

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT URBAN POPULATION IN QUÉBEC 2001 - 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

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MONTRÉAL 2019

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY SOURCE

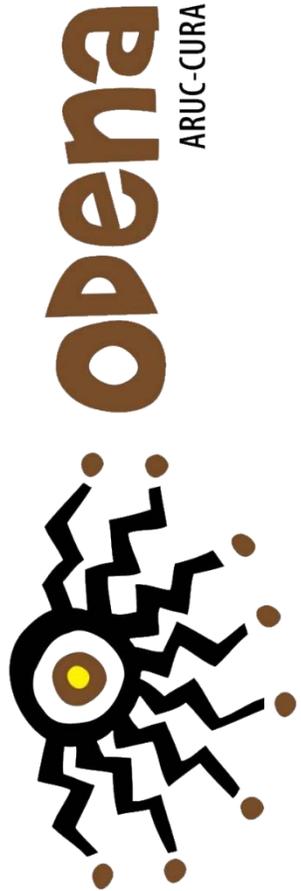


The information compiled in this document is excerpted from the ODENA Cahier No. 2019-03.

This document constitutes a reference tool that provides certain clarifications and identifies demographic benchmarks pertaining to the population of the First Nations and Inuit Peoples who reside in cities and towns in Québec.

Readers are invited to consult the original document available [online](#) for the full analysis conducted by the research team (in French).

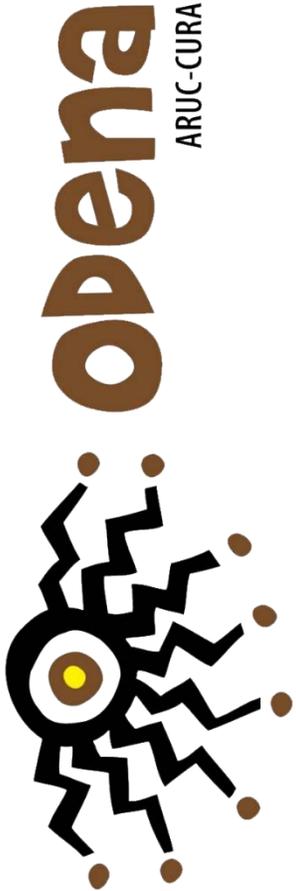
THE ODENA RESEARCH ALLIANCE



At the forefront of social innovation, the ODENA Research Alliance offers alternative avenues in understanding and responding to the individual and societal challenges faced by the First Peoples living in urban centers in Québec. It brings together representatives of Indigenous civil society and university researchers engaged in a process of co-construction of knowledge to improve the quality of life of the Indigenous urban population and renew relationships between First Peoples and other Québec citizens in a spirit of equality and mutual respect.

ODENA is a joint initiative with DIALOG - *Aboriginal Peoples Research and Knowledge Network*, and the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec*. ODENA aims to support the social, economic, political, and cultural development of the Indigenous population in the cities of Québec, and showcase the collective action of the Québec Native Friendship Centres.

THE MISSION OF THE ODENA RESEARCH ALLIANCE



To contribute to the implementation and maintenance of an ethical, innovative, and sustainable dialogue between the university and First Nations organizations and communities, to stimulate and promote co-production of knowledge, as well as interactive and collaborative research.

To develop a better understanding of the historical, social, economic, cultural, and political realities of the Indigenous world, its contemporary issues, and relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, by focusing on knowledge co-creation and enhancing the consideration of Indigenous needs, knowledge, practices, perspectives, and approaches in research and public policy.

To support training and supervision of university students, and more particularly Indigenous students, by associating them with network activities and achievements, and by providing them with financial aid programs and scholarship grants.

To participate in the enrichment, enhancement, and implementation of skills and knowledge of Indigenous actors in the fields of social and environmental research, and mobilization of knowledge.

To increase the intellectual, social, economic, and cultural impact of research pertaining to Indigenous Peoples, by developing new interactive, participatory, and pedagogical knowledge tools, and by multiplying initiatives for the dissemination, sharing, transmission, and mobilization of knowledge, to make known and showcase its results and advances in Québec, in Canada, and worldwide.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE



There is no existing data source that provides a complete profile of the First Nations or Inuit Peoples that live within Québec's borders, whether from a strictly demographic or socioeconomic perspective.



We considered two specific data sources: the five-year censuses by **Statistics Canada** and the **Indian Register**. It is important to retain that each source has its methodological limits pertaining to registration, multiple residences, or sampling, which must be taken into account during processing and analysis.



By focusing on the situations that the data attempt to circumscribe, it is nonetheless possible to make several interpretations to identify benchmarks of a sociological nature, and to document certain **general population trends**.

DEFINITIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CATEGORIES



The term “Indian”

In Québec, the term “Indian” is no longer in use, except in the case of government administrative categories (registered Indian, Indian band, Indian reserve). *We preserve the literal use of these categories to avoid any legal confusion.* Over the past decades, the term “Amerindian” often replaced the term “Indian”, but its usage is also called into question.



The term “Inuit”

The term “Inuit” here, barring exceptions, corresponds to the inhabitants of Nunavik, also referred to as the “Inuit People”. The Inuit are not under the authority of the *Indian Act*. The expression “northern village” or “Inuit village”, refers to the residence of Inuit People in the Nunavik territory.



The term “community”

The term “community”, sometimes confused with the designation “First Nation”, refers to the residential geographic space formerly known as “Indian reserve”. The term “First Nations territorial communities” is also beginning to be used to avoid any confusion with the urban Indigenous communities.



The expression “First Nation”

The expression “First Nation” is often used to replace the terms “Indian” and “Amerindian”. It refers to population groups previously designated by the appellation “Indian bands”; it corresponds to the total **affiliated** population to a specific First Nation, whether this population resides on lands reserved for that First Nation or in an urban setting. In Québec, the First Nations are grouped in ten Indigenous Nations.

DESIGNATION OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS



The spelling used to designate the 10 Indigenous Nations members went through many modifications over recent decades due to identity affirmation movements, political choices, and decolonization actions by different groups. Many spellings are used in government documentation, scientific literature, media, or the Internet. Here, we use terminology that highlights the designations adopted by the Nations themselves.

Common appellations and spellings in French and English

Recent appellations and spellings

Abénaquis	Abenaki	Waban-Aki
Algonquins	Anishinabeg	Anicinapek
Atikamekw		Atikamekw Nehirowisiw
Cris	Crees	Eeyou
Hurons-Wendats		Hurons-Wendats
Innus/Innu		Innus/Innu
Malécites	Maliseet	Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk
Micmacs	Mi'gmaq	Mi'kmaq
Mohawks		Kanien'kehá:ka
Naskapi		Naskapi

NATURE AND SCOPE OF STATISTICS CANADA DATA

The Statistics Canada data presented in this profile

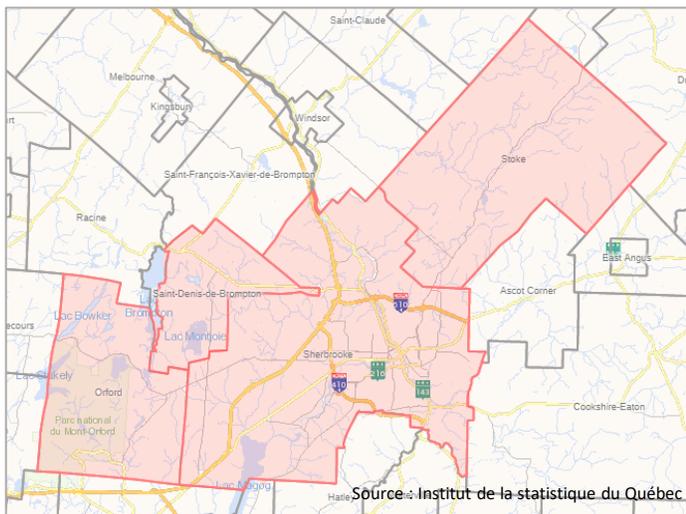
- **correspond to the First Nations and Inuit People populations**, as enumerated in five-year censuses from 2001 to 2016 in various census subdivisions (municipalities/cities; Indigenous territories/communities) in the province of Québec;
- **include multiple Indigenous identity groups and groups whose identity is not included elsewhere**, who, by definition, integrate either members of First Nations and Inuit People, or registered Indians, treaty Indians or status persons who are members of a First Nation; the First Nation in question may be located outside Québec;
- **Exclude the Métis population**, as identified by Statistics Canada for the province of Québec, due to the outstanding ambiguities and irregularities regarding self-declaration by contenders of a “Métis” status within the province.

To facilitate reading, the abbreviation **FN-IP** is used when discussing, without distinction and generally speaking, these four population groups as a whole, as defined by Statistics Canada, that is, **First Nations**, the **Inuit People**, the **multiple identity** group, and the group whose **identity is not included elsewhere**.

ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO STATISTICAL REGIONS

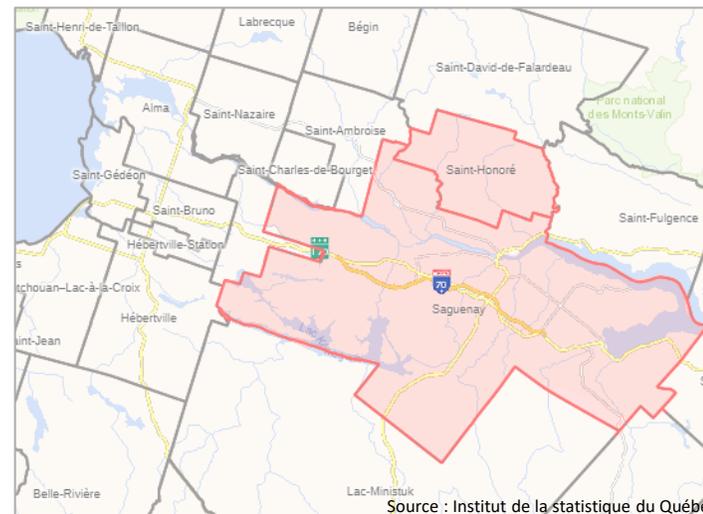
Changes in administrative boundaries may provoke adjustments in the statistical region boundaries between censuses. These adjustments may affect the numbers for the population of these regions. Territorial adjustment measures were taken to preserve the possibility of comparing the regions thus modified between the 2001 and 2016 censuses. In particular, this concerns the reconstitution of territories that were eventually merged together (such as the city of Montréal since 2001), and of the amalgamation of two territories whose boundaries were moved (i.e. Group A and B).

Group A



Municipality of Stoke
Municipality of Saint-Denis-de-Brompton
City of Sherbrooke
Orford Township

Group B



Municipality of Saint-Honoré
City of Saguenay

NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE INDIAN REGISTER DATA

The data from the Indian Register presented in this profile

- **pertain exclusively to the First Nations population identified in the Register as being in Québec** and covers the years 2001 to 2016;
- **originate** from annual reports made available online by Indigenous Services Canada. These data, collected systematically year after year are distributed according to sex and residence (on reserve and off reserve) for each First Nation.
- **provide quantitative information** on the various First Nations members and the Nation to which they belong.

On reserve: “The members of a band or their descendants who live on reserves, on lands of categories 1A (Cree/Eeyou lands) and 1A-N (Naskapi lands) [...] reserved for their band” (INAC 2005). According to the Register, residence “on reserve” or “in the reserves” *includes those individuals who live on Crown lands and other lands affiliated with First Nations who have self-governance agreements with the government* (ISC 2018).

Off reserve: “Members of a band or their descendants who reside neither in a reserve nor on Crown land” (INAC 2005)”.

Note: There is no direct statistical link between the off-reserve population accounted for in the Register and the urban population as enumerated by Statistics Canada. The Register provides no information on the location of First Nations members who reside outside communities/territories. Even if we can estimate that the vast majority of these people reside in Québec urban centres, they may also reside outside the province and even outside the country.

REGISTERED FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN THE PROVINCE ACCORDING TO THE 2016 INDIAN REGISTER



REGISTERED FIRST NATIONS POPULATION ACCORDING TO DECLARED RESIDENCE



First Nations

Total population: 87,416 members of 10 Nations



Declared residence on reserve

57,369 people, a proportion of 65.6% in 41 territorial communities

(data for the Akwesasne Mohawk community is accounted for in Ontario)



Residence declared off reserve

30,046 people, a proportion of 34.4% of the total First Nations population

PROPORTION OF FIRST NATIONS POPULATION REGISTERED ACCORDING TO DECLARED RESIDENCE

The Indian Register accounts for **87,416** First Nations members (registered Indian population) in Québec as of December 31, 2016. It therefore excludes the Inuit People and all other groups with an Indigenous identity, subject to exceptions.

Of this number, **57,369** people are in the on-reserve resident category, representing a proportion of 65.6%.



On reserve
65.6%

We recall that residence remains an **optional category** according to the criteria of the Register.

The **30,000** or so remaining persons compose the First Nations population declared as residing off reserve.

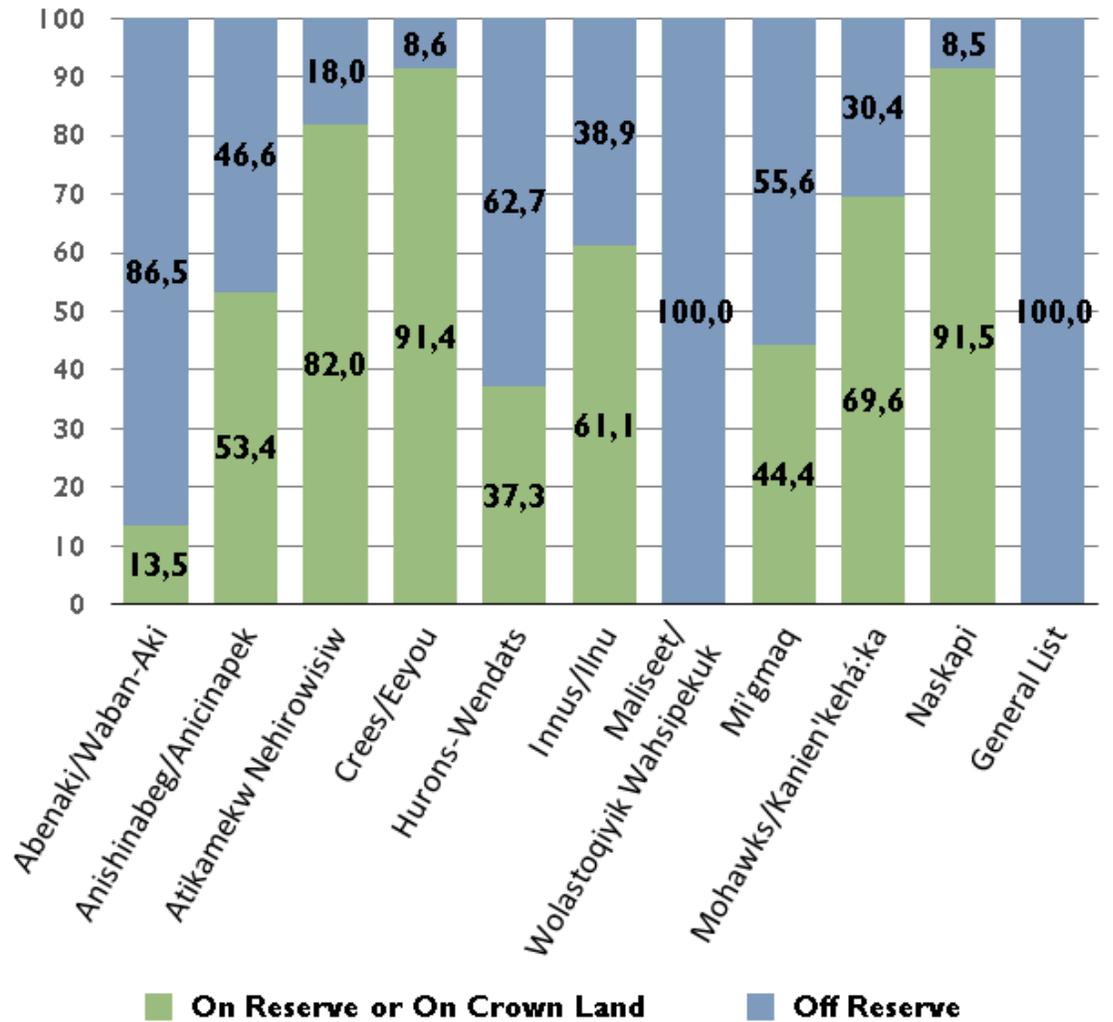


Off reserve
34.4%

Territorial communities of First Nations and Inuit People in Québec, 2018.



Distribution of Indigenous Nations population, according to declared residence, 2016 (%)



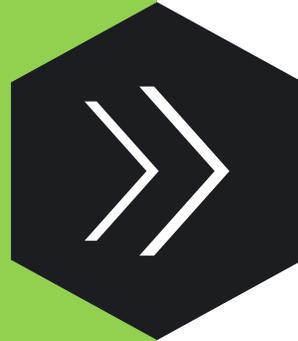
Source : Indigenous Services Canada, Indian Register, 2018.

GROWTH OF REGISTERED FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN THE PROVINCE



Growth from
2001 to 2016

35.7%



According to the data, the First Nations population experienced a growth of **35.7%** between 2001 and 2016 (including both residents on reserve and those off reserve). However, when residence is taken into consideration, we see that the proportion pertaining to those who are registered as off-reserve residents **increases twice as quickly** as the proportion of those whose declared residence is identified as being on reserve.



On reserve
27.9%



Off reserve
53.7%

Proportion of women among the First Nations population (on reserve and off reserve) in 2016.



51.1%

Proportion of women on reserve among the First Nations population in 2016.



49.8%

Proportion of women off reserve among the First Nations population in 2016.



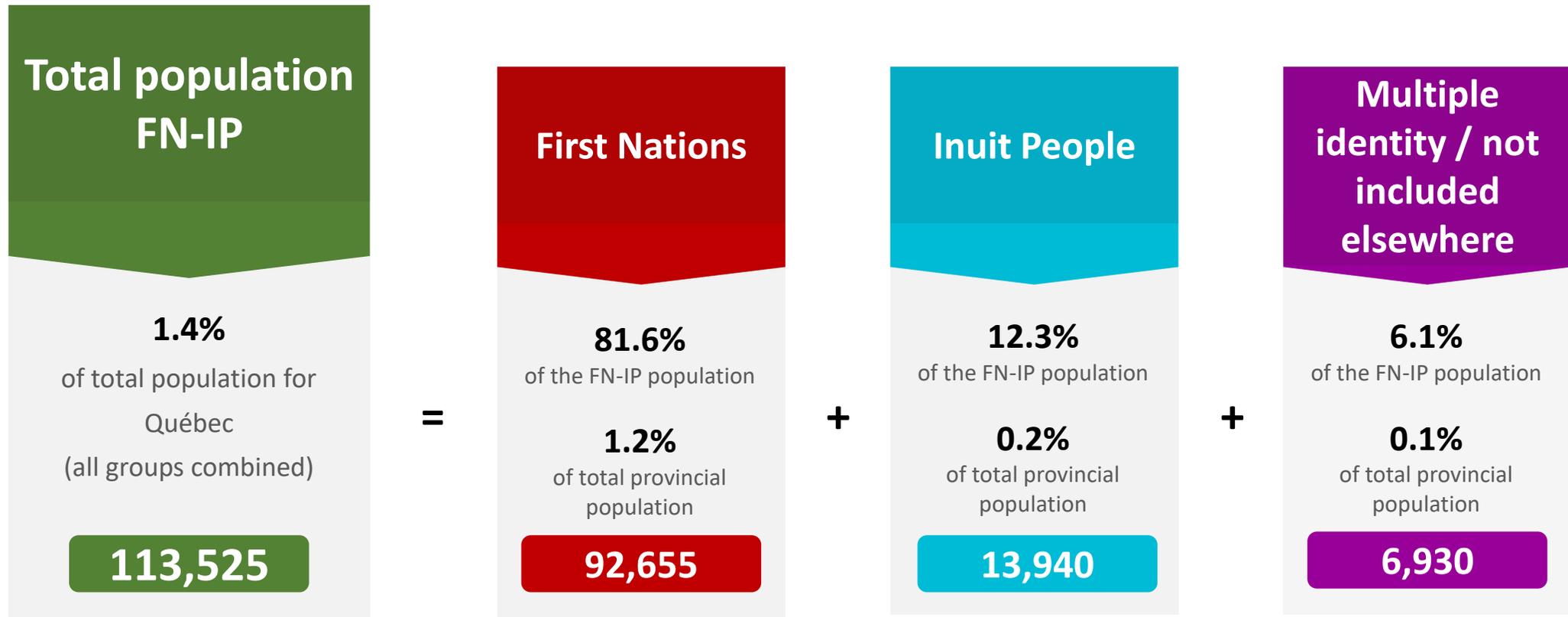
53.4%

Women represent the majority of the First Nations total population (on reserve and off reserve) as of December 31, 2016, representing a proportion of **51.1%**. However, we see that proportionally, they are more numerous in the category of off-reserve residents (**53.4%**) than the category of on-reserve residents (**49.8%**).

**POPULATION OF
THE FOUR FN-IP
IDENTITY GROUPS
ACCORDING TO
STATISTICS
CANADA 2016**



POPULATION OF THE FOUR FN-IP IDENTITY GROUPS IN THE PROVINCE



Note: If an exploratory scenario were to lead to a correspondence between Statistics Canada and Indian Registry data, the total population of First Nations members on reserve could be higher in terms of numbers since three First Nations (Kahnawake, Kanesatake and Rapid Lake/Kitiganik) did not participate in the 2016 census.

GROWTH OF FN-IP POPULATION FOR THE PROVINCE AND CITIES



3.9%

Average annual growth rate for the province

The total FN-IP population **in the province** increased by 78.7% since the beginning of the 21st century. This percentage corresponds to an annual average growth of **3.9%** between 2001 and 2016.

Proportion of FN-IP urban population compared to the FN-IP population as a whole for the province in 2016.

53.1%

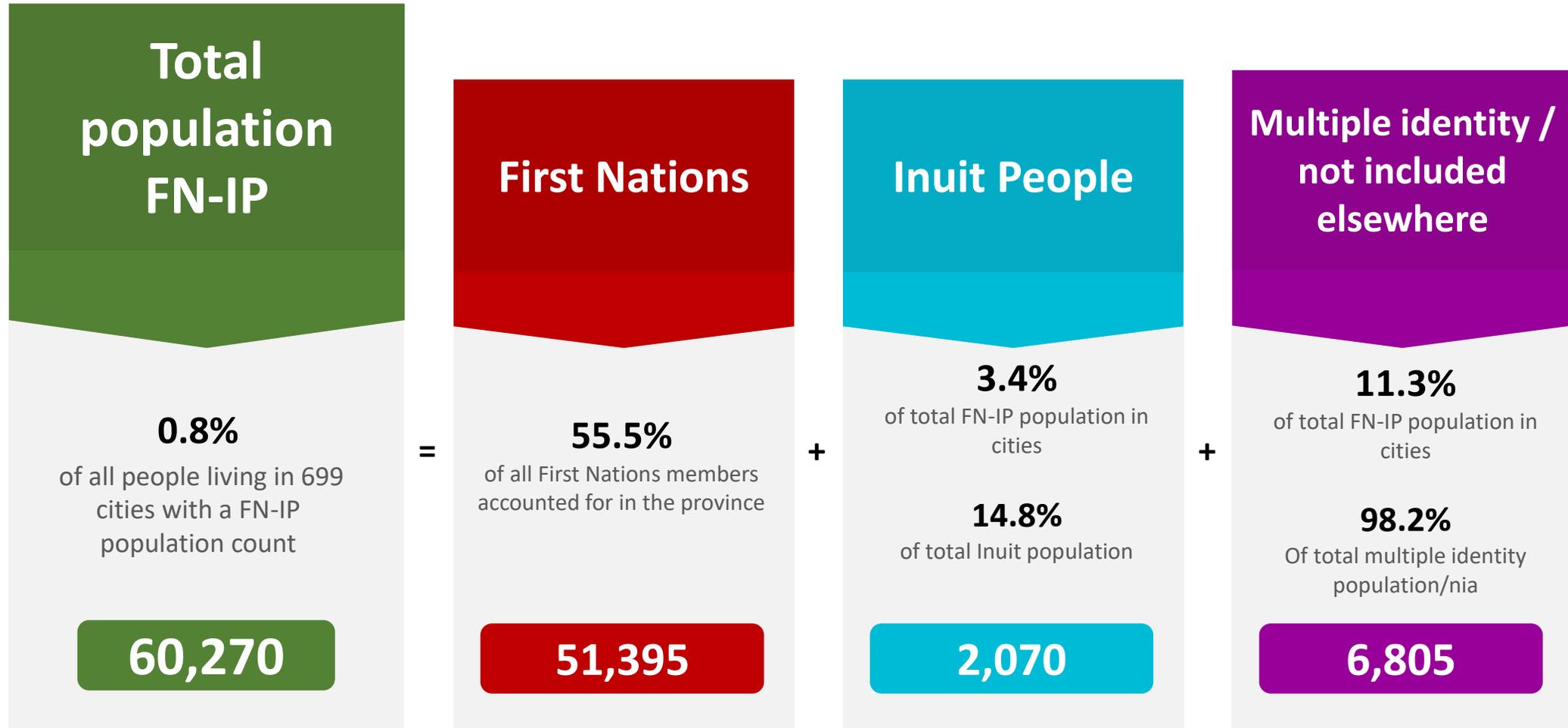
Between 2001 and 2016, the total FN-IP population **for cities** (urban/rural) increased by 171.2%, which represents an average annual increase of **6.9%**, **almost twice as much** as that of the FN-IP for the province.

6.9%

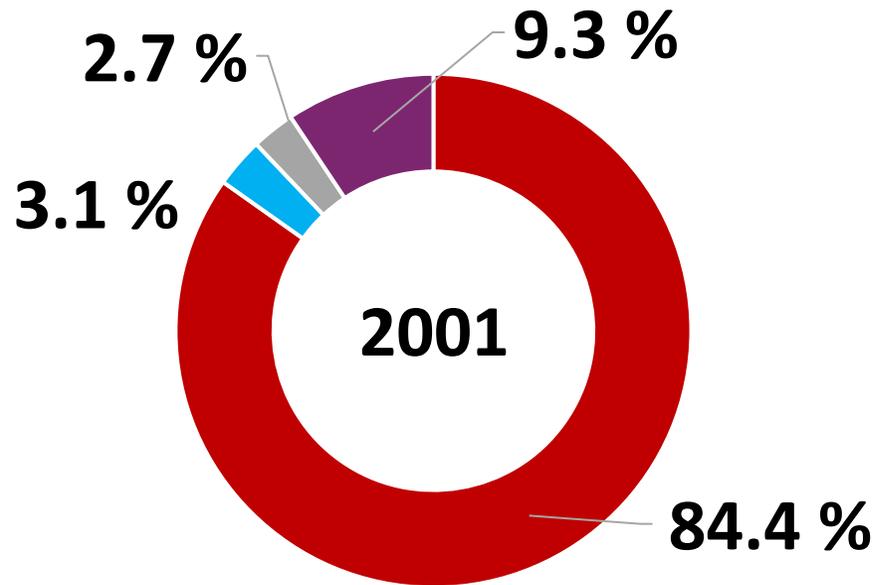
average annual growth rate in urban centres



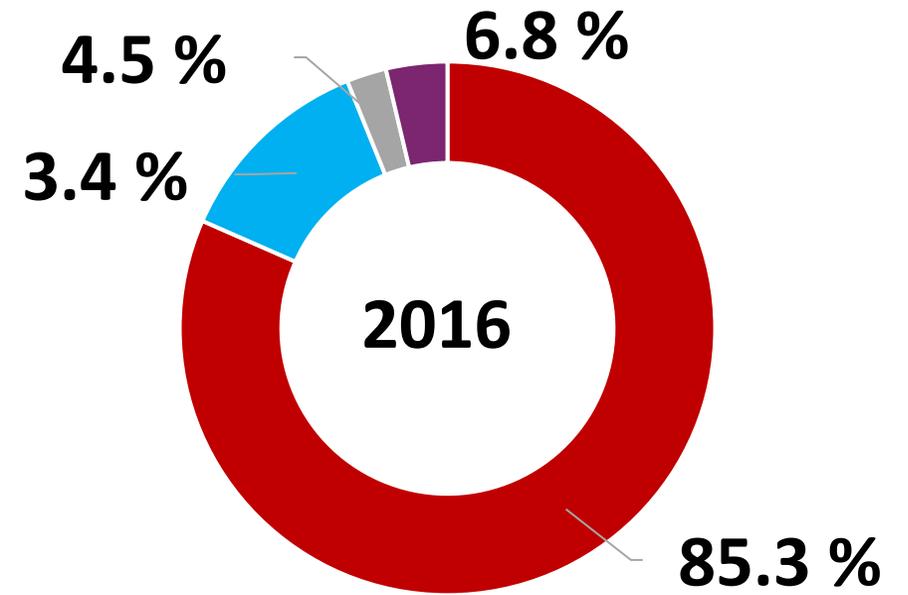
POPULATION OF THE FOUR FN-IP IDENTITY GROUPS FOR CITIES



COMPARATIVE PROPORTION OF FN-IP IDENTITY GROUPS IN CITIES

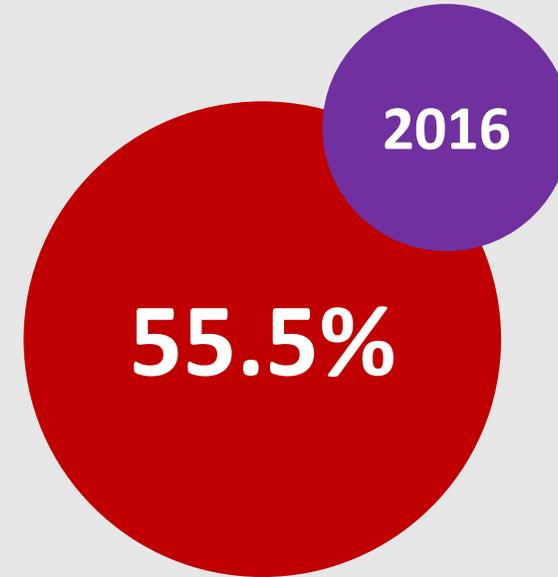
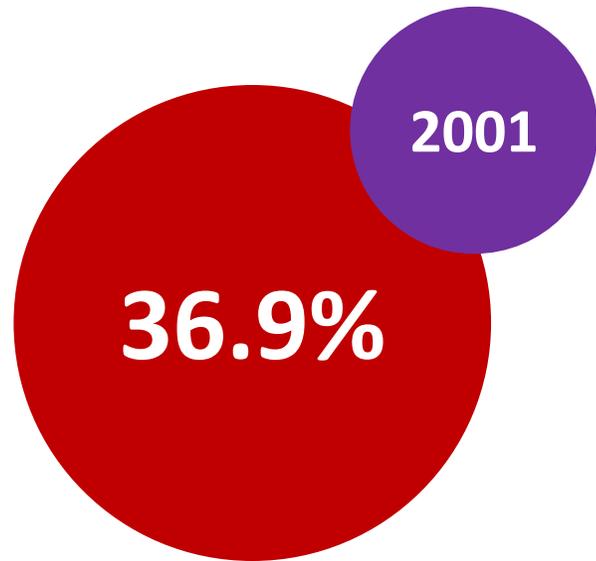


- First Nation
- Inuit
- Multiple identity
- Not included elsewhere



- First Nation
- Inuit
- Multiple identity
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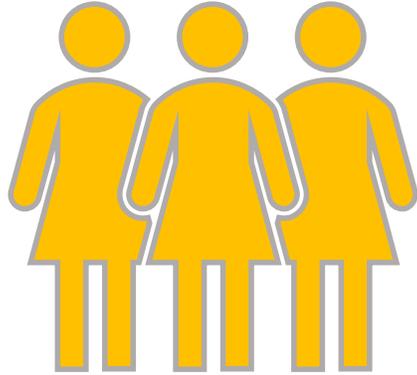
PROPORTION OF URBAN FIRST NATIONS POPULATION



In 2001, 36.9% of First Nations members lived in cities. Over a period of 15 years, an increase of close to 20 percentage points is observed.

The First Nations urban population (51,395 people) represents 55.5% of all First Nations members in the province.

PROPORTION OF WOMEN AMONG THE URBAN FN-IP POPULATION



In 2016, the **FN-IP urban population** included more women (**52%**) than men (**48%**), especially in cities where the population was greater.



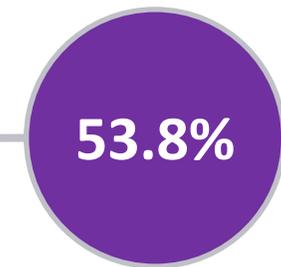
Proportion of women among total FN-IP population



Proportion of women among the First Nations population

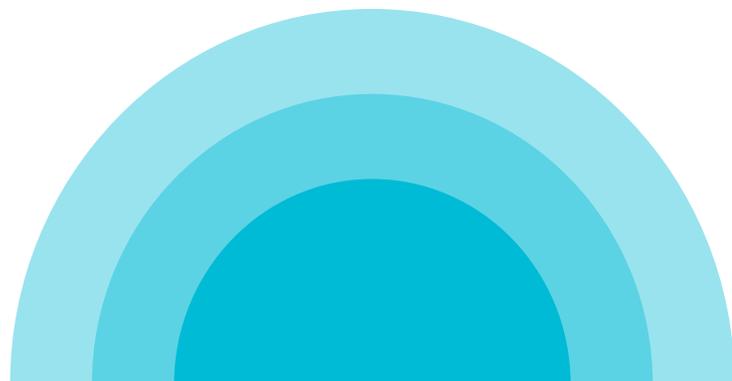


Proportion of women among Inuit People

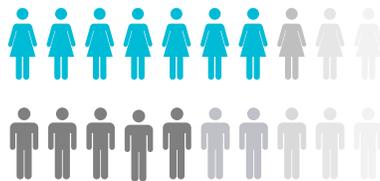


Proportion of women among multiple identity groups and groups not included elsewhere

PROPORTION OF INUIT WOMEN AMONG THE URBAN FN-IP POPULATION

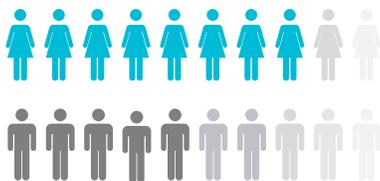


The proportion of women among the Inuit population in cities is the highest among the four identity groups included in the total FN-IP population. In 2016, this proportion reached **58.8%**. In the city of Montréal, this proportion is the highest (**64.0%**), whereas the Inuit population residing in the 12 cities of the province where a Native Friendship Centre is established is at **61.9%**.



58.8%

Cities account for 17.3% women and 12.5% men from the **total Inuit population of the province**



61.9%

Among the 12 cities where Native Friendship Centres are established, there are **8 women for every 5 men**.

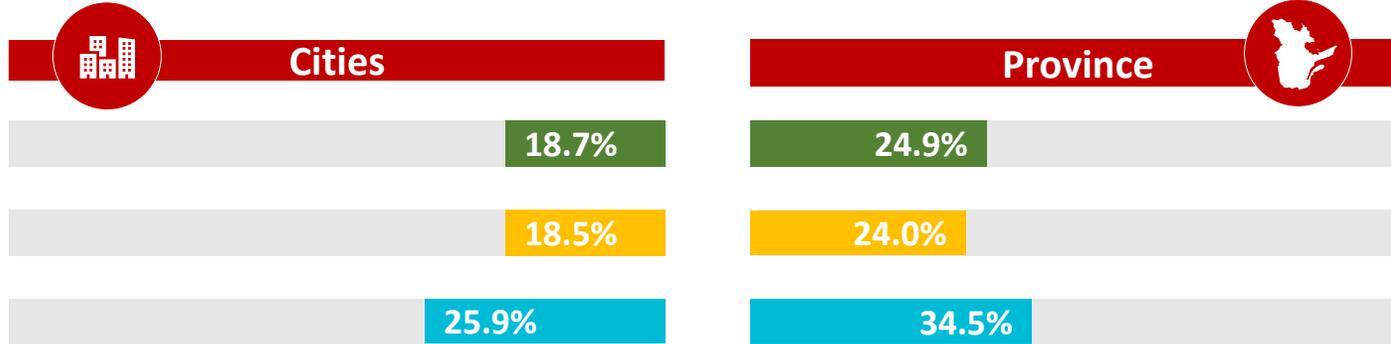


64.0%

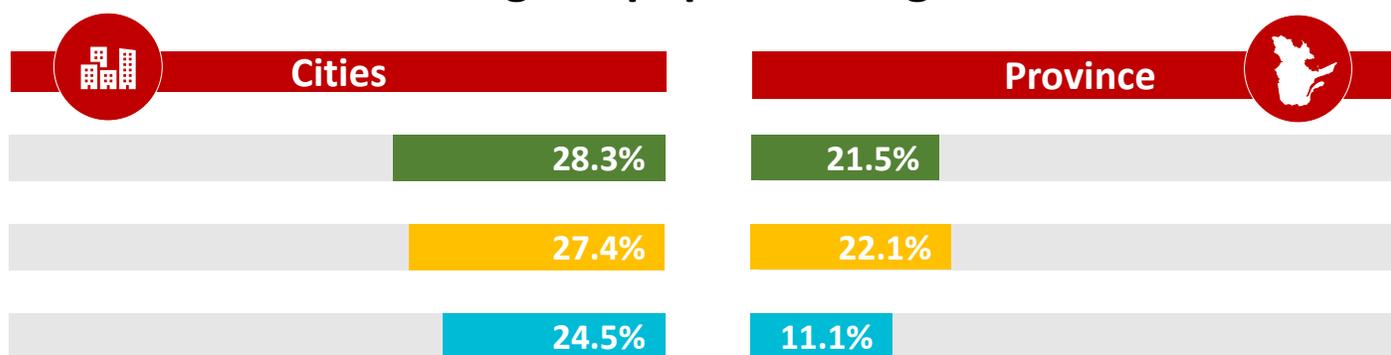
The difference between men and women for the Inuit reaches a peak of about **9 women for 5 men** in the city of Montréal.

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST MEMBERS OF THE FN-IP POPULATION

Percentage of population under the age of 15



Percentage of population aged 55 and older



● Total FN-IP population
 ● First Nations
 ● Inuit

✓ The FN-IP population in the cities is slightly older compared to total provincial FN-IP.

✓ The difference in the age structure observed throughout the province and in the cities is quite significant for the Inuit population.

✓ For First Nations, age differences are also observed; however they are slightly less significant.

LARGEST PROPORTIONS OF FN-IP PEOPLE IN CITIES

Cities of Québec with more than 5% FN-IP in total population, according to proportion, 2016 (49 cities)

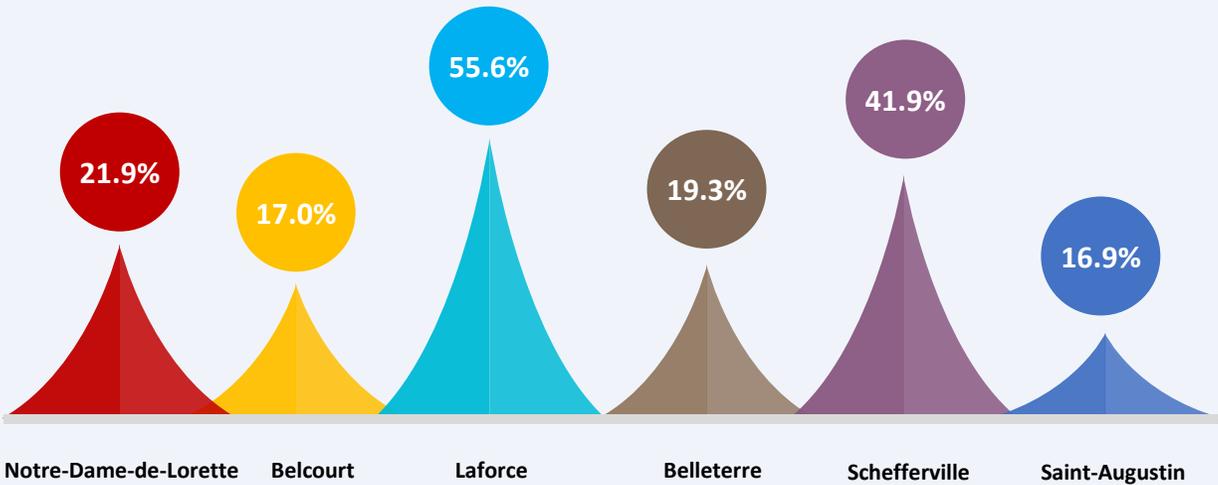


A large part of these cities are located in regional centres: in the Gatineau-Maniwaki axis and in surrounding areas of Sherbrooke, Rimouski, and Dolbeau-Mistassini.

44 of these cities have less than 2,500 residents

49 cities have at least 5% FN-IP among their population

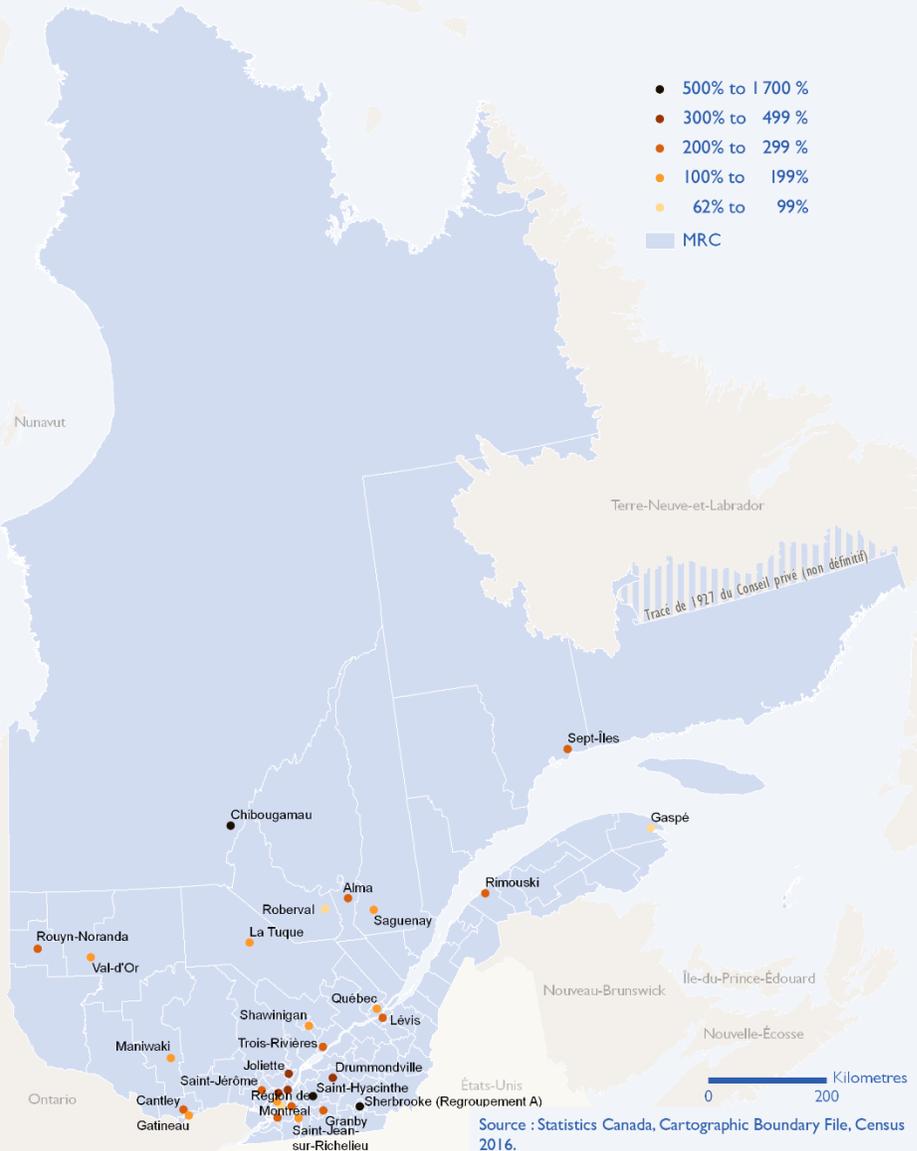
Six cities have a population composed of more than 15% of FN-IP in 2016



Source : Statistics Canada, Cartographic Boundary File, Census 2016.

30 CITIES IN QUÉBEC HAVE AT LEAST 300 FN-IP PEOPLE

Rate of growth of the cities with more than 300 FN-IP in total population, according to proportion, 2016 (30 cities)



Between 2001 and 2016, the percentage of most FN-IP identity groups present has doubled, tripled, and even quadrupled in these 30 cities.

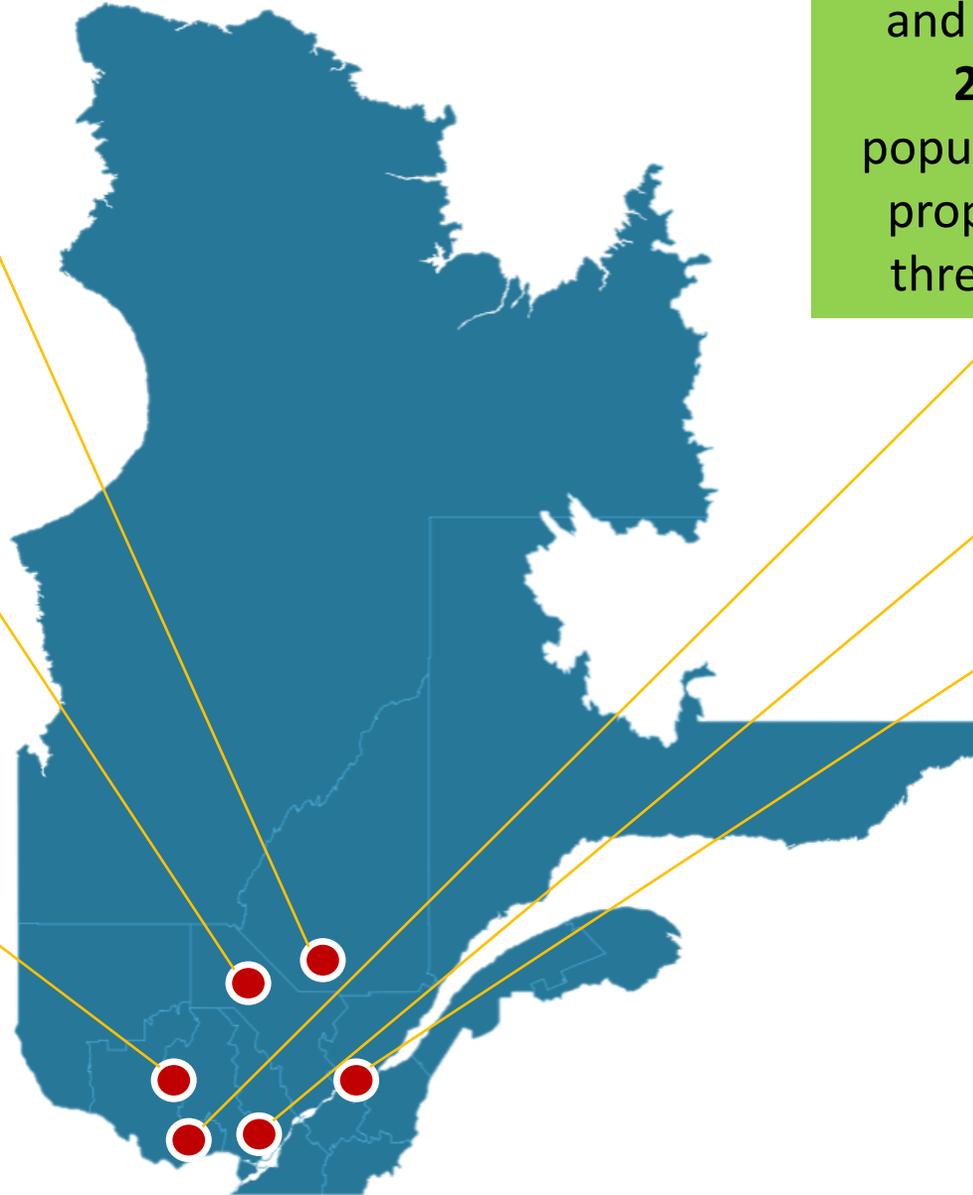
The FN-IP represent more than 6% of the inhabitants in 3 of the 30 cities in 2016.



In Roberval, the **575** FN-IP, of which **540** are First Nations members, out of 9,440* inhabitants, represent **6.7%** of the city's total population.

In La Tuque, the **720** FN-IP out of 10,680 inhabitants, of which **695** are First Nations members, represent **6.7%** of the city's total population.

In Maniwaki, the **320** FN-IP, of which **295** are First Nations members, out of 10,680 inhabitants, represent **8.8 %** of the city's total population.



The cities of Gatineau, Montréal, and Québec alone account for **26.3%** of the total FN-IP population residing in cities. The proportion of women in these three cities represents 53,7%.

FN-IP numbers and proportions according to the total population of the city

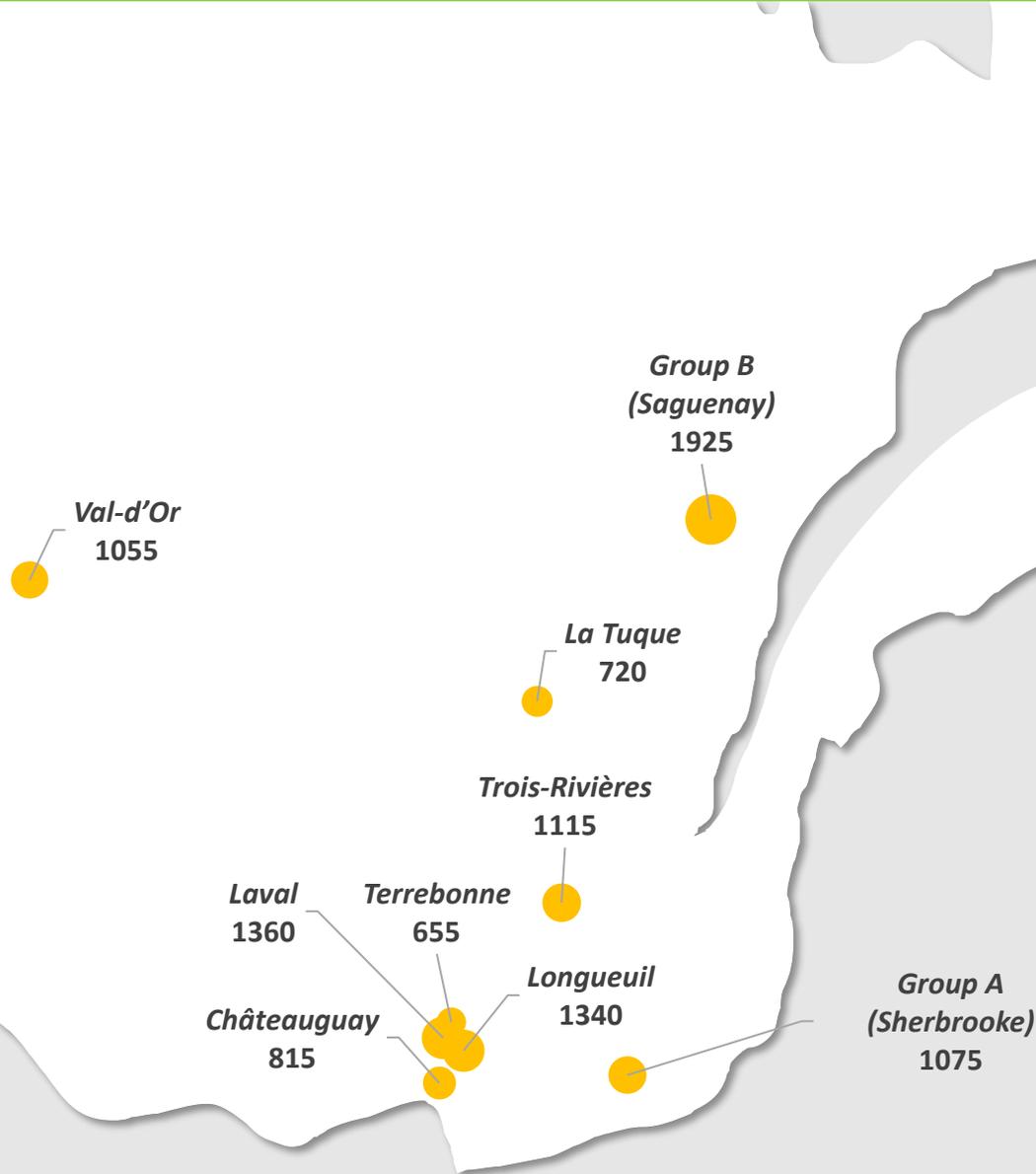
City of Montréal	6,660 11.1%
City of Gatineau	5,185 8.6%
Québec City	4,025 6.7%

* Private households, 2016

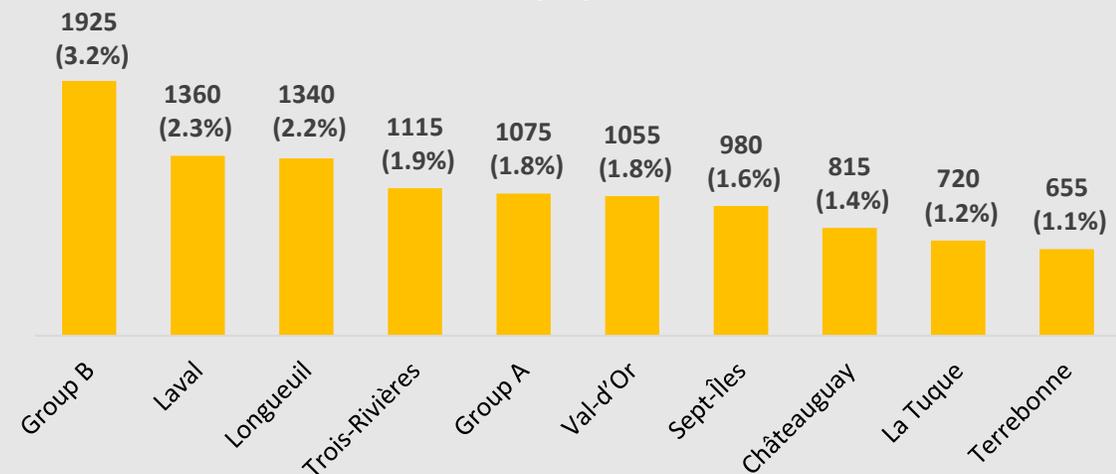
THE 10 CITIES WITH THE LARGEST FN-IP POPULATION

(WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MONTRÉAL, GATINEAU, AND QUÉBEC CITY)

These 10 cities include 18.5% of the total FN-IP urban population. Four of these cities are located within the vicinity of Montréal (Laval, Longueuil, Châteauguay, and Terrebonne).



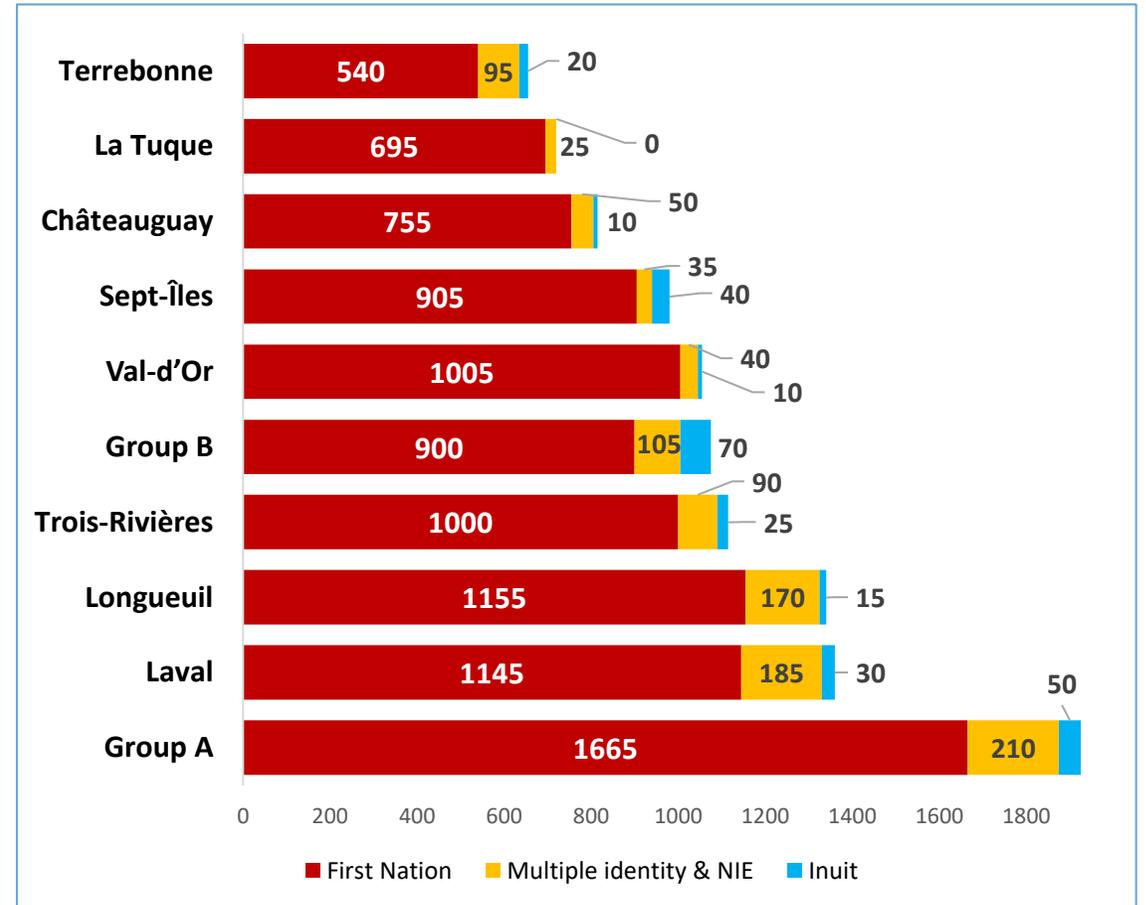
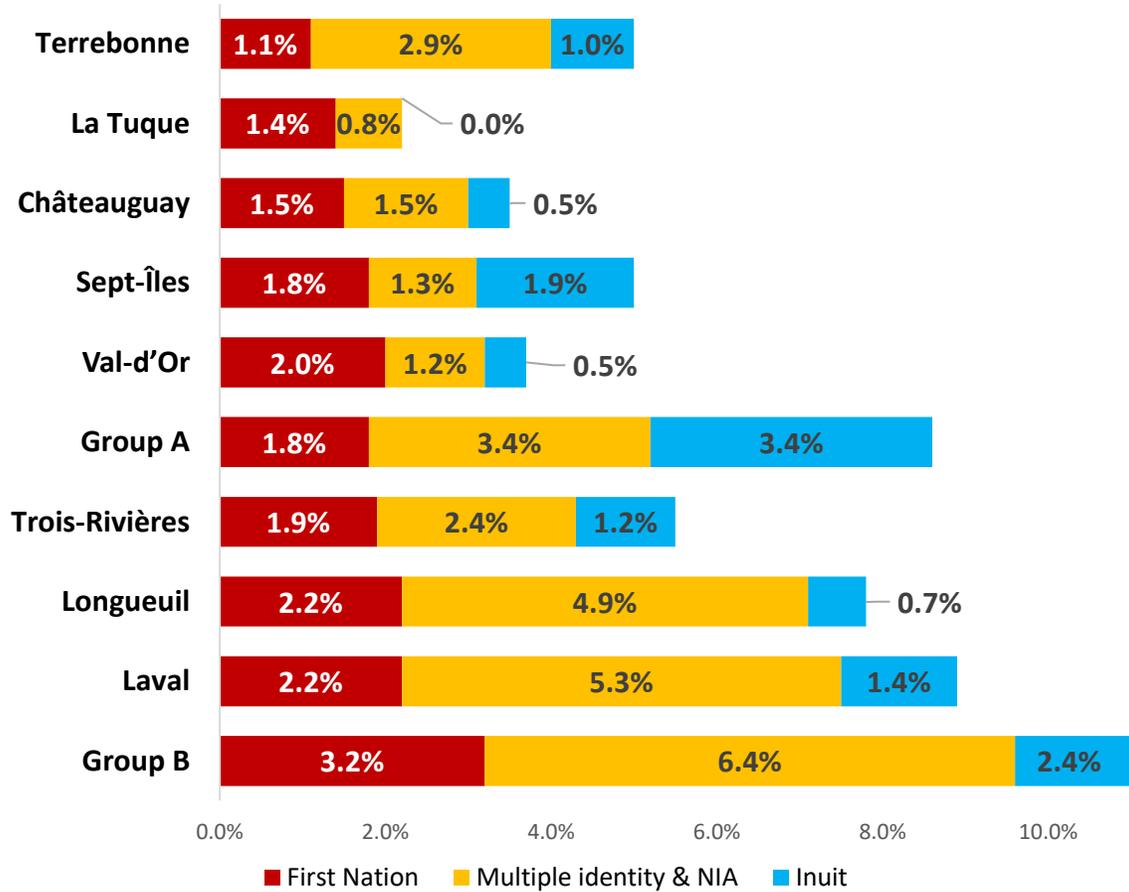
FN-IP numbers and proportions among the entire urban FN-IP population



THE 10 CITIES WITH THE LARGEST FN-IP POPULATION

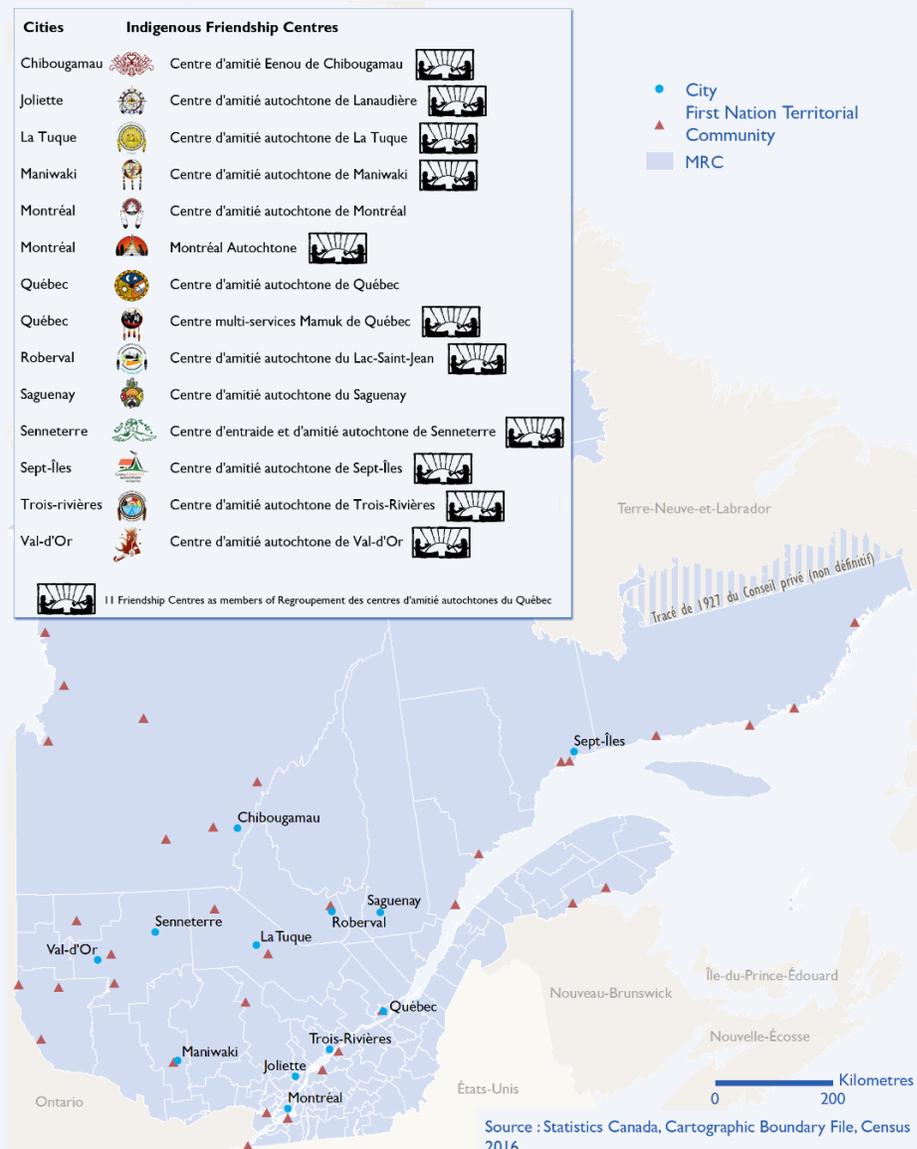
(WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MONTRÉAL, GATINEAU, AND QUÉBEC CITY)

Numbers and proportions of FN-IP identity groups in the 10 cities with the largest population



Note: The proportions correspond to the percentage of the population of each FN-IP identity group compared to their total for the city as a whole. For example, for Laval, 1,145 First Nations members represent 2.2% of the total First Nations population in the cities.

THE 12 CITIES WHERE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES ARE LOCATED



Individuals declaring FN-IP identity

make up 0.7% of the total population of these cities



Percentage of FN-IP people in these 12 cities of the total FN-IP population in all the cities of the province as a whole

Proportion of FN-IP women

9,620 women and 8,585 men



Significant increase of the FN-IP population in these cities between 2001 and 2016

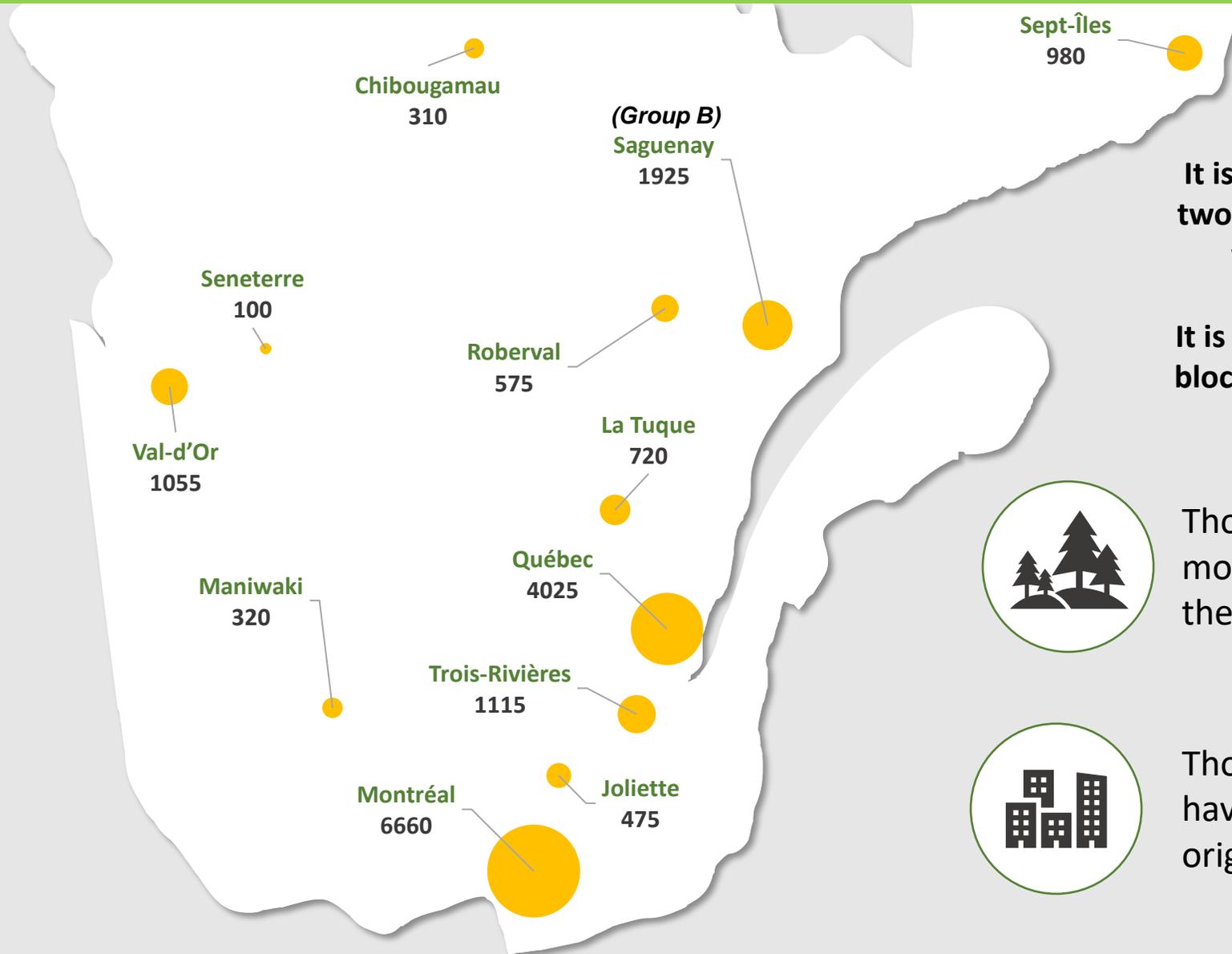
Concentration according to place of residence

In 3 cities: Montréal, Québec, and Saguenay



THE SITUATION IN 12 CITIES WHERE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES ARE LOCATED

(POPULATION FN-IP)



It is possible to group together Friendship Centers in two blocks when considering the origin of the people who frequent them and their scope of action.

It is possible to regroup the Friendship Centres in two blocks if we account for the origin of those who come to the centre and their sphere of action.



Those who are in the regions will usually mobilize persons of the same Nation to which they belong.



Those established in Montréal and Québec City have a more diverse population more likely to originate from all the Nations in the province.

ZONE OF TERRITORIAL INFLUENCE OF INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRES IN THE REGIONS

Zone of territorial influence of Indigenous Friendship Centres in Québec regions, 2018



As a community organization offering services to the Indigenous population in urban and rural areas, the zone of territorial influence of Indigenous Friendship Centres in the regions usually goes beyond the municipality where they are located to encompass other cities in the area, as well as surrounding Indigenous territorial communities.

Province of Québec	Total population	FN-IP population	Proportion
	7,965,450	113,525	1.4%
Regional Indigenous Friendship Centres	Zone of influence total population	FN-IP population within the zone	Proportion of FN-IP within the zone
Centre d'amitié autochtone du Lac-Saint-Jean AND Centre d'amitié autochtone du Saguenay	268,870	5,890	2.2%
Centre d'amitié autochtone de Lanaudière (Joliette)	113,190	3,005	2.7%
Centre d'amitié autochtone de La Tuque	14,615	3,865	26.4%
Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre	53,725	2,905	5.4%
Centre d'amitié autochtone de Sept-Îles	90,685	11,660	12.9%
Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières	242,255	2,055	0.8%
Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre AND Senneterre Native Friendship Centre	157,855	16,480	10.4%
Chibougamau Eenuu Friendship Centre	14,860	6,105	41.1%

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