

# Health Status Report



2010 - 2015

Community Well Being



**Suggested Citation:**

Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority. *Health Status Report 2010-2015: Community Well-being*. Public Health Unit, Prince Albert, 2017. Available at: [www.nitha.com](http://www.nitha.com)

# Chapter 4: Community Well-being

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## Key Findings:

- The Community Well-Being (CWB) index is a means of measuring socio-economic well-being at community level. The CWB index combines data on **income, education, housing and labour force activity** into a well-being “scores” for most of the communities across Canada.
- In Saskatchewan (SK), average CWB scores for First Nations (both NITHA and other SK First Nations communities) and SK non-First Nations communities increased slowly but steadily between 1982 and 2011. On average, the SK non-First Nations communities’ CWB index scores were between 24 to 30 points higher than First Nations communities.
- In 2011, the largest gap between NITHA and non-First Nations communities was in income (38 points) following housing (33 points), labour force activity (27 points) and education (23 points)
- In total, between 1981 and 2011, the average **income score** for NITHA increased by 16 point, while the average income score for non-First Nations communities increased by 13 points.
- The average **education score** for NITHA communities increased considerably from 7 points in 1981 to 32 points in 2011. For non-First Nations communities, the average education score increased at a higher rate from 24 points in 1981 to 54 point in 2011.
- The average **housing score** for non-First Nations communities has been steadily high since 1981 (93 points). The gap between the average housing score for non-First Nations communities and NITHA communities is wide (between 33 to 42 points).
- In 1981, the average **Labour Force Activity** gap between NITHA and non-First Nations communities was 23 points. In 2011, the gap widen by 4 points to 27 points.
- Based on the results, despite some improvements, the average CWB index scores and its four components (education, housing, income and LFA) for NITHA communities are noticeably lower than non-First Nations communities in Saskatchewan.

## Background

In 2015, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) published a report on trends of well-being from 1981 to 2011 for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across Canada<sup>1</sup>. To report on well-being, INAC calculated the Community Well-Being (CWB) index<sup>1</sup>. The CWB index is a means of measuring socio-economic well-being at community level. It consists of four components namely:

1. **Income:** calculated based on total income per capita
2. **Education:** calculated based on how many community members have at least a high school education and how many have attained a university degree
3. **Housing:** calculated based on the number of community members whose homes are in an adequate state of repair and are not overcrowded
4. **Labour force activity:** looks at how many community members participate in the labour force and how many labour force participants have jobs.

The CWB index combines data on the four components into a single well-being “score”. Each component can range from 0 to 100. These scores are used to compare well-being across First Nations with those in other Canadian communities over time<sup>1</sup>. CWB index scores were calculated for 1981, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006, based on Canada’s population census of population. Scores for 2011 have been calculated based on 2011 National Household Survey<sup>1</sup>.

To assess the socio-economic well-being of NITHA communities, we selected the calculated CWB index and its four components from INAC dataset for the province of Saskatchewan. We compared the CWB scores for NITHA communities with CWB score for other First Nations communities and non-First Nations communities across Saskatchewan. The information generated from the trends of CWB index across Saskatchewan can help to inform policy and programs that are aimed at improving the well-being of NITHA population.

## Results:

### Community Well-Being Index Scores

In Saskatchewan, average CWB scores for First Nations and non-First Nations communities increased slowly but steadily between 1982 and 2011 (Figure 4.1). On average, the non-First Nations communities’ CWB index scores were between 24 to 30 points higher than First Nations communities (Figure 4.1)

The CWB gap between NITHA and Saskatchewan non-First Nations (excluding NITHA) communities decreased slightly from 29 points in 1981 to 24 points in 2001 but increased to 30 points in 2011 (Figure 4.1). Between 2001 and 2006, the average CWB index for Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities improved at a higher rate compared to First Nations communities, which explains the observed increased in gap. The improvement was mainly in increased rate of high school completion in non-FN communities<sup>1</sup>. It should be noted

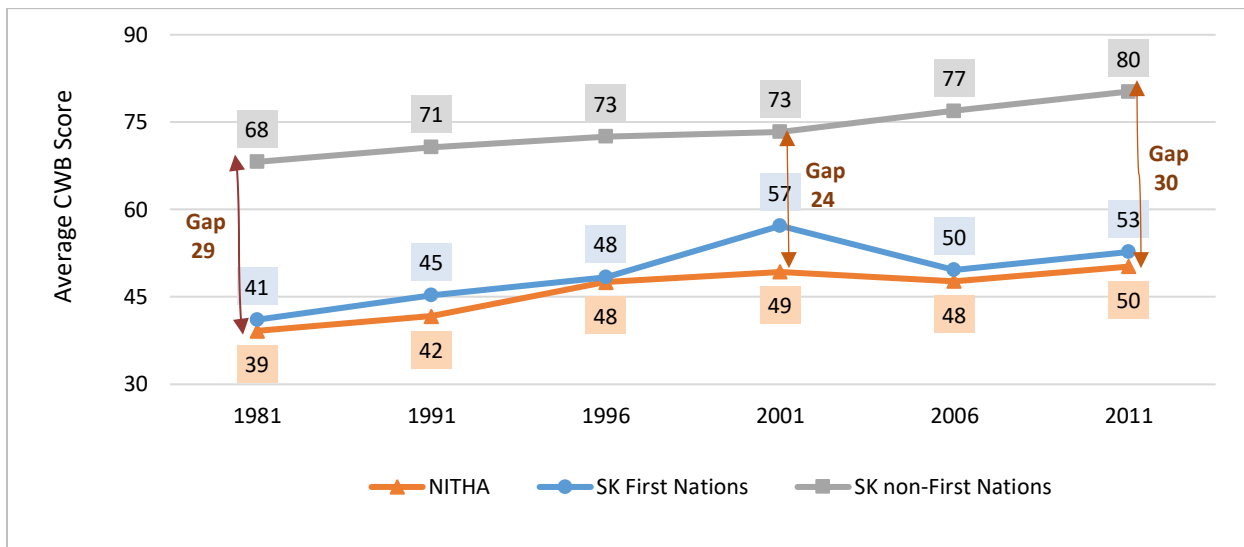
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<sup>1</sup> Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). (2015). The Community Well-Being (CWB) Index, 1981-2011. Retrieved 12 June 2017, from: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1419864229405/1419864303946>

that the question regarding education were changed from 2001 to 2006, which reduced the compatibility of the education data<sup>1</sup>. Caution should be taken when interpreting the data.

Between 1981 and 2011, both NITHA and non-NITHA First Nations communities had similar CWB index trend, except in 2001, where the CWB score for non-NITHA First Nations was higher by 8 points (Figure 4.1). Further analysis shows that in 2001, compared to NITHA communities, non-NITHA First Nations had higher score in 3 out of 4 components of CWB index except in education (Figure 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, & 4.6).

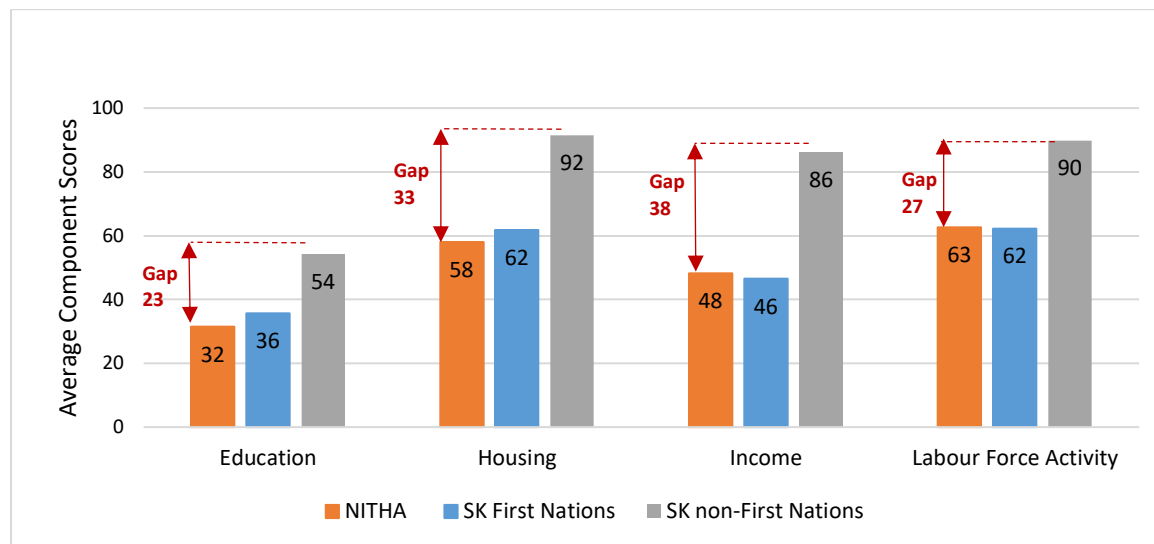
**Figure 4.1. Average Community Well-Being Scores, NITHA, Saskatchewan First Nations and Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities, 1981 – 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 1981 – 2006 and National Household Survey, 2011

As discussed above, the CWB index made up four components: income, education, housing, labour force activity. Each component can range from 0 to 100. In 2011, the largest gap between NITHA and Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities was in income (38 points), followed by housing (33 points), labour force activity (27 points) and education (23 points) (Figure 4.2).

**Figure 4.2. Community Well-Being component scores, NITHA, Saskatchewan First Nations and Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities, 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

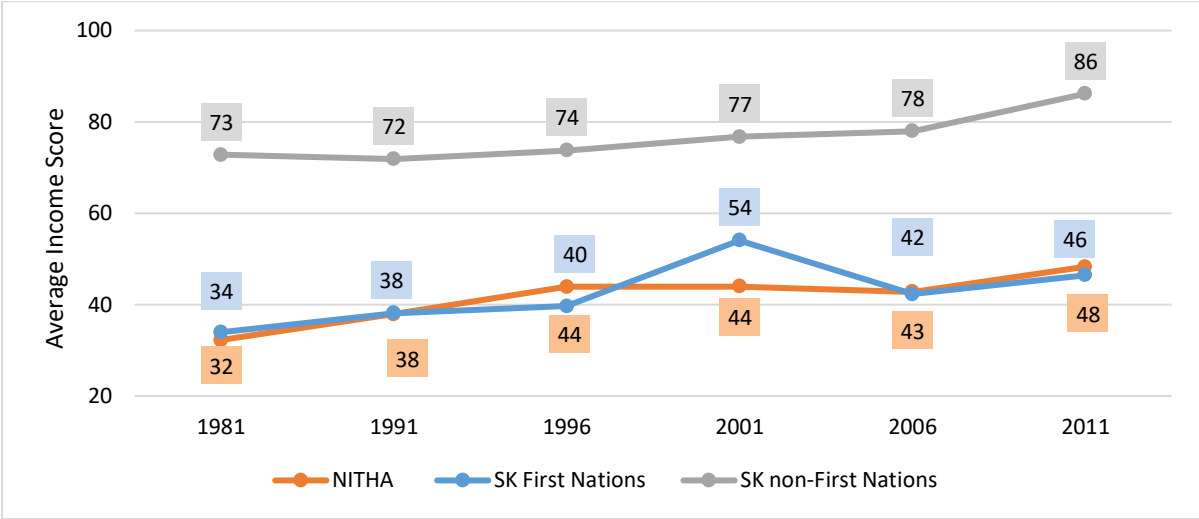
## INCOME

The income component is defined in terms of total income per capita<sup>2</sup>. The average income scores for NITHA communities increased slightly from 32 points in 1981 to 44 points in 2001 and 48 points in 2011. In total, between 1981 and 2011, the average income score for NITHA increased by 16 points, while the average income score for SK non-First Nations communities increased by 13 points (Figure 4.3). Although the average income score for NITHA communities increased at a higher rate compared to non-FN communities, the gap still exist and it only decreased by 3 points (from 41 points in 1981 to 38 points in 2011) (Figure 4.3).

The average income score for non-NITHA FN communities was very similar to NITHA's score, except in 2001, where the average income gap between NITHA and non-NITHA FN communities was 10 points. (Figure 4.3).

<sup>2</sup>Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). (2015). The Community Well-Being (CWB) Index, 1981-2011. Aadnc-aandc.gc.ca. Retrieved 12 June 2017, from <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1345816651029/1345816742083#chp3>

**Figure 4.3 Average income score, NITHA, Saskatchewan First Nations and Saskatchewan non- First Nations communities, 1981 – 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 1981 – 2006 and National Household Survey, 2011

**EDUCATION**

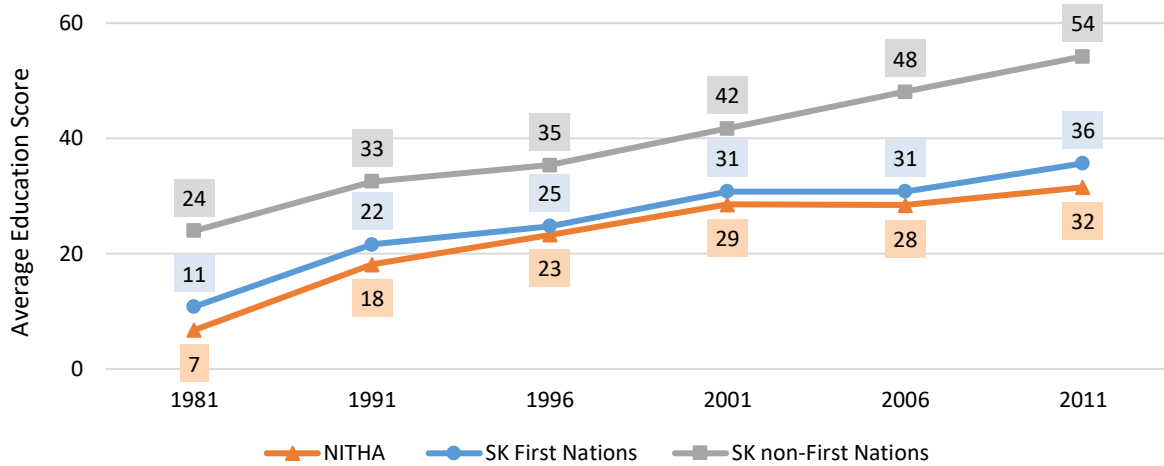
The education component is composed of a) proportion of the population, 20 years and above, that obtained at least high school certificate and b) the proportion of population, 20 years and above, that has obtained a university degree at bachelor’s level or higher <sup>2</sup>.

The average education score for NITHA communities increased considerably from 7 points in 1981 to 32 points in 2011. For Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities, the average education score increased at a higher rate from 24 points in 1981 to 54 point in 2011 (Figure 4.4). This suggests that although NITHA communities’ education score increased, the gap between them and non-First Nations communities is still wide. The gap increased from 17 points in 1981 to 23 points in 2011 (Figure 4.4).

The average education score for Saskatchewan non-NITHA First Nations communities was very similar to NITHA communities’ (Figure 4.4).



**Figure 4.4 Average Education score, NITHA, Saskatchewan First Nations and Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities, 1981 - 2011**

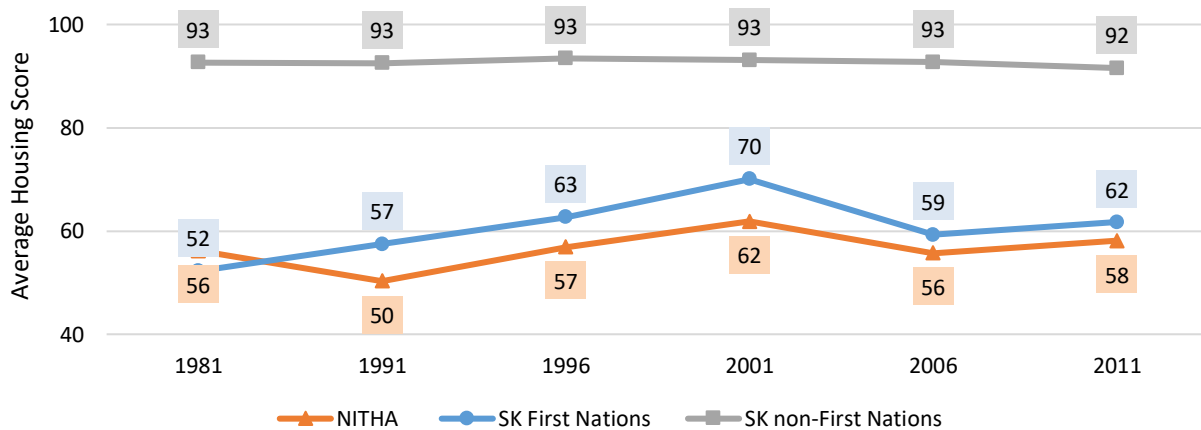


## HOUSING

The housing component comprises equally – weighted indicators of housing quantity and quality<sup>2</sup>. The average housing score for NITHA communities improved modestly from 56 points in 1981 to 62 points in 2001. The housing score decreased to 56 and 58 points in 2006 and 2011 respectively. Between 1981 and 2011, the average housing score for Saskatchewan First Nations was between 4 and 7 points higher than NITHA’s with a similar pattern (Figure 4.5).

The average housing for Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities has been steadily high since 1981 (93 points), which shows consistent high quality of housing for that population (Figure 4.5). The gap between the average housing score for Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities and NITHA communities is wide (between 33 to 42 points) (Figure 4.5). This shows that compared to Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities, the quality of housing for NITHA First Nations population is far behind. Significant resources and improvements needed to narrow this gap. This will help to improve the quality of life and disease prevention for those communities.

**Figure 4.5. Average housing score, NITHA, Saskatchewan First Nations and Saskatchewan non- First Nations communities, 1981 - 2011**



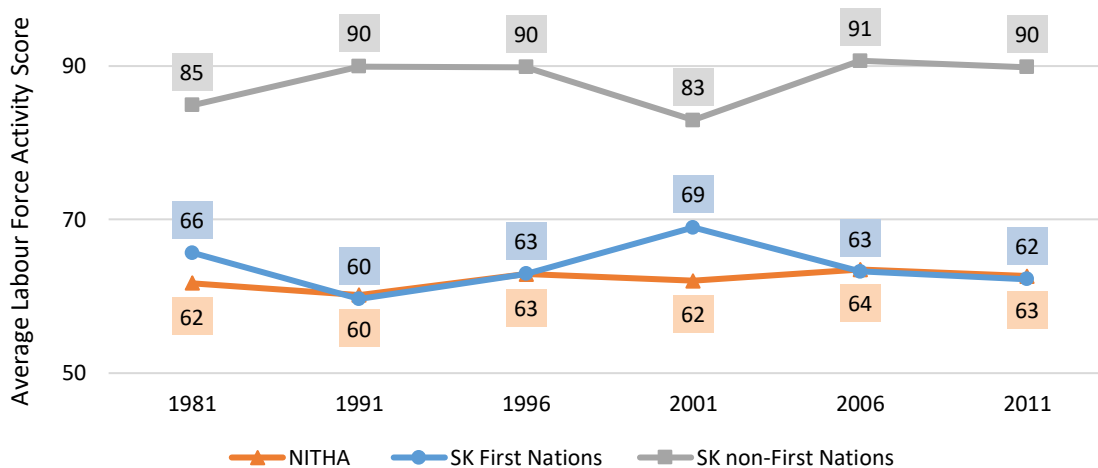
## LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

Labour Force Activity (LFA) calculated by combining a) the proportion of the population, aged 20-65 years old, that was involved in the labour force during the week preceding census day and b) the percentage of labour force participants, aged 20- 65 years old, that was employed during census week <sup>2</sup>.

Between 1981 and 2011, the average LFA score for NITHA communities stayed steady around 62 points. The average LFA score for Saskatchewan First Nations communities was very similar to NITHA's, except in 2001, where the average was 7 points higher (Figure 4.6).

In 1981, the average LFA gap between NITHA and Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities was 23 points. In 2011, the gap widened by 4 points to 27 points (Figure 4.6). Targeted policy and programs to improve the labours force activity for First Nations communities is needed to narrow this gap.

**Figure 4.6. Average Labour Force Activity score, NITHA, Saskatchewan First Nations and Saskatchewan non- First Nations communities, 1981 – 2011**



## Discussion

As discussed above, community well-being index score is a useful method to assess the socio-economic well-being at the community level. Based on the results, the average CWB index scores and its four components (education, housing, income and LFA) for NITHA communities are noticeably lower than non-First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. It should be note that, each First Nations communities are unique in terms of their characteristics and needs; therefore, the condition in non-First Nations communities do not represent a goal for NITHA communities to achieve. The goal is to investigate the reasons why the non-First Nations communities improved, while NITHA communities did not. This will help to develop targeted policy and programs to improve overall well-being of NITHA communities.

## Methodology

- We received data on CWB index scores and its four components from INAC<sup>1</sup>.
- We selected 2011 database as a reference, and 24 NITHA communities were selected (Table 4.1). Data for the other NITHA communities were not available, this is due to either the way census population is defined and/or whether the community had response rate of below 50%.
- The data for the selected 24 communities were extracted from the other census datasets. Both 2001 and 2006 have the same 24 communities, the 1981 file missed Sandy Bay and Clearwater communities. Two-year data 1991 and 1996 were missing Sandy Bay community.
- Then the data for First Nations in Saskatchewan (excluding NITHA), were selected for each reported year.
- We compared the CWB index with its four components between NITHA communities, Saskatchewan First Nations communities and Saskatchewan non-First Nations communities.

Table 4.1: NITHA communities that are included in CWB index analysis.

CSD Code	Census subdivision (CSD) name
4718818	Buffalo River Dene Nation 193 (Peter Pond Lake 193)
4718817	Canoe Lake 165
4718839	Clearwater River Dene 222
4718801	Cumberland House Cree Nation 20
4717805	Flying Dust First Nation 105 (Meadow Lake 105)
4718824	Fond du Lac 227
4718831	Grandmother's Bay 219
4715849	James Smith 100
4718812	Kitsakie 156B
4718809	Lac La Ronge 156
4715851	Little Red River 106C
4717807	Makwa Lake 129B
4718802	Montreal Lake 106
4715853	Montreal Lake 106B
4718820	Pelican Narrows 184B
4714840	Red Earth 29
4718058	Sandy Bay
4714839	Shoal Lake 28A
4718822	Southend 200
4718803	Stanley 157
4716856	Sturgeon Lake 101
4718811	Sucker River 156C (Nemebien River 156C)
4715848	Wahpaton 94A
4717806	Waterhen 130