

Editor's Introduction

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Robert J. Oppenheimer

In this issue of the Journal, The State of the Aboriginal Economy section focuses on employment. Phillip Lashley and M. Rose Olfert in their article "Off-Reserve Employment Options for On-Reserve First Nations in Canada" identify factors that facilitate employment off-Reserve. Robert J. Oppenheimer, in his article "Aboriginal Employment: Continuing to Improve in 2012" examines the employment rates of Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in 2012 and 2011. Lashley and Olfert report that Community Well Being is positively affected when there is a larger proportion of off-Reserve employment. Negative influences to off-Reserve employment include the distance from urban centres as well as higher population growth rates. In contrast, positive influences to off-Reserve employment include a tighter provincial labour market as represented by a higher provincial employment rates and to high school completion rates.

This latter finding is consistent with the results reported by Oppenheimer, that the higher the educational level the higher the rate of employment. These results should further reinforce the importance of taking actions to increase high school graduation rates and provide support for post-secondary education. Oppenheimer also reports that the Aboriginal employment rates and participation rates continued to improve in 2012, and that the gaps between these rates for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals decreased in Canada.