



November, 2014
www.slwdb.org

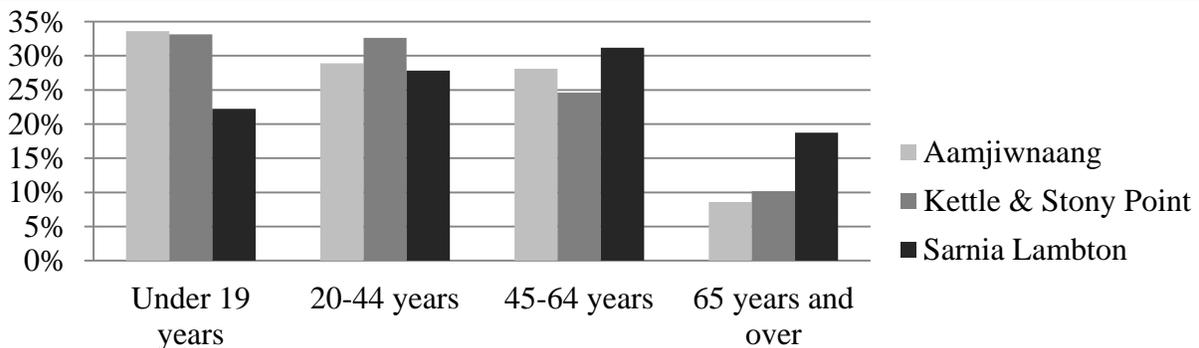
Workforce Focus:
*Aboriginal populations in
or surrounding Sarnia
Lambton*

Prepared by:
Catherine Gordon, Ph.D.
Research Associate
519.332.0000 ext. 124
catherine.gordon@slwdb.org

The three First Nation reserves surrounding Sarnia Lambton have sizeable populations. According to Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada, in 2014, the on-reserve populations are about 2,300 for Walpole Island and 1,300 for Kettle & Stony Point. Current numbers aren't available for Aamjiwnaang, but sources say the population is close to 900.

There are also many Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in Sarnia Lambton. In 2011, around 5,400 residents self-identified as Aboriginal.

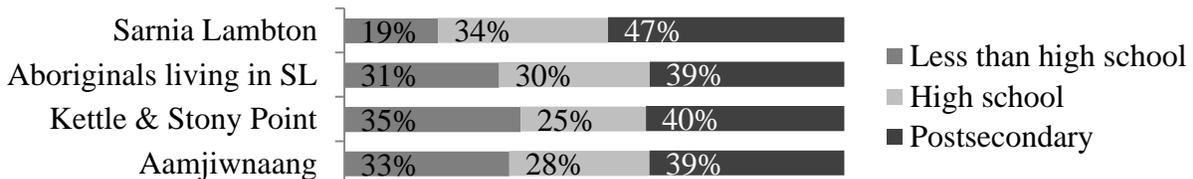
The younger ages of First Nation peoples living near Sarnia Lambton are illustrated in the graph below. The average age is 33 years for Aamjiwnaang and 32 years for Kettle & Stony Point. In comparison, the average age is 45 years for Sarnia Lambton. Demographic and employment numbers aren't available for the Walpole Island population.



Source: Statistics Canada. 2011 NHS, customized tabulations.

What does this mean? In the coming years, the large groups of youth and young adults from the surrounding First Nation reserves could make great contributions to the First Nation communities and to the Sarnia Lambton workforce in terms of numbers and skills.

Highest educational attainment is shown in the graph below. About 1 in 3 Aboriginal peoples living in or near Sarnia Lambton haven't attained a high school education. Low educational attainment among Aboriginal peoples is a Canada-wide phenomenon. One cannot ignore the socio-cultural and economic disparities experienced by Aboriginal peoples including the transition from elementary school (which is on-reserve) to high school (which is off-reserve in Sarnia Lambton).



There are many efforts in Sarnia Lambton and nearby First Nation communities to encourage and aid students to finish high school and attend postsecondary school. For example, the **Sarnia Lambton Native Friendship Centre** has self-development programs for local youth. For information on these programs or volunteering opportunities, visit slnfc.org or call 519-344-6164.

Employment rates of nearby First Nation populations and the Sarnia Lambton population are shown below for 2011. First Nations populations have low employment rates.

Aamjiwnaang	34.3%
Kettle & Stony Point	40.7%
Aboriginals in Sarnia Lambton	unknown
Sarnia Lambton	53.9%

Employment rate refers to the # of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years and older.

Source: Statistics Canada. *2011 NHS, customized tabulations.*

Low employment may stem from many factors, including: low educational levels, a mismatch of training or education required for jobs that are available, discrimination experienced in attempts to obtain employment, lack of personal transportation, among others.

Where Employed?

Residents of *Aamjiwnaang and Kettle & Stony Point* reserves typically work in:

- Trades, transport & equipment operating
- Education, law, social, community & government services
- Sales & service

Aboriginal peoples living in Sarnia Lambton typically work in:

- Sales & service
- Trades, transport & equipment operating
- Business, finance & administration

Compared to where residents of Sarnia Lambton typically work, a greater proportion of the Aamjiwnaang and Kettle & Stony Point populations work in jobs related to educational services (15 percentage point difference). Nationwide, Aboriginal peoples have higher participation in public sector jobs and are underrepresented in areas like business, math and computer science, engineering, and the sciences, compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts (TD Economics, 2013).

Local Employment Ontario Service Providers in or near Sarnia Lambton:

Aamjiwnaang First Nation Employment Resource Centre 519-336-8410	Kettle & Stony Point Employment Service Access 519-786-6780	Walpole Island First Nation Employment & Training 519-627-7148
Goodwill Career Centre 519-332-4333	Lambton College Employment & Learning Centre 519-882-4333	The WorkPlace Group 519-337-7377
Tri-County Literacy Network Toll free 1-877-333-4833		

This *Employment Ontario* project is funded by the Ontario government.
The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of *Employment Ontario*.