

CANADA'S ABORIGINALS

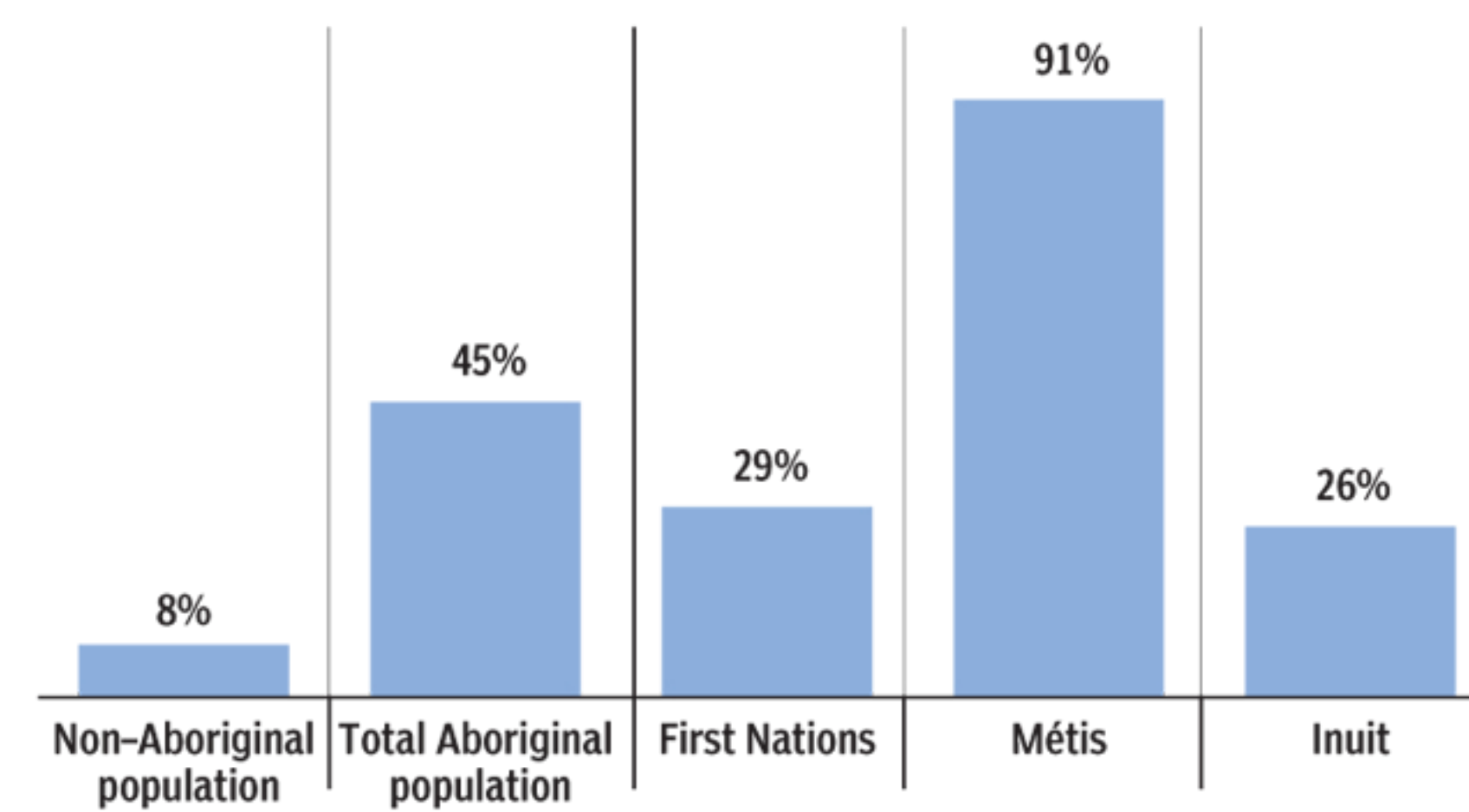
When Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Assembly of First Nations national chief Shawn Atleo met at an historic Crown-First Nations gathering in Ottawa Tuesday, they vowed to “reset the relationship” between Ottawa and Canada’s aboriginal communities. “Our goal is much increased aboriginal participation in the economy and in the country’s prosperity,” Harper said. “In terms of participation, standard of living and quality of life, the time has come for First Nations to fully share with other Canadians from all walks of life.”

The road is going to be long, if the current statistics about aboriginal communities in Canada are any indication. Here is a snapshot of what life is like for aboriginals nationwide:

DEMOGRAPHICS

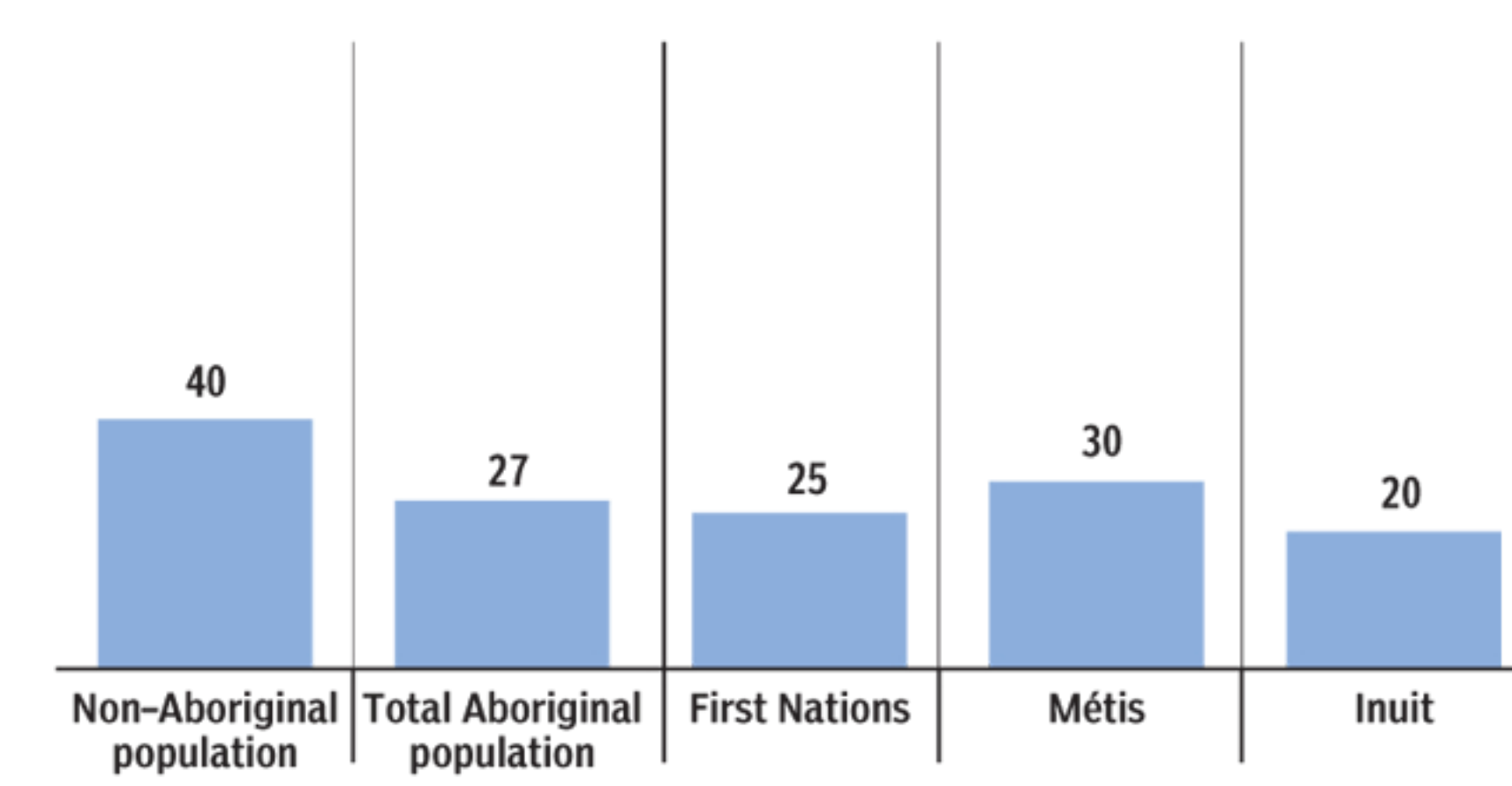
Exactly 1,172,790 people identified themselves as an aboriginal person, according to the 2006 census, the most recent data available, up from 976,305 in 2001. The aboriginal population experienced far more growth than non-aboriginal Canadians between 1996 and 2006, at rates of 45% and 8% respectively. Their numbers are expected to climb to 1.4 million by 2017 from 1.1 million in 2006, likely powered by higher fertility rates in aboriginal communities and a greater likelihood for people to self-identify as aboriginals now than they would decades ago, Statistics Canada said. Aboriginal people are also younger, on average, with a median age of 27 compared to non-aboriginals’ median age of 40.

POPULATION GROWTH RATE 1996–2006



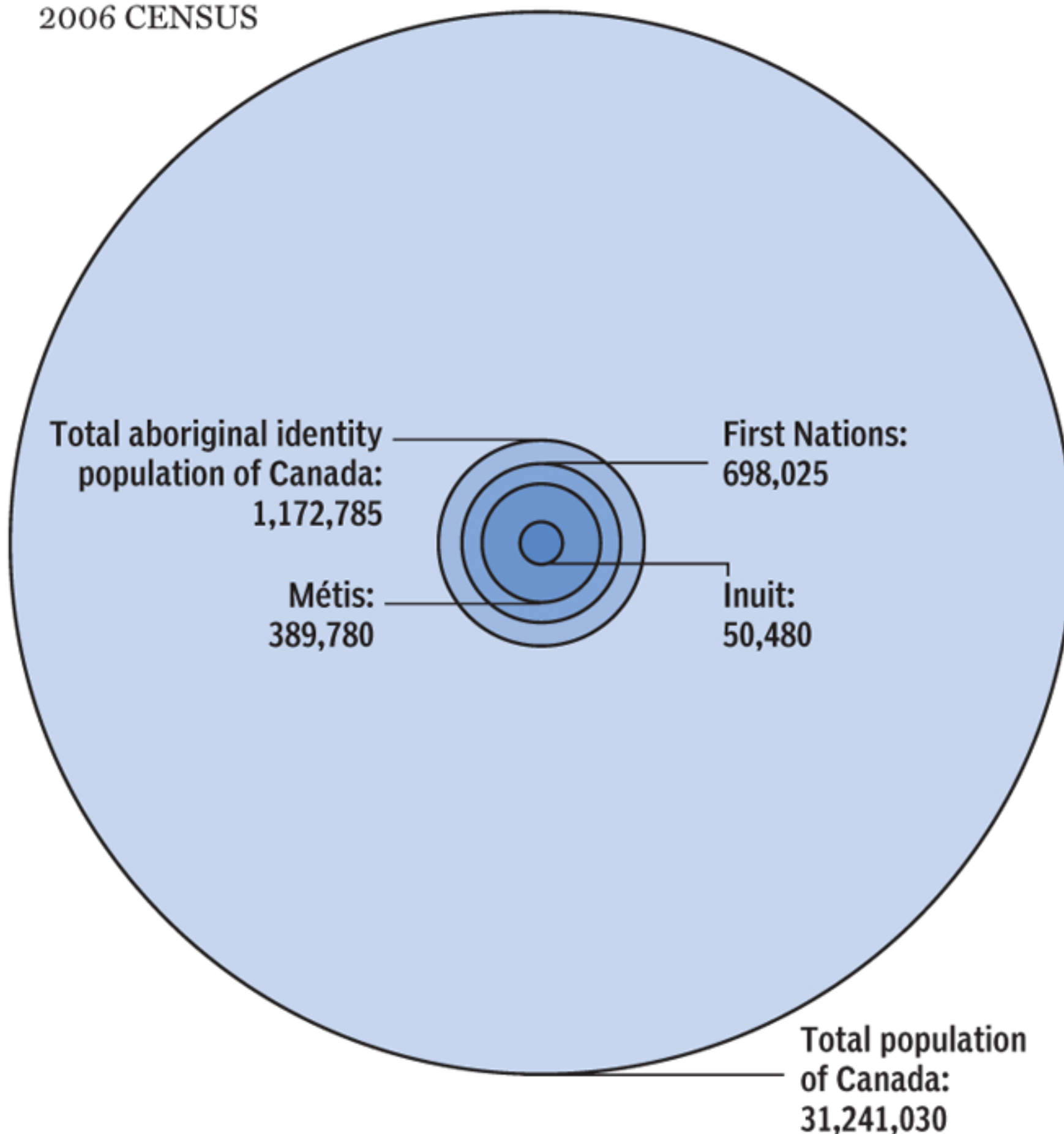
MEDIAN AGE

EXACT AGE WHERE HALF THE SPECIFIED POPULATION IS YOUNGER, AND THE OTHER HALF IS OLDER. 2006 CENSUS



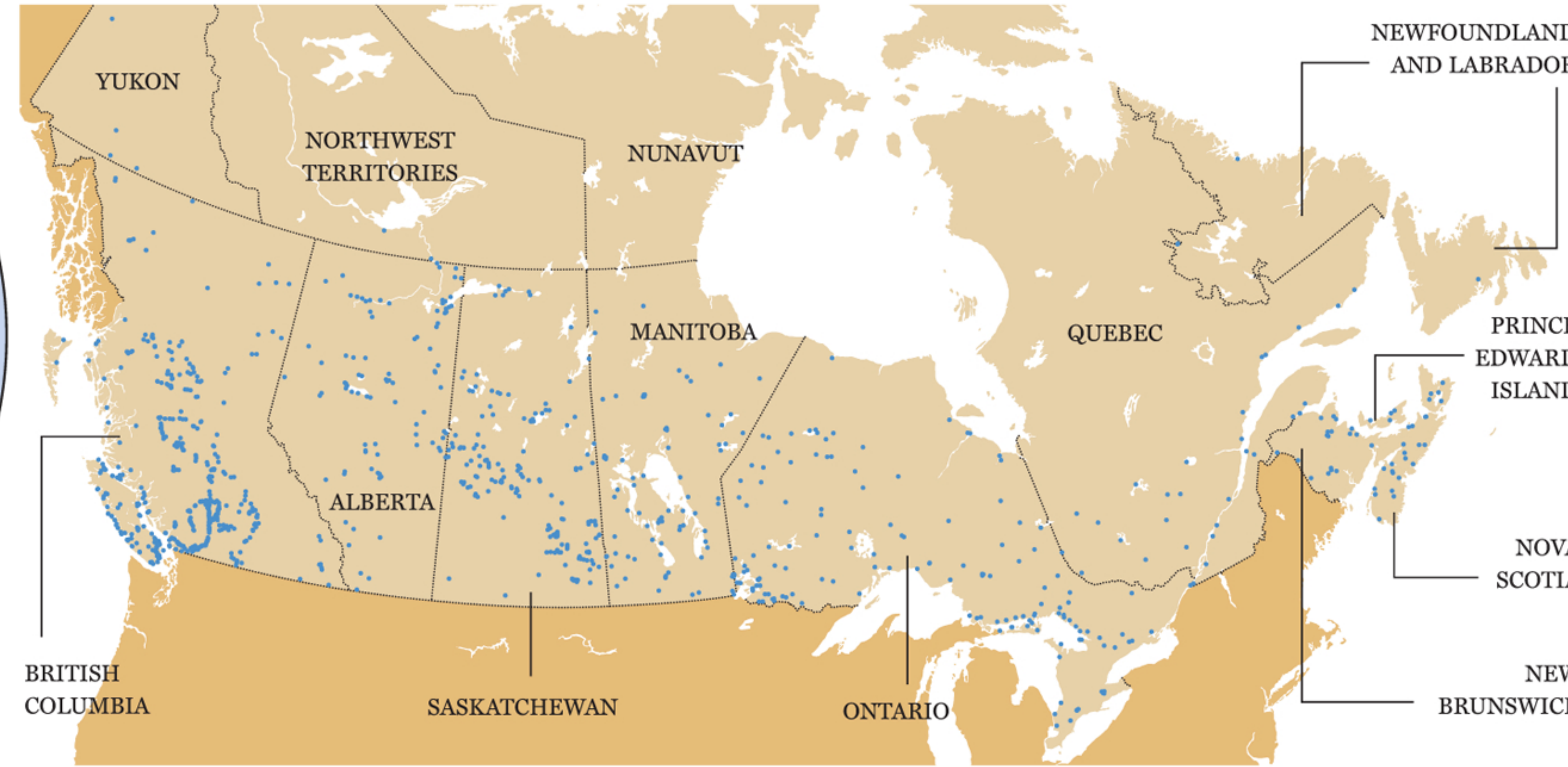
CANADIAN POPULATION

2006 CENSUS



LOCATIONS OF INDIAN RESERVES

LOCATION OF INDIAN RESERVE BY 2006 CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS

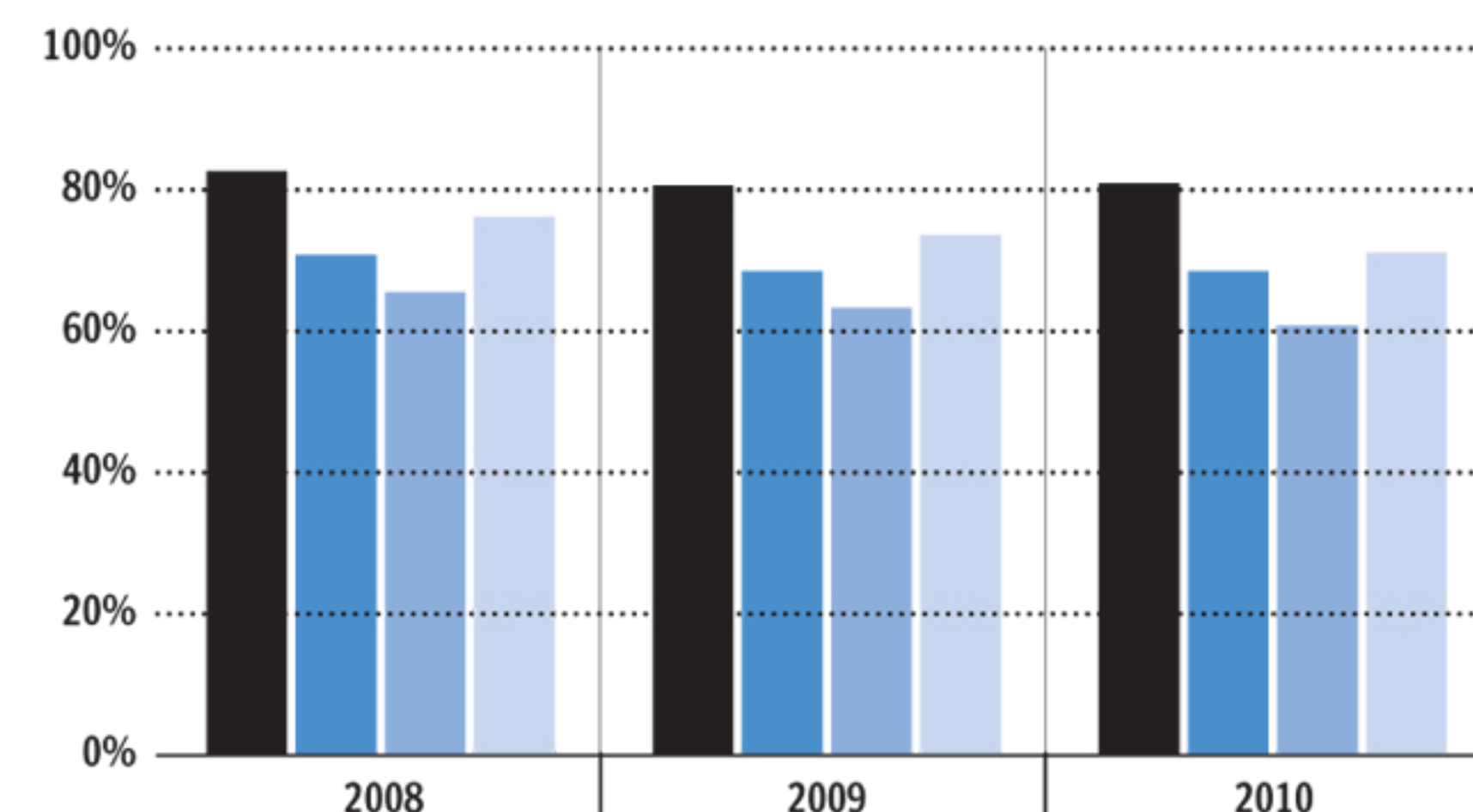


ECONOMICS

The economic downturn of 2008 lasted longer and hit harder for aboriginal populations than the rest of the population. Employment fell 2.8% for aboriginal workers in 2009 and by 4.9% in 2010 compared to a fall of only 1.7% in 2009 for non-aboriginals and a rebound of 0.8% in 2010 for most Canadians. But the job outlook has improved since then, and so has the outlook for aboriginal market income, according to a special report from TD Economics released in June. As Mr. Harper and Mr. Atleo project, the group believes the aboriginal population has been leaving a significant economic footprint and has the potential to contribute even more. The personal income of aboriginal people has grown from \$6.9-billion in 2001 to an estimated \$14.2-billion in 2011, translating to an average gain of 7% per year, according to the report.

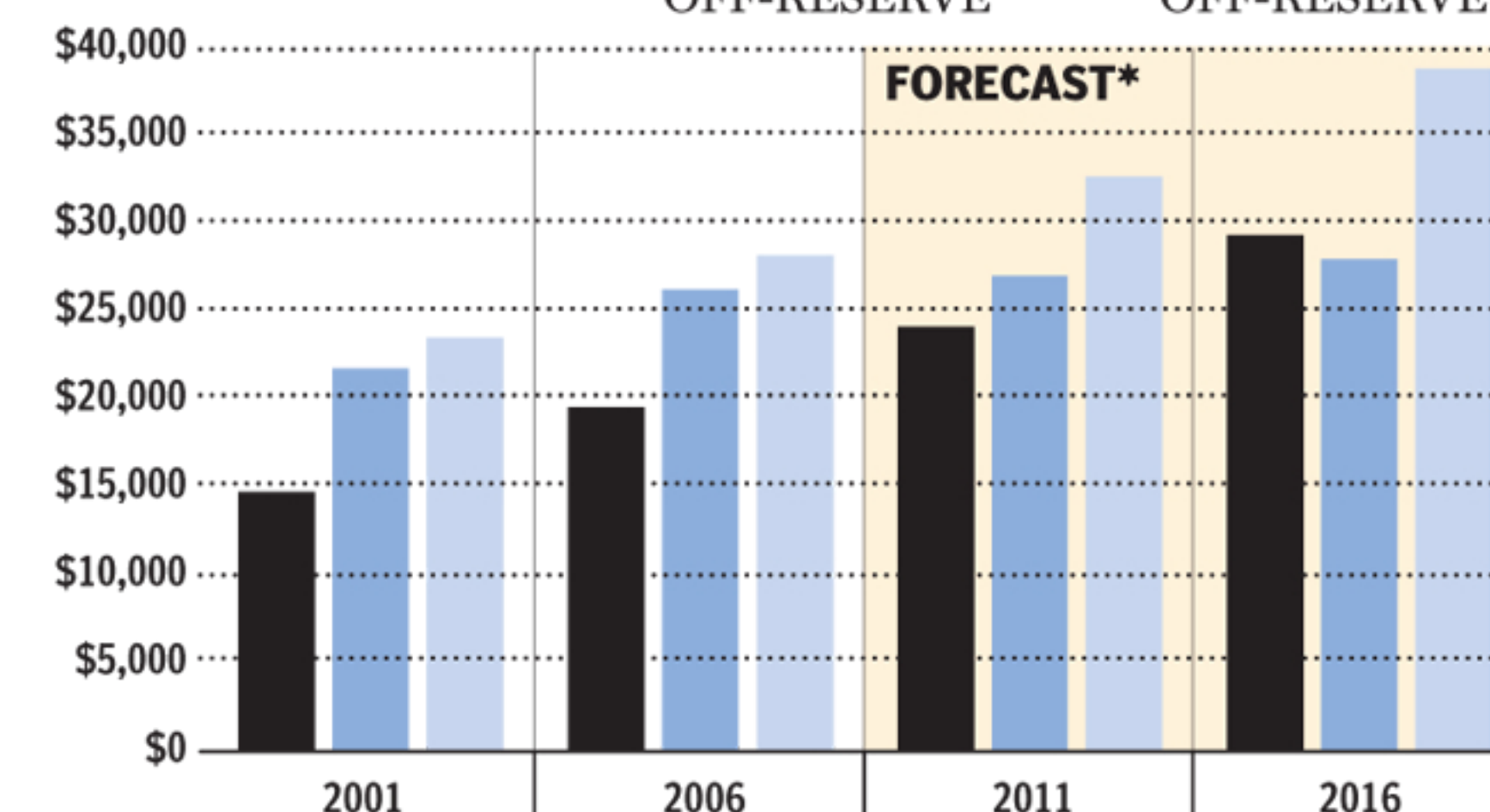
EMPLOYMENT RATE AGE 25–54

NON-ABORIGINAL, ABORIGINAL, FIRST NATION LIVING OFF-RESERVE, MÉTIS



AVERAGE PERSONAL INCOME GAINS TO BE RECORDED ON- AND OFF-RESERVE

ON-RESERVE, RURAL OFF-RESERVE, URBAN OFF-RESERVE



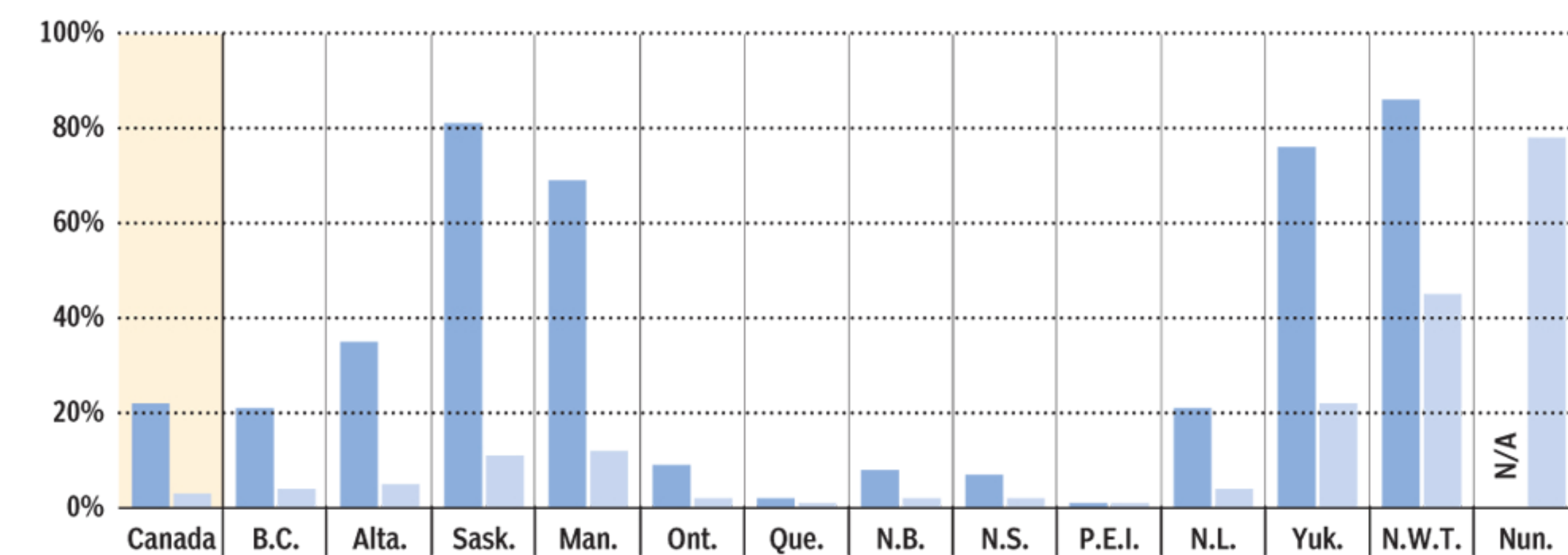
SOCIAL INDICATORS

Aboriginals are overrepresented in custody and community programs, counting for 25% of adults in provincial custody in 2007/2008 and 18% of all adults sent to federal prisons. The General Social Survey from 2004 found that aboriginal people were far more likely to have been victims of violent crime than their non-aboriginal counterparts. Housing, as evidenced by the crisis at Attawapiskat First Nation — a community that just learned Friday that it will get a brand new elementary school — is another sore point in the government’s relations with aboriginal communities. The First Nations Information Governance Centre’s 2008-2010 Regional Health Survey, to be officially released in March, shows 37.3% of First Nations people say their home is in need of major repairs, with 33.5% saying they’re in need of only minor repairs.

RATES OF INCARCERATION FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AGED 20–34

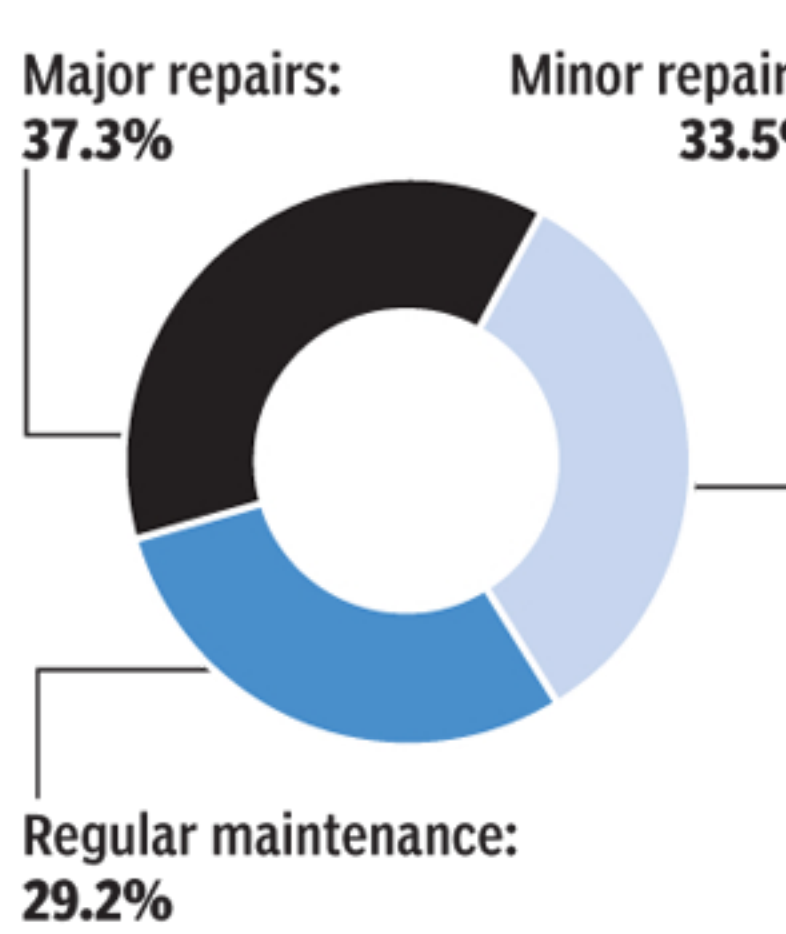
BASED ON 2006 CENSUS

PROPORTION OF ADMISSIONS TO ADULT SENTENCED CUSTODY*, PROPORTION OF GENERAL POPULATION



*The rate represents the number of persons in remand, sentenced custody or other temporary detention that day for every 1,000 persons in the general population.

REPORTED REPAIR NEEDS OF FIRST NATIONS HOUSEHOLDS

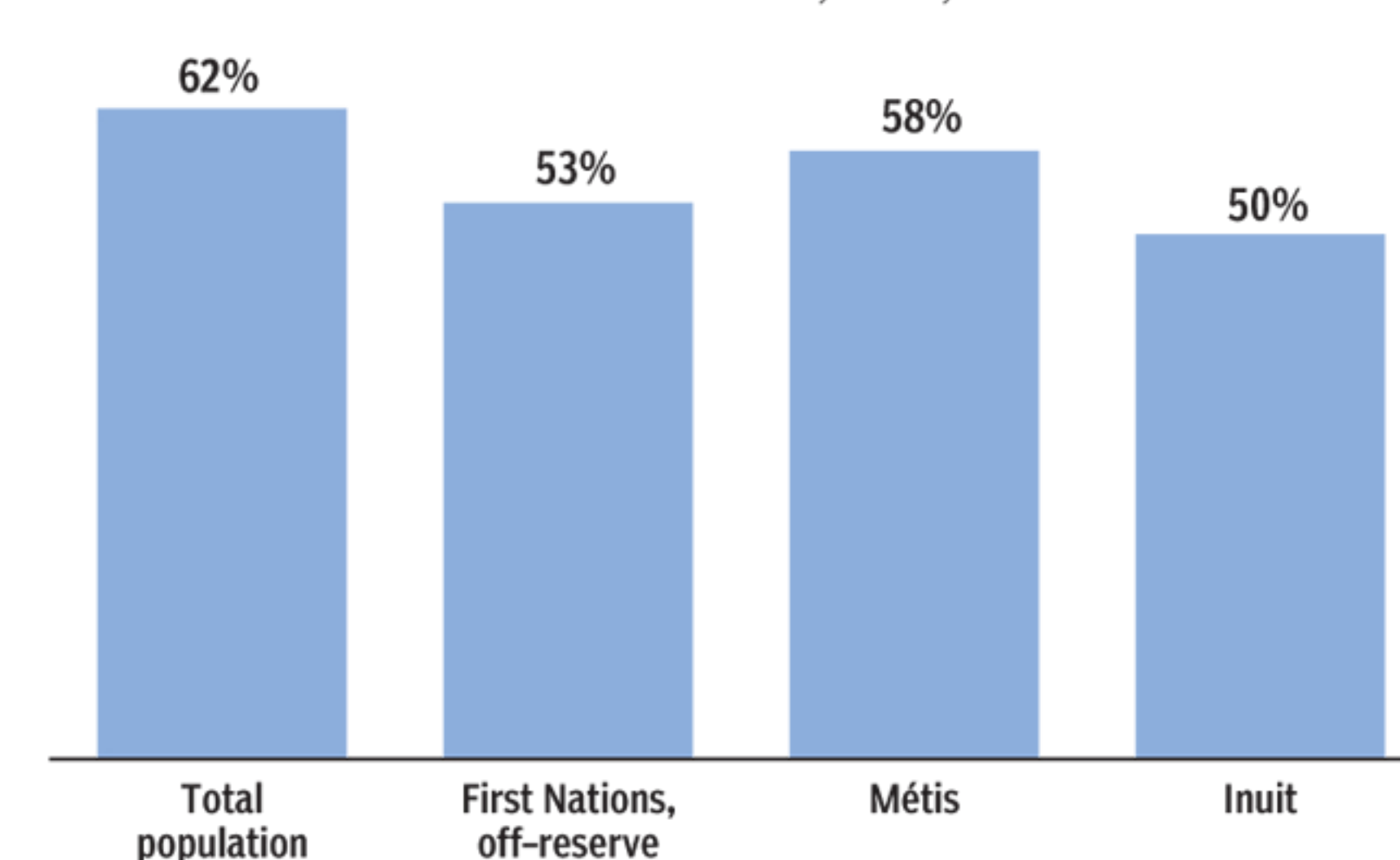


HEALTH AND EDUCATION

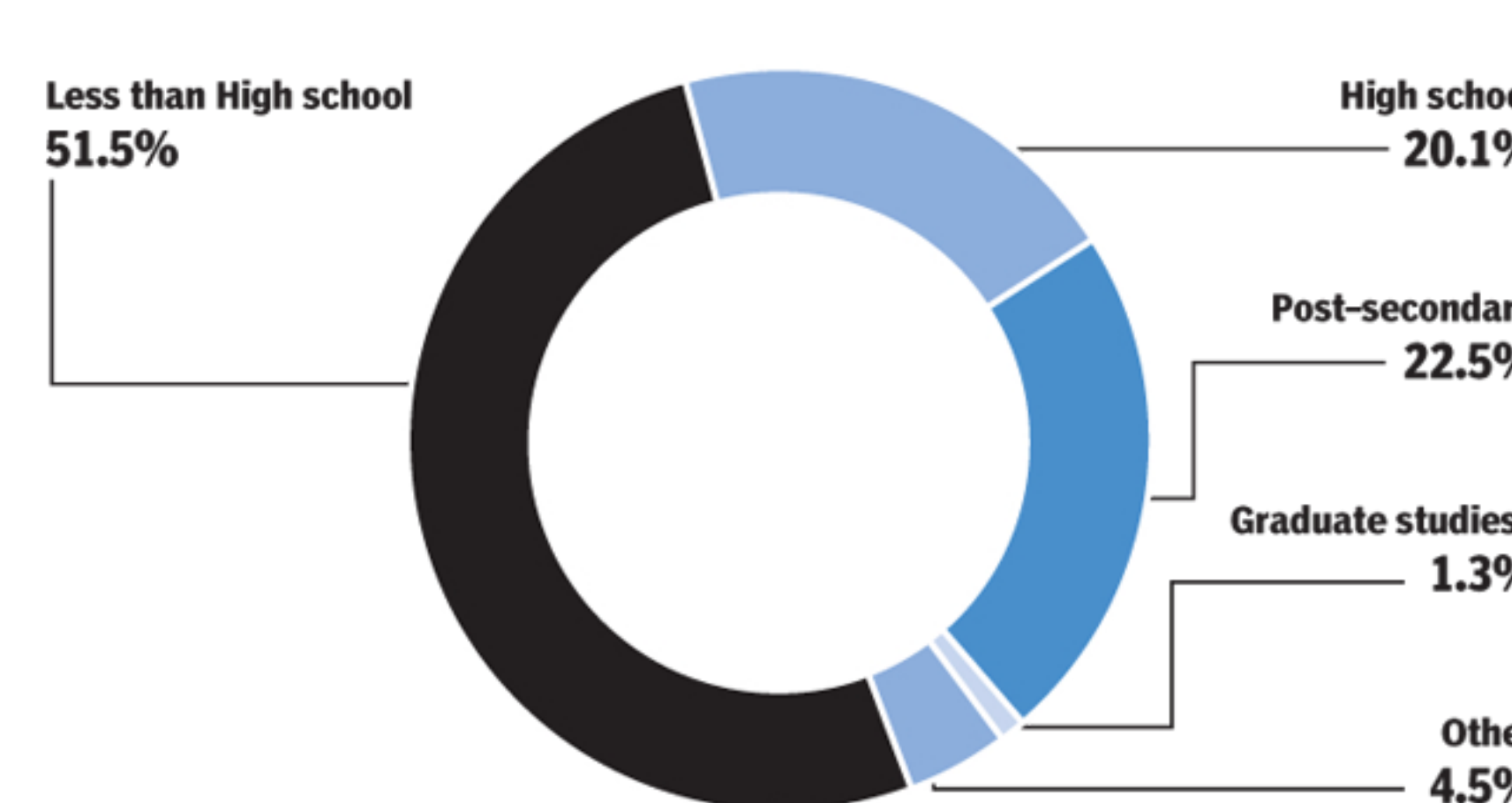
The Aboriginal Peoples Survey found that 58% of Métis adults said they were in very good to excellent health in 2006, while 53% of First Nations people living off reserve reported being in excellent or very good health. Half of Inuit adults reported excellent or very good health in 2006 (62% of the Canadian population reported the same levels of health). In 2017, the projected life expectancy for Inuit peoples will be 64 for men and 73 for women — far lower than the total Canadian population’s expectancy of 79 years for men and 83 years for women. Métis and First Nations people will be expected to live until ages 73-74 for men and 78-80 for women. This week’s aboriginal summit identified education as a key area of reform. The First Nations regional health survey found 51.5% of respondents said they had less than a high school education, while 22.5% said they had some sort of post-secondary. That figure has remained about the same since the previous survey in 2002–2003.

PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION RATING THEIR HEALTH AS ‘EXCELLENT’ OR ‘VERY GOOD’

POPULATION AGED 15 AND OLDER, 2005, 2006



HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF ADULTS IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES



*Graduate studies include Master’s, Doctorate and Professional degrees. The ‘some’ college/university/diploma categories were not included in the analysis — only completed studies.