

Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project



Nanaimo Community Engagement Session
November 21, 2019

SUMMARY REPORT



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Aboriginal Firefighters
Association of Canada



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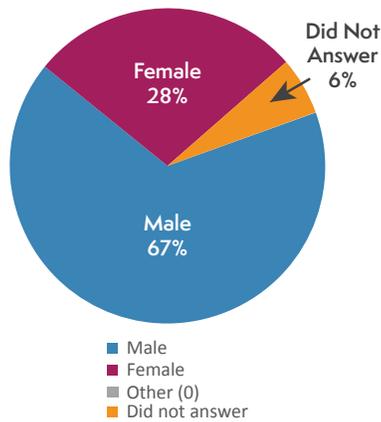


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PARTICIPANTS

Invitation outreach contacted 233 individuals or organizations and 24 participants registered for the session. However, 7 of those who registered did not attend.

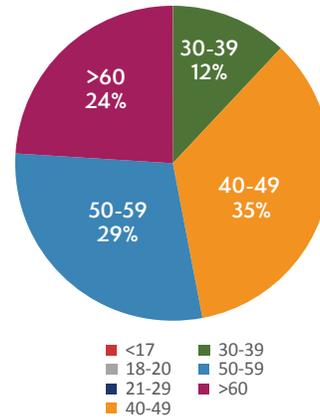


PARTICIPANTS GENDER DESIGNATION

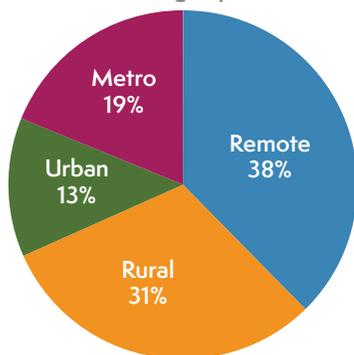


The majority of participants were male.

PARTICIPANTS AGE



More than half of the group was aged 50 and over.



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Almost one third of the participants were from communities that had access to services within 30 minutes or less. More than one third were from remote communities.





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WHAT WE HEARD IN GENERAL

Actively engaged participants brought excellent data and content to the session. This group emphasized the need for the IFMO project team to reach out to those absent communities.

Participants felt that some communities don't have the capacity to care about the IFMO at this time and wondered how the IFMO would be able to help and support smaller communities. Many participants were not familiar with the IFMO project at all but "liked where this is going."

GOVERNANCE MODELS

Participants could not agree upon one model; there were arguments for and against each model.

Question: Of the models that the IFMO has suggested, which one might best serve communities?

- > I lean toward the Management model — to find a balance for the youth and Elders and modern technology.
- > The IFMO is a passionate project and people would want to be involved in decisions that impact the grassroots people.
- > Co-operative Governance model — this can be adopted. Equality is huge in today's society.
- > A lot of Indigenous communities use the Harvard Governance model.

Question: What might you advise the IFMO to consider when shaping the organizational structure, model and roles?

- > Diversity needs to be considered and applicable to each province. Not a cookie-cutter approach.
- > Would like to see a structure that was designed based on the remote, urban and rural statistics.

Question: Of the Principles of Good Governance, which two or three do you feel are most critical to follow?

- > Effective.
- > Transparent.
- > Sustainable.





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Question: Are there aspects of these models that you feel might not be well accepted or understood, trusted or followed? Please tell us why so that your input can be fully considered in any further designs.

- > Don't necessarily trust this process, heard this all before and this is the 3rd or 4th session I've come thru with the IFMO.
- > How to not step on each other toes, how are ISC, FNESS and the IFMO going to mesh?
- > Mistrust in engagement sessions, have to see results.

Question: In what ways do you see yourself or members of your community being actively involved in these structures?

- > I would like to see community involvement. We need to ensure our community voice is being heard and represented.
- > I see the importance of Chief and Council getting on board.
- > Feel like there's so much apathy.
- > As elected Chief, I see myself heavily involved, need to get youth involved, get them away from electronics.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Question: Of the near-term priorities presented by the IFMO, what might you see as missing from the list?

- > PTSD services are required immediately.
- > The way the houses are built now isn't good.
- > Administrative training in sense of fire department.
- > Communication plans or community champions are needed.

Question: Although you might not feel that your community will benefit from the near-term offerings, can you see your needs being addressed in the mid-term and longer-term plans?

- > Could the IFMO advocate to ISC on community needs?
- > It depends on what you are offering in programs and services and does it address current gaps.
- > We currently have nothing, so something is coming and that's positive.





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Question: What might you say that you are surprised to NOT see on this list of Programs and Services?plans?

- > Sharing best practices and creation of a networking system for immediate access.
- > Administrative training for fire departments.
- > The IFMO needs to develop a network that allows for Indigenous communities to develop partnerships with other communities that can help each other out.
- > The IFMO can advocate for ISC to develop the definition of remote locations to be broader and more considerate of the geographies of the communities.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

Question: What surprises have you seen based on what you thought might be possible?

- > No responses.

Question: Which elements of the timeline seem unreasonable?

- > No responses.

Question: Which elements of the timeline seems reasonable?

- > No responses.

Question: What might be other priorities or more immediate-term needs that are missing in this timeline from your perspective?

- > I wish there was something that speaks to Chief and Council that advises them to know that this is important and needs attention.
- > Advocacy needs to happen a lot quicker than described.
- > The IFMO and AFAC need to be the voice of the community fire departments.
- > Fact sheets for Chief and Council on the benefits of active fire departments, positive impacts on the community, and reductions in costs for Chief and Council.

