

MYTH 6: Very few Aboriginal people start their own business.

FACT 6: *False.* Roughly 2% of all small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), or 32,000 businesses, are operated by Aboriginal entrepreneurs (only slightly lower than the 3.8% share of Aboriginals in the population). 51% of these firms belonged entirely or partly to Aboriginal women (while the Canadian average was 47%).

MYTH 7: Even if there are Aboriginal businesses, they're not very successful.

FACT 7: *False.* The majority of firms are profitable – six in ten reported a profit in 2010 and a third managed to boost annual revenues in 2010 despite the global downturn. Roughly half of survey respondents labeled their business a success, with seven in ten survey respondents anticipating revenue growth over the next two years. In addition, the growth rate of Aboriginals in self-employed positions is exceeding that of non-Aboriginals.

MYTH 8: Aboriginals should get mortgages and build their own new houses.

FACT 8: An individual cannot get a mortgage for on-reserve construction. Real property on reserves cannot be used as collateral for a mortgage. Could you afford to build a house if you couldn't take out a mortgage?

MYTH 9: Life is great on First Nation Reserves – it seems everyone has a new truck.

FACT 9: First Nations living conditions are rated as being similar to those of countries in the so-called Third World. In 2006, CBC found that 76 First Nations were under boil water advisory (water unsuitable for drinking unless boiled). In 2003, a study found that while a 4-litre jug of milk cost \$3.40 in Winnipeg, it cost \$12.09 in Wasagamack (a First Nation near Winnipeg).

MYTH 10: Residential Schools are history. Get over it!

FACT 10: The earliest residential school was founded in 1620 and last closed as recently as 1996. Children were forcibly removed from their families, and language, culture and religion were beaten and humiliated out of them. Frequently, children died of tuberculosis, malnutrition, or other diseases. Many suffered the worst kinds of abuse at the hands of the school authorities.

The education received was intended to be sub-standard, and as a result survivors haven't been able to gain meaningful employment or take their rightful place in Canadian society.

Financial compensation is small and not easy to obtain. Survivors and their families continue to be devastated by the effects of the compulsory Residential School System.

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