This bulletin summarizes the 2006 Census Aboriginal data release for Peel Region and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Data from the 2006 Census were collected on May 16, 2006. In 2006, 11,490 Registered First Nations (people registered under the Indian Act of Canada) were living in the GTA. The Aboriginal identity population (comprised of Registered First Nations, people who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group and members of Indian bands or First Nations) was 31,910 while 69,820 people reported at least one Aboriginal ancestry in the GTA.

**Highlights**
- 11,490 Registered First Nations people were living in the GTA in 2006, a 16% increase from 2001.
- The Aboriginal identity population in Peel was 5,500 in 2006. Almost two-thirds were North American First Nations.
- The Métis was the fastest growing Aboriginal group in Peel between 2001 and 2006.

Registered First Nations people comprised 0.2% of the GTA's population in 2006. Within the GTA, this figure varied from 0.1% in Peel to 0.4% in Durham. Toronto was home to nearly half (48%) of all Registered First Nations people that lived in the GTA. Durham had the second highest share (18%) followed by Peel (15%), York (13%) and Halton (7%). The Aboriginal identity population comprised 0.6% of the GTA's total population. Durham had the highest proportion of people with an Aboriginal identity (1.2%) while York recorded the lowest proportion (0.4%). Peel’s Aboriginal population was 5,500 (0.5% of the total population) in 2006. People with Aboriginal ancestries comprised 1.3% of total population in the GTA. Toronto had the highest share of Aboriginal ancestry population in the GTA (39%) followed by Durham (23%), Peel (17%), York (12%) and Halton (9%).

Growth in Aboriginal identity population outpaced total population growth in every GTA municipality from 2001 to 2006. In the same period, the GTA's Aboriginal identity population increased by 33% and the Registered First Nations population increased by 16% compared to the overall population growth rate of 9%. Durham experienced the highest Aboriginal identity and Registered First Nations population growth in the GTA with 53% and 44% respectively. Toronto had the least growth in both categories with a 20% increase in Aboriginal identity population and a 6% growth in the Registered First Nations population.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of the GTA’s Aboriginal identity population were North American First Nations people in 2006. The Métis were the second most common group (30%), followed by the Inuit (1%). People identifying with more than one Aboriginal group (1%) and those with affiliations not listed above (4%) together comprised 5% of the Aboriginal identity population in the GTA. These proportions were generally consistent in all GTA municipalities.

Growth rates of Aboriginal identity groups varied among the GTA municipalities from 2001 to 2006. The Métis were the fastest growing Aboriginal group in Halton (95%), Peel (51%) and Toronto (37%). Durham saw the Inuit population more than double, growing from 60 to 140 people between 2001 and 2006. York’s Aboriginal identity responses (other than North American First Nations, Métis, Inuit) and multiple Aboriginal identities increased the fastest by 83% from 2001 to 2006.

Peel was the only GTA municipality that did not experience a decline in all Aboriginal identity categories from 2001 to 2006. During the same period, the Inuit population increased by over one-third (38%) in Peel. This figure fell by 17% and 11% in York and Toronto respectively. In Halton, the number of Inuit people declined from 25 in 2001 to zero in 2006.
According to the 2006 Census, 1,675 Registered First Nations people lived in Peel in May 2006. The Aboriginal identity population across Peel totalled 5,500 while 11,750 people reported at least one Aboriginal ancestry. In 2006, almost three-quarters (or 73%) of Peel’s Inuit population lived in Brampton.

Registered First Nations people comprised about 0.1% of Peel’s population in 2006. This figure was 0.2% in Brampton and Caledon, and 0.1% in Mississauga. Brampton was home to over half (50%) of all Registered First Nations people living in Peel by May 2006. About 45% of Peel’s Registered First Nations people resided in Mississauga while the remainder (7%) lived in Caledon. The Aboriginal identity population comprised 0.5% of Peel’s total population. About 48% of Peel’s Aboriginal identity population lived in Brampton, followed by Mississauga (45%) and Caledon (7%). People with Aboriginal ancestries comprised 1% of Peel’s total population. About 1.5% of Caledon’s population reported at least one Aboriginal ancestry. In Brampton and Mississauga, this figure was 1.2% and 0.8% respectively. Of all individuals reporting Aboriginal ancestries in Peel, Mississauga had the highest share (47%) followed by Brampton (46%) and Caledon (7%).

Growth in Aboriginal identity population outpaced total population growth in all of Peel’s area municipalities from 2001 to 2006. Caledon had the largest growth in Aboriginal identity population, an increase of 148% (from 145 people in 2001 to 360 people in 2006) compared to a population growth rate of 13% in the same period. Brampton experienced a 55% increase in Aboriginal identity population while Mississauga’s figure grew by 21%. Caledon had the largest growth in the Registered First Nations population (64%) followed by Brampton (46%) from 2001 to 2006. During the same period, Mississauga saw a slight decline (1%) in the number of Registered First Nations people.

North American First Nations people in 2006 comprised almost two-thirds (62%) of the Aboriginal identity population in Peel. The Métis accounted for 30% of Peel’s Aboriginal identity population followed by the Inuit (1%). People that identified with more than one Aboriginal group (2%) and individuals with affiliations not listed above (5%) together comprised 7% of the Aboriginal identity population in Peel. These proportions were generally consistent across all of Peel’s area municipalities.

The Métis were the fastest growing Aboriginal identity group in Peel from 2001 to 2006. Within the Region, the Métis population quadrupled in Caledon from 25 people in 2001 to 100 people in 2006. The same group grew by 41% in Mississauga. In Brampton, the largest increase was recorded in the Inuit population, which grew from 15 people in 2001 to 40 people in 2006. During the same period, the number of Inuit in Mississauga declined from 20 people in 2001 to zero in 2006. The Inuit figure increased by 10 people in Caledon. Brampton was the only area municipality in Peel that recorded increases across all Aboriginal identity categories between 2001 and 2006.

### Aboriginal Population in Peel, 2001 and 2006

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga</td>
<td>612,925</td>
<td>668,549</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>325,428</td>
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<td>Caledon</td>
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<td>Peel</td>
<td>988,368</td>
<td>1,159,405</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3,915</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Definitions:
- Registered First Nations - refer to individuals registered under the Indian Act of Canada.
- Aboriginal identity population - refers to individuals who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group (including North American Indian, Métis or Inuit), Registered Indians (as defined by the Indian Act of Canada) and/or those who reported to be members of an Indian band or First Nations.
- Aboriginal ancestry population - refers to individuals who reported at least one Aboriginal ancestry (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit).

Note:
- While the 2001 and 2006 Census respondents self-identified as ‘Registered Indian’ or ‘North American Indian’, the term ‘First Nations’ is used throughout this bulletin.


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