Why Talk about the Aboriginal Population?

It is young and growing ...

- 1,400,685 people declared “Aboriginal” identity in 2011, representing 4.3% of the total Canadian population
- Aboriginal people accounted for 3.8% of the population enumerated in the 2006 Census, 3.3% in the 2001 Census and 2.8% in the 1996 Census
- The Aboriginal population increased by 20.1% between 2006 and 2011, compared with 5.2% for the non-Aboriginal population (National Household Survey 2011 Stats Canada)

But there are challenges ...

We can’t talk about current conditions in Indigenous communities without context.

Colonization.
Indian Act.
Residential Schools.
60s Scoop.
Child Welfare System.
G&M “a slap in the face of every Canadian”

First Nations in Manitoba and Ontario

Today. In 2013. In one of the richest countries in the world.
“Their survival is where they’re at, never mind learning” — teacher

“School is the first thing to go, it’s a pressure they can do without” — community leader

“There’s so much of a survival mentality that it disables you from dreaming” — youth
UW is located in the inner city
Just some of the gaps

**Education Gap**
28% of First Nations living on FN in Manitoba graduate from high school (AANDC)

**Income Gap**
Average income is 64 percent of average total Canadian income (Caledon Institute)

**‘Family’ Gap**
48.1% of all children aged 14 and under in foster care were Aboriginal children (Stats Can)

**Gaps in Quality of Life**
Aboriginal infant mortality almost 20% higher
Aboriginal people three times more likely to have Type 2 diabetes
Suicide rates, especially among Inuit, were from 3 to 11 times more frequent
Sadly…

When the UN Human Development Index is applied to Status First Nations peoples, Canada’s top 10 ranking plummets to about 76th place.

Really.
So how to we eliminate the gaps?

EDUCATION *

*Relevant and respectful, please
“The people who designed the educational system are those who have benefited from the system. Not those whom the system has failed.”

BUT despite the Residential Schools and the current ‘industrial revolution’ system of education, guess what??
Education is the top priority of urban Aboriginal peoples, and an enduring aspiration for the next generation.

CBC's 8th Fire “Education is the new buffalo ...”
So ... Now what?
Transformation

The University of Winnipeg is transforming itself into an innovative university focused on ACCESS and EXCELLENCE.

Our mission is to break down the barriers to PSE for Indigenous and other underrepresented students ...
Reaching Out - Wii Chiiwaakanak

Free computer access and classes, Ojibwe language classes, Elders teaching circles, Let’s Talk Science, Pow Wow Club, Change Ur Tune, Young Money, etc. for more than 2,000 users a month
Innovative Learning Centre

Works with 35 inner-city schools to offer learning opportunities to more than 1300 Indigenous and inner-city youth each year through Eco-Kids on Campus, Eco-U Summer Camp and Shine On.
Opportunity Fund

Students earn university Tuition Credits as early as Grade 4; provided Fast-Track Bursaries to more than 1158 university-level students – more than 172 have graduated from University!

2012/13 expanded to offer Tuition Waivers for youth in the child welfare system
Model High School

Individualized education for approximately 40 students each year, in partnership with University’s Collegiate; 29 graduates to date.

In a neighbourhood with a 45.5% graduation rate, 98% of Model School students graduate!
Indigenous-focused University
Academic Programs

Professional, Applied and Continuing Education – Indigenous Police Preparation Diploma, Industry Workplace Skills Diploma, Intro to University

Department of Indigenous Studies - BA in Indigenous Studies, MA in Indigenous Governance

Master’s in Development Practice in Indigenous Development - one of 22 universities selected by the MacArthur Foundation

Bachelor of Science in Science, Environment, and Indigenous Knowledge (in development)

Urban and Inner City Studies – diploma and degree at Urban Circle on Selkirk Avenue; BUS program

Faculty of Education Access Programs – WEC and CATEP

Indigenous Teacher Education Model post-baccalaureate

Partnerships with Red River College, Winnipeg Technical College and others e.g. Restaurant and Food Services Entrepreneurship Diploma
Aboriginal Student Services Centre

Elders in Residence
Transition Year Program
Aboriginal Student Council
ASSC Coordinator and Aboriginal Academic Advisor
Transition Year Coordinator
Aboriginal Liaison Officer
Aboriginal Student Support Officer
“The University recognizes that it is on Treaty One land in the heart of the Métis Nation. The University chooses to operate with respect for all Indigenous Peoples. This policy will provide an institutional framework for an Indigenous Advisory Circle to contribute Indigenous perspectives to the University’s governance, programs, and services.”
Affordable Housing

McFeetors Hall: Great-West Life Student Residence

• Affordable housing
• Home to 176 students
• Unique townhouses for 25 student and community families
University of Winnipeg Students’ Association Day Care Centre

- Spaces for up to 112 children
- Largest downtown daycare
- Serves students, faculty and community
- Provincially-recognized child care educators
- Green outdoor play area
UNITED HEALTH & RECplex

Community Charter
Shared access model
Social Enterprise – Diversity Foods

Unique University food service that hires and trains local inner-city residents

Joint venture with SEED Winnipeg

Employees own the company

Locally grown, diverse menus fit the contemporary needs of our diverse campus
Indigenous Partners

Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce
Assembly of First Nations
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council
Fisher River Cree Nation
Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.
Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre
Manitoba Metis Federation and Louis Riel Institute
Peguis First Nation
Sagkeeng First Nation
Southeast Resource Development Council
Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre

Additional partnerships in development
Challenges

Jurisdictional issues
Academic philosophy / ideology
Bicameral university governance system
Scale and Adaptation
Policy vs Reality
Data and Outcomes
Funding
• **Dramatic increases** in the number of Indigenous students applying to UWinnipeg

• More than **12%** of our student body self-identifies as Aboriginal

• Students who self-identify as a “visible minority” has increased from **14% in 2008 to 23% in 2012** (CUSC Survey)

• UW now better reflects our city and our neighbourhood
Thank you  Merci  Ekosi