



Census 91 Fast Facts

Issue 13: Aboriginal Languages

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- The population in B.C. reporting an aboriginal mother tongue (the first language learned in childhood and still understood) increased by 6.7 per cent between 1986 and 1991.
- There are four language groups that account for over 85 per cent of the Aboriginal languages spoken in B.C. They are: Athapaskan (including Carrier and Chilcotin), Wakashan (including Kwakwaka and Nootka), Salish, and Algonquian (including Cree and Ojibway).
- Total Aboriginal population is not yet available from the 1991 Census, but in 1986 approximately ten per cent of the aboriginal population of B.C. reported an aboriginal mother tongue.

Population Reporting an Aboriginal Mother Tongue* in British Columbia, 1991

Aboriginal Languages	Number	Percent of Total
Athapaskan	3,730	27.3
Wakashan	3,225	23.6
Salish	2,830	20.7
Algonquian	1,915	14.0
Amerindian n.i.e.	1,110	8.1
Tsimshian	335	2.5
Haida	195	1.4
Kutenai	150	1.1
Inuktitut	70	0.5
Dakota	55	0.4
Iroquoian	30	0.2
Tlingit	10	0.1
Total B.C.	13,655	100.0

*Mother Tongue is the first language learned in childhood and still understood.

Source: 1991 Census of Canada