

#### 4. Myths About Aboriginal Peoples

**Myth #1**            **Aboriginal people are all alike.**

**Reality Check:** *Aboriginal people are incredibly diverse, with hundreds of languages, cultures, and variations in almost every aspect of daily life.*

**Myth #2**            **Aboriginal people do not pay income taxes**

**Reality Check:** *The majority of Aboriginal Canadians pay income taxes, on the same basis as non-Aboriginal Canadians. The exceptions involve certain First Nations people who live on a reserve and make their living without leaving that reserve.*

**Myth #3**            **Aboriginal people get special privileges, such as government paid post-secondary education.**

**Reality Check:** *Funding for Aboriginal post-secondary education is generally no better than funding for non-Aboriginal people. In fact, because most Aboriginal schooling is so poor, it is worse.*

**Myth #4**            **Aboriginal people can be identified by dark skin and dark hair.**

**Reality Check:** *While many ethnic groups can be identifiable by skin and hair colour, this is not always the case for Aboriginal peoples in Canada. Many Aboriginal people are indistinguishable from other people in the workplace.*

**Myth #5**            **Aboriginal people live on remote reserves and are therefore poor candidates for most industry jobs.**

**Reality Check:** *Every year, fewer Aboriginal people make their living on reserves. According to the 2006 census, 75% of Aboriginal people now live in urban centres, with 54% living in major cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Calgary.....*