

REFLECTING ON THE ROLE WOMEN PLAY IN OUR REGION

Status of Women and Portage College

Female Population within Portage College

The College has been fairly consistent in its 60%/40% female/male population split, in both applications and registrations:

Applications to all programs:

2013	61% female
2014	60% female
2015	60% female
2016	60% female (to date)

Registrations in all programs by female applicants:

2013	61% female
2014	59% female
2015	61% female

Looking at just those applicants who self-identify as Aboriginal, there is a slightly higher percentage of students who are female, approaching a ratio of 2/3 female to 1/3 male:

Applications to all programs:

2013	68% female
2014	67% female
2015	65% female
2016	61% female (to date)

Looking at application conversions, the proportion of females increases slightly, i.e. more female Aboriginal applicants register than male Aboriginals:

Registrations in all programs by female applicants:

2013	71% female
2014	69% female
2015	68% female

Families

Using 2011 National Household Survey Community Profile data, 15% of families in the Portage Service Region are single-parent families. Of those, 71% are headed by single mothers.

As noted in an Alberta Government fact sheet about child poverty in the province, titled “Together We Raise Tomorrow,” female single-parent families “are particularly vulnerable to economic disadvantage and underemployment.” According to 2006 census data, “female lone-parent families have the highest poverty levels in Alberta, at 30.5 per cent. This is compounded with increased rates of low levels of educational attainment – individuals in lone-parent families with children without a high school diploma had a low income rate of 37.5 per cent.”

“In 2006, 7.7 percent of Albertans lived in female lone-parent families and 1.9 per cent lived in male lone-parent families. Of lone-parent families in Alberta, 82 per cent are headed by women.”¹

¹ “Together We Raise Tomorrow”, Alberta Government, 2013. Retrieved from: povertyreduction.alberta.ca, P. 1





Traditionally-lower-female-enrolment programs

Portage College has a higher level of females registered in apprenticeship trades and Business Administration than other Alberta PSIs. Portage has a comparable level of female students in Culinary Arts, Power Engineering and Pre-Hospital Care programs. The breakdown of traditionally-lower-female-enrolment programs is as follows:

Academic Upgrading – lower than most other institutions at 51% (although higher than most in 14-15 with 70% female students)

Apprenticeship Carpentry – significantly higher than other institutions at 13% female

Apprenticeship Electrician – significantly higher than most institutions at 11% female

Apprenticeship Steamfitter-Pipefitter – higher than other institutions at 9% female

Apprenticeship Welding – in the middle of the pack compared to other institutions at 12% female

Business Administration Certificate – in the middle of the pack compared to other institutions at 67% female

Business Administration Diploma – significantly higher than most institutions at 84% female

Culinary Arts – exactly the same as NAIT at 49% female

Emergency Medical Responder – significantly higher than several institutions at 63% female

Emergency Medical Technologist Paramedic – higher than other institutions at 41% female

Heavy Equipment Operator – slightly lower than Olds College at 24% female

Natural Resources Technology – significantly higher than Lethbridge College (similar program) at 52% female

Power Engineering (3rd & 4th Class) – comparable to other institutions at 12% female

Emergency Medical Technician – in the middle of the pack compared to other institutions at 49% female

Traditionally-high-female-enrolment programs

In the period of 2012-15, Portage College had an equal or higher level of female registered students in traditionally-high-female-enrolment programs when compared to other Alberta PSIs offering the same program during that same time period. The breakdown is as follows:

Accounting Technician – significantly higher at 89% female

Baking Certificate – significantly higher at 100% female

Community Social Work Diploma – comparable to other institutions at 90% female

Early Learning and Child Care (certificate and diploma) – comparable to other institutions at 99% female

Educational Assistant (certificate and diploma) – comparable to other institutions at between 94% and 100% female

Health Care Aide – lower than other institutions at 80%, although 100% of registered students in 13-14 and 14-15 were women

Office Administration – comparable to other institutions at 95% female

Practical Nurse – slightly higher than other institutions at 97% female

University Studies – in the middle of the pack compared to other institutions at 74% female



Single Mothers

(% of student body)

2014-15: 15.9% (15.3% if only including children under 18)

2013-14: 21.2% (20.5% if only including children under 18)

2012-13: 28.4% (27.4% if only including children under 18)

2011-12: 26.6% (24.8% if only including children under 18)

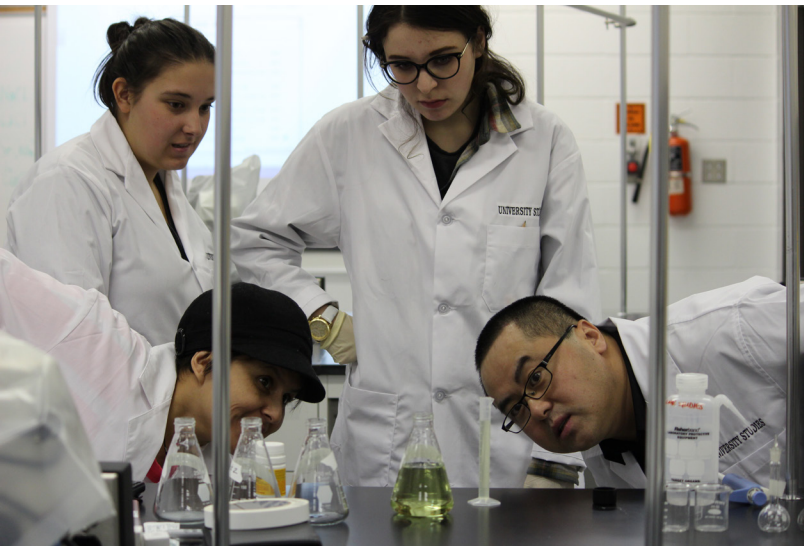
Unique Program Enrolment

There are three programs that are unique to Portage College that have no comparator. Between 2012 and 2015, the percentage of female registered students in those programs is as follows:

Aboriginal Arts Certificate/Native Artisans/Native Cultural Arts Instructor – 84% female

Institutional Cook – 50% female

SAGD Operator/De-Oiling and Water Treatment – 18% female



Over the past three years (2013-14 through 2015-16), the following programs have been predominantly female, with a gender split of 90% female students or more:

Accounting Technician
Early Learning & Child Care Certificate/Diploma
Educational Assistant Certificate/Diploma
Health Care Aide
Office Administration
Practical Nurse

This continues in the 2016-17 academic year. As well, applicants to the new Hairstyling program are 95% female.

Families by Municipality

Community	Total Families	Total SPF	Total FSPF	%SPF of all families	% FSPF of all families	%FSPF of SPF
Beaver Lake FN	100	45	30	45%	30%	67%
Bondiss SV	40	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Bonnyville (MD)	3345	370	240	11%	7%	65%
Bonnyville (Town)	1660	290	215	17%	13%	74%
Bonnyville Beach SV	25	5	5	20%	20%	100%
Boyle	235	45	35	19%	15%	78%
Buffalo Lake MS	140	50	30	36%	21%	60%
Cold Lake (City)	3860	475	320	12%	8%	67%
Cold Lake FN	215	90	65	42%	30%	72%
Elizabeth MS	170	60	45	35%	26%	75%
Elk Point	395	70	55	18%	14%	79%
Fishing Lake MS	125	50	40	40%	32%	80%
Frog Lake FN*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Glendon	130	25	20	19%	15%	80%
Half Moon Bay SV	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heart Lake FN	30	5	0	17%	0%	0%
Kehewin FN	265	125	85	47%	32%	68%
Kikino MS*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lac La Biche County	2360	375	270	16%	11%	72%
Saddle Lake FN	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Smoky Lake (County)	1125	180	120	16%	11%	67%
Smoky Lake (Town)	260	35	30	13%	12%	86%
St. Paul (County)	1775	135	95	8%	5%	70%
St. Paul (Town)	1455	245	195	17%	13%	80%
Vilna	60	5	5	8%	8%	100%
Waskatenau	70	15	10	21%	14%	67%
Whitefish Lake FN #128	285	115	80	40%	28%	70%
Willingdon	70	10	5	14%	7%	50%
REGIONAL TOTAL	18195	2820	1995	15%	11%	71%

Source: 2011 National Household Survey, Community Profiles

FSPF = Female Single Parent Families, SPF = Single Parent Families

FN = First Nation, MS = Metis Settlement

*NB 110 single parents in Frog Lake FN and 75 single parents in Kikino but no further data mining available

Female & Aboriginal

% Female students & Aboriginal students by campus:

	# Students	% Female	% Aboriginal
Cold Lake	367	59%	22%
Lac La Biche	646	61%	40%
St. Paul	132	70%	73%
Overall	1135	62%	38%

Percentage of Female Single Parent Families

% FSPF on reserves = 70%

% FSPF on FN = 70%

% FSPF on MS = 72%

Reserve/Settlement	Total SPF	Total FSPF	% FSPF
Beaver Lake FN	45	30	67%
Buffalo Lake MS	50	30	60%
Cold Lake FN	90	65	72%
Elizabeth MS	60	45	75%
Fishing Lake MS	50	40	80%
Heart Lake FN	5	0	0%
Kehewin FN	125	85	68%
Whitefish Lake #128 FN	115	85	70%
TOTAL	540	380	70%

*NB 110 single parent families in Frog Lake FN and 75 single parent in Kikino but no further data mining available. Saddle Lake FN did not participate in the 2011 National Household Survey.



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