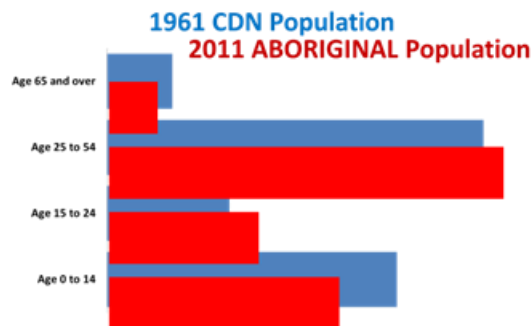


June 21, 2013

June 21st is National Aboriginal Day, a day recognizing and celebrating the cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples of Canada. This year I am using the day to focus on the significant contribution that is waiting to be realized with the Aboriginal Population in Canada. It is important we find ways to realize this contribution for the benefit of not just Aboriginal People but for all Canadians.

The struggle of a new generation to fit into the mainstream of a nation is not a new phenomenon. For those of you who are baby boomers of the 50's, 60's and 70's, you know that the beliefs, values and norms of your generation took a while to take hold, even when you had a common history and cultural context to the establishment of the day.

We now have another baby boom that is about to move through our society. Like the baby boomers of the past, this boom has the potential to positively influence our country both culturally and economically. The following graph shows the stark similarities of the age distribution of the 1960's baby boom to the current Aboriginal population in Canada.



To unleash the potential of this young Aboriginal Population, we first need to recognize their past and then be prepared to have them define their place in a new “mainstream”.

To increase your awareness of the context, history and current state of Aboriginal People, I recommend the following readings:

- King, Thomas; *The Inconvenient Indian; A Curious Account of Native People In North America*; (2012) – *The Inconvenient Indian* is at once a “history” and the complete subversion of a history—in short, a critical and personal meditation about what it means to be “Indian” in North America. In the words of a friend, Thomas Kings book “...was dark, angry, gripping and tongue-in-cheek funny all at once -- a combination that I found very powerful”.
- [Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Metis and Inuit](#); Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey. Sorry, but as an accountant and a banker I get excited by statistics. Let's try to use these statistics for illumination on the potential, not as support for the status quo.

All the best to you on June 21st, National Aboriginal Day.

