

Benchmarking Metis Economic and Social Development

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Drawing on the framework developed by the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB), this paper examines the extent to which Métis in Canada are participating in the Canadian economy and in Canadian society compared with non-Aboriginal Canadians. A number of indicators from the NAEDB report will be used to compare Métis economic performance with that of non-Aboriginal Canadians in terms of employment, income, and education. In addition, new indicators of Métis socio-economic development will be suggested for governance, land and resources, and entrepreneurship and business development. Hence, this paper provides an indication of the appropriate indicators to benchmark Métis socio-economic development against non-Aboriginal socio-economic development, while establishing a benchmark against which future progress can be gauged.

This report will also analyze the issue of ethnic mobility, one of the most pressing issues encountered when analyzing trends in Métis, and Aboriginal, socio-economic development in Canada. Ethnic mobility occurs when an individual identifies themselves as one Aboriginal identity in one survey period, while identifying under a different Aboriginal identity in another survey period. The most common form of ethnic mobility is from a non-Aboriginal identity to either a Métis or First Nations identity. In order to fully understand the impact of ethnic mobility, this report will attempt to construct estimates of the extent of ethnic mobility between 2001 and 2006, as well as between 2006 and 2011. Where possible, the paper will identify the impact of this ethnic mobility on the indicators and measures of socio-economic development.