



Workforce Connex Saskatchewan – Partnerships for a Prosperous Province

Kevin Kowalchuk
Director, Citizen Services
April 7, 2009

Overview

We would like to accomplish the following today:

Provide you with an overview of key demographic trends in Saskatchewan;

Brief overview of key trends related to Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population

Offer a brief summary of the provincial economy, including an overview of Major Projects;

Summarize results of Saskatchewan's Workforce Connex 2008

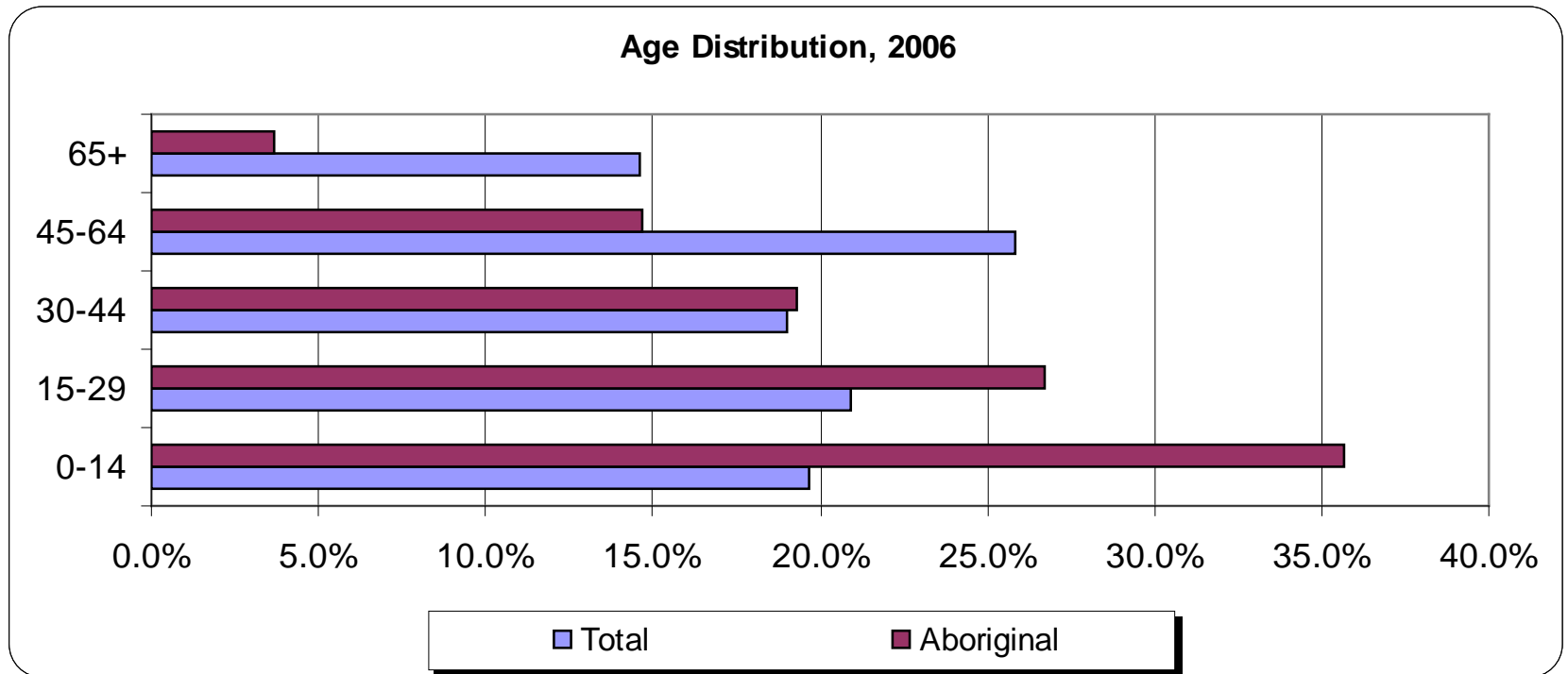
Provide you with a brief overview of the future in Saskatchewan



Demographic Trends



Saskatchewan's Aboriginal Population



North/South Comparison

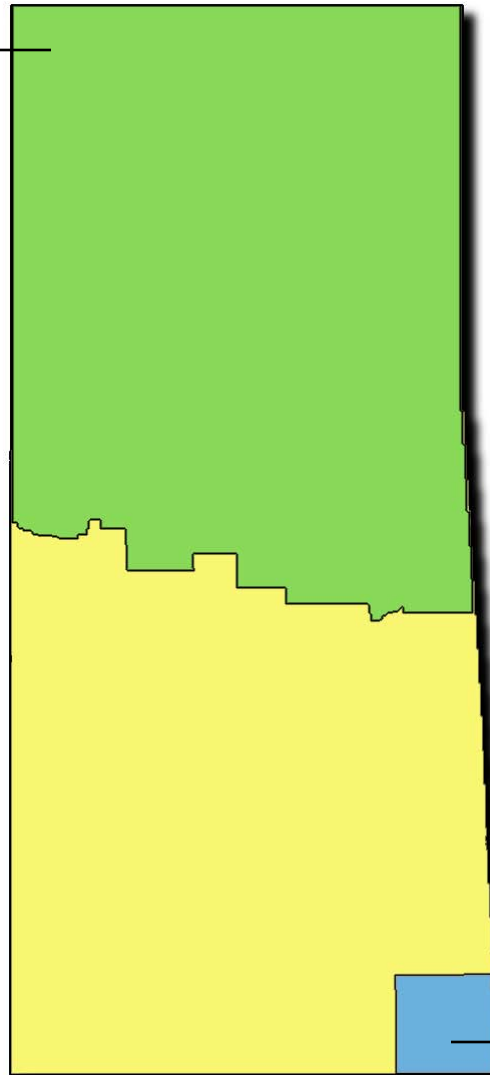
Northern Saskatchewan CD 18

Population 15 years +
22,365

Participation Rate 50.4%

Employment Rate 40.3%

Unemployment Rate 20.2%



Estevan Area CD 1

Population 15 years +
23,045

Participation Rate 72.4%

Employment Rate 70 %

Unemployment Rate 3.2%



Service
Canada

Saskatchewan Economy

Current state

There are some clear signs of a downturn.

Commodity prices have dropped recently:

Agriculture - Prices for wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax and canola are all down from a year ago. Coupled with tightening credit and eroding markets, this price drop has put a pinch on Saskatchewan producers.

Oil and Gas - Saskatchewan had a near-record year for oil and gas drilling in 2008. However, recent fluctuations in oil prices will likely cause a reduction in drilling activity for 2009.

Mining – Saskatchewan claims one-quarter of the world's uranium production and almost a third of world potash output. It also boasts large deposits of gold, diamond, zinc, platinum and copper. This has translated into record profits over the last few years.

However, recent price drops—particularly in potash—have resulted in reduced output and lay-offs.

Layoffs and Claimant Numbers

Layoffs

There have been several major lay-off announcements over the last 2 months, including:

Potash and fertilizer producer Mosaic Co. – 1,000 workers

Evraz Inc., - 400 workers in Western Canada, including 100 in Regina

Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan - 940 workers

Shore Gold - 89 workers

Manufacturer Modern Industrial Structures Inc. – 270 workers

EI Claimants

Statistics Canada reported 8,420 people received regular EI benefits in November, 2008, a 1.2 per cent increase from October 2008

With more layoffs expected, unemployment will likely continue to increase in 2009.



Other Factors Influencing Regional Priorities

Poverty

According to a Statistics Canada study, British Columbia is the province with the greatest incidence of low income. Quebec is ranked second in the report, followed by Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

While this says little about the severity of the problem nationwide, it can serve to reinforce our regional commitment to the Housing and Homelessness initiative.

The complete rankings are as follows:

British Columbia
Quebec
Manitoba
Saskatchewan
Alberta
Ontario
Newfoundland &
Labrador
Nova Scotia
New Brunswick
Prince Edward Island

Shortage and Demand

Saskatchewan's shortage of people in the prime working age will become increasingly apparent as more baby boomers retire.

This will increase the demand in Saskatchewan for skilled workers—both Canadian and foreign.

Supply Already an Issue for Employers

Many Saskatchewan employers are already facing recruiting difficulties and are looking outside of Canada for workers.

In 2007, there were 2,423 Temporary Foreign Worker confirmations in Saskatchewan; an increase of 56% from 2006.

Over the same period, there were 1,517 nominations made under the Provincial nominee program; an increase of 48% from 2006.



Service
Canada

Workforce Connex

Workforce Connex Saskatchewan

260 participants

110 employers – private and public

AHRDA representatives from across the province

Connection of Supply and Demand



Workforce Connex Saskatchewan cont..

- Supply side
 - Understanding of skill sets
 - Awareness of opportunities
 - Limited resources
 - Fear, stereotypes
 - Difficulty connecting on personal level
- Demand side
 - How do AHRDAs work?
 - Where do we find supply of Aboriginal talent
 - Need to sensitize workplace
 - Need to form more partnerships



Workforce Connex Saskatchewan cont..

- Themes identified
 - Need for awareness on both sides
 - Many misconceptions and stereotypes still exist
 - Need for more partnerships working toward a common goal

- Follow up
 - Report sent to all participants
 - Smaller working group formed to look at future

- Momentum
 - Need to keep it and grow momentum



Where do we go from Here

- Partnerships are Key
 - ASEP – Northern Career Quest
 - Budget 2009
 - SIF, ASEP
 - Saskatchewan Federal Council
 - Fed/Prov discussions
 - Immigration and Aboriginal
 - Employer Engagement
 - Urban
 - Yearly connection between supply and demand