

Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project



Prince George Community Engagement Session
November 19, 2019

SUMMARY REPORT



Authored by:
Aboriginal Firefighters
Association of Canada



Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project

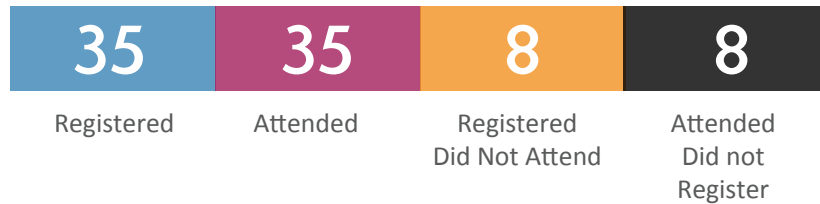
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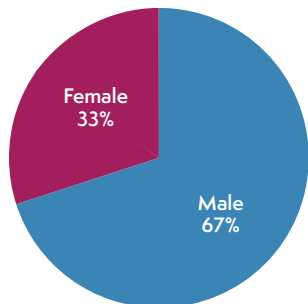


35
PARTICIPANTS

Invitation outreach contacted 56 individuals or organizations and 35 participants registered for the session. However, 8 of those who registered did not attend and 8 participants attended on the day but did not register in advance.



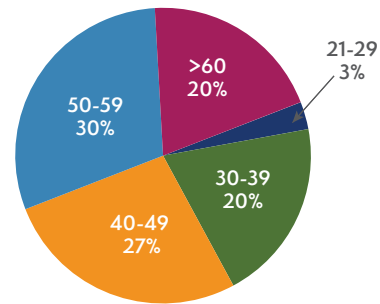
PARTICIPANTS GENDER DESIGNATION



■ Male
■ Female
■ Other (0)
■ Did not answer

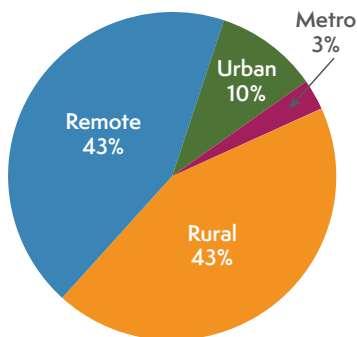
One third of participants were female

PARTICIPANTS AGE



■ <17
■ 18-20
■ 21-29
■ 40-49
■ 30-39
■ >60

Half of the participants were aged 50 and over.



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS





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WHAT WE HEARD IN GENERAL

People felt that the IFMO should remain as non-political as possible and there is a need to focus on being representative of all regions and provinces and their various needs. People want to see the organization include the youth, Elders and women.

GOVERNANCE MODELS

Participants at the Prince George session could not agree upon one governance model. There were arguments for and against every model. One comment that stood out and represents much of the morning discussion: "This organization is going to run into jurisdictional nightmares. Each region needs to ensure their representation is included in board development." The issue of regional differences seemed to be one of the main concerns that participants had.

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

- > Co-operative model probably represents Indigenous communities best because it speaks of consensus.
- > I like the management model because it takes a whole team to run it.
- > We can't even get consensus here at this table, we all can't even agree on one model.
- > I like the idea of each of these things. We can take something from all and make our own process.

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

- > What if we buy into the IFMO and the funding falls in the future, then where do we get our money from?
- > Is there room for Elders, women and youth in the governance structure.
- > A communications department to ensure the board passes all information to communities and communities can send information up to the boards.
- > We need to create an organization that has teeth.

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

- > Transparency.
- > Accountability.
- > Sustainability.





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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.

- > Want to see the money flow to the community and not toward staff travel and meetings.
- > Our regional organization does not represent all Indigenous communities in BC so they have limited information, how are you going to represent all communities?
- > Needs to apply to all communities across the nation.

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

- > I cannot do another committee, all committed out
- > In my role as Executive Director I would go to my fire chief and he would recommend what is our need to be involved in the governance structures.
- > I would like to inform the boards or structures of what our needs are. For us – by us.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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

- > Where is the mandate for the organization? We need an end game. Without it, there will be no support.
- > Seems like they have a framework but it's not clear how we can help. Once we go back into our communities, how do we stay involved? Do you feel like there is a step missing?
- > Buy in from the bands needs to happen.
- > Don't use our community as a battle for more funding on our behalf and then it doesn't even make it to our community.

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

- > It's only today that I am warming up to the IFMO process.
- > I like where it's going, and the discussion we had today. There are a lot of communities that are not here today that would have more to say.
- > That's a big question to be asked at this point.





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

- > We only dealt with governance and data today. I am surprised we do not have more issues to deal with.
- > Partnerships with technical services organizations.
- > Multiple platforms for communications.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

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

- > What is the back-up plan for ISC if communities do not buy into the IFMO plan? Where does all this information go to and all the time and energy spent in this process?

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?

- > The ideas are great, but you bring us here, feed us some food, and at end of the day, we go home and don't hear from us again.
- > There has to be different approaches for fire safety.
- > There is still an element of trust missing.

