



## Findings from Community Organizations

### Survey Results

52

Organizations responded to the online survey

“Working together enhances awareness, leverages opportunities, and creates amazing networks amongst other professionals.”

- ✓ **100%** of organizations agreed or strongly agreed that projects are more sustainable when organizations work together.
- ✓ **100%** agreed or strongly agreed that working together can help leverage more resources, like space and funding.
- ✓ **85%** said working together has enhanced their ability to fulfill objectives to a great or very great extent.
- ✓ **85%** said working together has helped them acquire knowledge about services and programs to a very great extent.

“It can be challenging at times to meet on a common ground and ensure everyone can operate in the way that is most appropriate for them, but with open communication, formal expectations and partnership agreements, collaboration can be a very powerful thing.”

### Focus Group Results

6

Focus Groups



2

Aboriginal organizations



4

Mainstream organizations

#### Facilitators to Services

- Increased cultural awareness among service providers
- Increased communication and networking with other organizations
- Increased Aboriginal representation and leadership
- Increased advocacy for First Nations services

#### Barriers to Services

##### Organizational

- Lack of funding
- Lack of time to network
- Lack of cultural awareness among service providers
- Lack of understanding the true needs of Aboriginal people

##### Personal

- Poverty
- Program and equipment costs
- Inadequate transportation

#### Working towards a solution

##### Connecting for families event

- 35 service providers; 17 organizations
- Time to share, opportunities to collaborate

##### London Indigenous Culture Card

- To help service providers learn more about FNMI history and cultures, and how to work sensitively and competently



## Findings from Cross-Site Comparisons

### Gaps in Service

From focus groups conducted in Midland-Penetanguishene and London, some of the services that participants reported to be most needed by Indigenous children and youth are:

- Counselling/mental health services
- Peer-to-peer support programs
- Youth groups (i.e. Boys and Girls Clubs)
- Poverty reduction
- Basic needs including housing, nutrition, etc.
- Crisis services, including access to shelters

### Serving Indigenous Youth

The majority of organizations indicated that their programs and services do not specifically target Aboriginal children and youth, but are open to the general public.

Mainstream organizations recognize the importance of having connections with Aboriginal organizations. Many of them refer clients to traditional Aboriginal programs and services.

Both mainstream and Aboriginal organizations reported that it was a challenge to engage youth in programs and services.

Aboriginal organizations indicated that they do offer and incorporate cultural activities into their programming in a number of different ways, as often as possible.

They recognize that youth are interested in both culturally based activities and other activities, and look for opportunities to incorporate those activities together.

They try to incorporate culture and traditional knowledge *indirectly* by promoting connections with elders and family; by incorporating traditions and traditional foods into larger events and gatherings.

### Collaboration

Collaborations among service provider organizations are significant, and are very much dependent on client needs or the needs of specific program areas.

All organizations reported collaborating across a wide range of organizations, including social service agencies, government, not-for profit groups, etc.