

Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project



Thunder Bay Community Engagement Session
October 24, 2019

SUMMARY REPORT



Authored by:
Aboriginal Firefighters
Association of Canada



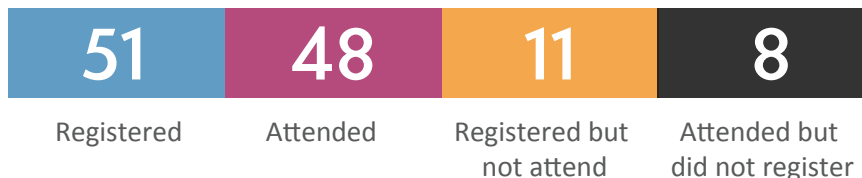
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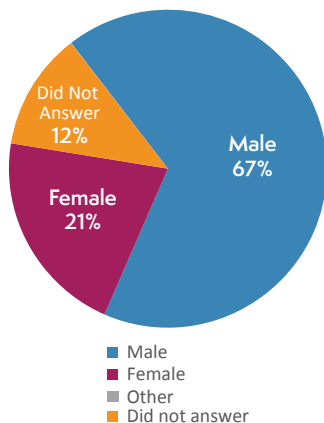
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Invitation outreach contacted 156 individuals or organizations and 51 participants registered for the session. However, 11 of those who registered did not attend and 8 participants attended on the day but did not register in advance.

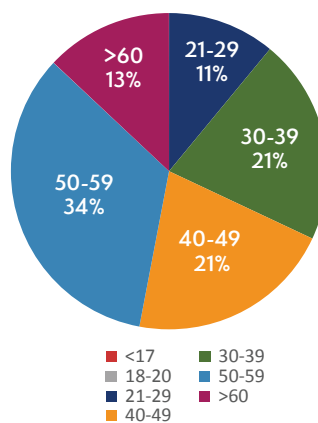


PARTICIPANTS GENDER DESIGNATION

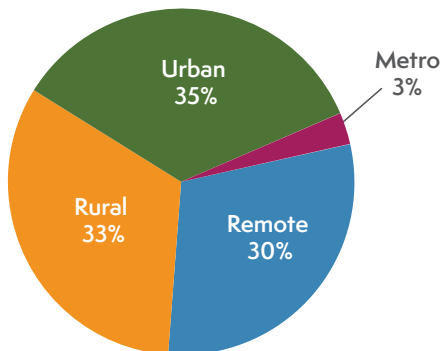


The majority of participants were male.

PARTICIPANTS AGE



More than half the participants were aged under 50.



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

There was almost equal representation from remote, rural and urban communities.





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WHAT WE HEARD IN GENERAL

In order for the IFMO to be understood and trusted, participants said that the IFMO needs to clarify exactly how it is going to help. Participants spoke often about the need for the communities to connect and help each other. Participants suggested that the IFMO should be a “traveling roadshow” visiting communities and should have a communication protocol to ensure that the communities have access to all information related to the IFMO. It was mentioned by multiple participants that Elders should be built into the organizational structure and that the organization should be “grassroots.”

GOVERNANCE MODELS

There was no general consensus among the Thunder Bay participants as to which model they might prefer. Participants were preoccupied with the idea that the models may not properly represent the various regions.

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

- > Do any or all of the models have a structure that really represents the communities at the local and government levels? One thing that concerns me is that every region is different.
- > The cooperative governance model: A consensus model of making decisions with no one having more power than another person seems to work well.
- > I agree that you need an Executive Director — you need the leadership to expand from.
- > We are talking about a national organization — I am having a hard time trying to envision how this is going to work.

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

- > We need this office and organization to advocate for us and to help us prepare those emergency plans. Saving lives is our first priority, but our land is our culture and identity as well.
- > The IFMO should plan and structure better so that planning is not last minute.
- > Travelling roadshow for training — go to communities.
- > Elders are very important in this process. They need to be a part of the advisory board.





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

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

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.

- > I think there will be more acceptance and input if you show the link between the IFMO and delivery of on-the-ground services.

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

- > Mandatory fire prevention education should be implemented in schools, and woodstove and fire alarm inspections should be mandatory.
- > We need boots on the ground — spokespersons for these areas that individuals are feeling are not being allocated enough resources.
- > As champions for the cause — working with our children, working with schools on fire prevention.
- > Accurate data collection is important and should come from the community level.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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

- > Advocate for adequate funding for fire services.
- > We don't want to have to ask someone for the data, we want to access it when we need/want it.
- > Employees should be hired from the region — cultural appropriateness is important. For a position in the North, the employee should be hired from the North as well.
- > "Train the trainer" — one individual could be used to train a whole region.





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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?

- > Crisis support network: Mental health services after suffering a tragedy — additional support.
- > This needs to take longer than one day. Two days to discuss, give a better understanding, more accurate information.

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

- > Final outcome — conference to bring these all together.
- > Communication officer should be a priority.
- > Providing advisory services for all communities.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

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

- > I am surprised to see that by April of 2020 we will be up and running.
- > Ten years for codes etc. too long of a time frame.

Question: Which elements of the timeline seem unreasonable?

- > ISC time frame.

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?

- > Water needs in communities/water treatment plants — improving infrastructure should be part of the data collection.

