

VII. Political Identity and Engagement

Overview

This chapter explores urban Aboriginal peoples' levels of engagement in Aboriginal *and* Canadian politics and political organizations, and what factors characterize more or less involvement in these two spheres.

The following points summarize the main findings around urban Aboriginal peoples' political identity and engagement:

- **There is a wide range in the degree to which urban Aboriginal peoples engage in the Aboriginal and mainstream political systems.** More than half pay attention to Aboriginal and Canadian politics, although only minorities belong to Aboriginal political organizations,³⁷ or Canadian political parties or attend their meetings. Four in ten urban Aboriginal peoples say they regularly vote in Canadian elections at the federal, provincial or municipal level; two in ten say they regularly vote in elections held by Aboriginal political organizations (which are oftentimes limited to certain groups such as Band members).
- **Activity in Aboriginal politics is higher among urban Aboriginal peoples who strongly identify as Aboriginal.** Those who know their family tree very well, and those who describe their community as mostly or exclusively Aboriginal are more likely than others to be active in Aboriginal political organizations and to vote in elections held by Aboriginal political organizations. Important to note is that causality in this instance is difficult to determine: political involvement may increase one's sense of Aboriginal identity, or a stronger sense of Aboriginal identity may encourage greater political involvement.
- **A stronger Aboriginal political identity coincides with a stronger Canadian political identity among urban Aboriginal peoples.** This counters theories suggesting that urban Aboriginal peoples participate in Aboriginal political organizations as an alternative to Canadian politics. Rather, *UAPS* data reveal that urban Aboriginal peoples with higher Aboriginal political involvement are also more likely to vote in Canadian elections. Furthermore, urban Aboriginal peoples' political participation increases with their involvement in Aboriginal-based services or organizations (e.g., friendship centres). Rather than a "rival system of representation,"³⁸ a healthy and vibrant Aboriginal civil society appears to facilitate voice both within Aboriginal and Canadian elections.
- **Regardless of the politics in question, certain socio-demographic patterns of political engagement prevail among urban Aboriginal peoples.** Consistent with previous research on Aboriginal peoples' political behaviour,³⁹ *UAPS* data indicate that education, household income and, in particular, age, affect urban Aboriginal peoples' involvement in *both* Aboriginal and Canadian politics. Specifically, urban Aboriginal peoples with a post-secondary education, those with higher household incomes, and those aged 45 or older are more likely than others to be engaged, and vote in both Aboriginal and Canadian political organizations and elections.

37 There are five major, national Aboriginal political organizations that hold elections: the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council, the Inuit Tapirit Kanatami, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Native Women's Association of Canada. The first three and their affiliates have asserted and/or been recognized as Aboriginal governments. In addition, there are numerous bands, treaty organizations, provincial organizations and Métis locals that hold elections.

38 Allison Harell, Dimitrios Panagos and J. Scott Matthews, *Explaining Aboriginal Turnout in Federal Elections: Evidence from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba*, Elections Canada, 2009.

39 Paul Howe and David Bedford, *Electoral Participation of Aboriginals in Canada*, Elections Canada, 2009.

- **There is a substantial minority of urban Aboriginal people who do not feel that any Aboriginal or mainstream political organization speaks for them, or cannot say who does so.** This is most evident among non-status First Nations peoples, but is also the case for more than three in ten Inuit, and at least four in ten Métis and status First Nations peoples. Moreover, fewer than half of urban Aboriginal peoples feel that Aboriginal political organizations do a good job representing their interests.

There are few substantial differences in reported political activity among First Nations peoples, Métis and Inuit, or among urban Aboriginal peoples across cities.⁴⁰ This contrasts with past research indicating that there are significant regional and cultural variations among Aboriginal peoples that influence Aboriginal peoples' political activity and willingness to vote in Canadian elections.⁴¹ This pattern is not as clear among the urban Aboriginal participants in this study, which may be partly explained by the fact that most previous research into the voting behaviour of Aboriginal peoples has been based on samples of Status Indians on reserves.⁴²

1. Engagement in Aboriginal politics

Attention to Aboriginal politics

A modest majority of urban Aboriginal peoples pay attention to what is happening in Aboriginal politics. Attention is more common among older, university educated and more affluent individuals, and those who are most familiar with their Aboriginal background.

Urban Aboriginal peoples are more likely than not to pay attention to Aboriginal politics, although their level of attention varies considerably by socio-demographic factors.

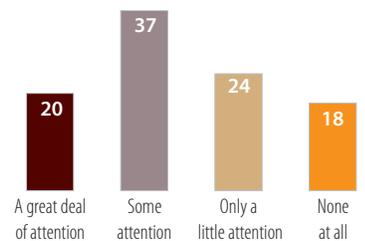
More than one-half (57%) of urban Aboriginal peoples say they pay a great deal (20%) or some (37%) attention to what is happening in Aboriginal politics. First Nations peoples, Inuit and Métis are equally likely to pay attention to Aboriginal politics. Across cities, reported attention to Aboriginal politics is highest in Toronto (67% pay at least some attention) and Winnipeg (65%), and lowest in Regina (46%) and Edmonton (47%).

Age has a substantial impact on urban Aboriginal peoples' attention to Aboriginal politics. Older urban Aboriginal peoples (71% of those aged 45 or older) are considerably more likely than younger urban Aboriginal peoples, especially urban Aboriginal youth (34% of those 18-24 years of age), to pay at least some attention to Aboriginal politics.

Educational attainment is also a factor. Almost three-quarters (73%) of university graduates pay at least some attention to Aboriginal politics, compared to only half (51%) of those with a high school diploma or less education.

In a similar fashion, attention to Aboriginal politics also rises with level of household income (from 45% of those with household incomes under \$10,000 to 71% of those with household incomes of \$60,000 to \$80,000), although this pattern plateaus among urban Aboriginal peoples with incomes of \$80,000 or more (65%).

Attention to Aboriginal politics
How much attention do you generally pay to what is happening in Aboriginal politics?



40 This statement is not meant to minimize the potential unique experiences and aspirations within Aboriginal sub-groups (note Harell et al.'s interesting findings with respect to voting patterns between the Blackfoot and Cree speaking First Nations).

41 Harell et al., p.14.

42 Harell et al., p.11.

Notably, connection to one's Aboriginal heritage also appears to be a factor in one's level of political engagement. Urban Aboriginal peoples who know their family tree very well (74%) are twice as likely as those who do not know their family tree at all (37%) to pay at least some attention to Aboriginal politics. Attention to Aboriginal politics is also higher among those who feel the community they belong to is exclusively Aboriginal (62%) or equally Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal (59%), than among those who describe their community as almost exclusively non-Aboriginal (53%).

Reported involvement in Aboriginal political organizations

There is a small group of urban Aboriginal peoples who are active in Aboriginal politics through membership in an Aboriginal political organization or by attending its meetings. These tend to be older, better educated individuals with higher household incomes.

A minority of urban Aboriginal peoples are actively involved with an Aboriginal political organization through membership or by attending meetings. Two in ten (22%) say they belong to an Aboriginal political organization. As well, two in ten report that they often (8%) or occasionally (13%) attend meetings of an Aboriginal political organization, while most say they rarely (20%) or never (56%) do so.

Overall, three in ten (30%) among the urban Aboriginal population are either a member of an Aboriginal political organization or attend their meetings at least occasionally, and almost half of this group (representing 13% of all urban Aboriginal people) do both.

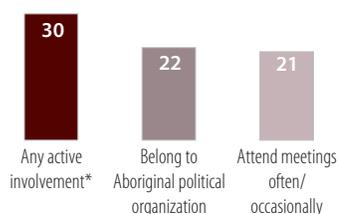
There are some consistent socio-demographic differences in reported membership in Aboriginal political organizations and in meeting attendance, which is not surprising given the extent of overlap between the two groups. Both reported membership in an Aboriginal political organization and meeting attendance (often or occasionally) is higher in Vancouver than in other cities, among urban Aboriginal peoples aged 45 or older, those who have a college or university degree, those with household incomes of \$30,000 or more, and those who have lived in their city longer (10 years or more).

Knowledge of one's family tree is also a factor influencing both membership in and attendance at meetings of Aboriginal political organizations. Urban Aboriginal peoples who know their family tree very well are much more likely to belong to an Aboriginal political organization (35% vs. 5% who know almost nothing about their family tree) and to attend meetings at least occasionally (37% vs. 5% who know almost nothing). Meeting attendance is also more common among those who describe their community as almost exclusively Aboriginal (28%).

While still a minority, more Métis (27%) than First Nations peoples (17%) and Inuit (21%) report belonging to an Aboriginal political organization. Reported meeting attendance does not vary by Aboriginal identity group.

Membership in Aboriginal political organizations

Do you belong to any Aboriginal political organizations?



* Belong to and/or attend meetings

Reported voter turnout in Aboriginal elections

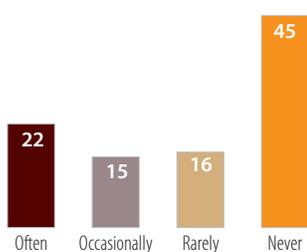
Close to four in ten urban Aboriginal peoples often or occasionally vote in elections held by Aboriginal political organizations. Status First Nations peoples report voting more frequently than do other urban Aboriginal peoples.

There is a small group of urban Aboriginal peoples who are frequent voters in elections held by Aboriginal political organizations, and most vote rarely or not at all. Almost four in ten say they vote often (22%) or occasionally (15%) in elections held by Aboriginal political organizations, while six in ten rarely (16%) or never (45%) vote. Reported voting (at least occasionally) is more common among status First

Reported voter turnout in Aboriginal elections

How often do you vote in elections

held by Aboriginal political organizations?



Nations peoples (45%) than Métis (33%) and Inuit (37%), and particularly compared to non-status First Nations peoples (9%), which may be due to the opportunities status First Nations peoples have to vote in Band elections.

Repeating the pattern of socio-demographic differences observed previously in this chapter, those more likely to vote in Aboriginal elections include those aged 45 or older (48%), those with a college or university degree (43%), those with household incomes between \$60,000 and \$80,000 (54%), those who have lived in their city for 10 years or longer (42%), those who feel they belong to a mostly Aboriginal community (45%) and, especially, those who know their family tree very well (59%). Notably, urban Aboriginal peoples in Montreal (61%) are more likely than those in other cities (ranging from 37% to 48%) to say they *never* vote in Aboriginal elections.

Reasons for lack of involvement

Disinterest, and a belief that Aboriginal politics are too complicated, drives lack of involvement in Aboriginal politics.

A slim majority (53%) of urban Aboriginal peoples report they are not involved in Aboriginal politics in any way (rarely or never vote in Aboriginal elections, do not belong to an Aboriginal political organization and rarely or never attend their meetings). The *UAPS* asked these participants about the reasons for this lack of involvement (unprompted, without response options offered). Some of these reasons are presented in the sidebar on this page.

Simple lack of interest is the most common reason for their lack of involvement. Three in ten (32%) of this group indicate they are not interested or don't care about Aboriginal politics. Lack of interest is higher among Métis (39% versus 30% of Inuit and 23% of First Nations peoples) and those who have no educational degree (39%).

Next to lack of interest, two in ten (20%) of this group say they find Aboriginal politics either too complicated or do not know how to get involved. Urban Aboriginal peoples in Edmonton (31%), Toronto (28%) and Vancouver (26%) are most likely to express this viewpoint about Aboriginal politics.

Other main reasons for urban Aboriginal peoples' lack of involvement in Aboriginal politics include a personal lack of time due to other life commitments (15%), and the perception that Aboriginal politics does not concern off-reserve and non-status Aboriginal peoples (8%). Urban Aboriginal peoples in Regina (20%) and Thunder Bay (17%) are twice as likely as those in other cities to think Aboriginal politics overlooks off-reserve and non-status Aboriginal peoples.

2. Engagement in Canadian politics

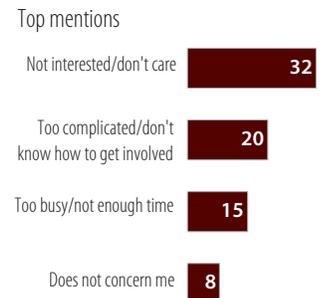
Attention to Canadian politics

A modest majority of urban Aboriginal peoples pay attention to Canadian politics. Interest is much higher among those who are also interested in Aboriginal politics.

How much attention do urban Aboriginal peoples pay to Canadian politics? Six in ten (58%) say they pay a great deal (20%) or some (38%) attention to what is happening in Canadian politics at either the federal, provincial or municipal level. Métis (62%) are slightly more likely than First Nations peoples (55%) and Inuit (54%) to report paying at least some attention to Canadian politics.

Reasons for lack of involvement in Aboriginal politics*

What are the main reasons why you are not more involved in Aboriginal politics?



*Subsample: Those who are not involved in Aboriginal politics (by voting in Aboriginal elections, or by membership in or attending meetings of Aboriginal political organizations).

Reasons why urban Aboriginal peoples are not more involved in Aboriginal politics:

Not enough information on Aboriginal politics and no access.

Because all it is, is money. The Chiefs take all the money and [don't] share with [their] peoples.

I feel my voice would have little impact on what seems to be a chaotic field to get involved in.

It feels too unsafe at my community. There's too much violence connected to politics here.

Don't hear or see anybody offering any answers.

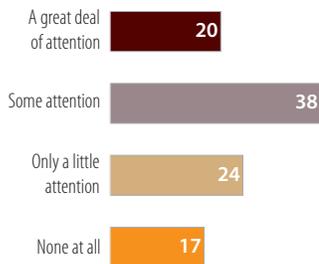
Living in the city has not brought me too much contact with them.

I have no trust in the leadership.

I never knew there were any Aboriginal political organizations.

Attention to Canadian politics

How much attention to you generally pay to what is happening in Canadian politics, at either the federal, provincial or municipal level?



Membership in Canadian political organizations

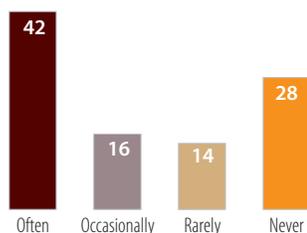
Do you belong to any Canadian political party?



* Belong to and/or attend meetings

Reported voter turnout in Canadian elections

How often do you vote in Canadian elections at either the federal, provincial or municipal level?



Four in ten (41%) pay only a little attention (24%), or none at all (17%), to what is happening in Canadian politics. Urban Aboriginal peoples in Regina (50%), Saskatoon (50%) and Halifax (50%) are most likely to report paying little or no attention.

Interest in Aboriginal politics is associated with considerably greater interest in Canadian politics. More than half (54%) of urban Aboriginal peoples who pay a great deal of attention to Aboriginal politics pay the same degree of attention to Canadian politics, compared to only one in ten (12%) who pay some, little or no attention to Aboriginal politics.

Given the overlap between those who are interested in Aboriginal politics and Canadian politics, it is not surprising that similar socio-demographic differences are evident. As with attention to Aboriginal politics, attention to Canadian politics increases with age, education and household income, and is higher among those who have lived longer in their city and who have strong knowledge of their family tree.

Reported membership in Canadian political parties

Few urban Aboriginal peoples belong to a Canadian political party or attend party meetings.

Few urban Aboriginal peoples are associated with any Canadian political parties through membership or by attending meetings. Just one in ten (11%) say they belong to a Canadian political party, while seven percent report that they often (2%) or occasionally (5%) attend party meetings.

Overall, 14 percent among the urban Aboriginal population are either a member of a Canadian political party or attend party meetings at least occasionally, and about one-quarter of this group (representing 4% of all urban Aboriginal people) do both.

There is a fair amount of overlap in reported membership between Canadian political parties and Aboriginal political organizations. Close to half (47%) of members of a Canadian political party also report belonging to an Aboriginal political organization. As well, as one would expect, members of a Canadian political party are more likely than non-members to attend party meetings. As a result, many of the same socio-demographic differences that influence membership in an Aboriginal political organization are evident in urban Aboriginal peoples' affiliation with Canadian political parties. That is, membership in a Canadian political party and meeting attendance increases with age, education and household income, and is higher among Métis, those who have lived in their city for 10 or more years, and those with greater knowledge of their family tree. No cities stand out as having greater involvement than others in Canadian political parties.

Reported voter turnout in Canadian elections

A minority of urban Aboriginal peoples report voting in Canadian elections always or often. Reported voter turnout is more frequent among those with greater Aboriginal political involvement.

Less than half (42%) of urban Aboriginal peoples say they always or often vote in Canadian elections at the federal, provincial or municipal level. This is higher than the two in ten (22%) who say they often vote in Aboriginal elections, although in many cases Aboriginal elections are limited to certain portions of the population (e.g., Band members). Another 16 percent of urban Aboriginal peoples say they vote occasionally in Canadian elections, while four in ten do so only rarely (14%) or never (28%).

Métis (49%) are more likely than First Nations peoples (36%) and Inuit (36%) to say they always or often vote in Canadian elections. Frequent voting is also more common among urban Aboriginal peoples in Vancouver (54%) than in other cities.

As it does for reported voting in Aboriginal elections, frequent voting in Canadian elections increases with age, education and income. Reported voter turnout in Canadian elections at the municipal, provincial and federal level is highest among urban Aboriginal peoples who know their family tree very well (58% vote always or often).

UAPS data reveal that urban Aboriginal peoples who have a high level of Aboriginal political involvement (i.e., belong to or attend meetings of Aboriginal political organizations, or vote in Aboriginal elections) are also more likely to vote in Canadian elections. Two-thirds (65%) always or often vote in Canadian elections, compared to four in ten (44%) with moderate involvement and three in ten (31%) with low involvement.

Reported versus actual voter turnout

In the *Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study*, Aboriginal participants were asked how often they voted in elections held by Aboriginal political organizations and Canadian elections at either the federal, provincial or municipal level.

Survey (i.e., self-reported) estimates of voter turnout are normally higher than actual turnout levels. In a study commissioned by Elections Canada, researchers Paul Howe and David Bedford at the University of New Brunswick noted that collecting data using surveys in which people are asked if they have voted produces rates that are consistently higher than actual turnout rates, by roughly 15 percentage points (based on the 2000 Canadian federal election).

Notwithstanding this over-reporting, survey data are an important addition to general knowledge about Aboriginal voting activity. Research on voter participation among Aboriginal persons typically looks at on-reserve voter turnout, studying only those polls which are entirely contained within reserve communities. This leaves out important sections of the Aboriginal population: those who live off-reserve.

In the *UAPS*, reported rates of voting in Canadian elections at either the federal, provincial or municipal level among urban Aboriginal peoples correspond to previously reported voter turnout among urban Aboriginal peoples in other studies. In the *UAPS*, 58 percent of urban Aboriginal peoples say they vote at least occasionally in Canadian elections at either the federal, provincial or municipal level. This figure approximates self-reported voting patterns in the *General Social Survey 17*, 2003, where reported urban Aboriginal voter turnout in the 2000 federal election and most recent provincial and local elections was 58 percent, 54 percent, and 44 percent, respectively.

Reasons why urban Aboriginal peoples are not more involved in Canadian politics:

I feel that I lack the education and experience. Perhaps one day when I get a little more formal education, I will involve myself more.

I have spoken with representatives of government agencies at conferences about the preservation of Treaty rights (like hunting/fishing licence, health care). I speak at conferences on behalf of Aboriginal people.

Through my work, I write letters of protest to funding cuts to all levels of governments.

Strong views against whole "system" of politics. Indigenous peoples are not recognized and until that time...

I did the Census, through my involvement in school, through getting information on the Internet.

No, besides being affected every day by the rules and laws that are put in place by politics.

Reasons for lack of engagement

Urban Aboriginal peoples do not get involved in Canadian politics for a number of reasons, but chiefly because of a lack of interest.

A substantial minority (42%) of urban Aboriginal peoples are not involved in Canadian politics in any way (rarely or never vote in Canadian elections, do not belong to a mainstream political party, and rarely or never attend their meetings). The UAPS asked these participants about the reasons for this lack of involvement (unprompted, without response options offered). Some of these reasons are illustrated in verbatim comments in the sidebar on this page.

Consistent with the reasons for lack of involvement in Aboriginal politics, lack of interest (42%) is, by far, the most common reason why urban Aboriginal peoples are not more involved in Canadian politics, particularly among Aboriginal youth (54% say they are not more involved because of lack of interest, compared to 40% of those aged 25-44, and 31% of those aged 45 or older).

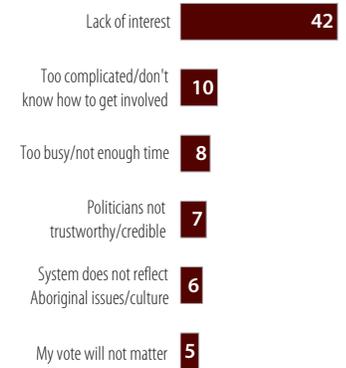
However, it is important to note that lack of interest is not synonymous with a complete lack of political activity. Although these participants may not vote in Canadian elections, nor belong to or attend meetings of mainstream political parties, some feel they are exercising their political voice in other ways (examples provided in the sidebar include speaking out through their work or by speaking on behalf of Aboriginal people at conferences).

Much smaller proportions say they are either not informed or find Canadian politics too complicated (10%), are too busy to afford the time to pay attention to Canadian politics (8%), or believe politicians are not trustworthy (7%). Some urban Aboriginal peoples also feel the Canadian political system does not reflect Aboriginal issues and culture (6%), or feel like their vote will not matter (5%).

Reasons for lack of involvement in Canadian politics*

What are the main reasons you are not more involved in Canadian politics?

Top mentions



*Subsample: Those who are not involved in Canadian politics (by voting in Canadian elections, or by membership in or attending meetings of Canadian political parties).

Involvement in Aboriginal-based organizations appears to foster participation in Aboriginal *and* Canadian elections.

Involvement in urban Aboriginal services and organizations has important, positive effects on urban Aboriginal peoples' voter turnout, in both Aboriginal and Canadian elections. Past research shows that those who report involvement in an organization connected with their Aboriginal identity have 1.7 times the odds of voting in a Canadian election than those who are not involved in such organizations.*

The UAPS data show urban Aboriginal peoples who often use or rely on Aboriginal services or organizations in their city are twice as likely as those who never use these organizations and services to vote in elections held by Aboriginal political organizations.

When it comes to Canadian elections, urban Aboriginal peoples who often use or rely on Aboriginal services and organizations in their city are also more likely to say they often vote in Canadian elections.

There is no evidence that involvement in Aboriginal-based organizations competes with traditional forms of political participation. On the contrary, such organizational involvement seems to foster engagement in both Aboriginal and Canadian elections.

* Source: Harell et al., *Explaining Aboriginal Turnout in Federal Elections: Evidence from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba*.

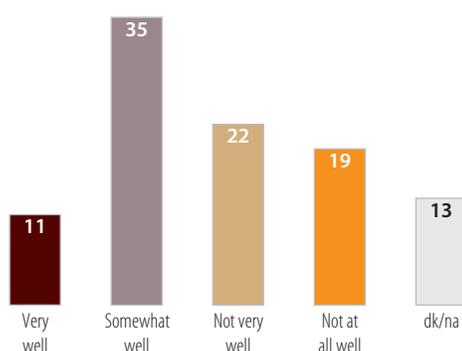
3. Who represents urban Aboriginal peoples?

Perceptions of Aboriginal political organizations

Less than half of urban Aboriginal peoples feel well-represented by existing Aboriginal political organizations. Individuals active in the Aboriginal political system are more likely to feel such organizations speak for them.

How well do Aboriginal political organizations represent you?

In general, how well do you think Aboriginal political organizations represent you and your interests?



How good a job do urban Aboriginal peoples think Aboriginal political organizations do at representing them and their interests? Fewer than half of urban Aboriginal peoples say that Aboriginal political organizations represent them very (11%) or somewhat (35%) well, a view that is most common among Inuit (61%) and least common among non-status First Nations peoples (35%) (49% of status First Nations peoples and 44% of Métis think Aboriginal political organizations represent their interests at least somewhat well). A substantial minority say they are not very well (22%) or not at all well (19%) represented by the existing organizations. The perception that Aboriginal political organizations do not truly represent them is highest among residents of Regina (51%) and Saskatoon (49%). More than one in ten (13%) cannot offer an opinion about how well Aboriginal political organizations represent them.

Belief in being well-represented (very or somewhat) by Aboriginal political organizations is higher among older urban Aboriginal peoples, those who know their family tree at least fairly well (51% vs. 31% who do not know their family tree at all), and those who feel the community they belong to is either primarily Aboriginal or equally Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal (51% vs. 39% who feel their community is primarily non-Aboriginal).

There is a connection between urban Aboriginal peoples' perceptions on this issue and their attention to Aboriginal politics and level of Aboriginal political involvement. The more likely they are to pay attention to Aboriginal politics, to vote in Aboriginal elections, and to belong to and to attend meetings of such organizations, the more likely they are to believe Aboriginal political organizations speak for them.

Who best represents you?

Urban Aboriginal peoples identify with a diverse array of Aboriginal political organizations and Canadian political parties, but significant minorities feel there is no one entity that truly represents them or cannot say.

The UAPS asked urban Aboriginal peoples to consider both Aboriginal political organizations and Canadian political parties and to identify (unprompted, without being offered response options) which one they feel best represents them. They cite a mix of organizations and parties, both Aboriginal and mainstream, with no clear preference.

In terms of a political organization that best represents them, one in four (27%) urban Aboriginal peoples identify a national Aboriginal organization, while an almost identical proportion (26%) name a mainstream (Canadian) political party. A small group (5%) says that another Aboriginal organization (such as their Band or a provincial or regional organization) speaks for them. A total of four in ten (41%) urban Aboriginal people cannot identify any political organization or party, Aboriginal or mainstream, which best represents them (14%), or say none do so (27%).

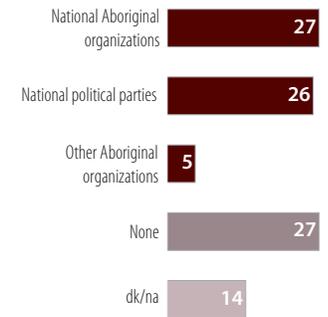
The national Aboriginal organizations that top urban Aboriginal peoples' list of political entities that truly speak for them include the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) (13%) and the Métis National Council (10%). Relatively few cite the Native Women's Association of Canada (2%) or the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (1%).

Identification with a political organization aligns with Aboriginal identity, in a predictable way. Status First Nations peoples are most likely to believe the AFN best represents them (25%), while Métis are most likely to mention the Métis National Council (20%) and Inuit are most likely to name Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (31%). Non-status First Nations peoples are more likely than others to identify with the Native Women's Association of Canada (10% vs. 3% among other urban Aboriginal peoples).⁴³ Nonetheless, substantial minorities in all identity groups feel there is no one organization that represents them or cannot say, ranging from one-third (33%) of Inuit, to four in ten Métis (42%) and status First Nations peoples (40%), to half (50%) of non-status First Nations peoples.

As one might expect, urban Aboriginal peoples who feel well-represented (very or somewhat) by Aboriginal political organizations are more likely than others to name a national Aboriginal organization as the entity that best represents them. Those who feel they are not well-represented by Aboriginal political organizations are much more likely to say that there is no organization or party that speaks for them, or cannot say which does (48% vs. 31% of those who feel well-represented) or to identify with a mainstream political party (29% vs. 22%).

What political organization or party best represents you?

Thinking about both Aboriginal political organizations and Canadian political parties, is there one that you feel best represents you?



What political organization or party best represents you?



* Less than 0.5%

⁴³ Women comprise a greater proportion of non-status First Nations peoples (69%) than status First Nations peoples (55%).