# ACR Aboriginal Programs Project Program Template

**Program Area:** 2.0 Workforce Development

Sub Program: 2.4 Programs Sponsored by Government and Non-Profit Agencies

Template: 2.4.5 Aboriginal Labour Force Survey

Sponsor(s): Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Alberta Aboriginal

Affairs and Northern Development, Alberta Economic Development, Alberta Finance, Alberta Advanced Education, Alberta Education,

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

## 1. Objective

To provide accurate, monthly labour force data on Aboriginal people living off reserve in Alberta.

#### 2. Description

The Aboriginal Labour Force Survey (ALFS) is conducted by Statistics Canada and provides accurate, monthly, three-month rolling averages of labour force data on Aboriginal people living off reserve in Alberta. To develop the ALFS, Statistics Canada added two new Aboriginal identifier questions, developed the appropriate methodology for the survey, and established sampling groups to ensure statistically valid and accurate values of the data collected. Statistics Canada monitors how many Aboriginal people are responding in order to maintain the validity of the data. The ALFS began as a pilot project in 2002 with published results in 2003 (www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/lfstats/index.asp).

The data collection tables cover the following labour market information for Aboriginal people, North American Indians, Métis and Inuit:

- > Employment by age, sex, class of worker
- ➤ Labour force characteristics by age, sex, and educational attainment
- Employment by age, sex and industry
- Labour force characteristics by detailed age and sex
- > Employment by age, sex and occupation
- Labour force characteristics by age, sex and geography
- Labour force characteristics by age, sex and urban/rural

The ALFS is the first of its kind in Canada. In 2004, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia added the same Aboriginal identifiers to their Labour Force Survey, facilitating a Western Aboriginal Labour Force Survey.

### 3. Implementation

In 2002, Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Alberta Human Resources and

Employment, and Alberta Finance approached Statistics Canada to discuss the need for ongoing and current indicators of labour market conditions for the off-reserve Aboriginal population in Alberta.

A two-year pilot project was developed, from April 2002 to March 2004. Funding for the pilot included an increase in the sample size of an additional 1,250 households. The increased samples were taken from geographic locations where there is an anticipated higher proportion of Aboriginal people. Funding also allowed for the introduction of two additional questions within the standard Labour Force Survey. Over the 2002/2003 fiscal year, the methodology was developed, the questionnaire programmed and tested, and the increased sample size phased in. Beginning in January 2003, the full sample was implemented and regular monthly collection began. The ALFS pilot findings were released on October 10, 2003, with monthly releases since then.

Sampling is done on a six-month rotational basis. Households remain in the survey sample for a six-month period and then are replaced by other households. Each month, approximately one-sixth of the sampling households are rotated out and replaced.

#### 4. Timeframe for Results

The ALFS is ongoing. Results are published monthly at www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/lfstats/index.asp

#### 5. Measurable Criteria

Off-reserve Aboriginal Labour Force Statistics published by Statistics Canada. See www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/71-587-XIE/2005001/part1.htm

## 6. Budget

Annual budget of \$400,000.

#### 7. Partners and Sponsors

The ALFS is funded and supported by the Government of Alberta departments of Human Resources and Employment, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Economic Development, Finance, Advanced Education, Education, and Sustainable Resource Development.

### 8. Experience with the Program

The ALFS began in April 2002 with published results beginning in October 2003. This survey supports the Government of Alberta Business Plan related to the Aboriginal Policy Initiative. The statistical information is published on the Alberta Human Resources and Employment website.

The ALFS was the first of its kind in Canada. In April 2004, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia also established provincial Aboriginal Labour Force Surveys. As a result, for the first time ever, Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey is able to provide details about labour market conditions for off-reserve Aboriginal people in the four western provinces.

#### 9. General Applicability

In June 2005, Statistics Canada announced details about labour market conditions for off-reserve Aboriginal people in the four western provinces. Such data were previously available only from the census.

## 10. Additional Information or Support

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