Aboriginal (Aboriginal minus non-Aboriginal). Gaps for individual groups (that is, First Nations, Inuit and Métis) can easily be calculated by subtracting the values (where available) of individual groups from those of the total non-Aboriginal group. I have removed the minus signs from the gaps because they seem to be confusing; my intent was to highlight that in such instances Aboriginals were reportedly doing better than non-Aboriginals (for example, table 1 shows that greater proportion of non-Aboriginal than of Aboriginal population in the North reported having one or more chronic health condition, although the gap has narrowed considerably from 2001 to 2006).

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<sup>1</sup> The author wishes to thank Senada Delic for assembling the data displayed in this appendix.

**Table A.1 Health outcomes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population**

| <i>Health indicators</i>   | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001        | 2006       |
|--|------|------|------|-------------|------------|
| <b>Self-reported health (excellent or very good)</b>   |      |      |      |             |            |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population self-reporting excellent or very good health</i>   |      |      |      |             |            |
| Total Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| Total non-Aboriginal <sup>a</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | —           | 62.0       |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| First Nations (on-reserve) <sup>b</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | —           | 39.9       |
| Inuit <sup>c</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 56.0        | 50.0       |
| Métis <sup>d</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 58.0        | 58.0       |
| <b>Chronic health condition(s)</b>   |      |      |      |             |            |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population reporting having one or more chronic health conditions (or disability in the case of First Nations) diagnosed by a health professional</i> |      |      |      |             |            |
| Total Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| First Nations (on-reserve) <sup>e</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | —           | 28.5       |
| Inuit <sup>f</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 34.0        | 44.0       |
| Métis <sup>g</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 54.0        | 54.0       |
| Northern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 48.5        | 57.3       |
| Northern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 61.6        | 62.2       |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>13.1</b> | <b>4.9</b> |
| Southern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 68.0        | 72.3       |
| Southern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 66.4        | 69.7       |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>1.6</b>  | <b>2.6</b> |
| <b>Obese</b>   |      |      |      |             |            |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population with Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30.0 or more, calculated using survey data on individuals' height and weight</i>                             |      |      |      |             |            |
| Total Aboriginal <sup>i</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 24.7        | —          |
| Total non-Aboriginal <sup>j</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 14.0        | —          |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>10.7</b> | —          |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| Inuit  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —          |
| Northern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 20.2        | 25.4       |
| Northern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 18.5        | 21.1       |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>1.7</b>  | <b>4.3</b> |
| Southern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 22.7        | 25.3       |
| Southern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 12.3        | 15.6       |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>10.4</b> | <b>9.7</b> |

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Table A.1 (Continued)

| <i>Health indicators</i>  | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001        | 2006        |
|---|------|------|------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Alcohol use (regular drinking)</b>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population who reported consuming alcohol at least once a month in the year prior to the survey</i>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| First Nations (on-reserve) <sup>k</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 65.6        | —           |
| Non-Aboriginal <sup>k</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 79.3        | —           |
| Northern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 44.4        | 51.6        |
| Northern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 65.3        | 66.8        |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —    | —    | —    | <b>20.9</b> | <b>15.2</b> |
| Southern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 54.3        | 56.7        |
| Southern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 61.0        | 64.3        |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —    | —    | —    | <b>6.7</b>  | <b>7.6</b>  |
| <b>Alcohol abuse (heavy drinking)</b>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population who reported consuming five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion once a month or more often in the year prior to the survey</i> |      |      |      |             |             |
| First Nations (on-reserve) <sup>m</sup>   | —    | 3.0  | —    | 16.0        | —           |
| Non-Aboriginal <sup>n</sup>   | 7.7  | —    | —    | 7.9         | —           |
| Northern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 17.7        | 22.9        |
| Northern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 36.1        | 38.5        |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —    | —    | —    | <b>18.4</b> | <b>15.6</b> |
| Southern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 24.1        | 26.9        |
| Southern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 45.8        | 43.0        |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —    | —    | —    | <b>21.7</b> | <b>16.1</b> |
| <b>Daily smoking</b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population who reported smoking cigarettes on a daily basis</i>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| First Nations (on-reserve) <sup>o</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 46.0        | —           |
| Total Aboriginal (off-reserve) <sup>p</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 41.5        | —           |
| Total non-Aboriginal <sup>q</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 22.1        | 17.0        |
| Inuit <sup>r</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 58.0        | 58.0        |
| Métis <sup>s</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 37.0        | 31.0        |
| Northern Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 52.5        | 50.2        |
| Northern non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>  | —    | —    | —    | 29.9        | 23.5        |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —    | —    | —    | <b>22.6</b> | <b>26.7</b> |
| South Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 45.4        | 36.2        |
| South non-Aboriginal <sup>h</sup>   | —    | —    | —    | 22.4        | 17.6        |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —    | —    | —    | <b>23.0</b> | <b>18.6</b> |

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Table A.1 (Continued)

| <i>Health indicators</i>   | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001        | 2006        |
|--|------|------|------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Infrequent physical activity<sup>h</sup></b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population whose monthly average physical activity that lasted for at least 15 minutes was less than four times per week during the three months preceding the survey</i> |      |      |      |             |             |
| Northern Aboriginal  | —    | —    | —    | 28.3        | 29.2        |
| Northern non-Aboriginal  | —    | —    | —    | 19.2        | 18.5        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>9.1</b>  | <b>10.7</b> |
| South Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 21.1        | 19.0        |
| South non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 21.6        | 18.0        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>0.5</b>  | <b>1.0</b>  |
| <b>Household income and poor health<sup>t</sup></b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportion (%) of population reporting fair or poor health by household income</i>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| <b>Low income families with fair/poor health</b>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal (off-reserve)   | —    | —    | —    | 34.0        | —           |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 25.0        | —           |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>9.0</b>  | —           |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| Inuit  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| <b>Middle income families with fair/poor health</b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal (off-reserve)   | —    | —    | —    | 26.0        | —           |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 16.0        | —           |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>10.0</b> | —           |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| Inuit  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| <b>High income families with fair/poor health</b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal (off-reserve)   | —    | —    | —    | 14.0        | —           |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 9.0         | —           |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>5.0</b>  | —           |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| Inuit  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | —           | —           |
| <b>Life expectancy (years)<sup>u</sup></b>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the projected years of life expectancy of a population group</i>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| Non-Aboriginal men   | —    | —    | —    | 77.0        | —           |
| Inuit men  | —    | —    | —    | 62.6        | —           |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>14.4</b> | —           |

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Table A.1 (Continued)

| <i>Health indicator</i> | 1986 | 1991       | 1996 | 2001        | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------------|------|-------------|------|
| Non-Aboriginal women    | —    | —          | —    | 82.2        | —    |
| Inuit women             | —    | —          | —    | 71.7        | —    |
| <b>Gap</b>              | —    | —          | —    | <b>10.5</b> | —    |
| Non-Aboriginal men      | —    | —          | —    | 77.0        | —    |
| Métis men               | —    | —          | —    | 71.9        | —    |
| <b>Gap</b>              | —    | —          | —    | <b>5.1</b>  | —    |
| Non-Aboriginal women    | —    | —          | —    | 82.2        | —    |
| Métis women             | —    | —          | —    | 77.7        | —    |
| <b>Gap</b>              | —    | —          | —    | <b>4.5</b>  | —    |
| Non-Aboriginal men      | —    | 73.6       | —    | 77.0        | —    |
| First Nations men       | —    | 66.9       | —    | 71.1        | —    |
| <b>Gap</b>              | —    | <b>6.7</b> | —    | <b>5.9</b>  | —    |
| Non-Aboriginal women    | —    | 80.3       | —    | 82.2        | —    |
| First Nations women     | —    | 74.0       | —    | 76.7        | —    |
| <b>Gap</b>              | —    | <b>6.3</b> | —    | <b>5.5</b>  | —    |

<sup>a</sup> This information is derived from the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and is taken from Jenz, Soto and Turner (2009), p.9.

<sup>b</sup> This information is derived from the 2002/2003 First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RLHS) taken from Health Canada (2009a), p.11. A comparative figure for total Canadian population in this report is 57.6 per cent and is derived from the 2003 CCHS.

<sup>c</sup> This information is derived from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) and is taken from Tait (2008), p.10.

<sup>d</sup> This information is derived from the APS and is taken from Jenz, Soto and Turner (2009), p.9.

<sup>e</sup> This information is derived from the 2002/2003 RLHS and it pertains to the prevalence of disability (a chronic health condition limiting activity) among First Nations on-reserve. A comparative figure derived from the 2003 CCHS is 25.8 per cent for the total Canadian population, as reported in Health Canada (2009a), p.14.

<sup>f</sup> This information is derived from the APS and is taken from Tait (2008), p.13.

<sup>g</sup> This information is derived from the APS and is taken from Jenz, Soto and Turner (2009), p.10.

<sup>h</sup> This information derived from the CCHS (2000/2001 and 2005/2006) and is taken from Lix et al. (2009), p.4.

<sup>i</sup> This information is derived from the 2001 APS and is taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.28.

<sup>j</sup> This information is derived from the 2000/2001 CCHS and is taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.28.

<sup>k</sup> This information is derived from the 2002/2003 RLHS and is taken from Health Canada, 2009, p.22.

<sup>l</sup> This information is taken from Health Canada, 2009, p.22.

<sup>m</sup> The information for 1991 is taken from Barsh (1993), p.27; the information for 2001 is derived from the 2002/2003 RLHS and is taken from Health Canada, 2009, p.22.

<sup>n</sup> The information for 1986 is taken from Barsh (1993), p.28; the information for 2001 is derived from the 2002/2003 RLHS and is taken from Health Canada, 2009, p.22.

<sup>o</sup> This information is derived from the 2002/2003 RLHS and is taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.7.

<sup>p</sup> This information is derived from the 2001 APS and is taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.7.

<sup>q</sup> This information is derived from the 2000/2001 and 2005 CCHS and is taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.7 and from Tait (2008), p.14.

<sup>r</sup> This information was derived from the APS and was taken from Tait (2008), p. 14.

<sup>s</sup> This information was derived from the APS and was taken from Jenz, Soto and Turner (2009), p. 17.

<sup>t</sup> The information on low, middle, and high income families with poor health was taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.11. Incidence of low income refers to the percentage of economic families or unattached individuals who spend 20 per cent more than average on food, shelter and clothing.

<sup>u</sup> The information for 1991 is taken from Barsh (1993), p.15; the information for 2001 is taken from Statistics Canada (2005), p. 20.

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*Additional notes for table 1*

For the general population in Canada, life expectancy at birth in 2017 was projected at 78.7 years for men and 83.3 years for women. The projected 2017 life expectancy figures for First Nations are 73.3 years for men and 78.4 for women. For Métis, these figures are 74.1 for men and 79.7 for women and for Inuit, the figures are 63.9 for men and 72.9 for women (Statistics Canada 2005, p.20).

Suicide is approximately three times more prevalent among the Aboriginal population than among the general non-Aboriginal population. Among Aboriginal groups, Inuit and First Nations communities are most affected. Suicide rates are 5 to 7 times higher for First Nations youth than for non-Aboriginal youth. In its recent report, Health Canada compared First Nations and Canadian suicide rates for 1989–1993 time period for ages 0–14 and 15–24 years and found that the suicide rate for young First Nations men are extremely high. The suicide among First Nations men between the ages of 15–24 years was 126 per 100,000, compared to 24 per 100,000 for Canadian men of the same age group. The rate for young First Nations women was 35 per 100,000 versus only 5 per 100,000 for Canadian women. Suicide rates among Inuit are among the highest in the world, currently about 11 times the national average (Health Canada 2012).

In 1988, the overall suicide rate for Aboriginal people was 40.4 per 100,000 compared with an average Canadian national rate over the 1970–1980 period of 14.1 per 100,000 (Barsh 1993).

In 2009, about 37 per cent of Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living in the provinces reported having been a victim of at least one offence. In comparison, 26 per cent of non-Aboriginal people reported having been victimized over the same period. Aboriginal people are also more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be the victim of non-spousal violence (12 per cent compared to 5). Aboriginal people were much more likely to report being a victim of spousal violence, 10 per cent for Aboriginal people compared to 6 per cent for non-Aboriginal people (Perreault 2011).

In 2000–2001, northern Aboriginal people were more likely than southern Aboriginal people to be obese, to smoke daily and to have infrequent physical activity but they were less likely to report a number of chronic health conditions. The tendency to report risk factors increased by 2005–2006 and the difference in prevalence of chronic diseases was less pronounced (Lix et al. 2009).

**Table A.2 Educational attainment outcomes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population<sup>a</sup>**

| <i>Educational attainment<sup>b</sup></i>  | 1986       | 1991 | 1996        | 2001        | 2006        |
|--|------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population (age 15+) with the listed highest level of education</i> |            |      |             |             |             |
| <b>Less than high school education</b>   |            |      |             |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | 26.0       | —    | 51.0        | 48.0        | 43.7        |
| Non-Aboriginal   | 18.0       | —    | 23.0        | 30.1        | 23.1        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | <b>8.0</b> | —    | <b>28.0</b> | <b>17.9</b> | <b>20.6</b> |
| First Nations  | —          | —    | —           | 50.6        | 48.4        |
| First Nations (on-reserve)   | 44.7       | —    | —           | —           | —           |
| Inuit  | 54.0       | —    | —           | 57.7        | 60.7        |
| Métis  | —          | —    | —           | 42.2        | 34.6        |
| <b>High school diploma</b>   |            |      |             |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —          | —    | 14.0        | 9.9         | 21.8        |
| Non-Aboriginal   | —          | —    | 19.0        | 14.2        | 25.6        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —          | —    | <b>5.0</b>  | <b>4.3</b>  | <b>3.8</b>  |
| First Nations  | —          | —    | —           | 9.0         | 19.9        |
| Inuit  | 20.0       | —    | —           | 6.2         | 13.5        |
| Métis  | —          | —    | —           | 11.9        | 25.6        |
| <b>Some post-secondary schooling</b>   |            |      |             |             |             |
| First Nations  | 21.5       | —    | —           | —           | —           |
| Inuit  | 13.0       | —    | —           | —           | —           |
| Non-Aboriginal   | 31.9       | —    | —           | —           | —           |
| <b>Trade certificate or diploma</b>  |            |      |             |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —          | —    | —           | 12.1        | 11.4        |
| Non-Aboriginal   | —          | —    | —           | 10.8        | 10.8        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —          | —    | —           | <b>1.3</b>  | <b>0.6</b>  |
| First Nations  | —          | —    | —           | 11.5        | 10.4        |
| Inuit  | —          | —    | —           | 11.1        | 9.5         |
| Métis  | —          | —    | —           | 13.6        | 13.1        |
| <b>College certificate or diploma</b>  |            |      |             |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —          | —    | 18.0        | 11.6        | 14.5        |
| Non-Aboriginal   | —          | —    | 29.0        | 15.1        | 17.4        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —          | —    | <b>11.0</b> | <b>3.5</b>  | <b>2.9</b>  |
| First Nations  | —          | —    | —           | 10.7        | 13.2        |
| Inuit  | —          | —    | —           | 9.5         | 12.0        |
| Métis  | —          | —    | —           | 13.4        | 16.9        |
| <b>University certificate or diploma</b>   |            |      |             |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —          | —    | —           | 1.4         | 2.8         |
| Non-Aboriginal   | —          | —    | —           | 2.6         | 4.5         |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —          | —    | —           | <b>1.2</b>  | <b>1.7</b>  |

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Table A.2 (Continued)

| <i>Educational attainment<sup>b</sup></i>   | 1986          | 1991        | 1996          | 2001       | 2006       |
|---|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| First Nations   | —             | —           | —             | 1.4        | 2.9        |
| Inuit   | —             | —           | —             | 0.8        | 1.5        |
| Métis   | —             | —           | —             | 1.4        | 2.7        |
| <b>University degree</b>  |               |             |               |            |            |
| Total Aboriginal  | —             | —           | 3.0           | 3.4        | 4.1        |
| Non-Aboriginal  | —             | —           | 15.0          | 10.8       | 11.9       |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —             | —           | <b>12.0</b>   | <b>7.4</b> | <b>7.8</b> |
| First Nations   | —             | —           | —             | 3.2        | 3.7        |
| Inuit   | —             | —           | —             | 1.6        | 2.0        |
| Métis   | —             | —           | —             | 4.0        | 5.0        |
| <b>Graduate diploma or degree</b>   |               |             |               |            |            |
| Total Aboriginal  | —             | —           | —             | 1.0        | 1.7        |
| Non-Aboriginal  | —             | —           | —             | 5.0        | 6.7        |
| <b>Gap</b>  | —             | —           | —             | <b>4.0</b> | <b>5.0</b> |
| First Nations   | —             | —           | —             | 1.0        | 1.5        |
| Inuit   | —             | —           | —             | 0.3        | 0.7        |
| Métis   | —             | —           | —             | 1.3        | 2.0        |
| <b>From 1986 to 1996 (Hull, 2000)<sup>c</sup></b>   |               |             |               |            |            |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population (age 15+) with the highest level of education, categorized into four categories; less than a high school diploma; a high school diploma; some postsecondary; and completed post-secondary</i> |               |             |               |            |            |
| <b>Less than high school diploma</b>  |               |             |               |            |            |
| Non-Aboriginal people   | 44.0          | 38.0        | 34.0          | —          | —          |
| Registered Indians  | 72.0          | 62.0        | 56.0          | —          | —          |
| Other Aboriginal people   | 51.0          | 44.0        | 41.0          | —          | —          |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to Registered Indians)</b>   | <b>22.0</b>   | <b>24.0</b> | <b>22.0</b>   | —          | —          |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to Other Aboriginal people)</b>  | <b>7.0</b>    | <b>6.0</b>  | <b>7.0</b>    | —          | —          |
| <b>Completed high school diploma</b>  |               |             |               |            |            |
| Non-Aboriginal people   | 13.0          | 15.0        | 14.0          | —          | —          |
| Registered Indians  | 5.0           | 7.0         | 7.0           | —          | —          |
| Other Aboriginal people   | 13.0          | 13.0        | 12.0          | —          | —          |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to Registered Indians)</b>   | <b>8.0</b>    | <b>8.0</b>  | <b>7.0</b>    | —          | —          |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to other Aboriginal people)</b>  | <b>at par</b> | <b>2.0</b>  | <b>2.0</b>    | —          | —          |
| <b>Some post-secondary education</b>  |               |             |               |            |            |
| Non-Aboriginal people   | 16.0          | 16.0        | 16.0          | —          | —          |
| Registered Indians  | 12.0          | 15.0        | 16.0          | —          | —          |
| Other Aboriginal people   | 13.0          | 17.0        | 17.0          | —          | —          |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to Registered Indians)</b>   | <b>4.0</b>    | <b>1.0</b>  | <b>at par</b> | —          | —          |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to other Aboriginal people)</b>  | <b>3.0</b>    | <b>1.0</b>  | <b>1.0</b>    | —          | —          |

Continued next page



Table A.2 (Continued)

| <i>Educational attainment<sup>b</sup></i>              | 1986        | 1991        | 1996        | 2001 | 2006 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|------|
| <b>Completed post-secondary education</b>              |             |             |             |      |      |
| Non-Aboriginal people                                  | 27.0        | 32.0        | 35.0        | –    | –    |
| Registered Indians                                     | 11.0        | 17.0        | 20.0        | –    | –    |
| Other Aboriginal people                                | 9.0         | 27.0        | 29.0        | –    | –    |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to Registered Indians)</b>      | <b>16.0</b> | <b>15.0</b> | <b>15.0</b> | –    | –    |
| <b>Gap (non-Aboriginal to other Aboriginal people)</b> | <b>18.0</b> | <b>5.0</b>  | <b>6.0</b>  | –    | –    |

<sup>a</sup> Population 15 years and over for Census 2001 and Census 2006. Because of the changes in questions, the comparisons between the 2006 and 2001 are only possible for university degrees. The information from Census 1996 is not comparable because it pertains to the population group aged 20–29 years.

<sup>b</sup> The 2006 information was derived from Statistics Canada (2010). The 2001 information was taken from Reading and Wien (2009). The 1996 information was taken from Tait (1999). The 1986 information was taken from Barsh (1993).

<sup>c</sup> This information on highest level of schooling is based on data from Census 1986, Census 1991, and Census 1996 and is taken from Hull (2000), p.4–6. Completed postsecondary education may include any completed credential such as a certificate, diploma or degree.

#### *Additional notes for table 2*

In the early 1960s, only 4 per cent of Indian students on-reserve remained in school through Grade 12. By 1990s, the proportion of on-reserve children who remain in school has increased to close to 54 per cent. In 1986, about 26 per cent of the off-reserve Aboriginal people had less than Grade 12, compared to 18 per cent of non-Aboriginal people. For the on-reserve population, this proportion was 44.7 per cent. For the same time period, the proportion of the general population with a university degree ranged 6 per cent to 11 per cent in urban areas while for Aboriginal people, the proportion was less than 3 per cent. In 1986, only 20 per cent of Inuit had completed secondary school and 54 per cent had less than Grade 9 education. The number of Indian students enrolled in university programmes and other post-secondary institutions increased from 60 students in 1960–1961 to 21,442 in 1990–1991. This comprised an increase of 4.6 per cent, which was larger than the 3.1 per cent increase for the general population (Barsh 1993).

#### *Urban Aboriginal people (comparison over 20 year period)*

Over the 1981–2001 period, school attendance rates among young Aboriginal people increased substantially in some CMAs. In 1981, the school attendance was in the 30 per cent to 46 per cent range while in 2001 the attendance ranged from just under 50 per cent to 66 per cent. The improvement, however, was not noticed in all CMAs. Between 1981 and 2001, the gap in school attendance between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth narrowed in some CMAs, such as Montréal, Sudbury and

Winnipeg, but widened in others, such as Toronto, Regina, Calgary and Vancouver (McMullen 2005).

Between 1981 and 2001, in some CMAs (such as Toronto, Sudbury, Winnipeg, Regina, and Calgary) the share of Aboriginal male youth who had not completed high school declined by 20 to 28 percentage points. There were also some smaller decreases in Montréal, Ottawa–Hull, Thunder Bay, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Vancouver (McMullen 2005).

*Urban Aboriginal people in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (an assessment of literacy skills)*

In 2003, the proportions of First Nations adults aged 16 and over who scored below Level 3 (minimum level deemed necessary for coping in information-driven society) was about 72 in urban Manitoba and 70 per cent in urban Saskatchewan. The proportions of Métis who scored below Level 3 were 54 per cent and 56 per cent for the two urban areas, respectively. The proportions of non-Aboriginal populations who scored below Level 3 were 44 per cent in urban Manitoba and 37 per cent in urban Saskatchewan. The proportions of people who scored at Level 1 (very limited abilities to locate, understand and use information) were also large among Aboriginal people (between 30 per cent and 35 per cent for First Nations People and between 19 per cent and 20 per cent for Metis) compared to proportions of non-Aboriginal people, between 12 per cent and 18 per cent (Bougie 2008).

**Table A.3 Economic participation outcomes for total Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population (population aged 15 years and over)**

| <i>Economic participation</i>   | 1986 | 1991        | 1996        | 2001        | 2006       |
|---------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>Labour Force<sup>a</sup></b> |      |             |             |             |            |
| <b>Participation rate</b>       |      |             |             |             |            |
| Total Aboriginal                | –    | 57.4        | 58.7        | 61.4        | 63.0       |
| Non-Aboriginal                  | 66.0 | 68.0        | 65.5        | 66.5        | 66.9       |
| <b>Participation rate gap</b>   | –    | <b>10.6</b> | <b>6.8</b>  | <b>5.1</b>  | <b>3.9</b> |
| First Nations                   | 60.3 | –           | –           | 57.3        | 58.8       |
| Inuit                           | 55.6 | –           | –           | 62.5        | 61.3       |
| Métis                           | –    | –           | –           | 69.0        | 70.1       |
| On-reserve                      | –    | –           | –           | 52.0        | –          |
| Large urban centres             | –    | –           | –           | 66.0        | –          |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b>        |      |             |             |             |            |
| Total Aboriginal                | –    | 24.5        | 24.0        | 19.1        | 14.8       |
| Non-Aboriginal                  | –    | 10.2        | 10.1        | 7.1         | 6.3        |
| <b>Unemployment rate gap</b>    | –    | <b>14.3</b> | <b>13.9</b> | <b>12.0</b> | <b>8.5</b> |

Continued next page

Table A.3 (Continued)

| <i>Economic participation</i>                                | 1986   | 1991 | 1996         | 2001          | 2006          |
|--|--------|------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| First Nations  | —      | —    | —            | 22.2          | 18.0          |
| Inuit  | —      | —    | —            | 22.2          | 20.3          |
| Métis  | —      | —    | —            | 14.0          | 10.0          |
| On-reserve   | —      | —    | —            | 28.0          | —             |
| Large urban centres  | —      | —    | —            | 14.0          | —             |
| <b>Employment rate</b>                                       |        |      |              |               |               |
| Total Aboriginal   | —      | —    | —            | 49.7          | 53.7          |
| Non-Aboriginal   | 51.1   | —    | —            | 61.8          | 62.7          |
| <b>Employment rate gap</b>                                   | —      | —    | —            | <b>12.1</b>   | <b>9.0</b>    |
| First Nations  | 37.3   | —    | —            | 44.6          | 48.2          |
| Inuit  | 32.6   | —    | —            | 48.6          | 48.9          |
| Métis  | —      | —    | —            | 59.4          | 63.1          |
| <b>Income<sup>b</sup></b>                                    |        |      |              |               |               |
| <b>Average employment income (\$)</b>                        |        |      |              |               |               |
| <i>Full-time, full-year workers</i>                          |        |      |              |               |               |
| Total Aboriginal   | —      | —    | —            | 33,416        | 39,942        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —      | —    | —            | 43,486        | 51,505        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —      | —    | —            | <b>10,070</b> | <b>11,563</b> |
| First Nations  | —      | —    | —            | 32,176        | 37,356        |
| Inuit  | —      | —    | —            | 36,152        | 45,514        |
| Métis  | —      | —    | —            | 34,778        | 42,373        |
| <b>Median employment income (\$)</b>                         |        |      |              |               |               |
| <i>Full-time, full-year workers</i>                          |        |      |              |               |               |
| Total Aboriginal   | —      | —    | —            | —             | 34,940        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —      | —    | —            | —             | 41,592        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —      | —    | —            | —             | <b>6,652</b>  |
| First Nations  | —      | —    | —            | —             | 32,533        |
| Inuit  | —      | —    | —            | —             | 40,829        |
| Métis  | —      | —    | —            | —             | 37,273        |
| <b>Average income (\$)</b>                                   | —      | —    | —            | —             | —             |
| First Nations  | 13,021 | —    | —            | —             | —             |
| Inuit  | 11,867 | —    | —            | —             | —             |
| Non-Aboriginal   | 18,733 | —    | —            | —             | —             |
| <b>Median employment income (\$)<sup>c</sup> All workers</b> |        |      |              |               |               |
| Total Aboriginal   | —      | —    | 12,003       | 16,036        | 18,962        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —      | —    | 21,431       | 25,081        | 27,097        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —      | —    | <b>9,428</b> | <b>9,045</b>  | <b>8,135</b>  |

<sup>a</sup> 2006 information from Statistics Canada (2011a). 2001 information from Statistics Canada (2011), Mendelson (2004) and Reading and Wien (2009). The 1996 and 1991 information from Mendelson (2004). The 1986 information was taken from Barsh (1993).

<sup>b</sup> 2006 information derived from Statistics Canada (2010). The 2001 and 1996 information from Reading and Wien (2009) and Wilson and Macdonald (2010). 1986 information from Barsh (1993).

<sup>c</sup> The summary of median employment income gap (for all workers) reported in the last row suggests that if the rate of diminishment of the income gap between 1996 and 2006 continues, it will take 63 years for the Aboriginal population to catch up to the rest of Canada' (Wilson & Macdonald 2010, p. 8).

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*Additional notes for table 3*

The closing of the employment income gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 25–44 who hold a university degree occurred in 2006 for the first time. This gain at the university degree level was not observed for the 45–64 age group category (Wilson & Macdonald 2010).

*Inuit (comparison over 20 year period)*

Over the 1981–2001 period, labour force participation rates consistently increased among Inuit women and consistently decreased among non-Inuit men. The result in 2001 was that the labour force participation gap between Inuit and non-Inuit was negligible (Senecal 2007).

Over the 1981–2001 period, the gap in unemployment rates between Inuit and non-Inuit increased, especially for men. In 2001, the unemployment rate for Inuit men was more than three times higher than that of non-Inuit men and for women it was three times the rate of non-Inuit women (Senecal 2007).

*Urban Aboriginal people (comparison over 20 year period)*

Over the period from 1981 to 2001, the largest gains in employment rates occurred in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Sudbury (Siggner & Costa 2005).

Over the 1981–2001, there was a 281 per cent growth in Aboriginal employment-income earners, earning \$40,000 or more a year. However, there was also even larger growth of earners making less than \$15,000 a year. Overall, for the 20 year period, the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal median employment income narrowed in most CMAs (McMullen 2005).

Over the period from 1981 to 2001, employment incomes of Aboriginal people increased in CMAs from Ottawa-Hull to Regina while in other CMAs (Montreal, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) employment incomes of Aboriginal people dropped. It is notable that over the 1980–2000 period, the gap in median employment income between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people closed substantially because employment incomes of non-Aboriginal people declined in most of the CMAs and grew very little in the rest of the CMAs over that period of time. In Winnipeg, for example, in 1980 an Aboriginal person received \$56 for every \$100 that non-Aboriginal person received; by year 2000, an Aboriginal person received \$68 for every \$100 than a non-Aboriginal person received. The CMAs from Saskatoon west to Vancouver were the exceptions as the change in the gap in those CMAs was minimal (Siggner & Costa 2005).

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### *Earlier*

Over the period from 1965 to 1985, Aboriginal peoples' per capita income increased from 20 per cent to 50 per cent of Canada's national per capita income and their average family income increased to 76 per cent of the average family income of non-Aboriginal Canadians. In 1985, only 7 per cent of Aboriginal families had incomes over \$60,000, compared to 15 per cent of all Canadian families. First Nations living on-reserve had only 54 per cent of the average family income of other Canadians. About 51 per cent of the First Nations workers living on-reserve earned less than \$5,000, compared to 28 per cent of the general population. Median income of the off-reserve Aboriginal men in 1985 was \$9,800, which was less than half of the median income of non-Aboriginal men, \$20,800, while the median income of Aboriginal women living off-reserve (\$7,200) was close to 67 per cent of the median income of Canadian women (Barsh 1993).

In 1985, the unemployment rates of young Aboriginal workers (aged 15–24 years) were much higher from that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts: 31.6 per cent for First nations and 35.7 per cent for Inuit, compared to 16.4 per cent for non-Aboriginal workers. Similarly, for prime age workers (aged 25 years and over) the unemployment rate was 18.8 per cent and 21.4 per cent for First nations and for Inuit respectively, compared to 8.7 per cent unemployment rate for non-Aboriginal workers (Barsh 1993).

During the 1980s, the proportion of Aboriginal people receiving government transfer payments increased significantly. In 1991, 46 per cent of First Nations people living on-reserve relied on transfer payments for their basic needs (Barsh 1993).

**Table A.4 Family functioning indicators for total Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population<sup>a</sup>**

| <i>Family functioning indicators</i>   | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001        | 2006        |
|--|------|------|------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Divorced<sup>b</sup></b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | 7.6         |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | 8.1         |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | —           | <b>0.5</b>  |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | —           | 6.9         |
| Inuit  | —    | —    | —    | —           | 3.0         |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | —           | 8.9         |
| <b>Lone parent<sup>c</sup></b>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of children aged 14 years and under living with lone parent</i>                      |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | 35.0        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | 13.0 | —    | —    | 17.0        | 17.0        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | —           | <b>18.0</b> |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | —           | 37.0        |
| On-reserve   | 24.0 | —    | —    | —           | 33.0        |
| Off-reserve  | 30.0 | —    | —    | —           | 41.0        |
| Inuit  | 19.0 | —    | —    | —           | 26.0        |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | 31.0        | 31.0        |
| <b>Government transfer payments recipients<sup>d</sup></b>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to government transfer payments as a percentage (%) of total income</i>                                     |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 20.8        | 18.1        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 11.5        | 10.9        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>9.3</b>  | <b>7.2</b>  |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | 24.3        | 21.8        |
| Inuit  | —    | —    | —    | 20.3        | 17.7        |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | 15.7        | 13.8        |
| <b>Low income cut-off (LICO) before and after tax<sup>e</sup></b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population below Statistics Canada's low income cut-off, before and after tax</i> |      |      |      |             |             |
| <b>LICO before-tax</b>   |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 31.2        | 25.0        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | 12.4        | 11.6        |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | <b>18.8</b> | <b>13.4</b> |
| First Nations  | —    | —    | —    | 37.3        | 32.3        |
| Inuit  | —    | —    | —    | 21.9        | 18.4        |
| Métis  | —    | —    | —    | 24.5        | 18.0        |
| <b>LICO after-tax</b>  |      |      |      |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | 18.7        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | —    | —    | —    | —           | 8.4         |
| <b>Gap</b>   | —    | —    | —    | —           | <b>10.3</b> |

Continued next page

Table A.4 (Continued)

| <i>Family functioning indicators</i> | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| First Nations                        | —    | —    | —    | —    | 24.6 |
| Inuit                                | —    | —    | —    | —    | 13.8 |
| Métis                                | —    | —    | —    | —    | 12.8 |

<sup>a</sup> Government transfer payments refer to the percentage of total income. Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) figures capture the prevalence of low income for persons in economic family. Population 15 years of age and over.

<sup>b</sup> This information was derived from Statistics Canada (2010).

<sup>c</sup> The 2006 and 2001 information was taken from Statistics Canada (2008), p.15. The 1986 information was taken from Barsh (1993), p.27.

<sup>d</sup> The 2006 information was taken from Statistics Canada (2010). The 2001 information was taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.10.

<sup>e</sup> The 2006 information was taken from Statistics Canada (2010). The 2001 information was taken from Reading and Wien (2009), p.10.

#### *Additional notes for table 4*

In the mid-1990s 18.2 per cent of all Aboriginal families in Canada were lone-parent families.

From 1996 to 2001, the proportion of lone-parent families among Registered Indians had increased from 27 per cent to 31 per cent of all families. In 2001, about 33 per cent of Aboriginal families living on reserves were lone-parent families. Also, in 2001, 22 per cent of Registered Indian women were lone mothers, in comparison to 8 per cent of the non-Aboriginal women (INAC 2012, p.22).

#### *Urban Aboriginal people (comparison over 20 year period)*

In 2001, between 14 per cent and 32 per cent of Aboriginal households in major CMAs were lone-parent family, compared to about 10 per cent for non-Aboriginal households (Siggner & Costa 2005).

In 2001, total income from all sources varied across the major CMAs. In certain CMAs (such as Montreal, Ottawa-Hull, Toronto, Sudbury, Calgary and Edmonton) Aboriginal population (aged 25–44) had total incomes of about \$20,000 or more. The range in other CMAs was \$16,000 to \$19,000. In Regina, Saskatoon and Thunder Bay, the median total income of Aboriginal people was only slightly more than half that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts (Siggner & Costa 2005).

The dependence on government transfer payments among the Aboriginal population decreased substantially in all CMAs over the 1981–2001 period (McMullen 2005).

In the Prairies CMAs, the share of Aboriginal income received from government transfers declined from about 33.3 per cent in 1980 to between 25 per cent and 20

per cent in year 2000. This, however, was still significantly more than the income share that non-Aboriginal people in those CMAs received from government transfers in year 2000, which was about 10 per cent to 11 per cent. In other CMAs, however, the share of income received by Aboriginal people from government transfers was much lower and it ranged from 10 per cent to 12 per cent in year 2000.

Over the period from 1981 to 2001, the proportions of low income among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people differed across different CMAs. Low income rates in year 2000 in most CMAs was significantly higher among urban Aboriginal people than among urban non-Aboriginal people (42 per cent compared to 17 per cent) although there was some indication of emergence of an Aboriginal ‘middle class’ earning sufficient employment incomes to afford a ‘decent’ standard of living. Between 1980 and 2000, the number of Aboriginal people with employment incomes of \$40,000 or more increased by 281 per cent while the number of non-Aboriginal people in that income category increased by 86 per cent for the same period of time. The number of Aboriginal people in the lowest income category, however, grew even faster (Siggner & Costa 2005).

**Table A.5 Community functioning for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population groups**

| <i>Community functioning indicators</i>  | 1986 | 1991 | 1996        | 2001        | 2006        |
|--|------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Living in crowded housing<sup>a</sup></b>   |      |      |             |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population living in crowded homes, defined as more than one person per room</i>          |      |      |             |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal (off-reserve)   | –    | –    | 17.0        | 17.0        | 11.0        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | 1.8  | –    | –           | 7.0         | 3.0         |
| <b>Gap</b>   | –    | –    | –           | <b>10.0</b> | <b>8.0</b>  |
| First Nations  | –    | –    | 20.0        | –           | 15.0        |
| First Nations (on-reserve)   | 28.9 | –    | 33.0        | –           | 26.0        |
| First Nations (off-reserve)  | 11.3 | –    | 10.0        | –           | 7.0         |
| Inuit  | 31.1 | –    | 36.0        | –           | 31.0        |
| Métis  | –    | –    | 7.0         | –           | 3.0         |
| <b>Dwellings in need of major repair<sup>b</sup></b>   |      |      |             |             |             |
| <i>These numbers refer to the proportions (%) of population living in dwellings in need of major repairs, as judged by the respondents</i> |      |      |             |             |             |
| Total Aboriginal   | –    | –    | 25.0        | –           | 25.0        |
| Total non-Aboriginal   | –    | –    | 8.0         | –           | 7.0         |
| <b>Gap</b>   | –    | –    | <b>17.0</b> | –           | <b>18.0</b> |

Continued next page



Table A.5 (Continued)

| <i>Community functioning indicators</i>   | 1986 | 1991        | 1996 | 2001        | 2006 |
|---|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| First Nations                             | —    | —           | 26.0 | —           | 28.0 |
| First Nations (on-reserve)                | —    | —           | 36.0 | —           | 44.0 |
| First Nations (off-reserve)               | —    | —           | 18.0 | —           | 17.0 |
| Inuit                                     | —    | —           | 19.0 | —           | 28.0 |
| Métis                                     | —    | —           | 17.0 | —           | 14.0 |
| <b>Community well-being<sup>c</sup></b>   |      |             |      |             |      |
| CWB index for First Nations               | —    | 0.58        | —    | 0.66        | —    |
| CWB index for Inuit                       | —    | 0.63        | —    | 0.69        | —    |
| CWB index for non-Aboriginal              | —    | 0.77        | —    | 0.81        | —    |
| <b>Gap</b> First Nation vs non-Aboriginal | —    | <b>0.19</b> | —    | <b>0.15</b> | —    |
| <b>Gap</b> Inuit vs non-Aboriginal        | —    | <b>0.14</b> | —    | <b>0.12</b> | —    |

<sup>a</sup> The 2006 and 1996 information was taken from Statistics Canada (2008), p.25, p.34, p.45. The 1986 information is taken from Barsh (1993), p.22.

<sup>b</sup> This information was taken from Statistics Canada (2008), p.25, p.34, p.45.

<sup>c</sup> Community Well-Being (CWB) index is a composite average score for a community based on the characteristics of its residents. The measure was developed by INAC and it pertains to residents' income, education, housing quantity and quality, and labour force characteristics such as participation and employment rates. This information was taken from Barsh (1993), p.6.

#### *Additional notes for table 5*

Since the early 1960s, the proportions of on-reserve houses with running water has increased from 12 per cent to 85 per cent. By 1990s, about 75 per cent of the on-reserve houses had central heating and about 90 per cent had electricity (Barsh 1993).

#### *Are things getting better or worse or stay the same? 1951, 1969 and on*

The tables and notes presented above suggest that there has been some improvement in some of the socioeconomic outcomes over the past two decades. The improvement, however, is related mostly to the socioeconomic conditions of some groups of Aboriginal people such as urban Aboriginal people and to some indicators such as education and labour force participation. A reader should bear in mind that the improvements in relation to those indicators were much more pronounced among the non-Aboriginal population and that most of the long-lasting gaps have continued widening.

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