

Census 96 Data Summary Ethnicity and Immigration

Prepared for the
Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse

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Census 96 Data Summary - Ethnicity and Immigration

Introduction

Statistics Canada has released 1996 Census data concerning citizenship, immigration, ethnicity, language and Aboriginal heritage. This report is a distillation of that data, presenting the most relevant pieces of information for the Clearinghouse partners, broken down for the Clearinghouse region and the areas served by the partner institutions, along with Alberta figures for comparison. Summarized here is: Citizenship and place of birth; immigrants' countries of origin; ethnicity; language spoken at home; visible minorities; and Aboriginal data.

Notes on the Data

Citizenship and Place of Birth

Northern Albertans are more likely to be Canadian citizens and more likely to be born in Canada and in Alberta than are people living elsewhere in the province. This is especially true in the AVC - LSL region, fully 76.7% of whose residents were born in Alberta. The exception to this rule is in the Keyano College region where only 45.9% of the residents are Alberta-born. This is due, no doubt, to the large influx of workers from across Canada to work in the Oilsands.

Countries of Origin

In the North, as in Alberta generally, the largest group of immigrants came here from the United Kingdom, followed by the United States. Immigration between 1991 and 1996 ("Recent immigration" according to Statistics Canada) looks quite a bit different. Immigrants from the Philippines lead the way in over half of the geographies examined including the Clearinghouse region and all Alberta.

Ethnicity

1996 marked the first time that respondents were encouraged to include "Canadian" as an ethnicity. It is the most popularly listed choice in the Clearinghouse region as a whole and in most of the partners' regions. People could mark down as many as four different ethnicities, so the percentages add up to well over 100. It is interesting (if not surprising) to note that those who list western European ethnic backgrounds are much more likely to list several ethnicities than are those claiming non-European backgrounds. It would appear that those whose ancestors have been part of the Canadian mosaic for several generations are more likely to have mixed ancestry than those whose countrymen have arrived in large numbers only in the past three or four decades. The data included here show the six most popular ethnicities in each geography.

Language

Statistics Canada reported language data in several ways including mother tongue, first language learned and still understood and language spoken at home. In this report we have summarized the language spoken at home as it best reflects people's current language of choice. Aboriginal languages may be under-reported due to the non-enumeration of many Aboriginal communities.

Data

Table 1: Citizenship and Place of Birth

| Geography | Percentage Who are Canadian Citizens | Percentage Born in Canada | Percentage Born in Alberta |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| All Alberta | 95.7 | 84.4 | 57.9 |
| Clearinghouse | 98.5 | 93.9 | 64.7 |
| Fairview College | 98.6 | 94.2 | 70.4 |
| GPRC | 98.4 | 90.7 | 65.3 |
| AVC - LSL | 98.6 | 95.3 | 76.7 |
| Lakeland College | 98.9 | 94.6 | 59.5 |
| Keyano College | 97.3 | 90.0 | 45.9 |

Table 2: Immigrants' Countries of Origin

| Geography | Top Three Countries of Origin - All Immigrants | Top Three Countries of Origin - Recent Immigrants |
|------------------|---|--|
| All Alberta | United Kingdom (15.1%) United States (6.9%) China & Germany (both 5.8%) | Philippines (11.1%) Hong Kong (10.5%) China (9.5%) |
| Clearinghouse | United Kingdom (20.4%) United States (13.0%) Germany (8.1%) | Philippines (13.0%) United States (9.3%) Lebanon (9.0%) |
| Fairview College | United States (15.2%) United Kingdom (14.9%) Mexico (7.5%) | India (9.5%) Yugoslavia (9.5%) 9 Countries* all at 4.8% |
| GPRC | United Kingdom (21.6%) United States (12.0%) Poland (11.0%) | India (13.2%) United States (11.2%) Philippines (11.2%) |
| AVC - LSL | United Kingdom (15.7%) United States (12.3%) Lebanon (11.2%) | Philippines (23.2%) Lebanon (23.2%) United Kingdom (16.1%) |
| Lakeland College | United Kingdom (19.0%) United States (14.4%) Germany (13.7%) | Germany (22.6%) Philippines (15.5%) Lebanon (13.1%) |
| Keyano College | United Kingdom (26.1%) India (7.0%) Philippines (6.6%) | Philippines (13.0%) India (12.0%) Poland (7.6%) |

*Peru, Ukraine, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, U.S., Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Poland and Hong Kong. Note - Total recent immigration is only 210 people.

Further Points on Immigration

Age at Time of Immigration

On the whole, immigrants to northern Alberta are more likely to have been under age 20 on receiving Landed Immigrant status than those to Alberta generally. 60.5 Percent of immigrants were over 20 provincially whereas 51.1% of those in the Clearinghouse region were over 20. Immigrants to the Fairview and Lakeland regions have had the fewest adult immigrants (48.3% and 45.1% respectively). The Keyano region is the exception to the rule, with 61.7% of immigrants being over 20.

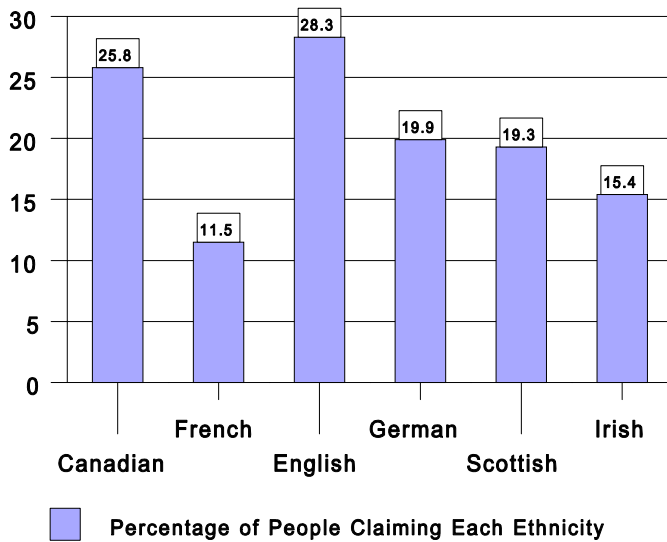
Time Period of Immigration

The Clearinghouse region has not seen as much recent immigration as has the rest of Alberta. Provincially, 41% of immigration has taken place since 1981. In the North that figure is 31.6%. Immigration up to 1970 makes up 35 % of the Alberta total and 43.4% of the Clearinghouse region total. The Lakeland college region is the most extreme example of this trend, with 53.6% of immigrants having arrived before 1971. The AVC - LSL region is an exception to the rule, having seen 20.3% of their immigrants become Landed Immigrants between 1991 and 1996. The Keyano region had their largest influx of immigrants (40.1% of their total) between 1971 and 1980, with only 22.9% arriving before then.

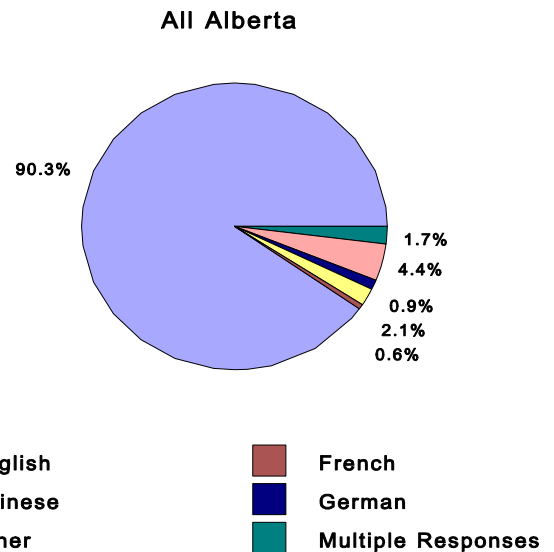
Ethnicity and Language

All Alberta

Most Common Ethnicities - All Alberta



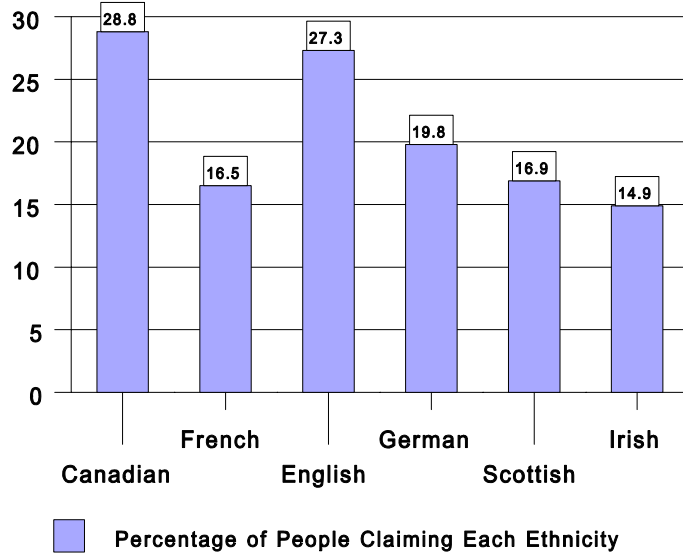
Language Spoken at Home



Ethnicity and Language cont'd

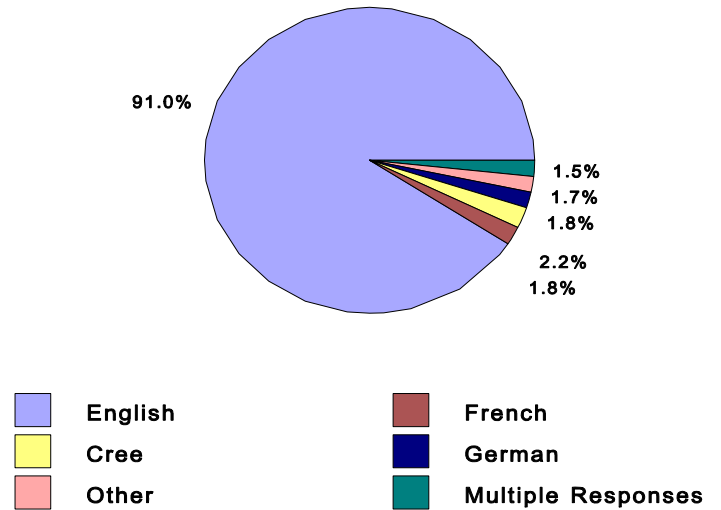
Clearinghouse Region

Most Common Ethnicities - Clearinghouse Region



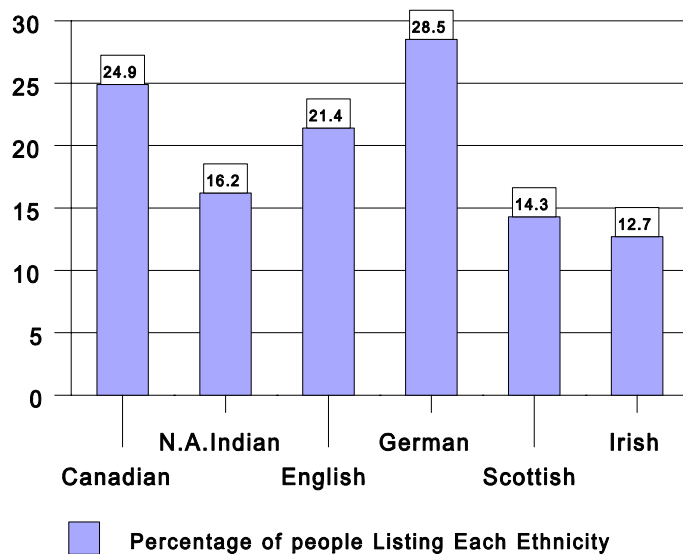
Language Spoken at Home

Clearinghouse Region



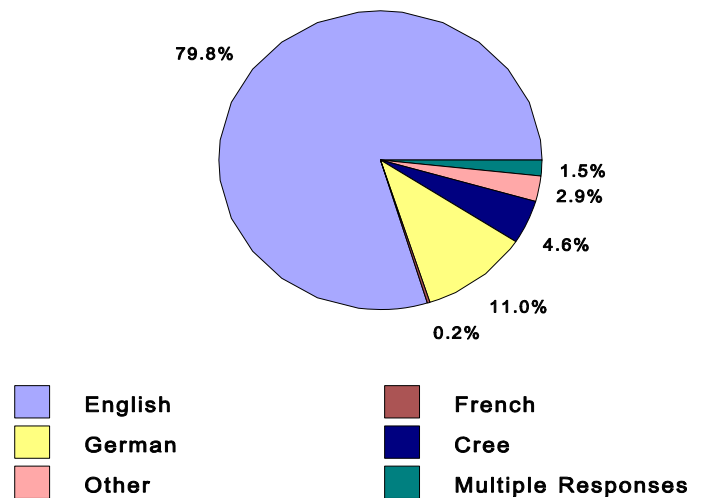
Fairview College Region

Most Common Ethnicities - Fairview College Region



Language Spoken at Home

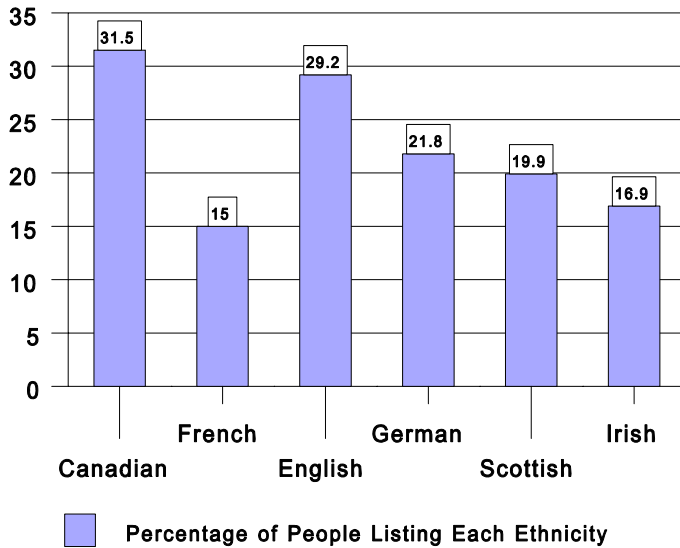
Fairview College Region



Ethnicity and Language cont'd

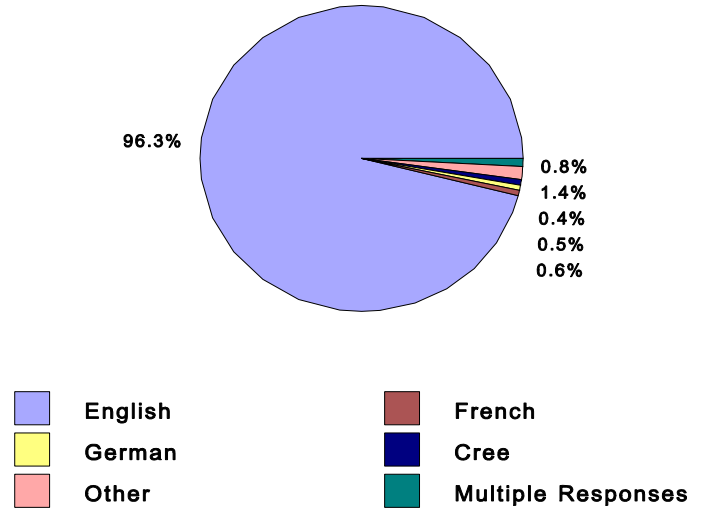
GPRC Region

Most Common Ethnicities - GPRC Region



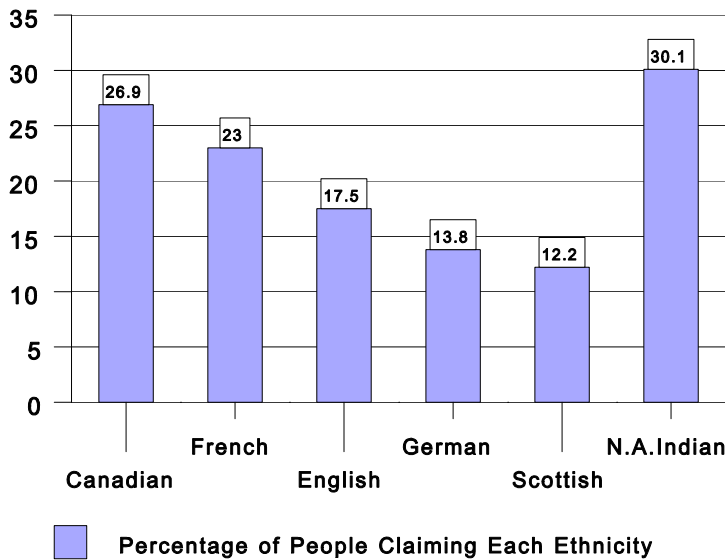
Language Spoken at Home

GPRC Region



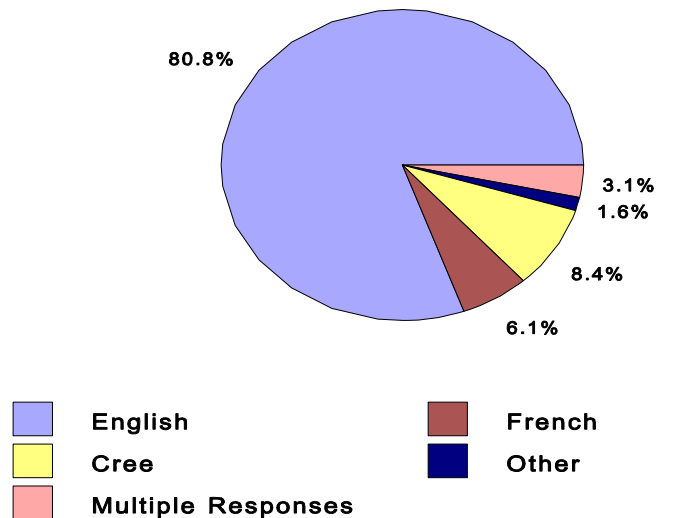
AVC – LSL Region

Most Common Ethnicities - AVC-LSL Region



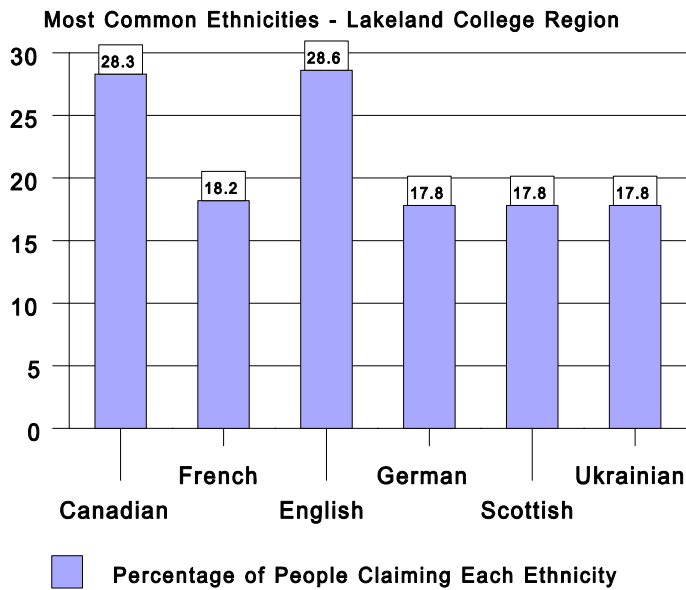
Language Spoken at Home

AVC - LSL Region



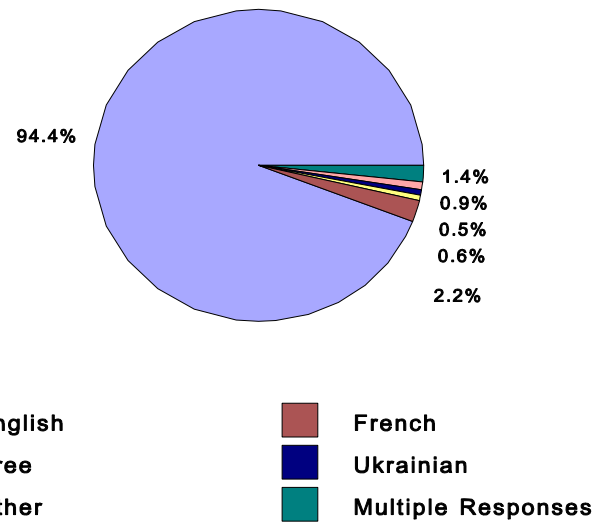
Ethnicity and Language cont'd

Lakeland College Region

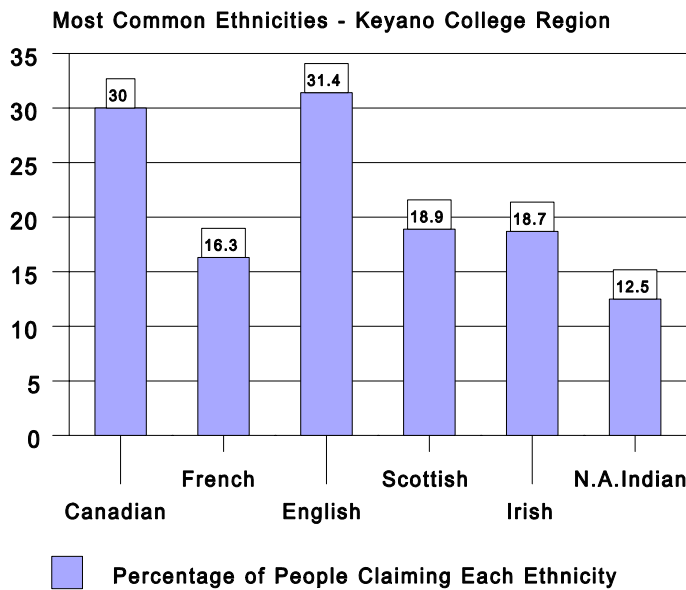


Language Spoken at Home

Lakeland College Region

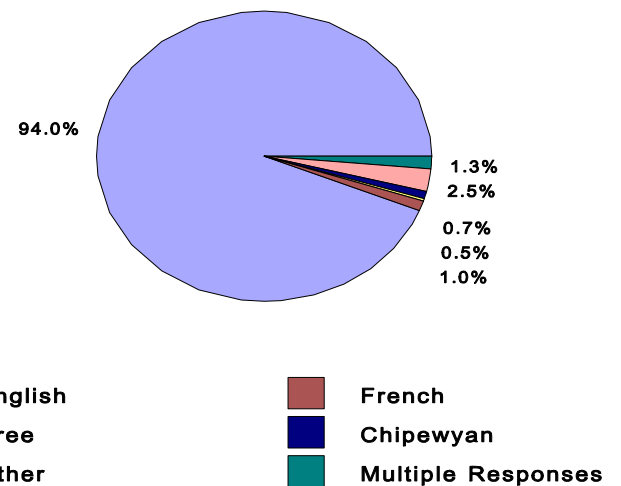


Keyano College Region



Language Spoken at Home

Keyano College Region



Visible Minorities

In 1996, the Census asked individuals to identify themselves as to their “population group”. This identifies those persons who are visible minorities - that is those who are “non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”, other than Aboriginal persons. Nationally, visible minorities make up 11.2% of the population. Alberta has the third-highest percentage of minorities with 10.1% (behind B.C. at 17.9% and Ontario at 15.8%). The visible minority population may be larger among younger Albertans. In a 1996 survey of grade 12 students in Alberta 17% of students surveyed identified themselves as members of a visible minority; though this likely included Aboriginal students. As seen in the table below, The Clearinghouse region, much like rural areas across Canada, has significantly fewer visible minorities than the national average.

Table 3: Percentage of Visible Minorities in Regional Populations

| Clearinghouse | Fairview | GPRC | AVC - LSL | Lakeland | Keyano |
|---------------|----------|------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 2.4% | 1.6% | 1.9% | 2.6% | 1.9% | 7.4% |

Aboriginal Data

Aboriginal data is one of the least reliable sets of Census data. Across Canada some 77 Aboriginal communities did not allow complete census enumeration. Several of these communities were in Alberta. As a result, the following information is presented as a point of interest and should not be taken as indicative of the actual Aboriginal population of the regions listed.

Table 4: Aboriginal Population Figures

| Region | Aboriginal % of Total Population | Indian % of Aboriginal Pop. | Metis % of Aboriginal Pop. | Inuit/Multiple Responses/Other |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alberta | 4.6% | 56.3% | 40.3% | 3.4% |
| Clearinghouse | 14.4% | 58.6% | 38.4% | 2.9% |
| Fairview | 18.9% | 64.7% | 34.2% | 1.2% |
| GPRC | 7.1% | 59.3% | 36.8% | 3.8% |
| AVC - LSL | 34.7% | 62.1% | 35.5% | 2.3% |
| Lakeland | 8.8% | 64.6% | 33.2% | 1.8% |
| Keyano | 15.1% | 53.8% | 42.8% | 3.4% |

Sources

Statistics Canada, Census 1996.

–Website, www.statcan.ca

Alberta Education, Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development, “1996 Alberta High School Graduate Survey Report of Research Findings” Prepared by Graham Lowe and Harvey Krahn of the Population Research Laboratory, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, January, 1997.