

Indigenous Identification in the US: American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders – Interactive Panel

By: Michele Connolly MPH
(Blackfeet/Cree)

Co-Chair: International Group for
Indigenous Health Measurement

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Chief Mountain, Montana
Photo Provided by Amy Adler
Photography

*Views reflect those of the presenter,
not any Tribe or organization.*

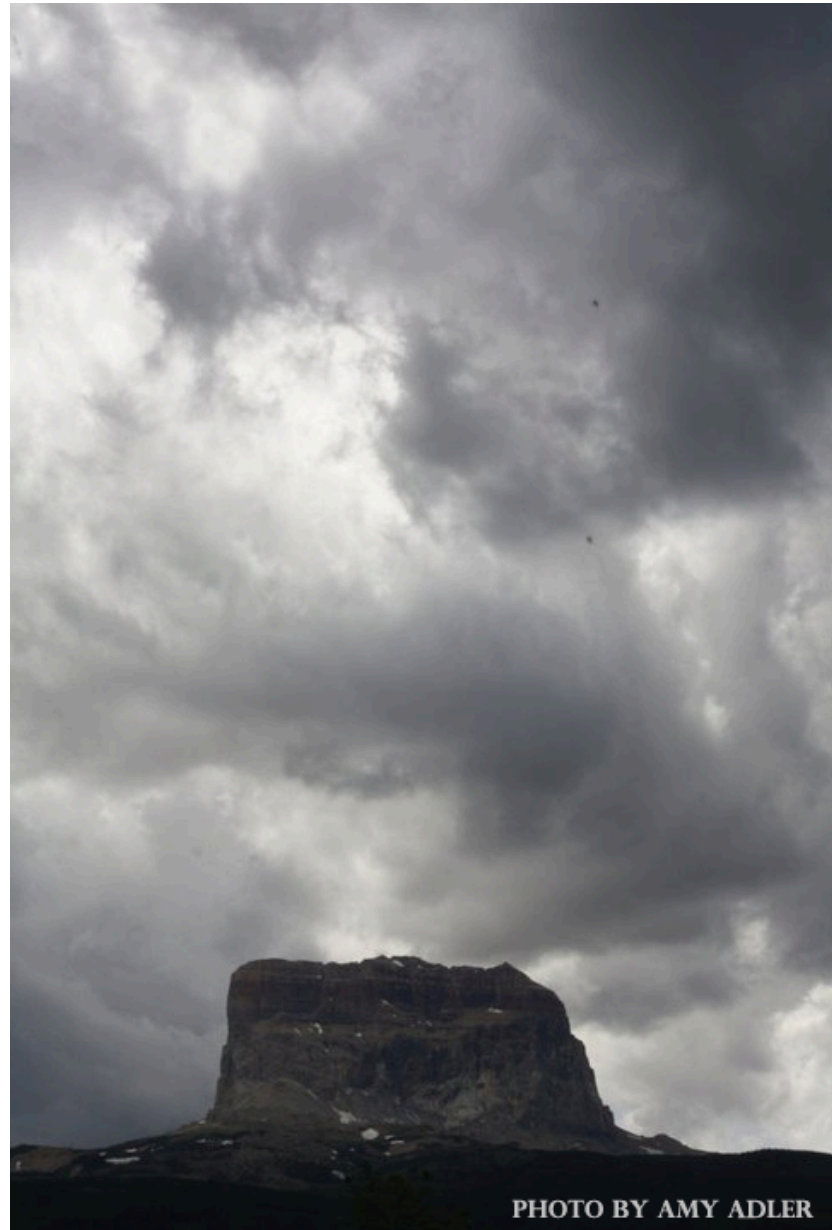


PHOTO BY AMY ADLER

Water protector praying at DAPL protest November 2016





Help me find
my birth mother
DOB: APRIL 9th 1966
Holy Rosary Hospital
Miles City, Montana
Contact me at:
adopted1966 @ gmail.com



Native American Selt Feather

Need Research done FOR and BY us, not TO us

- Good data can give an accurate picture to address needs of Indigenous people.
- Good results can have positive impacts on lives of Indigenous people, communities and Tribes.
- Census data reflect history of US in relation to Indigenous people.
- Need to be clear about how data will be used and to what purposes.

Rates

- Data are usually in rates, with a numerator and total Indigenous population in the denominator.
- Example – poverty rate among AIAN = number of AIAN in poverty divided by total AIAN population.
- Okay, unless... denominator is wrong, then... Results can be misleading or VERY misleading.
- So much for community needs being met based on accurate information.

2010 Census Ethnicity Question

- **NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 5 about Hispanic origin and Question 6 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.**
- **5. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**
 - **No**, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
 - Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
 - Yes, Puerto Rican
 - Yes, Cuban
 - Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print origin, for Example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spanish, and so on.* ↙
 - _____

2010 Census Race Question

6. What is this person's race? Mark [v] one or more boxes.

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe ↙

Asian Indian

Japanese

Native Hawaiian

Chinese

Korean

Guamanian or

Filipino

Vietnamese

Chamorro

Other Asian- *Print race -for example,*

Samoan

Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. ↙

Other Pacific Islander -*Print race – for example Fijian, Tongan and so on. ↙*

Some other race - Print race. ↙

US Indigenous Population, 2010

- Total US population = 308,745,538
 - AIAN (total) = 5,220,579 (1.7%)
 - -AIAN no other race = 2,932,248 (0.9%)
 - -AIAN & other race = 2,288,331 (0.7%)
- NHPI (total) = 1,225,195 (0.4%)
- NHPI no other race = 468,000 (.2%)
 - NHPI & other race = 658,000 (.2%)
- Total AIANNHPI = 6,445,774 (2.1%)
- Total AIAN or NHPI (no other race) = 3,400,248 (1.1%)

What is an American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN)?

- Not a statistical definition.
- Historical, political, cultural, legal and judicial.
- According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, AIAN people include members of one of 567 Federally-recognized Tribes for many program purposes.
- Note: AIAN people may also be from State-recognized Tribes, terminated Tribes, non-US Tribes, or not know their Tribe.

Tribal Membership

Criteria set by individual Tribes

Enrolled Members – based on blood quantum (degree of Indian blood).

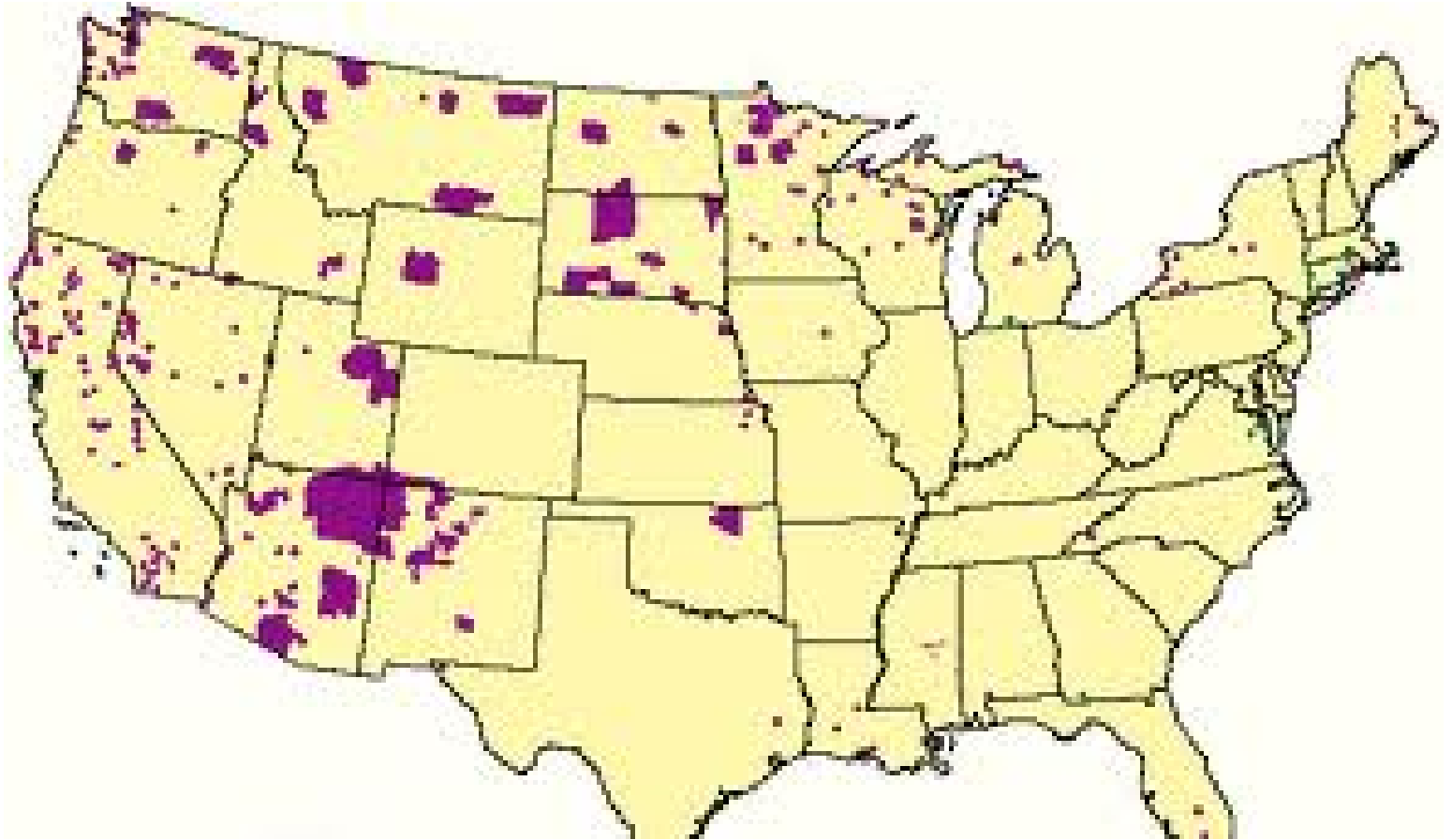
Descendants – First and second degree descendants of enrolled members.

Ancestry – Typically not included in Tribal rolls, but have ancestors who were Tribal members.

Photo: Blackfeet Warrior Sculpture (Jay Laber) at four entrances to Blackfeet Reservation made of scrap metal, barbed wire & stones from mission boarding school.



Map of Indian Reservations, Trust Lands (not Alaska Villages)



Historical Timeline

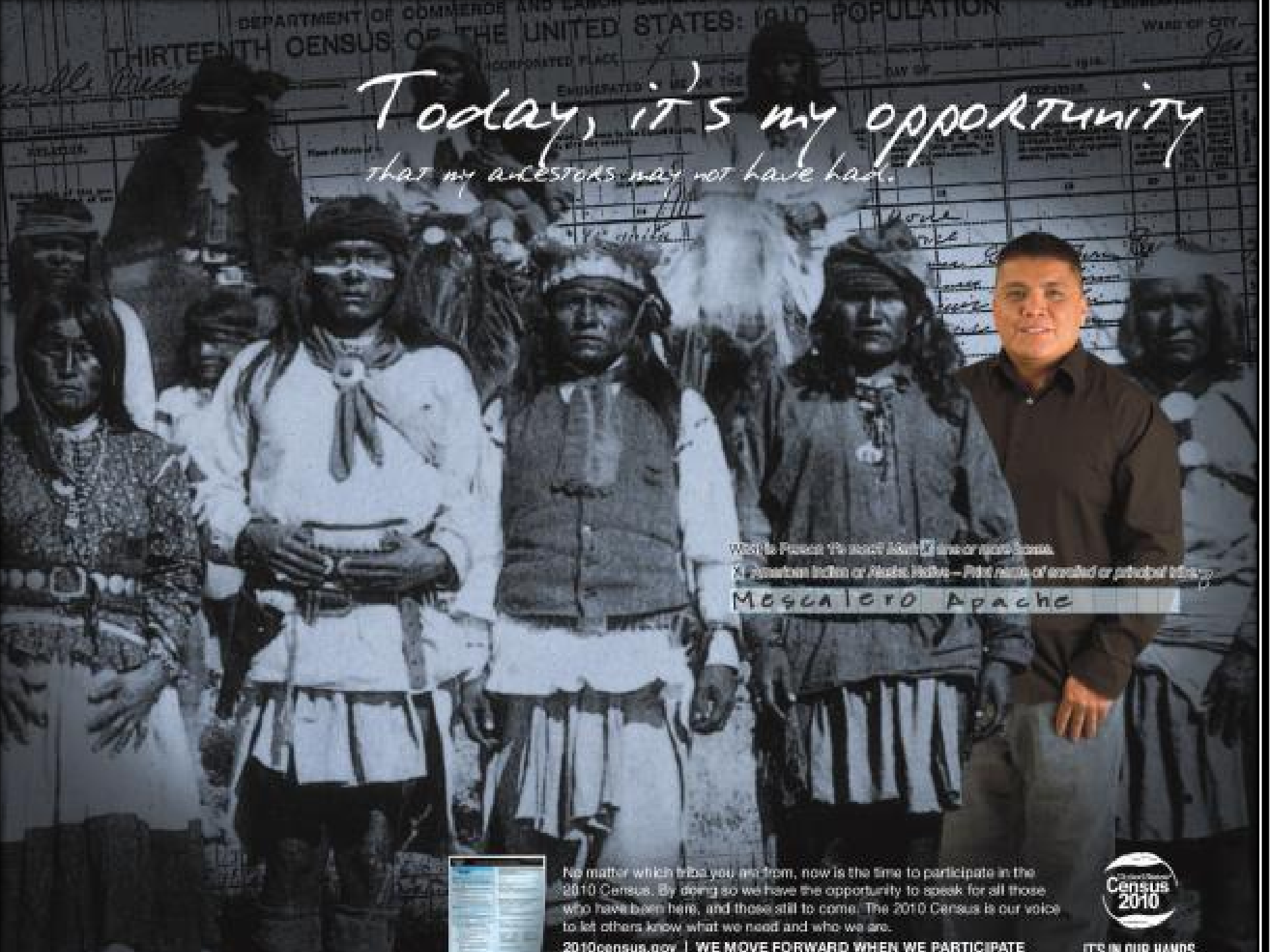
- Settled - 18,000 to 30,000 years ago
- 1492 – Columbus
- Colonization by Spain, France, Britain, Holland, Sweden, Russia, US and Mexico
- 1513 - Ponce de Leon – Florida
- 1539 – Spain in Southwest, France on Mississippi River
- 1545 – California
- 1607 – Jamestown
- 1609 – Champlain, Vermont
- 1616- Smallpox New England
- 1621 – Pilgrims in Boston
- 1680 – Pueblo Revolt
- 1621 -1776 – Treaties with Crown
- 1741 – Russians came to Alaska
- 1776 – Declaration of Independence
- 1778 – Captain Cook in Hawaii
- 1787 – First US Treaty, Delaware
- 1781 – Half of Blackfeet die of smallpox
- 1789 – US Constitution
- 1790 – First Census did not count American Indians
- 1830 Indian Removal Act
- 1837 – 2/3 of Blackfeet died of smallpox
- 1838 – Trail of Tears
- 1851 – Ft. Laramie Treaty
- 1861-1864 – US Civil War

Historical Timeline

- 1850-1875 – Buffalo exterminated
- 1867 – Alaska Purchase
- 1870 - Marias Massacre (Blackfeet)
- 1875 – Custer’s Last Stand
- 1878 – Treaty Period Ends
- 1879 – Dawes Act
- 1879 – Boarding schools began
- 1893 – Wounded Knee
- 1893 – Hawaiian government overthrown, became Territory
- 1900 – Lowest AIAN populations (AI down to 237,000 and NH from 600,000 to 800,00 to 38,000)
- 1912 – Alaska became Territory
- 1924 – Indian Citizenship Act
- 1953- Relocation and about 100 Tribes terminated
- 1959 – Alaska and Hawaii statehood
- 1964/5 – Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts
- 1968 – American Indian Movement
- 1969 – Occupation of Alcatraz
- 1970 – Separate Census category on American Indian, Alaska Native
- 1973 – Wounded Knee
- 2000 - Census includes reporting of multiple races, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders no longer grouped with Asians
- 2016 – Dakota Access Pipeline Protests

Census Counts of American Indian Population

- Pre-1492 – 8 million to 150 million
- 1790 – First US Census, American Indians uncounted
- 1900 – 237,00 (lowest point)
- 1930 – 332,400
- 1940 – 334,000
- 1950 – 343,400
- 1960 – 551,700 (With Alaska)
- 1970 – 827,300 (1965 Civil Rights Act)
- 1980 – 1,420,400
- 1990 – 1,929,200
- 2000 – 2,447,989
- 2010 – 2,932,248



Today, it's my opportunity
that my ancestors may not have had.

West to Pecos to west Mont. and or up to some
of American Indian or Pueblo Indian - Pitta name of several or perhaps tribe

MESCALERO APACHE



No matter which tribe you are from, now is the time to participate in the 2010 Census. By doing so we have the opportunity to speak for all those who have been here, and those still to come. The 2010 Census is our voice to let others know what we need and who we are.

2010census.gov | WE MOVE FORWARD WHEN WE PARTICIPATE



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Profile of AIAN People (2010 Census and 2012 ACS) Compared to the US Population

AIAN Highest Poverty Rate –
29.1% , NHPI – 21.3%, (US 15.9%)

Half of AIAN live in West, half of
NHPI live in CA or HI

20% AIAN live on/near 325
Fed/State reservations/villages -
Remote/rural areas

200+ Indigenous languages

Language other than English
spoken at home – 28% (US 21%)
– 73% of Navajo

AIAN High School Completion –
79% , NHPI 85%, (US 86%)



Thoughts

- US population becoming a majority minority country - CA, DC, HI, NM and TX already there.
- AIAN population projected to grow.
- Huge differences between BIA definition of AIAN (enrollment in Federally-recognized Tribes) and Census Ancestry and Race (more expansive, reflect heritage, not necessarily race).
- Is this a Bad Thing? No – if concerned only with heritage. Yes – if evaluating & administering AIAN policy and programs (e.g. Indian Health Service), Civil Rights, particularly programs arising out of Treaty obligations. Count and characteristics vary greatly between Tribal enrollment & self-report.

Thank you

Lowitja Institute

Identification Work Group,
International Group on Indigenous
Health Measurement

US Census Bureau

US National Archives

Indian Health Service

National Health Interview Survey

National Indian Health Board

Indigenous People of Australia

Amy Adler of Amy Adler Photography

All My Relations



SOURCES

Available upon
Request.



Discussion Points

What can we, as Indigenous people, gain from identification efforts?

What is the role of culture and ancestry in determining who is Indigenous?

Why is it important to have a choice in the decision to identify as Indigenous?

How does the mainstream public identify Indigenous people?

What are additional points you wish to raise?