

# **GEOG 128: Human Geography: Space, Place and Community**

Dr. Jonathan Cinnamon | Term 2, 2021/2022 | University of British Columbia Okanagan

## **ASSIGNMENT 1: INDIGENOUS POPULATION GEOGRAPHIES**

Statistics Canada compiles population and demographic data on Indigenous peoples, including First Nations peoples residing on and off 'reserve' lands, and produces statistical profiles of all First Nation communities. In this assignment you will learn about the geographic distribution, and highly diverse demographic characteristics of Indigenous populations through maps, census data, and through further desk research.

Complete the 4 tasks below, save your work in the assignment Word document template (on Canvas), and **submit it to the Assignment 1 dropbox on Canvas by Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**. Assignment 1 is worth 10% of your final mark.

This assignment requires Excel or a comparable spreadsheet software (e.g. Apple Numbers). You can download Excel through UBC software website here:

<https://it.ubc.ca/services/desktop-print-services/software-licensing/microsoft-365-office-students>. New or beginner users can learn Excel basics through a series of short video tutorials here: <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/excel2016/>

### **Task 1: Indigenous geographies (1 mark)**

Go to <https://native-land.ca/> and learn more about the traditional Indigenous territories that you live on (or the campus is on). You can explore the interactive map, and turn on and off the territories, language, and treaties layers. If you are having trouble finding your way on the map, you can turn on the 'Settler Labels' button.

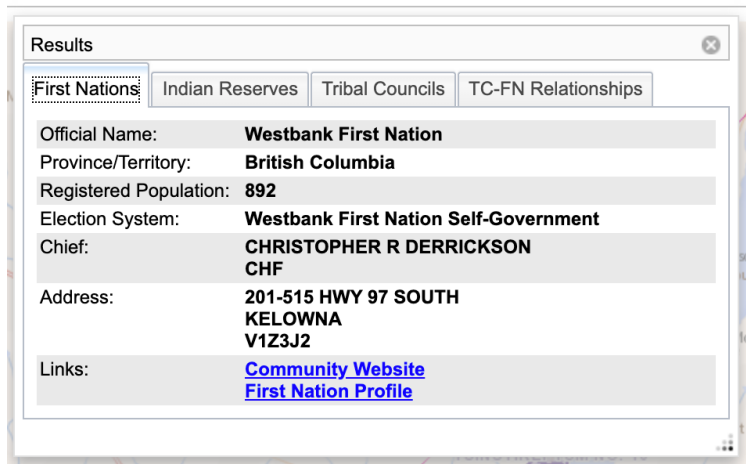
- Create one screenshot of the area you live (or the campus is on), with just the territories shown.

### **Task 2: Accessing and compiling First Nations demographic profiles (3 marks)**

Go to the **First Nation Profiles Interactive Map**, <https://geo.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/cippn-fnpim/index-eng.html>. From here you can explore the geography of First Nation communities across the country. By clicking on the map you can access demographic data from Statistics Canada about communities of interest, and access First Nation community websites and other information links.

- **First**, look at the Westbank First Nation near Kelowna, British Columbia. Navigate there, or type it into the search bar (click the binocular symbol under 'Tools') and double-click on the name to take you there. Then click the 'Identify'

tool, and click on the map symbol (green dot) to bring up the Results window (see image below):



Under the First Nations tab, click on the First Nation Profile link, to take you the webpage with the demographic profile for this First Nation. Population and demographic data are available under each of the buttons under 'Census Data' (Population, Language, Marital, etc.). Note that data for the province as a whole are also available as comparison.

- Using the 2016 census data provided (you can ignore the 2006 data), and the '*GEOG128-First-Nations*' Excel spreadsheet file (download from Canvas), you will compile a demographic profile of the community. Complete the Excel sheet, copying over the following variables from the website for both Westbank First Nation and the Province of British Columbia:
  - Median age (total)
  - Unemployment rate (total)
  - Median household income
  - Population with knowledge of an Indigenous language (total)
  - Registered Indian (total)
  - Total population
- Copy the same 2016 census variables to the '*GEOG128-First-Nations*' Excel file for the Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, and for the Province of Manitoba. You will have to follow the same procedure for accessing the data through the interactive map at the link above.

- Finally, following the above procedure one more time, choose one more First Nation community, and compile the same 2016 census variables for it and for the province it is part of. In total you should have data for 7 different geographies (3 First Nation communities, 3 provinces, Canada).
- Convert the 'Registered Indian (total)' variable to a percentage of the total population, for all 7 geographies. You will need to use this percentage variable for Task 2.

### **Task 3: Visual comparison of Indigenous population geographies (2 marks)**

Data compiled in a table can be useful to make comparisons, but often we want to visualize the data to help reveal patterns and differences between different geographical areas. Maps and charts are both widely used in human geography to do so. Here we will create some basic column charts in Excel to help visually represent differences in the demographic data between the different geographies.

- a. Create one column chart to compare the median age variable for all 7 geographies
- b. Create one column chart to compare the following two variables for all 7 geographies:
  - Population with knowledge of an Indigenous language (%)
  - Registered Indian (%)

### **Task 4: Written explanation and comparison (4 marks)**

In the final task you will respond to the prompt below (up to 500 words). A stronger answer will draw on what you have learned in the course, the textbook, and from other sources including some provided in the Jan 27<sup>th</sup> tutorial and lecture. You could begin by reading about the different First Nations on their community websites (find online or through the interactive map from Task 1).

- Describe the data in the table and charts from Task 2 and 3. Then explain some potential reasons for the considerable differences between the three First Nations, the three Provinces, and Canada as a whole.

**Submitting Assignment 1:** Please use the template provided, available at Canvas>Modules>Week 3>Tutorial