

Our heritage



Language spoken most often at home in Edmonton

84% English

0.7% French

12.7% non-official languages

Source: Statistics Canada, Community Profiles 2006.

We are becoming more ethnically diverse

Edmonton's early immigrants came from Europe, some from the U.S., a few from further afield. But the face of Edmonton is now changing. An increasing proportion of Edmontonians (17% in the 2006 Federal Census) are from a visible minority background. Since 1999, the number of immigrants choosing to come to our city has grown steadily. Some come directly to Edmonton from overseas. Forty per cent of new immigrants are from India, the Philippines and China.⁶ Others

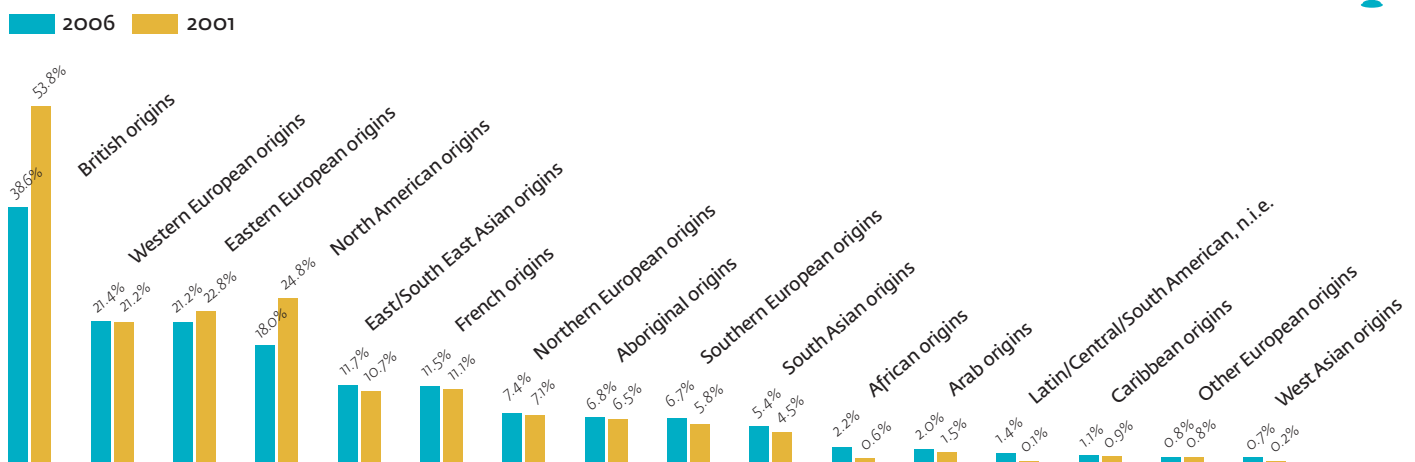
land in another province first, before making their move here (in-migration). Edmonton's African communities, for example, are growing due to in-migration.

Comparing ourselves to the rest of Alberta, a higher proportion of Edmontonians identify their ethnic background as Arab, South and East Asian and Latin American than in the province as a whole.

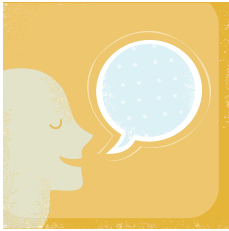
This city, in fact, is home to over 50 international cultures and 70 unique ethnic groups.

⁶ Federal Census 2006.

Ethnic distribution in Edmonton



Source: Federal Census 2006 and 2001.



Working Together

"Edmonton is home. Since arriving in the late '60s, I've spent my life working within the Aboriginal community and have been fortunate to be a part of Edmonton's growing involvement in the lives of its Aboriginal citizens. As a homeowner, taxpayer, civic and agency volunteer, worker, student, parent, grandparent and great-grandparent, Edmonton has afforded me opportunities for participation and both personal and professional growth that probably would not have been possible in my once-isolated birthplace. As the destination of an increasing number of Aboriginal people, I believe this city is fast becoming the model for other urban centres in this reciprocal relationship. I am proud to have been part of its evolution." - Jane Woodward

Edmonton's First Peoples

With deep connections to this area, Aboriginal Edmonton continues to play an important role in shaping our city. Over the 10 year period starting in 1996, the Aboriginal population grew by 51%, to 38,170 Aboriginal residents in 2006. Edmonton now has the second largest urban Aboriginal population in Canada (after Winnipeg). In the same time period, Edmonton's population grew by 18.4%.

Our city falls within the boundaries of Treaty 6, and is a major service centre for Treaty 8, as well as for the eight Métis Settlements in central and northern Alberta.⁷

Aboriginal Edmonton is a diverse community, with people self-identifying as Métis, North American Indian and Inuit. First Nation's languages commonly heard include Cree, Stoney, Chipewyan, Saulteaux, Dene, Beaver, Blackfoot and Sarcee. This community faces challenges: poverty, lack of education and health problems. Aboriginal people are half as likely to own their own home and are 6.5 times as likely to be homeless.

But there are significant strengths and great potential here: this is a young community, with relatively more people under the age of 25 and relatively fewer over the age of 45.

⁷ Aboriginal Edmonton, A Statistical Profile of the Aboriginal Population of the City of Edmonton, March 2008.

