



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCIAL REPORT

CRITICAL SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN ENGAGEMENT

PHASE 2

MARCH 2023

DNA

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The photos above were taken from a number of in-person and online workshop engagement sessions. Post-it notes and wordclouds present the top priorities identified.

Introduction

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) has embarked on a two-phase project to identify the current and future Critical Social Infrastructure (CSI) required in each of the 39 Chartered Communities located throughout seven Regions (Figure 1). MNBC defines CSI as the necessary physical, economic, virtual, educational, and other resources and facilities necessary to support a thriving and sustainable Métis Nation today and into the future.

The intent of the Critical Social Infrastructure and Facilities Master Plan ('Master Plan' or 'Plan') is to provide MNBC with a CSI Plan for each Chartered Community, a CSI Plan for each Region (a roll up of the Chartered Community plans including Regional CSI projects and initiatives), and an overall MNBC Provincial Plan, which includes the Regional roll up and MNBC head office CSI projects and initiatives. Phase one included engagement with MNBC Cabinet, staff, and representatives. Phase two included Chartered Community Leadership and Citizen engagement through a survey as well as in-person and on-line workshops in each Region. Four on-line focus groups with youth, Elders/seniors, people with disabilities and the 2SLGBTQ+ Community were also held. Engagement from both phases was used to inform the Plan.



Figure 1. Map of 39 Chartered Communities and seven Regions.

Population

The primary driver for the MNBC Provincial Plan came from perspectives gathered from Citizens living in the 39 Chartered Communities found in the seven Regions of the Province. There are 20,594¹ registered Métis Citizens in the Province of British Columbia and 97,860 Self-Identified Métis² (2021 Census). Figure 2 presents the Self-Identified population distributed by each Region in the Province.

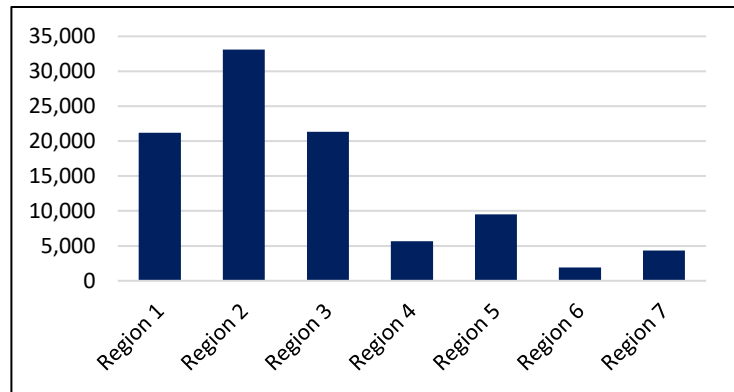


Figure 2. Self-Identified Population per Region.

MNBC Strategic Plan

The MNBC 2021 to 2024 Strategic Plan provides an important framework for decision making and future planning, including defining CSI needs within MNBC Chartered Communities. It is important that the facilities and infrastructure identified through this process support the Nation’s overall direction. As demonstrated below, the Strategic Priorities identified in the Strategic Plan have clear implications for the development of MNBC CSI. Within each Strategic Priority MNBC has defined specific opportunities and priorities for facilities.

Strategic Priority 1: Build a healthy and vibrant Métis Nation British Columbia

- Facilitate access to safe and affordable housing for Métis people in BC
- Provide cultural relevant childcare facilities throughout the Province
- Create a Métis-specific training institute
- Provide appropriate housing and services for elders
- Increase the capacity of Chartered Communities to deliver services
- Provide programs and services that support a healthy and vibrant Métis Nation British Columbia
- Increase opportunities for Métis-owned businesses

Strategic Priority 2: Bring children back to communities

- Ensure members have suitable housing that supports families
- Provide supportive services in each community for families and children
- Ensure children in care are provided with opportunity to connect with their culture
- Increase access to Métis childcare spaces

Strategic Priority 3: Support a united Métis Nation

- Identify core programs and services that are available to each Chartered Community and at each Regional Hub
- Ensure that all Chartered Communities and Regions are able to access the same core programs and services, no matter their size or location

¹ MNBC Citizenship data for housing.

² 2021 Census



Strategic Priority 4: Increase cultural visibility

- Develop a BC Métis Culture and Language Institute
- Develop culturally appropriate facilities in Chartered Communities and Regional Hubs

Strategic Priority 5: Protect, clarify and acknowledge Section 35 Métis rights

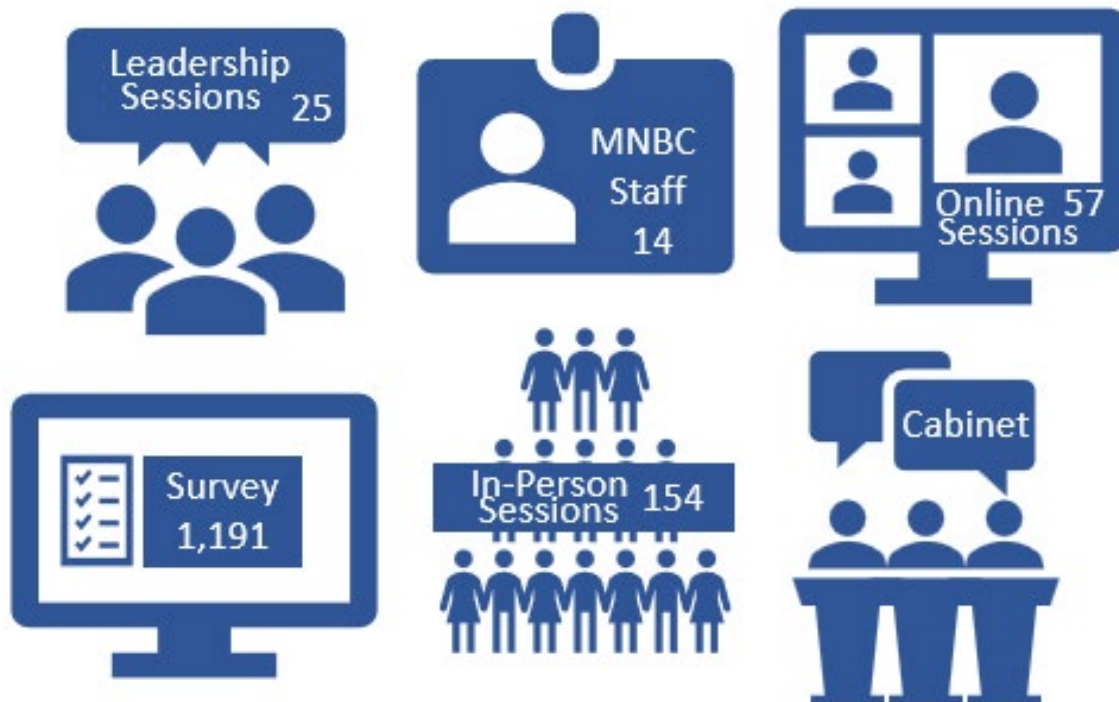
- Ensure that Métis people in BC have access to culturally appropriate facilities, programs and services within their communities and regions

CSI Engagement

A comprehensive engagement effort was undertaken with Senior Staff as well as Leadership and Citizens in all seven Regions across the Province, including:

- MNBC Cabinet Meeting: project initiation meeting with Cabinet including an overview of process and high-level discussion of needs in August 2022.
- Senior Staff interviews: Senior Staff members from the following Ministries participated in interviews in August and September 2022:
 - Deputy Minister and Chief Executive Officer
 - Ministry of Education and Learning
 - Ministry of Children and Families
 - Ministry of Employment and Skills Training
 - Ministry of Post-Secondary Education
 - Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language
 - Ministry of Women and Gender Equity
 - Ministry of Youth
 - Ministry of Housing and Homelessness
 - Ministry of Health
 - Ministry of Elders and Veterans
 - Métis Financial Corporation of BC
- Leadership Engagement: 25 Presidents and/or Vice Presidents from 18 Chartered Communities participated in 7 online Chartered Community Leadership workshops between October 20th, 2022 – February 2nd, 2023
- In-Person Workshops: 10 in-person workshops were held from January 4th – February 13th, 2023
- Citizen Online Workshops: 12 citizen online workshops were held from January 9th – February 23rd, 2023, including four focus groups (Elders/seniors, persons with a disability, 2SLGBTQ+ and youth).
- Survey: One online survey was open to Citizens from December 14th, 2022– February 20th, 2023.

The following provides a breakdown of the number of people who participated in each engagement opportunity:



CSI Priorities

The following presents a summary of the priorities that emerged from each engagement effort through this project.

MNBC Cabinet Meeting

During this project initiation meeting, members of Cabinet provided critical recommendations to the project team related to the overall engagement and reporting process. The Cabinet shared that a variety of engagement techniques including in-person engagement would be key to the successful delivery of this project. The Cabinet also provided the team with suggestions related to touchstone documents including the Housing Survey and the MNBC Strategic Plan and identified some challenges the team might face related to demographics.

MNBC Senior Staff Engagement Summary

Senior staff identified the following CSI priorities:

- In terms of Physical facilities, staff identified:
 - regional hubs and MNBC facilities in each chartered community that included both indoor and outdoor cultural gathering spaces
 - multi-use/mixed use development
 - co-working spaces/ small business space



- Métis specific education spaces/post-secondary institute
- expanded headquarters for MNBC
- affordable housing with wrap-around services to meet the needs of all Métis Citizens including families, youth, elders, safehouses, transition houses, etc.
- culturally appropriate health care, child care
- detox and recovery centres
- Staff would also like to see expanded IT and service infrastructure, an integrated software system to aid tracking of programs and services, and an internal software and database management system
- They also identified a Call Centre and Crisis Line for Citizens

MNBC Senior Staff also provided review of and vital input into the assumptions and costing used for the Master Plan.

Chartered Community Leadership Engagement Summary

During the Leadership discussions, the Chartered Community Presidents and Vice Presidents were asked to comment on their current operations and infrastructure, their Community's needs, potential partnership opportunities and the best way to engage Citizens. The following summarizes their responses:

- Generally, Chartered Communities rely on other organizations including School Districts and Friendship Centres for programming space
- Leadership requires permanent office space, paid support staff to coordinate their programming and assist Citizens to access programs and services
- To help Citizens thrive, they identified needs including affordable housing, consistent funding, operating capital, transportation (especially in more remote communities)
- They suggested that in-person workshops and participation incentives could enhance Citizen participation in the process

Citizen Engagement Summary

Citizens identified CSI priorities through the survey and workshops. The following summarizes the top CSI priorities for the Province (additional detail is provided below). This information includes feedback gathered at the 4 focus group workshops with 2SLGBTQ+ Citizens, Youth, Elders and Citizens with disabilities:

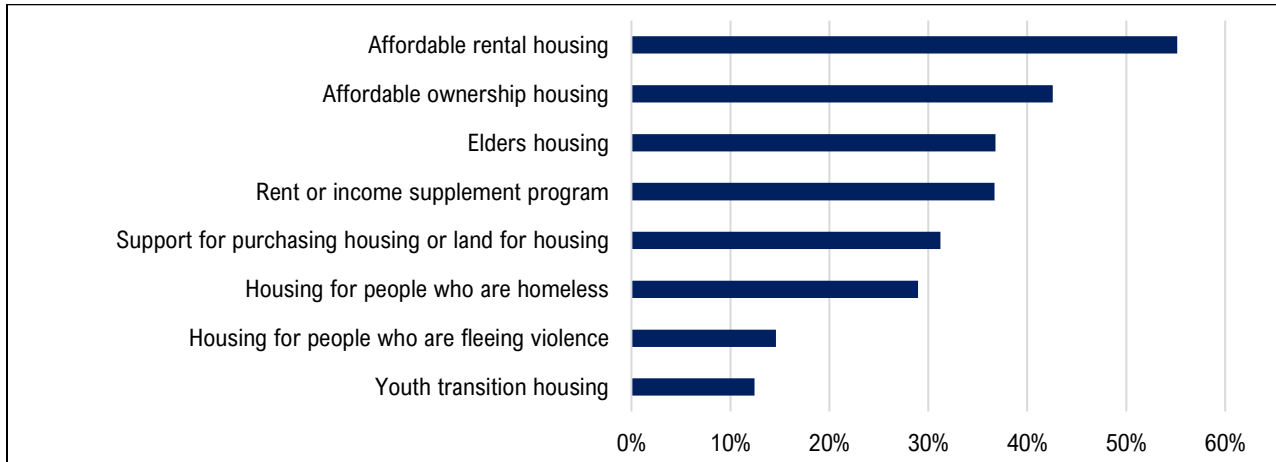
- Affordable rental housing, affordable home ownership and Elders housing
- Community education and training spaces, paid office staff, and cultural gathering places
- Financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills followed by access to personal computers and high-speed internet
- Financial assistance with the purchase of groceries, Community gardens/greenhouses and traditional food harvesting opportunities
- Métis culture (language, arts, harvesting and hunting) and job skills and training
- Personal budgeting and financial wellness programs
- Transportation to health care services and health and wellness programs

The charts below present the survey responses for the Province as a whole.

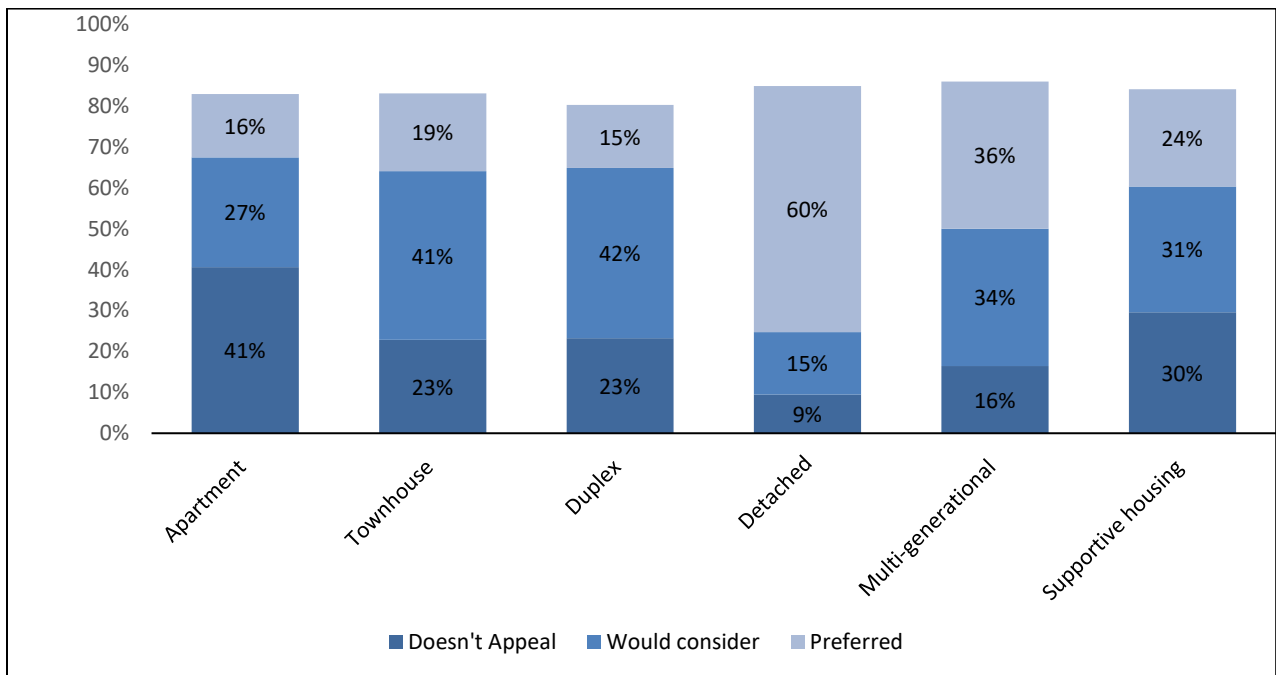
Housing



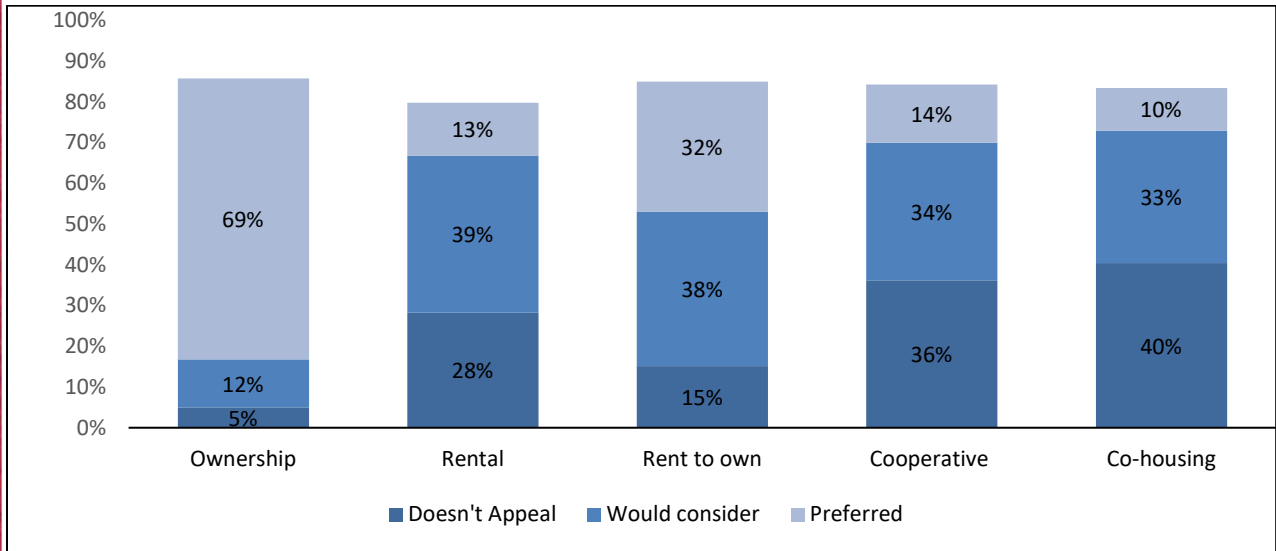
The top housing priorities chosen from the survey include affordable rental housing, home ownership and Elders housing. The charts below indicate that the highest need identified by survey respondents is for affordable rental housing; however respondents' preference indicates detached housing, in terms of type, and home ownership, in terms, of tenure. Almost 50% of survey respondents would like to live in a Métis -developed community.



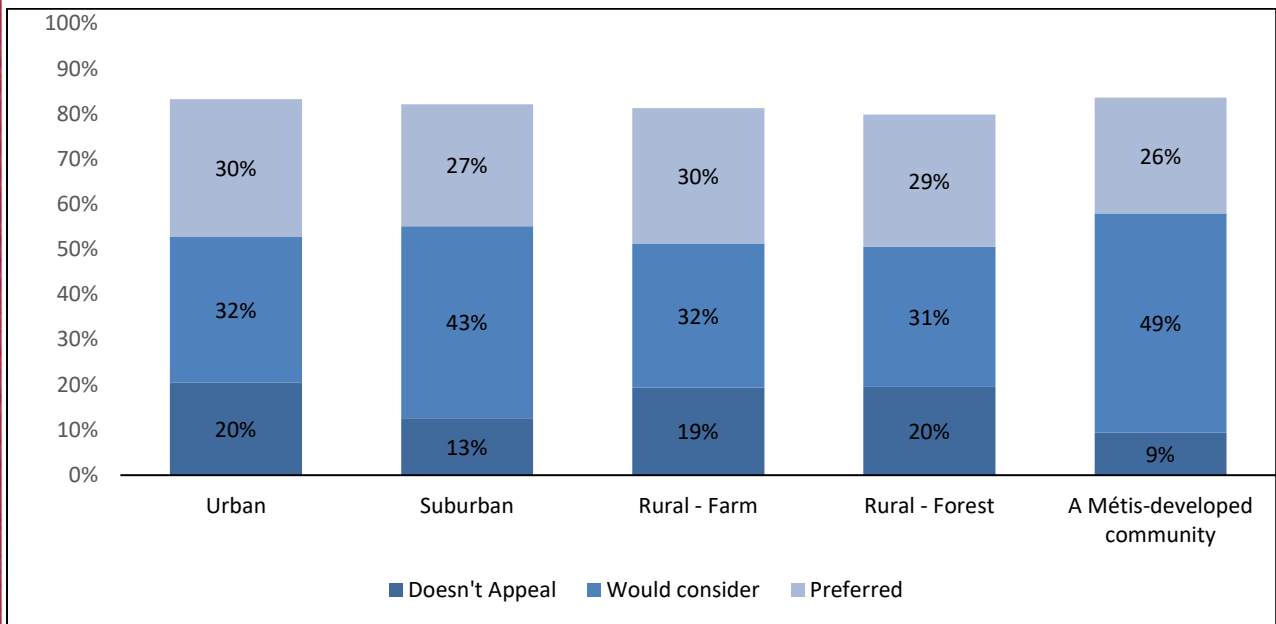
The following graph shows the preferred housing types based on survey responses. Most respondents prefer detached housing followed by multi-generational housing. Apartments are the least supported housing type chosen by Citizens throughout the Province.



The following graph shows the preferred ownership types. Most people would prefer to own their homes followed by rent to own. Respondents would consider rental, cooperative and co-housing ownership options, but they are not preferred. Co-housing was the least popular response across the Province.



The following graph shows preferred housing locations based on survey responses. Responses are evenly distributed among the different locations throughout the Province.

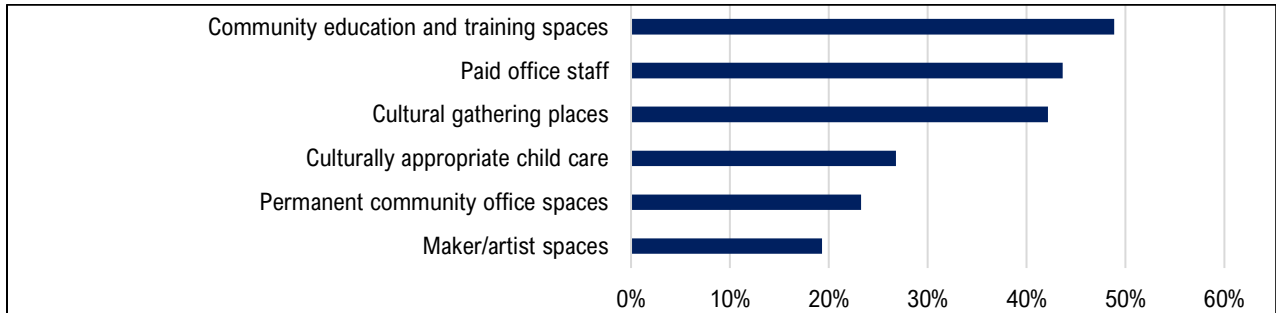


When Citizens were asked if they would prefer food processing, storage, freezers, or other amenities in or near their home to best support their family, general storage was the most popular response, followed by freezers. Other responses included gardens, greenhouses, garages, workshops, childcare, playgrounds, gathering places and a smokehouse.

Cultural/Community Spaces



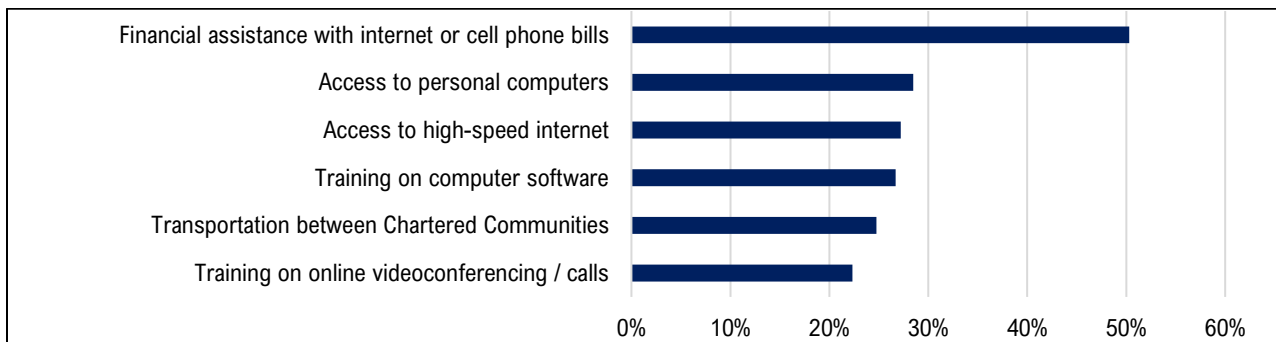
Cultural/Community space priorities identified from the survey include community education and training spaces, paid office staff, and cultural gathering places.



Connectivity/Transportation



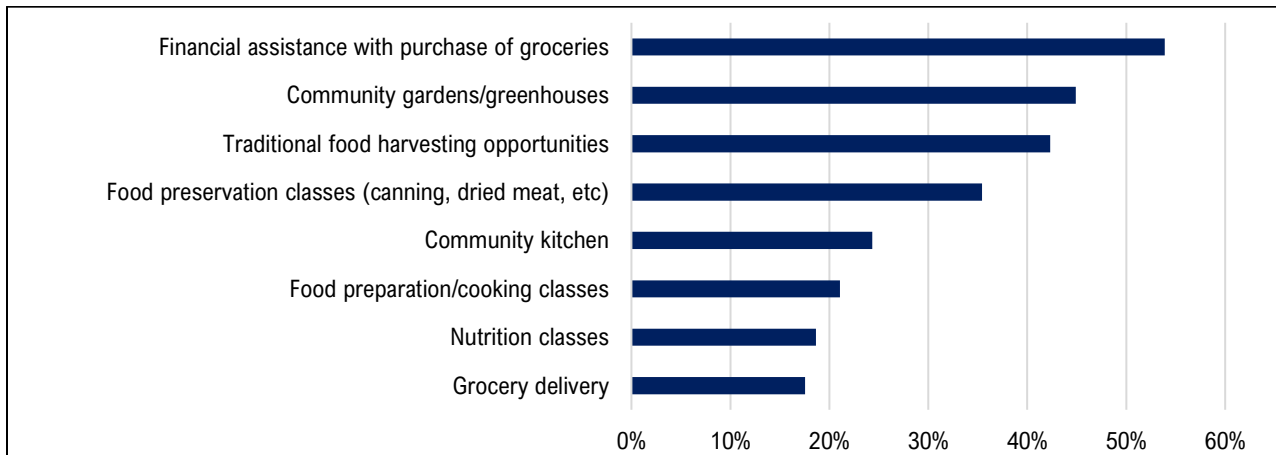
Connectivity/transportation priorities identified from the survey include financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills followed by access to personal computers and high-speed internet.



Food Security



Food security priorities identified from the survey include financial assistance with the purchase of groceries, community gardens/greenhouses and traditional food harvesting opportunities.

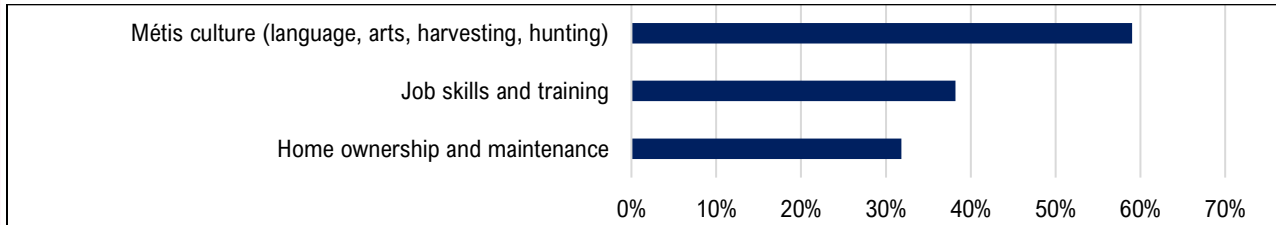




Cultural/Personal Development Programs



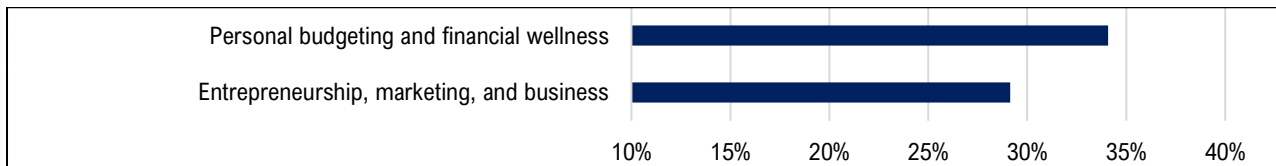
Cultural/personal development program priorities identified from the survey include Métis culture (language, arts, harvesting and hunting) and job skills and training.



Economic



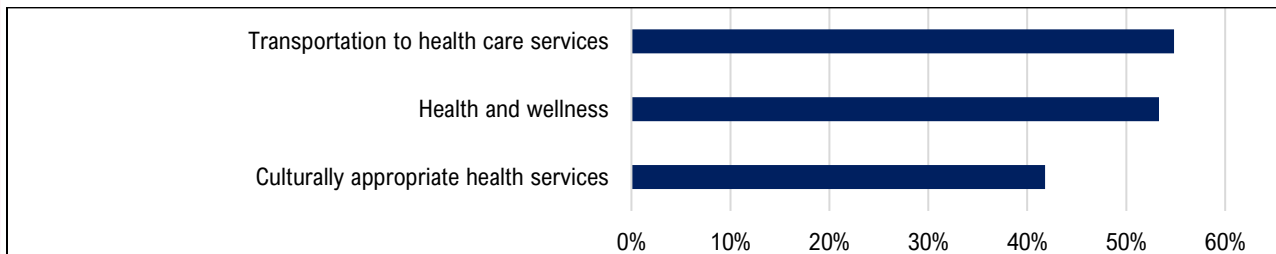
The top economic priority identified from the survey is personal budgeting and financial wellness programs.

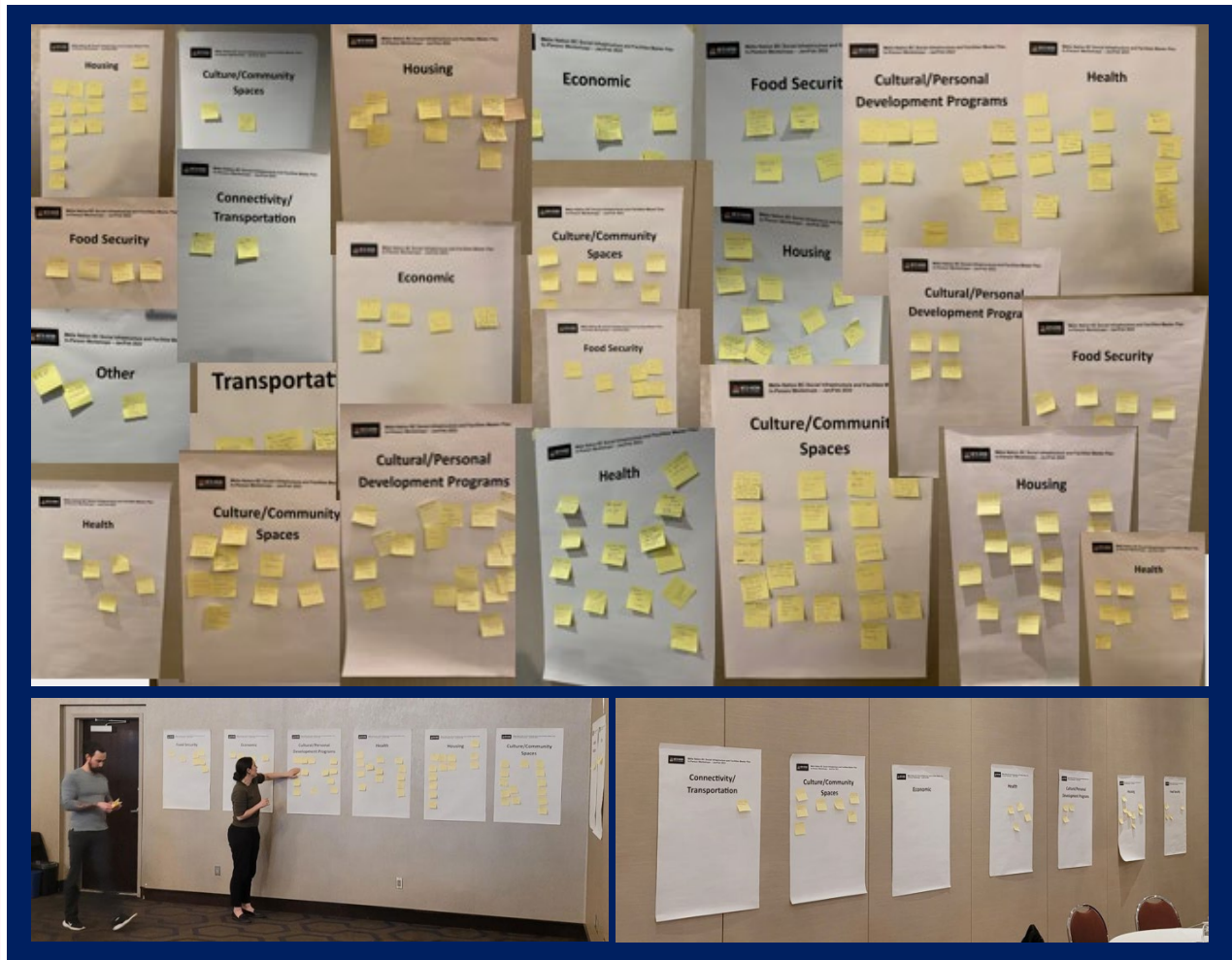


Health



Health priorities identified from the survey include transportation to medical appointments and health care services along with health and wellness programs.





The photos above were taken from several in-person workshop sessions. The post-it notes present the top priorities identified by Citizens who attended the meetings.