

ABORIGINAL TEACHERS' QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT 2006

Over the past few years, Aboriginal perspectives in education have increasingly been given a high priority by schools, school divisions and by Manitoba's Education departments. In 2004, Manitoba launched its Aboriginal Education Action Plan, 2004-2007, which is a comprehensive strategy to support the shared goal of improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal learners within the education system.

In support of Manitoba's goals and priorities relating to Aboriginal education, the Aboriginal Education Directorate developed an Aboriginal Teachers' Questionnaire which was distributed to all certified administrative and/or instructional personnel in the spring of 2006. The 2006 Questionnaire fulfills Manitoba's commitment to improve the research base for Aboriginal education by establishing baseline information on the number and location of Aboriginal teachers in Manitoba.

The Aboriginal Teachers' Questionnaire was developed by the Aboriginal Education Directorate and administered by the

Professional Certification and Student Records Unit of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (MECY) in the spring of 2006 (see Appendix B for complete Questionnaire). The data provides a baseline for determining teacher training needs in relation to Aboriginal population growth as well as other trends in Aboriginal education in Manitoba.

The return rate of response to the Questionnaire was 94.2%. The response rate is very high and is considered to be highly successful. Note that the response rate for schools is 91.1%.

Survey Response Rate

	By School	By Teacher
Surveys Sent	761	14,223
Surveys Returned	693	13,400
Response Rate	91.1%	94.2%

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS: ABORIGINAL TEACHERS QUESTIONNAIRE (2006)

Self-Identified Aboriginal Teacher Population

As shown in Table 1, a total of 1,220 teachers who responded to the survey self identified as Aboriginal. Of these, 32.5% are employed by First Nations schools and 67.5% are employed within

the provincial school system. Table 1 also shows the percentage of self-identified Aboriginal teachers working within the Provincial and First Nations school systems.

Table 1 – Total Number of Aboriginal Teachers

	Provincial Schools	First Nations Schools	Total
Self-Identified Aboriginal Teachers	823 (67.5%)	397 (32.5%)	1220 (100%)
All teachers in Manitoba	13,464	907	14,371
Percentage of Aboriginal Teachers	6.1%	43.8%	8.5%

The Ancestry of Aboriginal Teachers in Manitoba

Table 2 shows the ancestry of self-identified Aboriginal teachers. The linguistic groups with which all respondents were most likely to identify are Metis, Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux) or Cree, respectively. When we look only at provincial schools, there is a much higher percentage of Metis, followed by Cree and Anishinaabe respectively. First Nations schools show Anishinaabe, Cree and Oji-Cree, respectively, as the most

prevalent linguistic groups of Aboriginal teachers.

The questionnaire allowed for up to three responses for teachers' Aboriginal ancestry. By far, most teachers identified their ancestry with one Aboriginal identity (89.8%). Fewer than nine per cent gave two responses as their ancestry (for example, Anishinaabe and Metis).

Table 2 – The Aboriginal Ancestry of Teachers in Manitoba

Aboriginal Ancestry	First Nations Schools	Percentage	Provincial Schools	Percentage	Grand Total	Percentage
Metis (Michif)	25	6.3%	471	57.2%	496	40.7%
Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux)	125	31.5%	55	6.7%	180	14.8%
Ininiw (Cree)	105	26.4%	74	9.0%	179	14.7%
Oji-Cree	56	14.1%	4	0.5%	60	4.9%
Anishinaabe (Ojibway) and Metis (Michif)	5	1.3%	19	2.3%	24	2.0%
Ininiw (Cree) and Metis (Michif)	6	1.5%	14	1.7%	20	1.6%
Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux) and Ininiw (Cree)	8	2.0%	7	0.9%	15	1.2%
Other combinations of ancestral identity	34	8.6%	87	10.6%	121	9.9%
Aboriginal (Other)	30	7.6%	56	6.8%	86	7.0%
Aboriginal (Uncertain of Ancestry)	3	0.8%	36	4.4%	39	3.2%
Total	397	100.0%	823	100.0%	1220	100.0%

Language and Status

Approximately one-third of all respondents indicated that they could speak an Aboriginal language. The ability to speak an

Aboriginal language is more prevalent for teachers employed by First Nations schools compared to teachers employed within the provincial school system.

Table 3 – Ability to Speak an Aboriginal Language

Aboriginal Language	Teachers at First Nations Schools	%	Teachers in Provincial School System	%	Grand Total	%
No	140	35.3%	710	86.3%	850	69.7%
Yes	257	64.7%	113	13.7%	370	30.3%
Total	397	100.0%	823	100.0%	1220	100.0%

Aboriginal Teacher Education Programs

Respondents were asked which post-secondary teacher education programs they had attended. They could indicate more than one program if appropriate. The number of responses for educational programs attended show that a little over half of teachers attended one program, about thirty-five per cent attended two programs, and over five per cent attended three or more programs. See Table 4.

The incidence of enrollment by education program is presented in Table 5. Brandon University and the University of Manitoba show the highest incidence of enrollment by all self-identified Aboriginal teachers teaching within the province in 2006.

The data collected from the Questionnaire shows that the majority of Aboriginal people who work at First Nations schools attended Brandon University, BUNTEP or PENT. A higher number of Aboriginal teachers working in the provincial school

Table 4
Single and Multiple Educational Programs Attended

Number of Programs Attended	Count	%
No response	36	3.0%
One program attended	690	56.6%
Two programs attended	425	34.8%
Three programs attended	62	5.1%
Four programs attended	6	0.5%
Five programs attended	1	0.1%
Total	1220	100.0%

system have attended programs at the University of Manitoba, Brandon University, College Universitaire de St. Boniface, or the University of Winnipeg.

Table 5
Educational Program Attendance by Institution for Teachers Employed at First Nations and Provincial Schools in 2006

Educational Program	First Nations Schools	Percentage	Provincial Schools	Percentage	Grand Total	Percentage
BU	296	42.2%	201	19.1%	497	28.3%
U of M	71	10.1%	354	33.6%	425	24.2%
PENT	138	19.7%	57	5.4%	195	11.1%
BUNTEP	136	19.4%	58	5.5%	194	11.1%
U of W	13	1.9%	123	11.7%	136	7.7%
CUSB	0	0.0%	130	12.3%	130	7.4%
Other	25	3.6%	75	7.1%	100	5.7%
WEC	16	2.3%	39	3.7%	55	3.1%
ACCESS	7	1.0%	16	1.5%	23	1.3%
Total	702	100.0%	1,053	100.0%	1,755	100.0%

CONCLUSION

The Aboriginal Education Directorate will continue to work with the Professional Certification and Student Records Unit (PSSRU) to survey teachers seeking certification regarding their Aboriginal ancestry. This will ensure that the data remains up to date and that future trends related to the proportion of Aboriginal teachers in Manitoba can be identified.

Data regarding Aboriginal ancestry by linguistic group and the ability to speak an Aboriginal language is given a preliminary

analysis in this report. With further analysis, this data may prove to be extremely valuable in identifying needs within the system to support initiatives such as Aboriginal languages curriculum and the incorporation of Aboriginal perspectives.

The information gathered from the Aboriginal Teachers' Questionnaire will inform planning and policy development as MECY, School Divisions and Schools continue to place a high priority on Aboriginal education.

Appendix A

March 2006

Superintendents – School Divisions/Districts

Principals – Funded Independent Schools, Band Operated Schools, Institutional Schools

Dear Colleagues:

SUBJECT: 2006 ABORIGINAL TEACHERS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Aboriginal Education Action Plan details goals and priorities that Manitoba is pursuing in relation to Aboriginal education. In support of these goals and priorities, information is being gathered about the number of Aboriginal teachers in the education system. The Aboriginal teacher population data will be collected from all certified administrative and/or instructional personnel (superintendents, teachers, principals, clinicians, supervisors, exchange teachers, teachers on Limited Teaching Permits, etc.).

Collected data will:

- Help determine the supply and demand of Aboriginal teachers in Manitoba.
- Demonstrate Education program graduation rate trends
- Determine appropriate funding enhancements and research activities regarding Aboriginal education projects and programs.
- Provide statistical information and analysis on the number and location of Aboriginal teachers.

The information collected is vital to many branches within the Department and other educational support service groups. The success of the educational research/reporting activities of these user groups is ultimately determined by the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the data collected.

Enclosed in this mailing are surveys as well as a control list (list of teachers) within your area to assist in the collection of the forms.

We are asking you to collect the completed surveys from schools in your division. Please forward the surveys and control lists by April 28, 2006 to:

Aboriginal Education Directorate
Aboriginal Teachers Questionnaire
510 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2M7

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Helen Robinson-Settee at 1-800-282-8069 ask for extension 4763 or 945-4763. Your co-operation and response to this new initiative is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Robinson-Settee

Attachment

cc: Gerald Farthing, A/Deputy Minister, Education, Citizenship and Youth

Appendix B

2006 Aboriginal Teachers Questionnaire

The Aboriginal Education Action Plan details goals and priorities that Manitoba is pursuing in relation to Aboriginal education. In support of these goals and priorities, information is being gathered about the Aboriginal teacher population in the education system.

The information you provide is voluntary. The Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth and the public school system needs this information to assess current and future capacity in the area of Aboriginal educators. If you also agree to participate in further research this will assist in program planning and developing appropriate curriculum to better meet the needs of learners. If you receive more than one survey, please only return one. Thank you for your help.

- 1) Are you of Aboriginal Ancestry? Yes No

If Yes, please proceed to question 2. If you answered No, thank you for your participation.

- 2) What is your Aboriginal Ancestry? Please circle (choose up to three)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal – Uncertain of Ancestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Oji-Cree (includes Island Lake Dialect) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anishinaabe (includes Ojibway/Saulteaux) | <input type="checkbox"/> Metis (Michif) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ininiw (Cree) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dene (Sayisi) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inuktituq | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal – Other _____ | |

Status Non-Status

- 3) Do you speak an Aboriginal Language? Yes No

- 4) When did you graduate from your BEd Program? Year _____

- 5) Were you enrolled in any of the following education programs during your studies:

- BUNTEP – Brandon University Northern Teacher Education Program
- PENT – Program for the Education of Native Teachers
- WEC – Winnipeg Education Centre
- ACCESS Program(s)

Faculty of Education

- University of Manitoba
- Brandon University
- University of Winnipeg
- Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface
- Other – Please specify

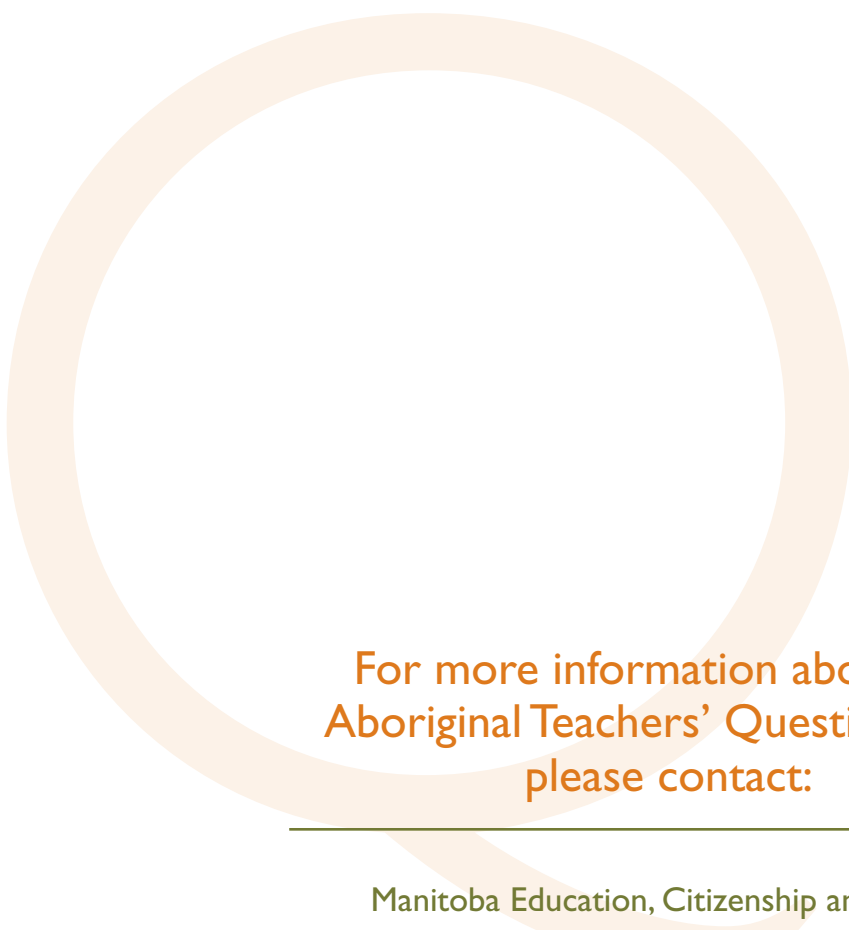
- 6) If you are willing to participate in further research, (such as language fluency, correlation studies) please provide mailing or email address:

The Aboriginal Education Directorate of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth is collecting your personal information on this form under the authority of The Education Administration Act and the regulations under that Act. Your information is being collected for the purpose of education program analysis, research and planning and will be used to assess current and future capacity in the area of Aboriginal educators, and for research and planning related to educational programming.

Your personal information is protected by The Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act. We cannot use, disclose or share your personal information for any other purpose, unless you authorize us to do so or The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act permits us to do so. If you have any questions about the collection of your personal information, please contact Helen Robinson-Settee, Director at the Aboriginal Education Directorate at 510 Selkirk Ave, Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M7, 204-945-4763 or 1 800 282 8069 Ext. 4763.

Signature

Date



For more information about the
Aboriginal Teachers' Questionnaire,
please contact:

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Aboriginal Education Directorate
510 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2M7
Phone: 204-945-5902
Toll Free MB: 1-800-282-8069 extension 5902
Email: aedinfo@gov.mb.ca