

Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project



Winnipeg Community Engagement Session
October 29, 2019

SUMMARY REPORT



Authored by:
Aboriginal Firefighters
Association of Canada



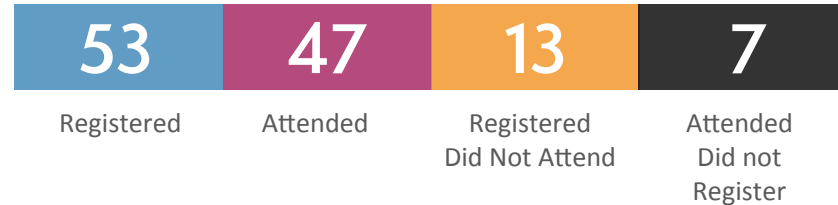
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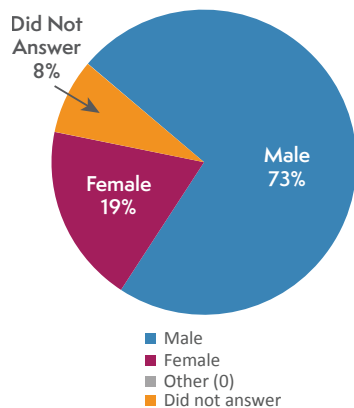
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Invitation outreach contacted 77 individuals or organizations and 53 participants registered for the session. However, 13 of those who registered did not attend, and 7 participants attended on the day but did not register in advance.

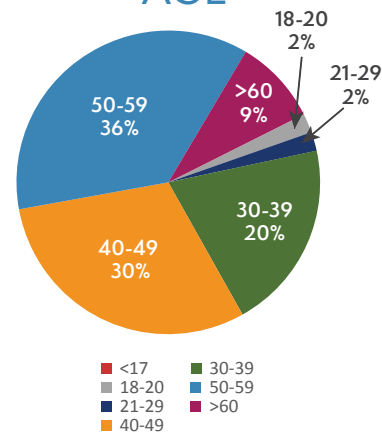


PARTICIPANTS GENDER DESIGNATION

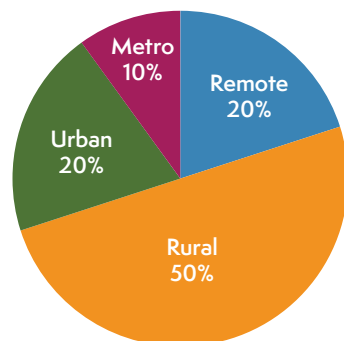


The majority of participants were male.

PARTICIPANTS AGE



The majority of participants were aged 40 and over.



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Half of participants were from rural communities.





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WHAT WE HEARD IN GENERAL

The panel discussions went well. People asked questions and shared their views on what the IFMO was sharing. The IFMO was able to clarify plans and challenges and this helped the audience when it came to their turn the answer group questions.

When asked about shaping the organizational structure of the IFMO, discussion centred around the need for proper community and regional representation. Participants had questions about the relationship between the IFMO and Indigenous communities, Tribal Councils and ISC, and about the IFMO's funding. Participants noted that there is a need for technical, female and Elder representation in the governance structure.

Participants spoke at length about the need to take care of the firefighters who may suffer from traumatic experiences due to their work.

GOVERNANCE MODELS

Conversation centered mostly around the Management Board model and the Advisory Board model; however, participants could not seem to agree upon one model. There were discussions for and against both.

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

- > We could add a 5th model.
- > They all have equal value, is there one that we can follow in the beginning and then change as we go?
- > I don't think the Advisory Committee is good because you will get volunteers that are there that won't care enough.
- > The management model because it is broken into committees.

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

- > Ensure that there is community grassroots representation on the Governance Board.
- > The model must be responsive to community needs and be adaptable.





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

- > Transparency.
- > Consensus oriented.

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.

- > Hard to answer this because I would have to go back and present this to my community.
- > Not every community has people at the engagement sessions, we need to hear from everyone.

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

- > Committee nominations.
- > Mutual training between Indigenous communities.
- > We need a strong community representative but how do we get our grassroots people involved and people who are not afraid to speak to the needs of each community?

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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

- > PTSD awareness.
- > Accredited vs. non-accredited.
- > Training needs to be the priority for all Indigenous communities

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?

- > A regional training facility.
- > Helping the Fire Chief apply for funding through Chief and Council.
- > How do you recruit firefighters and keep them?





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

- > IFMO needs to create a fire college for all Indigenous Peoples.
- > Cancer and asbestos awareness.
- > Health and safety.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

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

- > Surprising how long it might take to get the IFMO off the ground.

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?

- > Wildfire, structural fire and other — to be linked.
- > The IFMO need to be a one-stop shop for all aspects of fire prevention.
- > Networking between Indigenous Peoples for training and capacity development should be a priority.

