

TERMINOLOGY

In this publication, the terms *Indian*, *Inuit*, *Métis* and *Native* have the following meanings:

Indian (also Status Indian): A Native who is registered, or is entitled to be registered, with an Indian band (a band is a particular group of Indian people, having similar tribal and/or geographic origins) in accordance with Canada's *Indian Act*. Indians live both on and off reserves. Presently, there are approximately 430,000 Indians — roughly 60 per cent of whom live on reserves — nearly 600 bands and at least 2,200 reserves (some of which are unoccupied) in Canada.⁴

Inuit: A Native people indigenous to the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Canada. (The singular form is *Inuk*.) The Inuit population is estimated to be 30,000.⁵

Métis: There are two accepted meanings:

1. a Native people who are the descendants of the original Métis community (i.e. of the children of Indian and French parents) of Western Canada, and
2. persons of mixed Native and non-Native (particularly European) descent.

The number of Canadians who consider themselves Métis is roughly 100,000.

Native (also Aboriginal): All of Canada's first peoples, regardless of status. This includes the Indian, the Inuit and the Métis. The total Native population is estimated to be 450,000.