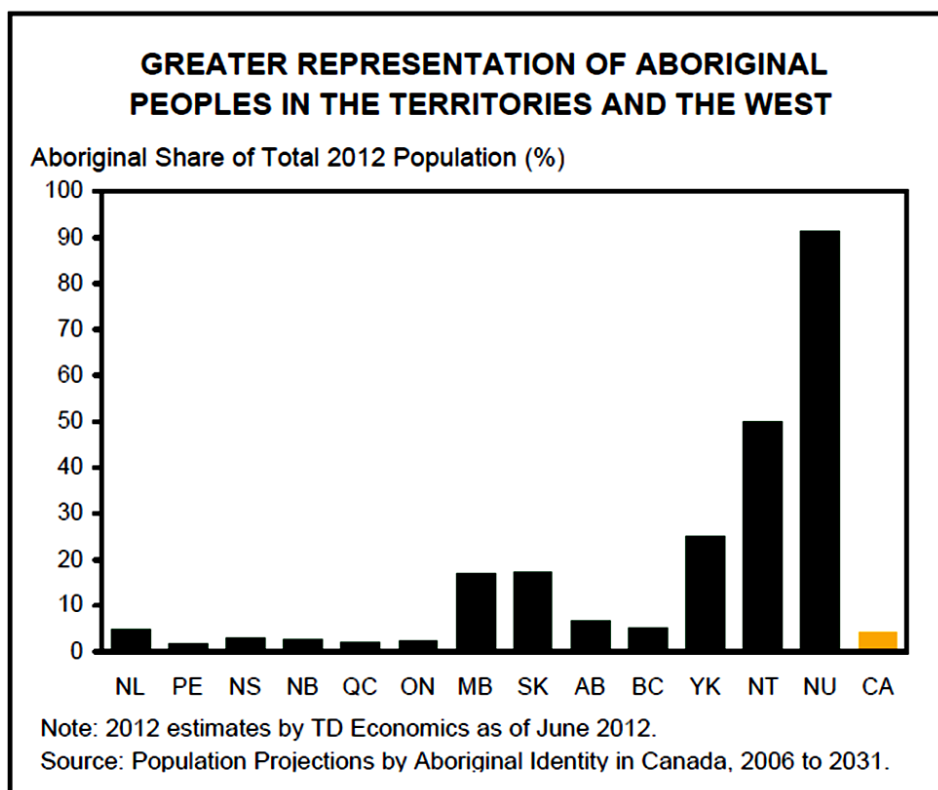


Indigenous Myths & Misconceptions



Misconception: Almost all Indigenous peoples live on reserves or in rural areas

About 20% of Indigenous peoples in Canada lived on a reserve in 2011, according to Statistics Canada. In addition to most Indigenous peoples living off of a reserve, the majority of all Indigenous peoples (54% in 2011) lived in an urban setting. Both of these statistics have been relatively constant over the past decade, showing that most Indigenous peoples are urban and off-reserve residents, and have been for some time. In Alberta in 2011, 43% of the Indigenous population lived in Edmonton and Calgary.



Considering the Indigenous population across Canada, it is British Columbia, the Prairies, and Central Canada that are home to the highest number of Indigenous peoples. This outcome is not very surprising as these provinces have the most number of Canadians.

When the Indigenous population is expressed as a percentage of total provincial or territorial population, we see that the territories have far and away the highest concentration of Indigenous residents. Still, nearly 20% Saskatchewan and Manitoba residents identifies as Indigenous - more than quadruple the national average.⁷