

Indigenous Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

Indigenous Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Province of New Brunswick
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TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

Her Honour The Honourable Brenda Murphy

Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Keith Chiasson
Minister

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister

Honourable Keith Chiasson

Minister of Indigenous Affairs

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the Department of Indigenous Affairs for the fiscal year April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Cade Libby
Deputy Minister

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I am honoured to have been appointed by our Premier to take on this important portfolio. As the Minister of Indigenous Affairs, I will be focused on ensuring that government's relationship with First Nations has a foundation of trust, collaboration and transparency.

New Brunswick is fortunate to encompass the unceded and unsundered traditional homelands of the Eastern Wabanaki, including the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq, and Peskotomuhkati Nations. I look forward to the opportunity to visit and learn about each of these communities, and to work with their leadership to identify the right path forward. As a government, we will continue to strengthen our relationship with First Nations through partnership and respect.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Department of Indigenous Affairs for the passion and dedication that they bring to their work. Their experience and commitment will be invaluable as we advance several key initiatives. I extend my sincere appreciation to each one in the department.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Chiasson".

Honourable Keith Chiasson
Minister of Indigenous Affairs

DEPUTY MINISTER'S MESSAGE

This report outlines the numerous accomplishments of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, which have been made possible due to the dedication and commitment of its staff.

Throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year, there were many opportunities to fulfill the department's mandate to oversee a whole-of-government approach to Indigenous relations through the coordination of initiatives, negotiations, and fulfilling government's duty to consult with First Nations. Collaborating to advance reconciliation and ensuring respect for Aboriginal and treaty rights, remain at the heart of what this department does.

As public servants, it is particularly important that efforts be made to learn about the histories and realities of Indigenous peoples, and to understand the role we can each play in addressing the harms that have been experienced because of colonization. To that end, the department launched the GNB Indigenous Awareness Training Modules to all Part 1 GNB employees. This course assists GNB in upholding its commitment to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and is mandatory for all public servants.

In recognition of the importance of the relationship between the Province and First Nations, the department coordinated efforts across government to ensure that all initiatives, consultations, and negotiations with First Nations achieve their intended results. The work done by all departments with Indigenous peoples is of great value, and Indigenous Affairs works collaboratively with those departments to ensure a better understanding of the needs and priorities that have been identified by First Nations, and to increase awareness of programs and services within communities.

The department will continue to build upon its achievements and successes in the coming years and will remain focused on strengthening its relationship with First Nations. There are many reasons for the department to be proud of its accomplishments, which you will read about in this report.



Cade Libby
Deputy Minister

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Strategy and Operations Management

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) uses leading business practices to develop, communicate and review strategy. This provides the Public Service with a proven methodology to execute strategy, increase accountability and continuously drive improvement.

Government Priorities

Our vision for 2023-2024 is a vibrant and sustainable New Brunswick. To make progress toward this vision, we must focus on our government's priorities:

- Energize private sector
- Vibrant and sustainable communities
- Affordable, responsive, and high-performing government
- Dependable public health care
- World-class education, and
- Environment

HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Department of Indigenous Affairs focused on these government priorities through:

- ❖ Launching the GNB Indigenous Awareness Training Modules to all Part 1 GNB employees to promote a greater understanding of the histories and realities of Indigenous peoples, and to highlight the role that public servants can play in advancing reconciliation.
- ❖ Engaging with survivors of residential schools and their descendants on the design of a residential schools monument that will be installed in Fredericton to honour the children who survived residential schools and to commemorate those who did not.
- ❖ Changing the department's name from "Aboriginal Affairs" to "Indigenous Affairs" to better reflect GNB's commitment to developing respectful and positive relationships with First Nations in New Brunswick.
- ❖ Negotiating and signing First Nations Development Agreements with Fort Folly, Indian Island, Tobique and Oromocto First Nations.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Outcome #1 - Reporting on implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) identified 94 Calls to Action in its final report. Thirty-one of those Calls to Action fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial government with some overlap with other government organizations (federal, municipal, territorial, and Indigenous).

Why is it important?

GNB has pledged its support for the implementation of the Calls to Action, and to repair and rebuild its relationship with Indigenous peoples.

Overall performance

The provincial government has initiated or completed work on 27 of the 31 Calls to Action that fall under its jurisdiction.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

The department monitors overall progress across government and maintains a public-facing website to share information about the steps that GNB is taking to implement the Calls to Action. Relevant initiatives are identified through the whole-of-government approach overseen by the department and are added to the website through regular updates. Initiatives that were advanced in 2023-2024 include:

- Continued engagement with survivors of residential schools and their families on the establishment of a residential schools monument.
- Launch of the GNB Indigenous Awareness Training Modules to all Part 1 GNB employees.
- Funding from the Department of Justice and Public Safety to support an Indigenous-led process to assess needs and a delivery model for Indigenous Court Support Workers.
- Publication by Women's Equality of "*Weaving our Voices Together: New Brunswick's Path to Safety for Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA People*", which is GNB's response to the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Introduction of new stand-alone child welfare legislation that recognizes the importance of connection to family, culture, language, spiritual beliefs and community for Indigenous children and youth.

Outcome # 2 - First Nations Development Agreements

First Nations Development Agreements are new economic partnerships that support the priorities identified by communities and provide long-term sustainability.

Why is it important?

The province is committed to reconciliation through economic means by entering into agreements that will lead to substantial improvements in the lives of First Nations people and communities in a measurable and transparent way.

A fundamental principle of these agreements is that they provide First Nations with the opportunity to pursue development initiatives that will enhance the social, environmental, cultural, and economic well-being of their members. Each agreement sets out specific goals that are identified by the First Nation to address their unique needs and priorities.

Overall performance

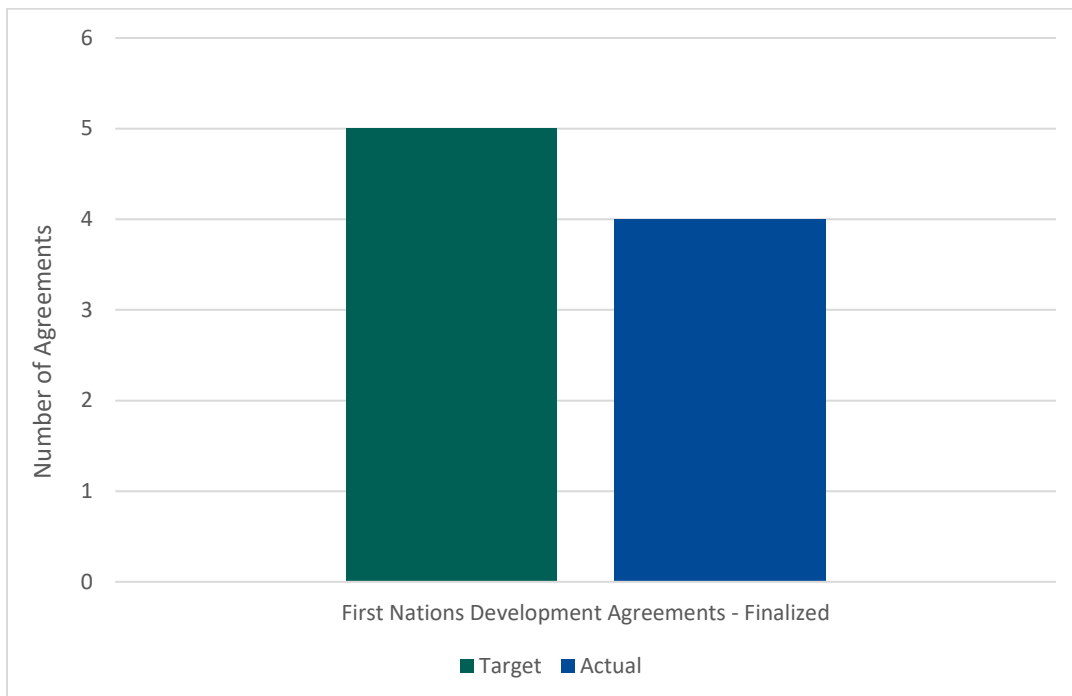
In 2023-2024, First Nations Development Agreements were negotiated and signed with four communities: Fort Folly, Tobique, Indian Island and Oromocto.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

The First Nations Development Agreements signed to date have allowed funding to be advanced for priorities such as housing, roadwork, wellness projects, youth support and economic development. GNB is committed to continuing to work with these communities on other priorities in the future, and to working with other First Nations on partnership opportunities.

Target: 5 First Nations Development Agreements

Actual: 4 First Nations Development Agreements Finalized (Negotiated and signed)



Outcome # 3 - Indigenous Awareness Training Modules

Advancing reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is the responsibility of all Canadians. As public servants, it is particularly important that we make efforts to learn about the histories and realities of Indigenous peoples and understand the role we can each play in addressing the harms that have been experienced because of colonization. The training modules provide a mix of learning tools such as award-winning documentaries, slideshows, videos, films, and quizzes. A certificate of completion from the First Nations University of Canada and a bonus video library for ongoing learning is provided at the end of the course.

Why is it important?

The Indigenous Awareness Training Modules assist GNB in upholding its commitment to implementing Call to Action #57 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Overall performance

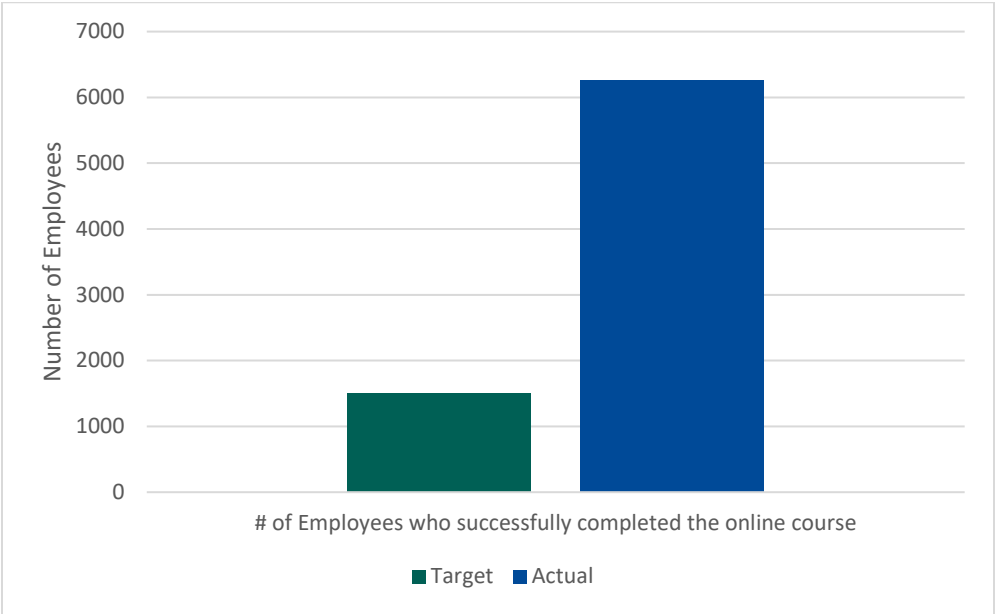
As of March 25, 2024, over 6,265 GNB Part 1 employees had completed the training modules.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

The Indigenous Awareness Training Modules were developed with the First Nations University of Canada. GNB partnered with 4 Seasons of Reconciliation, a service provider, to offer a unique and comprehensive online course that promotes a renewed relationship between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples through transformative learning about truth and reconciliation. The department launched the training modules to all Part 1 GNB employees in January 2024.

Target: 1,500 GNB Part 1 employees completed the training

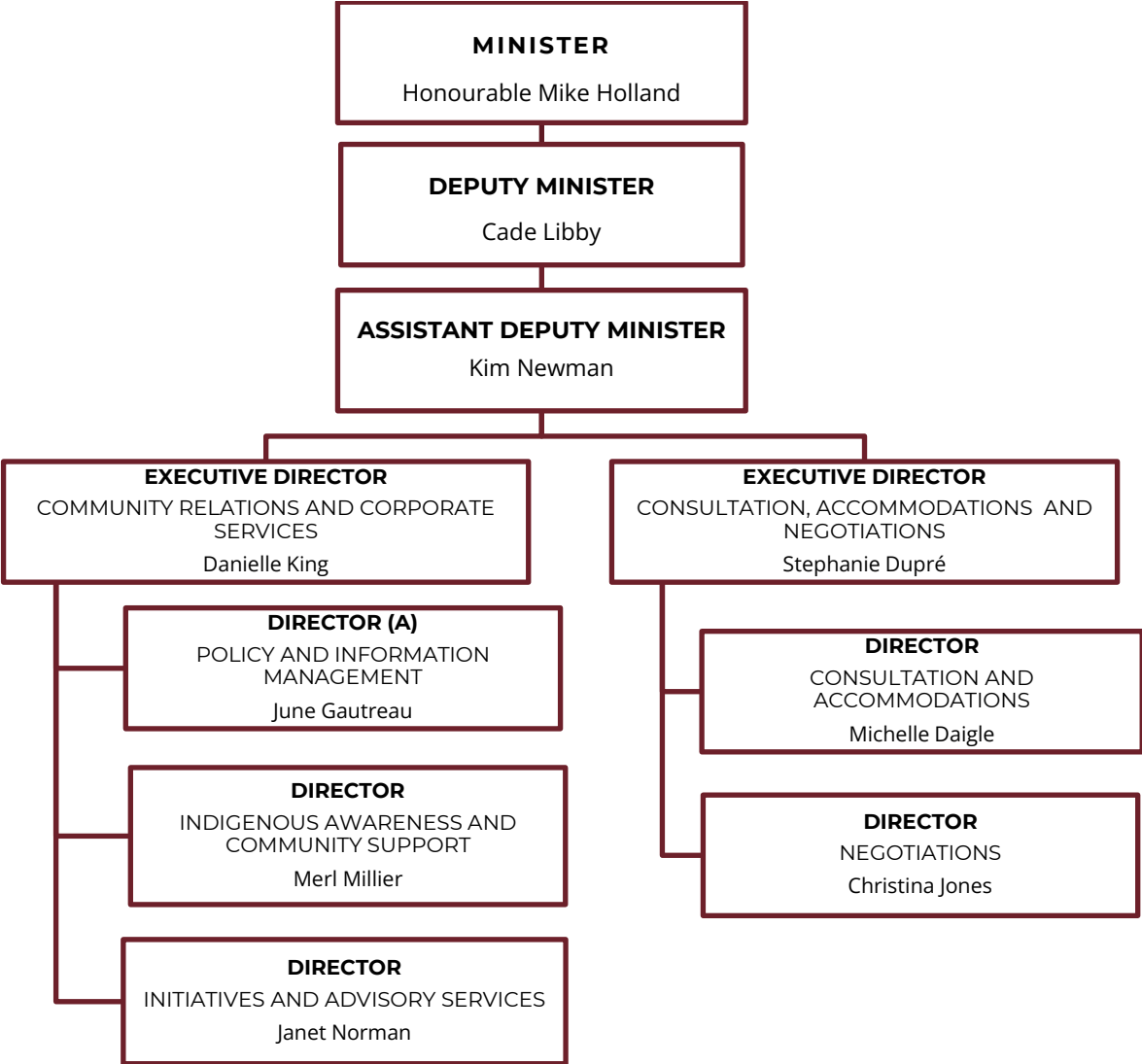
Actual: 6,265 GNB Part 1 employees completed the training



Overview of departmental operations

The Department of Indigenous Affairs oversees a whole-of-government approach to Indigenous relations. The department is the main point of contact and represents the interests of the province in multilateral initiatives and negotiations. The department leads the duty to consult process with Indigenous Nations and provides research, analysis, and policy advice to government on matters involving Indigenous peoples.

High-Level Organizational Chart



As of March 31, 2024.

DIVISION OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

Community Relations and Corporate Services

Overview

The **Community Relations and Corporate Services Division** promotes and facilitates opportunities for education, awareness and relationship building, and supports all GNB departments in their initiatives that relate to Indigenous people, communities, and organizations. In addition, the division provides direction and support to the department in strategic planning, policy development, legislative affairs, information management, performance management, and federal-provincial-territorial activities.

The division comprises three branches: Policy and Information Management Branch, Initiatives and Advisory Services Branch, and Indigenous Awareness and Community Support Branch.

Highlights

- In partnership with the First Nations University of Canada and 4 Seasons of Reconciliation, developed and delivered Indigenous Awareness Training Modules to public servants in Part 1 of GNB. This initiative assists GNB in upholding its commitment to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
- Provided \$105,000 to the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), which aims to strengthen entrepreneurship and economic development opportunities for First Nations. JEDI provides programs and services to support Indigenous entrepreneurship, economic development, workforce development, and partnership with the public and private sectors.
- Provided capacity funding to Under One Sky, which is a service provider for Indigenous peoples living outside of First Nations communities. Under One Sky is committed to empowering a healthy and proud Indigenous community in New Brunswick and provides over 13 culturally informed programs and services to the community. These services include health and family support, education, cultural teachings, and community events.
- Helped coordinate and co-hosted a meeting of Indigenous leaders and Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Indigenous Affairs. The theme of the meeting was economic reconciliation.

The **Policy and Information Management Branch** is responsible for advancing Memoranda to Executive Council; providing direction and decisions related to agreements, policies, and financial transactions; managing ministerial correspondence; administering the department's financial resources; coordinating and supporting the Minister's legislative business; and providing services to the department in information and records management as it oversees the collection, management, access, use and final disposition of all information assets relating to the department's mandate, activities, and initiatives.

Highlights

- Provided financial analysis and support to key government priorities throughout the fiscal year including but not limited to Main Estimates, Public Accounts, Memorandums to Executive Council, briefing notes, and quarterly reporting.

- Coordinated the review of 136 Memorandums to Executive Council from other departments to assess the potential impact of proposals to Indigenous peoples in New Brunswick, and to ensure that the known concerns of First Nations were being considered.
- Coordinated a provincial response to an Addition to Reserve proposal.
- Responded to 114 ministerial correspondences.
- Provided \$235,229 in funding to Indigenous individuals, communities, and organizations through the department's Grants Program and Initiative Fund.

The **Initiatives and Advisory Services Branch** is responsible for leading and fulfilling the department's mandate as the hub for all initiatives across government that involve Indigenous peoples by applying a whole-of-government approach in exploring all initiatives, programs and services, overcoming silos, and looking for opportunities, gaps and overlap between initiatives. The branch is also responsible for supporting all GNB departments by building relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations to ensure that government is delivering programs and services that are responsive to the needs and priorities of Indigenous peoples and have the greatest positive impact.

Highlights

- In partnership with the Department of Health, the branch facilitated information sessions with First Nations Health Directors for the purpose of establishing better communication of programs and services to First Nations primary care providers.
- In partnership with Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB), the branch facilitated information sessions with First Nations and Tribal Councils on ONB's Sustainable Economic Development Plan for New Brunswick.
- In partnership with Service New Brunswick and Opportunities New Brunswick, the branch initiated work on an Indigenous Procurement Strategy.
- Processed 86 intakes for projects and initiatives across government that involved Indigenous people, communities, and organizations.

The **Indigenous Awareness and Community Support Branch** is responsible for developing and delivering Indigenous awareness training and workshops to the public service, and promoting educational opportunities provided by Elders, Knowledge-Holders, and Indigenous organizations. The branch provides advice and guidance within the department and across government on effective ways to advance reconciliation and build meaningful relationships with Indigenous people, communities, and organizations. The branch also acts as a resource and culturally safe point of contact to support Indigenous people, communities, and organizations in accessing government programs and services.

Highlights

- Provided several GNB departments and agencies with Cultural Safety and Awareness sessions.
- Worked with Indigenous peoples, community members, tribal councils, businesses, employers, and community partners to help navigate programs and services offered by GNB.
- Advanced Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #82 by facilitating engagement sessions with residential schools survivors and/or their descendants on the establishment of a monument.

- In partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, initiated modifications to the Eagle carcass distribution program which will remove barriers of access to sacred materials and support cultural practices in First Nations communities.

Consultation, Accommodations and Negotiations

Overview

The **Consultation, Accommodations and Negotiations Division** promotes and facilitates opportunities for awareness on government's duty to consult obligations and the benefits of early engagement with First Nations. The division provides direction and leadership to all GNB departments regarding consultation and accommodation, engagement, and negotiations with First Nations. In addition, the division provides support and guidance to external project proponents, businesses and municipal governments on matters related to engagement and consultation with First Nations.

The division comprises two branches: Consultation and Accommodations Branch and the Negotiations Branch.

Highlights

- Provided core capacity funding in the amount of \$1,400,000 to enable First Nations to participate meaningfully in consultations and negotiations.
- Facilitated several meetings, working groups and tables with First Nations community leadership and organizations representing First Nations on topics such as forestry, blueberries, and maple strategy.
- Facilitated or participated in bilateral and tripartite negotiations tables.

The **Consultation and Accommodations Branch** is responsible for implementing the duty to consult process; leading consultation with First Nations relating to private industry project proposals and provincial government projects and initiatives; liaising with First Nations communities and working with government departments on provincial matters which may have an adverse impact on Aboriginal and treaty rights. The branch is also responsible for overseeing accommodation measures identified during a consultation and conducting research and developing ethnohistoric reports for the province. The branch also presents information on government's obligations and the benefits of early engagement and provides direction and support to all GNB departments and external parties.

Highlights

- Facilitated Forestry Working Group meetings with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated (MTI), Kopit Lodge, Elsipogtog First Nation and Passamaquoddy Recognition Group.
- Established a process for reviewing and assessing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's Crown land disposals from a duty to consult perspective. Reviewed and assessed 296 surplus property files during this fiscal year.
- Completed 75 file reviews under the duty to consult process, including 14 Environmental Impact Assessment project registrations, and reviewed 95 Memorandums to Executive Council from a duty to consult perspective.

- Presented GNB's duty to consult process to several GNB departments as well as several proponents.

The **Negotiations Branch** coordinates and leads negotiations with First Nations in areas of mutual interest. The branch is responsible for negotiating agreements and arrangements that support the achievement by First Nations of their goals and priorities, enhance clarity on Aboriginal and treaty rights, address matters of trilateral interest involving First Nations, New Brunswick, and Canada, and foster a positive and productive partnership. Negotiations play a critical role in advancing reconciliation in New Brunswick.

Highlights

- Attended 88 tripartite negotiation tables or bilateral negotiation meetings, in addition to numerous ad hoc informal discussions. Topics covered included housing, justice, community safety, governance, archaeology and culture, protection and conservation of land, child and family services, community infrastructure, and economic development.
- Collaborated with and/or represented several GNB departments at negotiation tables, including Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, Tourism, Heritage, and Culture, Social Development, Regional Development Corporation, and Justice and Public Safety.
- Launched the "Indigenous Affairs Negotiations" website to advise the public of GNB's negotiation process with First Nations and ongoing negotiations.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This financial overview was prepared based on the best available information at the time of publication and therefore may not correspond exactly with the figures that will be subsequently published in GNB's Public Accounts.

Ordinary Budget – The Ordinary Budget expenditures cover the day-to-day operations of the department.

**TABLE 1: ORDINARY EXPENDITURE
STATUS REPORT BY PROGRAM COMPONENT**

Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024 (\$000s)

ORDINARY PROGRAM	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE (UNDER) OVER
Indigenous Affairs	9,920	9,824	(96)

SUMMARY OF STAFFING ACTIVITY

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2023-2024 for Indigenous Affairs.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	2023	2022
Permanent	35	29
Temporary	3	1
TOTAL	38	30

The department advertised 2 competitions, including 1 open (public) competition and 1 closed (internal) competition.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a high degree of expertise and training a high degree of technical skill recognized experts in their field 	15(1)	0
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Indigenous, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	0
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness, and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	3
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within. Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	4

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
	(hospital authorities) of the Public Service.		
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	0
Regular appointment of students/ apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, no complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of Indigenous Affairs and no complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

The department did not have any legislative activity.

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACTIVITIES

In 2023-2024, the Department of Indigenous Affairs continued to fulfill its obligation under the *Official Languages Act* and was committed to actively offering and providing quality services in both Official Languages. Below are associated activities that were carried out on an ongoing basis during the year.

Focus 1

Ensure access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province.

Activities that took place to meet the objective of Language of Service and ensure employees have a good understanding of the Language of Service Policy:

- Required employees to complete the Language of Service module through the GNB Knowledge Center. Managers are to ensure the modules are completed and verified annually during the performance review period.
- Active offer reminder is sent yearly to all staff. Additionally, staff are provided with tools and coaching is offered by Official Languages Coordinator to assist employees in providing the appropriate level of service.
- Ongoing discussions between human resources consultants and managers to ensure the department best meets the linguistic profile requirements. Linguistic profiles are all completed and reviewed on an as-needed basis.

Focus 2

An environment and climate that encourages, for all employees, the use of the Official Language of their choice in their workplace.

Activities that took place to meet the objective of Language of Work and ensure employees have a good understanding of the Language of Work Policy:

- Required employees to complete the Language of Work module through the GNB Knowledge Center. Managers are to ensure the modules are completed and verified annually during the performance review period.
- New employees were provided an opportunity to state their preferred language of work for communication purposes through the employment acceptance form. A Language of Work Quick Reference Guide is offered to new employees through the employee orientation package.
- Ensured employees received their performance review in the language of their choice. Managers also review the Language of Work and Language of Service policies with their employee to ensure they understand their right to work in their language of choice, as well as their obligation to provide an active offer of service in both Official Languages.
- Provided second-language training to employees who met the requirement of the department's Second-Language Training Policy. One employee received second language-training in 2023-2024.

Focus 3

New and revised provincial government programs and policies will consider the realities of the two Official Linguistic communities.

- Through the department's onboarding program, new employees are required to familiarize themselves with the *Official Languages Act* by completing mandatory modules through the GNB Knowledge Center.
- Employees are required to review the *Official Languages Act* during the annual performance management process.

Focus 4

Ensure Public Service employees have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the *Official Languages Act*, relevant policies, regulations, and the province's obligations with respect to Official Languages.

Activities that took place to meet the objective of knowledge of the *Official Languages Act*:

- Ensured orientation was provided to all new employees, which included information about the *Official Languages Act* and the policies and regulations governing their interaction with respect to Official Languages. They are asked to sign and send confirmation to Human Resources upon completion.
- Current employees are required to read the Official Languages policies as part of their annual performance review.
- Continue to remind all employees of their responsibility to provide an active offer of service in both Official Languages.
- The department's Official Languages Coordinator attended quarterly meetings established through Treasury Board to remain knowledgeable and proactive on all activities regarding Official Languages.

Conclusion

The department did not have any Official Languages complaints for fiscal 2023-2024.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

The department did not have any recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General in the current reporting year and the previous four years.

REPORT ON THE *PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. The Department of Indigenous Affairs did not receive any disclosure(s) of wrongdoing in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

APPENDIX A

Indigenous peoples in New Brunswick / Aboriginal peoples in New Brunswick

The term 'Indigenous peoples' or 'Aboriginal peoples' is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants.

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal peoples: Indians (more commonly referred to as First Nations), Inuit and Métis. These are three distinct peoples with unique histories, languages, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs.

In New Brunswick, there are nine Mi'gmaq communities and six Wolastoqey communities, totalling 15 First Nation communities with 32 reserve locations across the province. Each community is governed by an elected Chief and Council. The type of system used by a community in the selection of its Chief and Councillors can be that provided for under the *Indian Act*, the *First Nations Elections Act* or the provisions of a self-governing agreement, or a custom system. Most communities in New Brunswick have now moved to the election system under the *First Nations Election Act*, which is a four-year term, apart from two communities that still use the system under the *Indian Act*, which is a two-year term, and two communities that have a custom system, which is a five-year term.

The Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) Nation is still considering Band status options. A claim by the Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik located in southwest New Brunswick was received in 2017 by the federal government. Recognition of rights and/or status is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and they have a mandate to negotiate with the group.

According to the federal Indian Registry System, as of December 31, 2023, 17,510¹ First Nation peoples lived in New Brunswick, both on and off-reserve (See Table 2). However, based on the 2021 census, it is estimated that there are 33,295² Aboriginal people (Aboriginal identity) living in New Brunswick (See Table 5).

New Brunswick's total population in 2023 was 834,691³, meaning that First Nations accounted for two per cent. Even though this may seem a small percentage, based on Statistics Canada's 2021 census, the First Nations population had a much higher population growth of 7.2 per cent compared to the 3.8 per cent for New Brunswick overall (See Table 6). The 2021 census also indicated that the Aboriginal population was much younger than the rest of the population, in both New Brunswick and Canada. The median age of the First Nations population in New Brunswick was 35 compared to 45 for the population as a whole.⁴

¹ **Source:** ISC/CIRNAC's *Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2023*

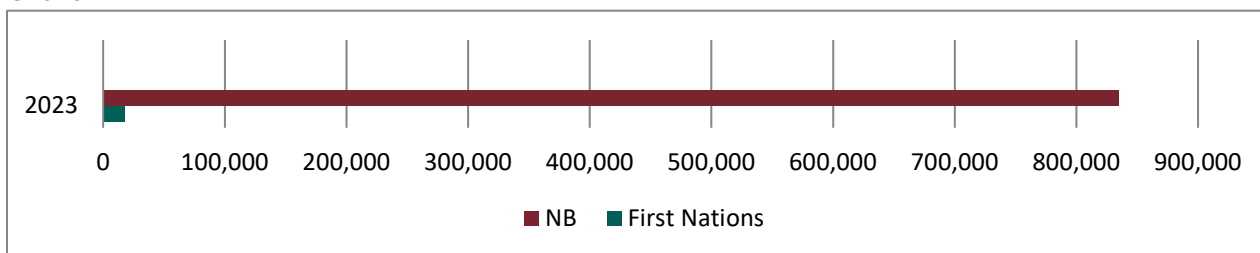
² **Source:** *Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population*

³ **Source:** *Statistics Canada, Population estimates for New Brunswick, 2023*

⁴ **Source:** *Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2021*

Table 1

NEW BRUNSWICK AND FIRST NATIONS POPULATION		
YEAR	NEW BRUNSWICK POPULATIONS	FIRST NATIONS POPULATION
2023	834,691	17,510

Chart 1**Table 2**⁶

	TOTAL	ON-RESERVE	OFF-RESERVE
FIRST NATIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK	17,510	10,098	7,412
Bilijk (Kingsclear)	1,082	748	334
Buctouche Micmac (Tijpogtotjg)	129	81	48
Eel River Bar First Nation (Ugpi'ganjig)	843	356	487
Elsipogtog First Nation (Big Cove)	3,612	2,797	815
Esgenoôpetitj First Nation (Burnt Church)	1,966	1,397	569
Fort Folly (Amlamgog)	140	35	105
Indian Island (L'nui Menkiuk)	216	115	101
Madawaska Maliseet First Nation (Matawaskiye)	379	155	224
Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation (Red Bank)	716	459	257
Natoaganeg (Eel Ground)	1,102	593	509
Oromocto First Nation (Welamukotuk)	888	357	531
Pabineau (Oinpegitjoig)	376	106	270
Saint Mary's (Sitansisk)	2,186	968	1,218
Tobique (Neqotkuk)	2,664	1,629	1,035
Woodstock (Wotstak)	1,211	302	909

NOTE: On-reserve numbers for each First Nation should not be taken to represent the true population for the following reasons:

- 1) They contain no information on any non-registered individuals who may be living on reserve, and
- 2) Similarly, they contain no information on any members registered to other bands who may be living on reserve.

⁵ **Source:** Statistics Canada, Population estimates for New Brunswick, 2023

⁶ **Source:** ISC/CIRNACS Indian Registry System as of Dec. 31, 2023

Chart 2A

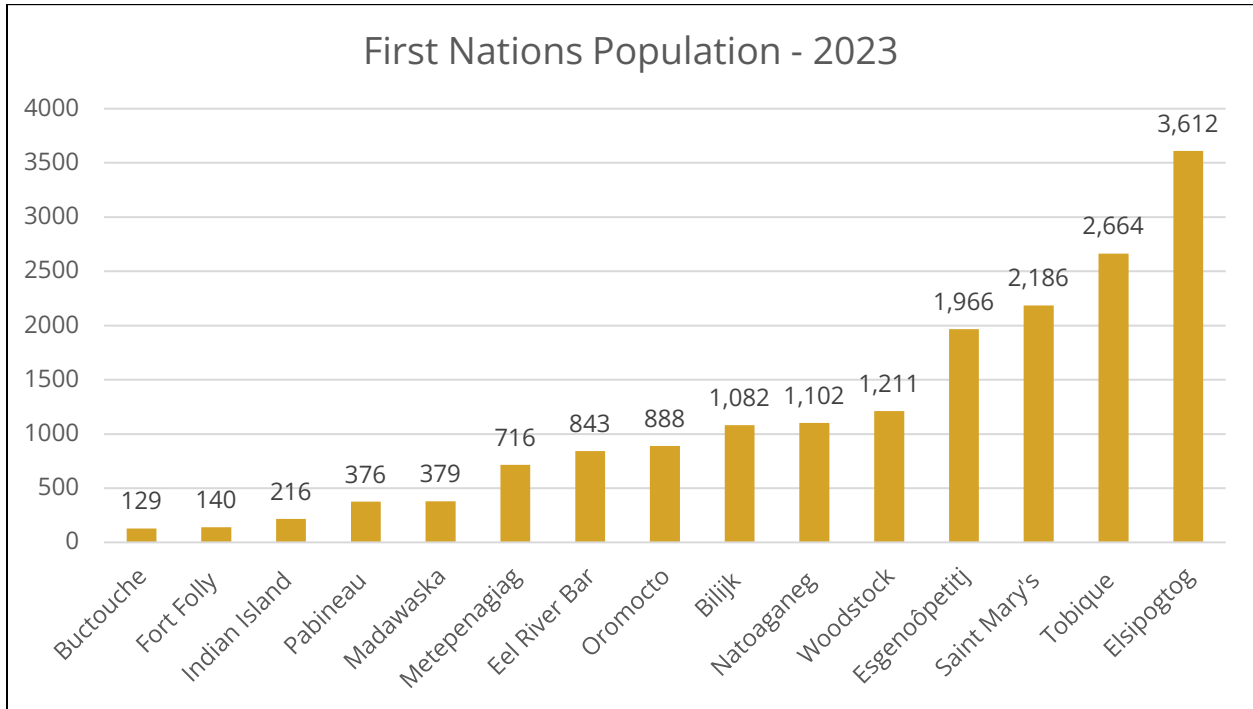


Chart 2B

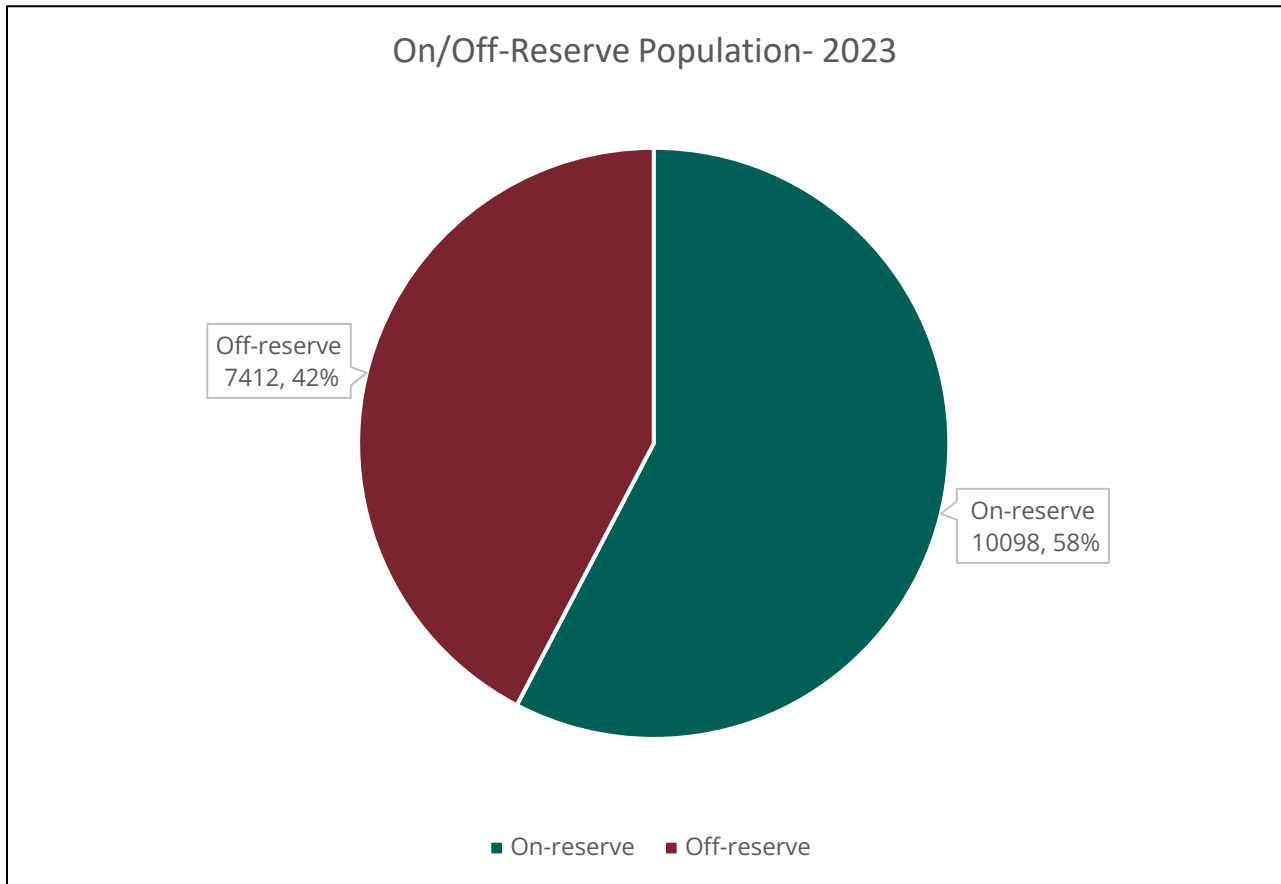
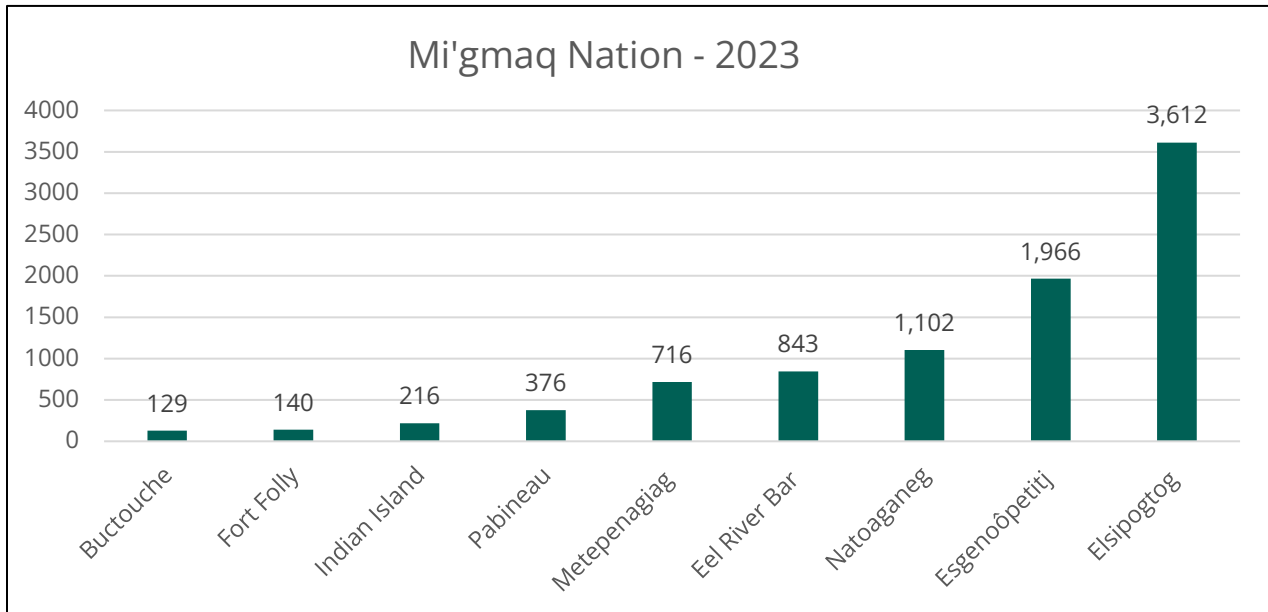
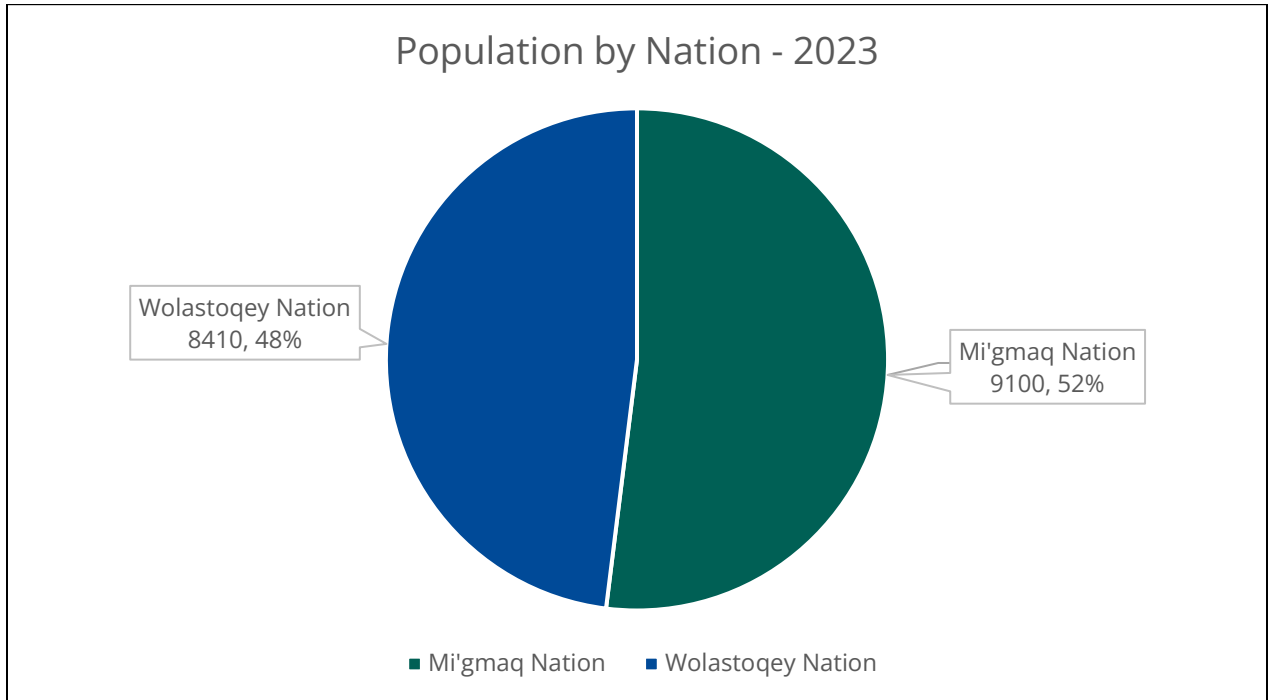


Chart 2C



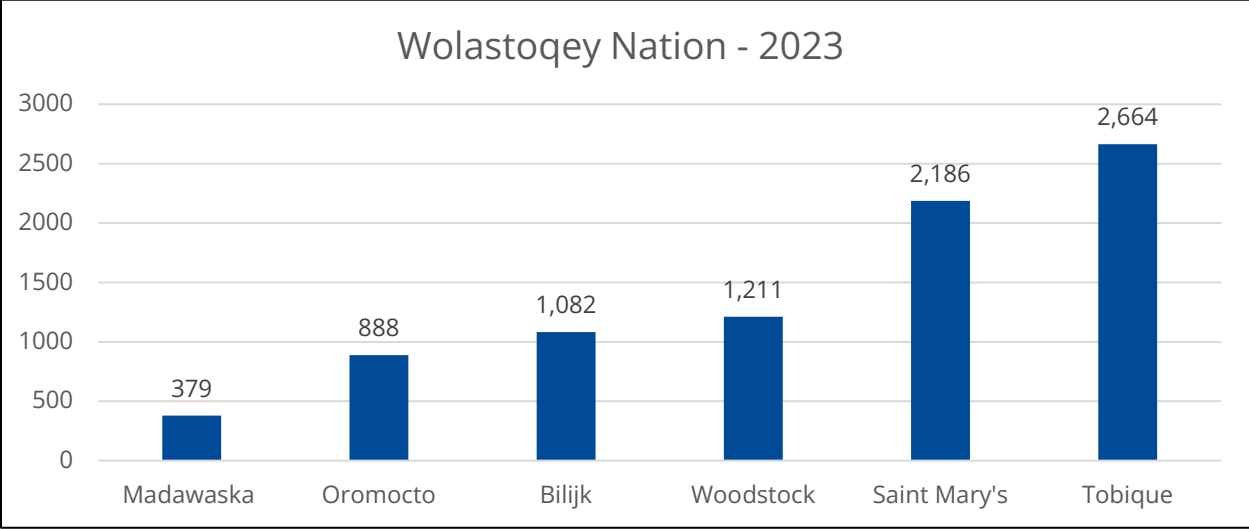


Table 3

FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK ⁷			
YEAR	TOTAL	ON-RESERVE	OFF-RESERVE
2014	15,249	9,366	5,883
2015	15,506	9,501	6,005
2016	15,830	9,644	6,186
2017	16,123	9,732	6,391
2018	16,246	9,781	6,465
2019	16,509	9,889	6,620
2020	16,662	9,922	6,740
2021	16,985	9,968	7,017
2022	17,270	10,014	7,256
2023	17,510	10,098	7,412

⁷ **Source:** ISC/CIRNAC's Indian Registry System

Chart 3

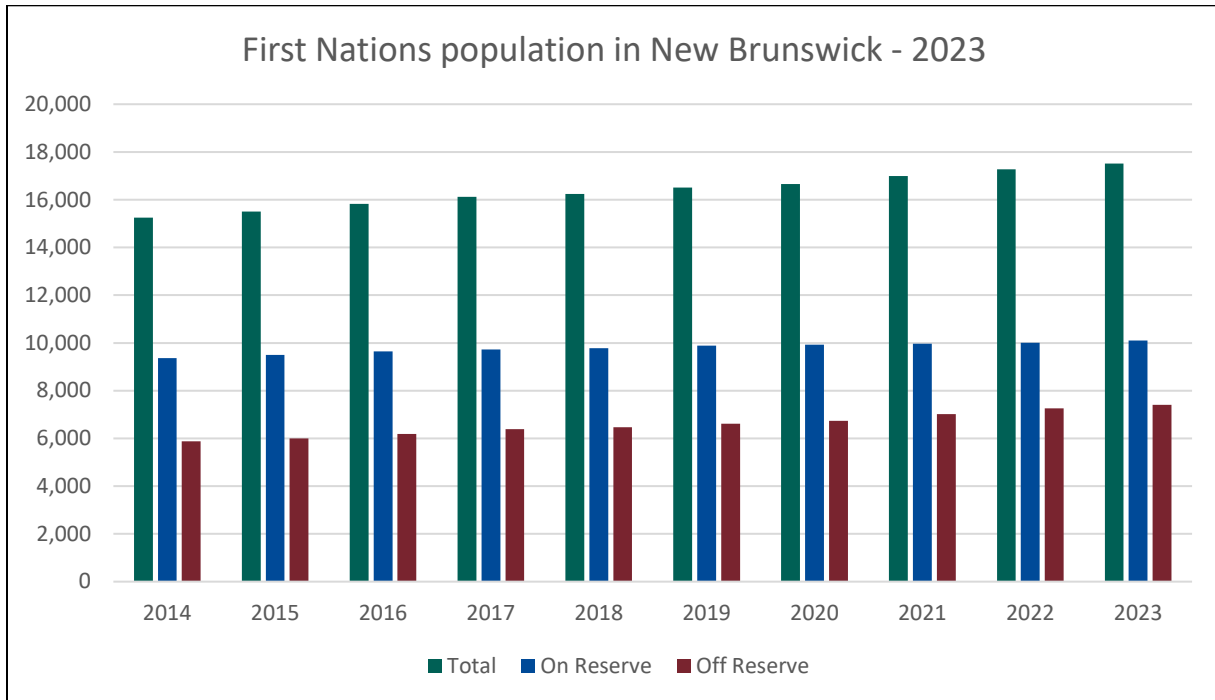


Table 4

NEW BRUNSWICK AND FIRST NATIONS POPULATION		
YEAR	NEW BRUNSWICK POPULATION ⁸	FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK ⁹
2019	780,021	16,509
2020	781,476	16,662
2021	789,225	16,985
2022	812,061	17,270
2023	834,691	17,510

⁸ Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly

⁹ Source: ISC/CIRNAC's Indian Registry System

Chart 4A

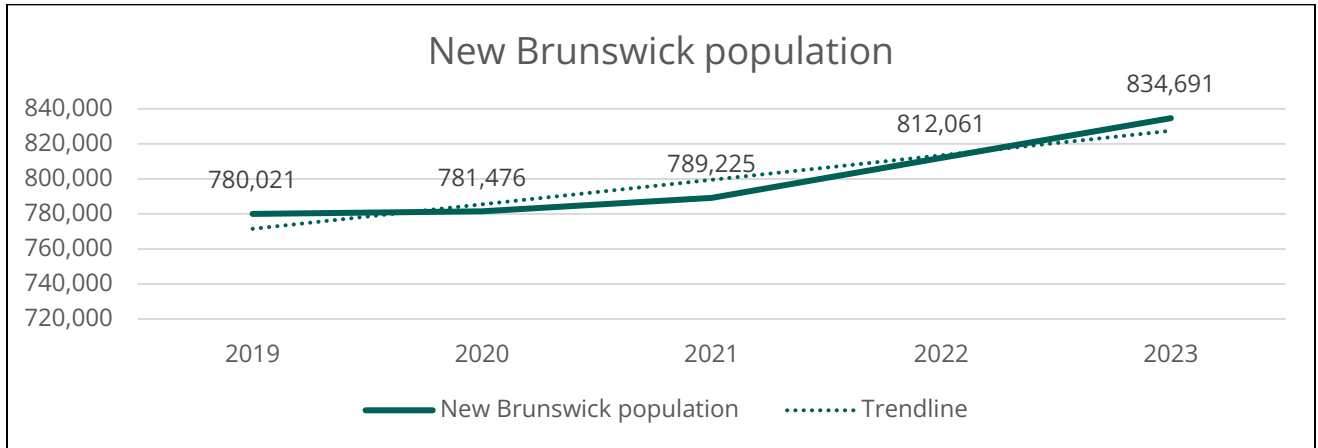


Chart 4B

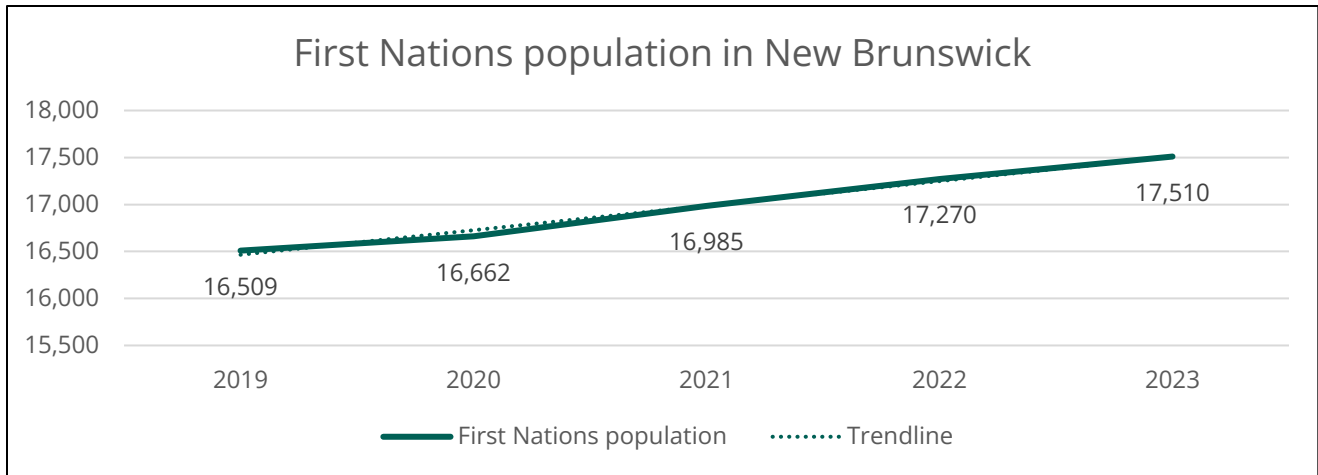


Table 5

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (ABORIGINAL IDENTITY) IN NEW BRUNSWICK			
YEAR	ABORIGINAL IDENTIFY ¹⁰	FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK	NEW BRUNSWICK POPULATION
2021	33,295	16,985	747,101

¹⁰ Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Chart 5A¹¹

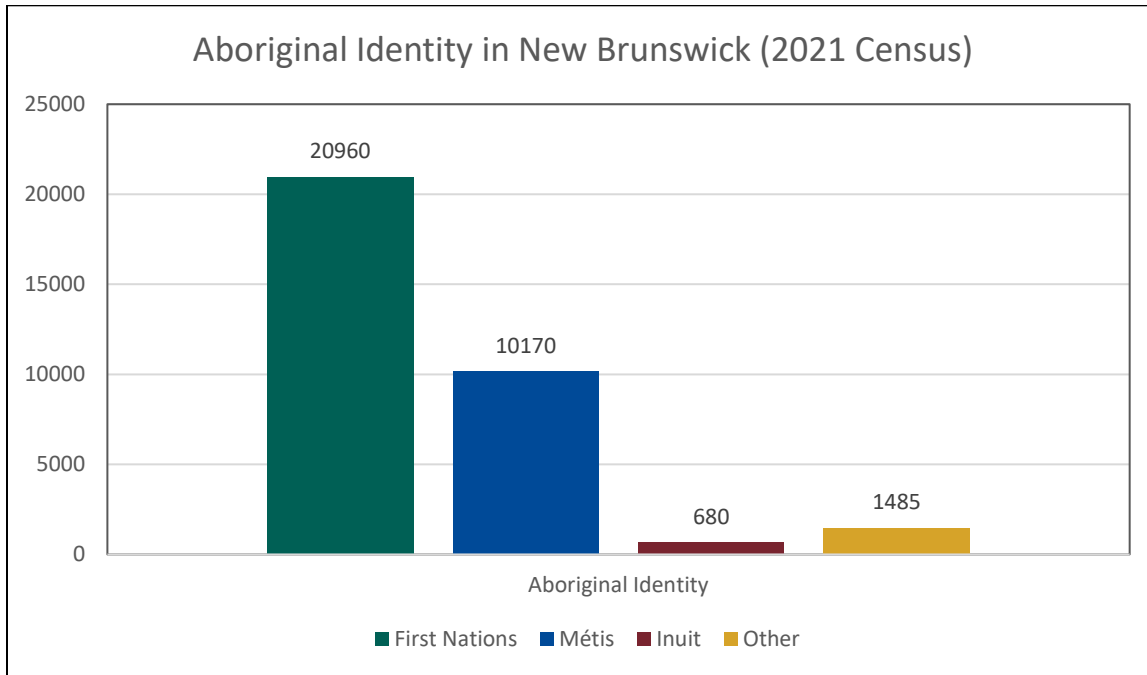
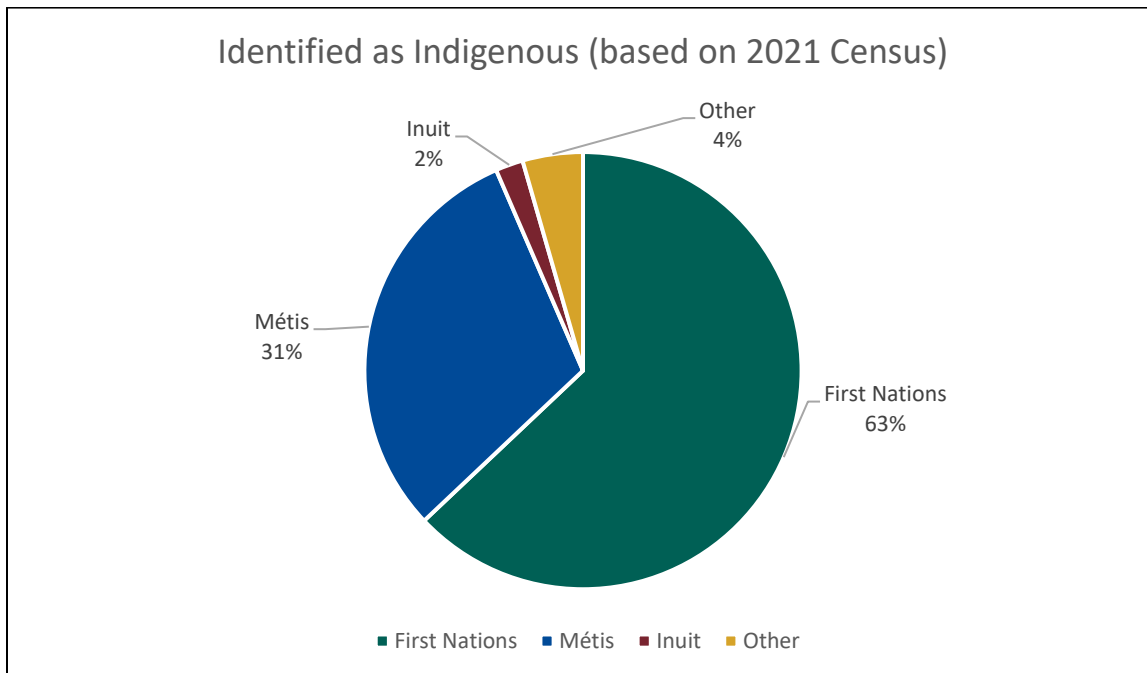


Chart 5B¹²



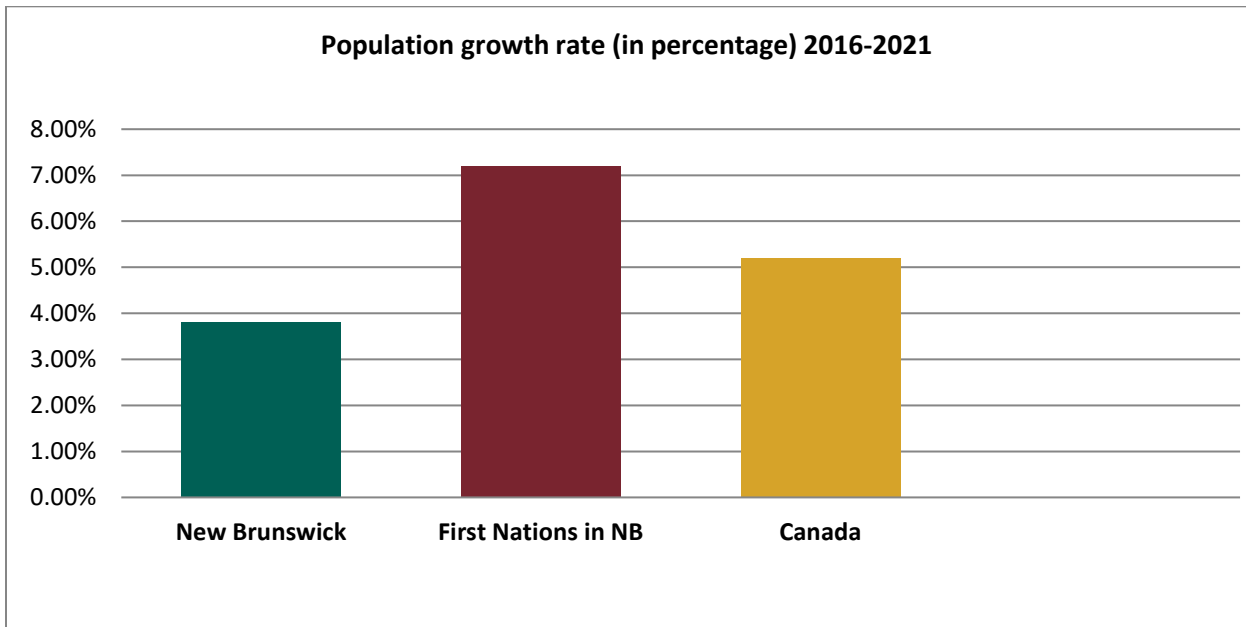
¹¹ Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

¹² Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Table 6

POPULATION GROWTH ¹³			
YEAR	NEW BRUNSWICK POPULATION	FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK	CANADA POPULATION
2016	747,101	15,830	35,151,728
2021	812,061	17,270	36,991,981
Population growth rate	3.8%	7.2%	5.2%

Chart 6



¹³ Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population