



# MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

## REGION 4: KOOTENAYS

### CRITICAL SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN ENGAGEMENT

#### PHASE 2

DECEMBER 2023

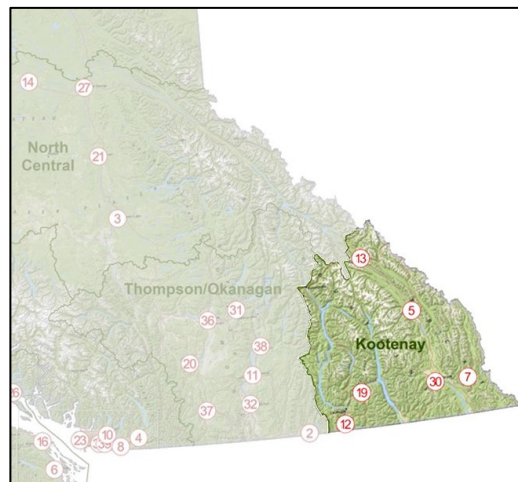
# DNA

David Nairne + Associates Ltd

## REGION 4 – KOOTENAYS

Region 4: Kootenays BC is home to six (6) Métis Chartered Communities including:

- Columbia Valley Métis Association (Invermere)
- Elk Valley Métis Association (Fernie)
- Kootenay South Métis Society (Trail)
- Métis Nation Columbia River Society (Golden)
- West Kootenay Métis Association (Nelson)
- Rocky Mountain Métis Association (Cranbrook)



## REGIONAL MÉTIS POPULATION

The following table presents the available population data for Region 4.

	Citizens*	% Total Citizens	Total Métis Population **
Columbia Valley Métis Association	153	9%	534
Elk Valley Métis Association	144	9%	503
Kootenay South Métis Society	307	19%	1,072
Métis Nation Columbia River Society	146	9%	510
West Kootenay Métis Association-	232	14%	810
Rocky Mountain Métis Association	646	40%	2,256
<b>Region 4: Total Population</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,685</b>

\*The number of Registered Citizens by Chartered Community (Citizenship Data for Housing – June 2022)

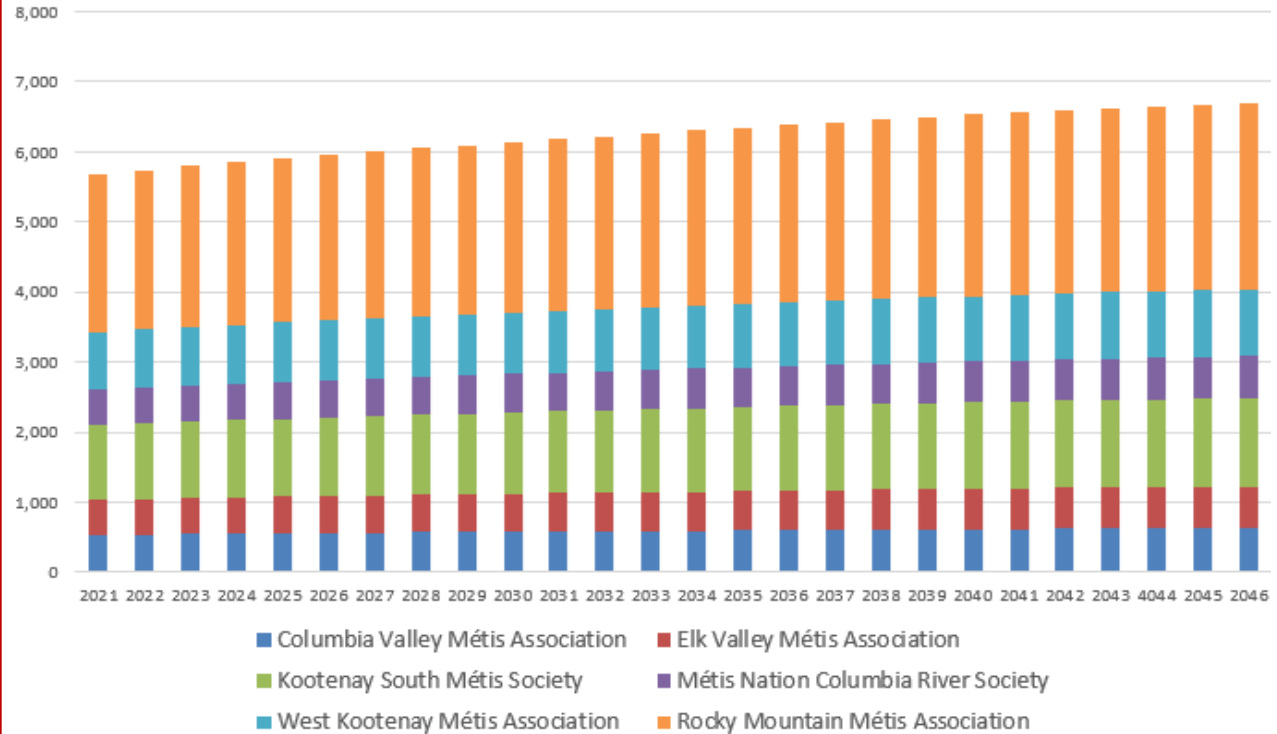
\*\* Total Métis Population is an estimate that includes both MNBC Citizens and Total Métis. The starting point was the number of people in this Region who identified as Métis on the 2021 Census (9,530). That total was then distributed across the Region's Chartered Communities based on the percentage of MNBC Citizens in each Chartered Community (per the June 2022 MNBC Registry data).

Sources: MNBC and Statistics Canada



### Population Projections

As illustrated in the chart below, it is anticipated that the Region’s Total Métis Population will increase at an average rate of 0.7%<sup>1</sup> per year over the next 25 years; from a population of 5,685 to 6,698. This sustained population growth will create continued demand for MNBC housing, programs, facilities, and services.



### Engagement

To meet the objective of engaging MNBC Citizens, a comprehensive engagement effort was undertaken in all Regions. MNBC Citizens were offered the following options to offer their perspective on Critical Social Infrastructure (CSI) needs in their communities:

- Leadership Engagement – Leadership (Presidents and Vice Presidents) workshops were held via Zoom in October 2022; three (3) representatives from Region 4 attended.
- In-Person Workshops – An in-person workshop was held in Cranbrook, BC on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023; seven (7) MNBC Citizens from Region 4 were in attendance.
- Online Workshops – Online workshops were held on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023; one (1) Citizen from Region 4 attended the online workshops.
- Survey – 64 MNBC Citizens from Region 4 responded to the survey.

<sup>1</sup> Based on BC Stats growth projections for Kootenay Development Region



## Critical Social Infrastructure Priorities

Citizens identified CSI priorities through the survey and workshops. The following summarizes the top CSI priorities by category for this Region (additional detail is provided below):

- Affordable housing, rent or income supplement program and Elders housing
- Paid office staff, cultural gathering places, and community education and training
- Financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills access to personal computers, transportation, and access to 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 programs
- Personal budgeting and financial wellness programs
- Transportation to health care services health and wellness programs

The charts below present the survey responses for this Region. The percentages shown in these charts are based on the number of survey responses collected within this Region. The bullet points underneath reflect feedback and comments gathered at the in-person and online workshops and have been organized into two (2) categories (in some instances the survey outcomes and workshop outcomes contradict each other):

1. Priorities from the workshops - A summary of the top three (3) CSI priorities Citizens identified in their in-person sessions and online sessions
2. Other top needs from workshops - A summary of the group discussion from in-person sessions, Jamboard™ information from online sessions, and information from leadership sessions<sup>2</sup>

This feedback has been used to formulate the CSI priorities for Region 4.



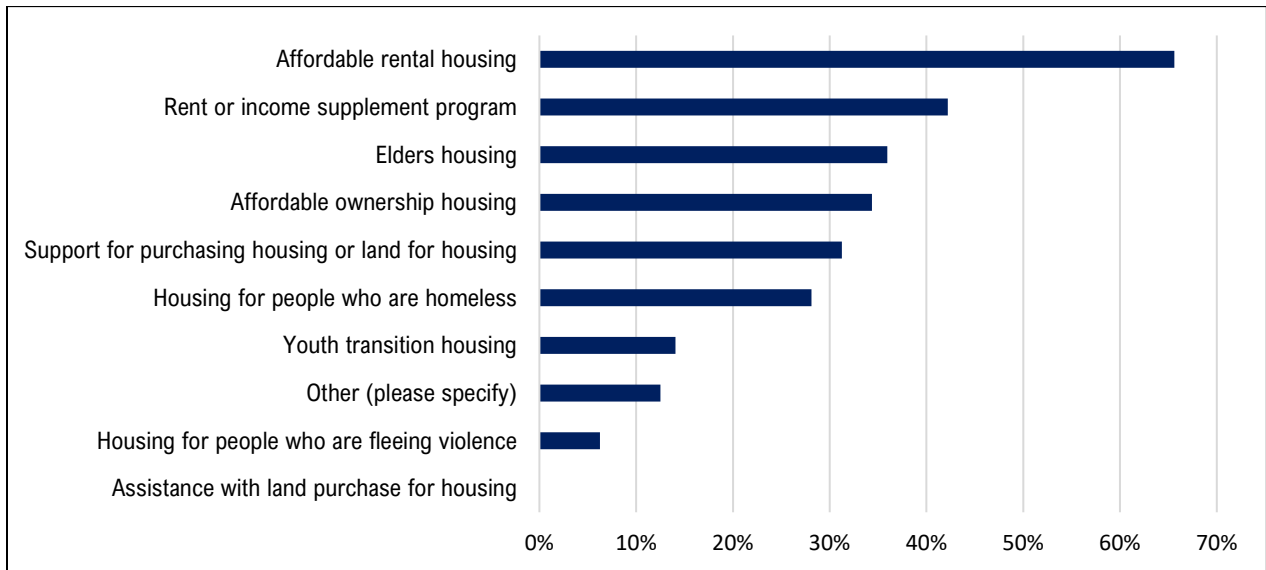
The above word cloud presents the top three priorities identified by Citizens during the online workshops.

<sup>2</sup> Jamboard™ is a digital whiteboard that lets participants collaborate in real time using a web browser or mobile app. During online sessions, Citizens used Jamboard™ to provide comments and feedback on a variety of CSI-related topics.

## Housing



Top housing priorities from the survey include affordable rental housing, rent or income supplement program, and Elders housing.



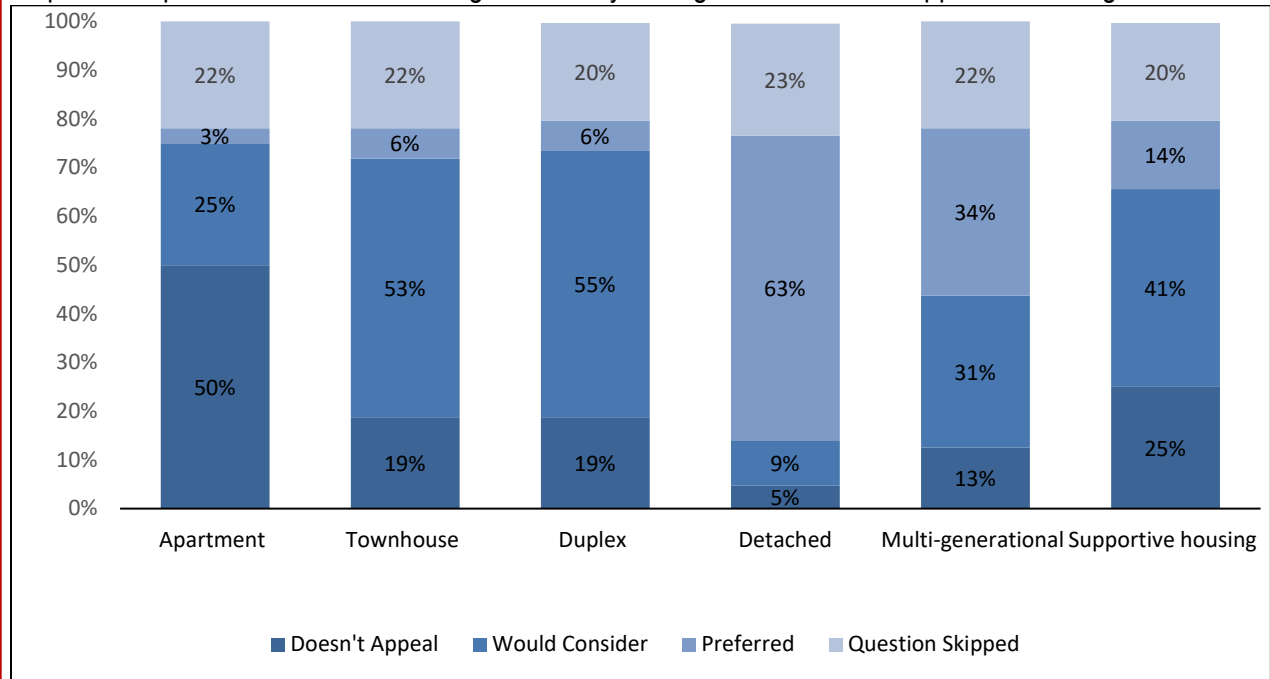
**Priorities from the workshops include:**

- Affordable housing and rental options and co-op ownership models
- Emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing for mental health and addictions
- Housing for Elders/Seniors and low-income students
- Rent and income supplement support for young, middle-aged, and seniors

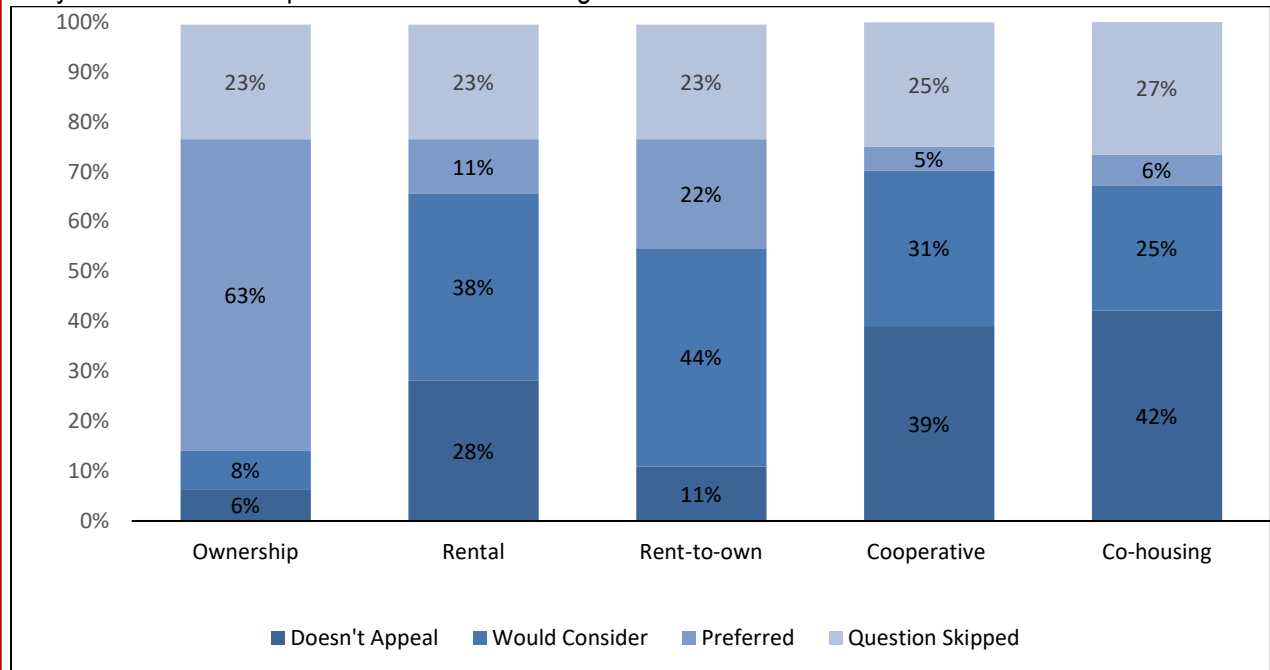
**Other top needs from workshops include:**

- Financial assistance to support housing maintenance and renovations
- Housing with access to the outdoors including pet friendly housing
- Culturally appropriate and intergenerational housing
- More education around available housing programs and services

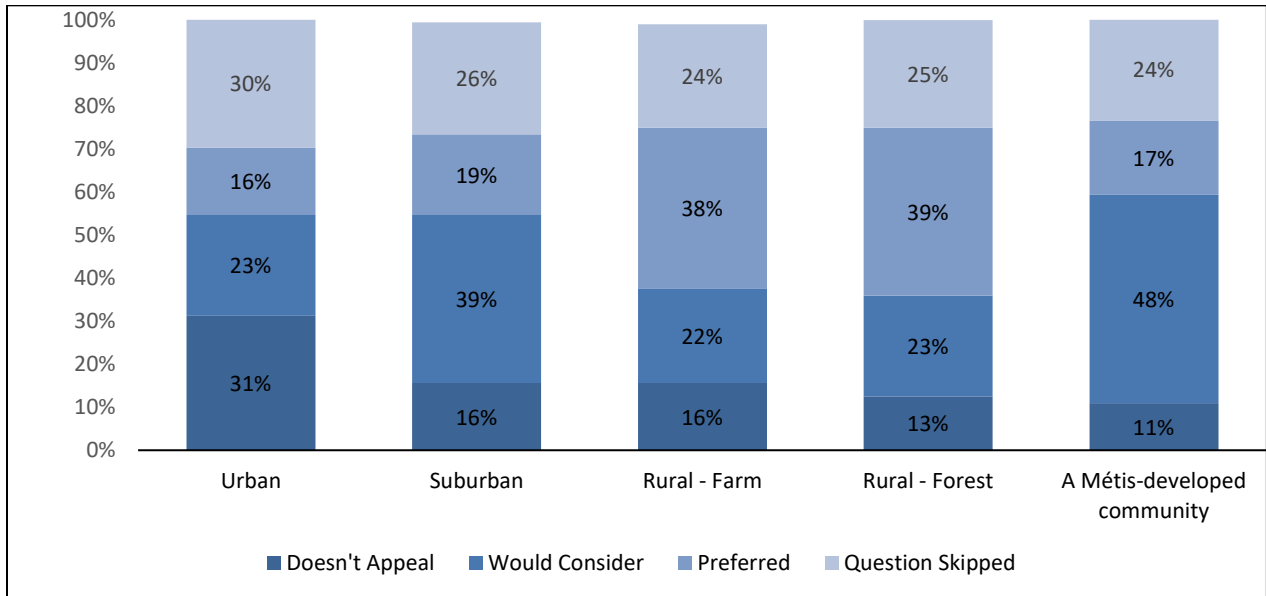
When asked to rank types of housing based on how well they would meet their family's needs, survey respondents preferred detached housing followed by multi-generational and supportive housing.



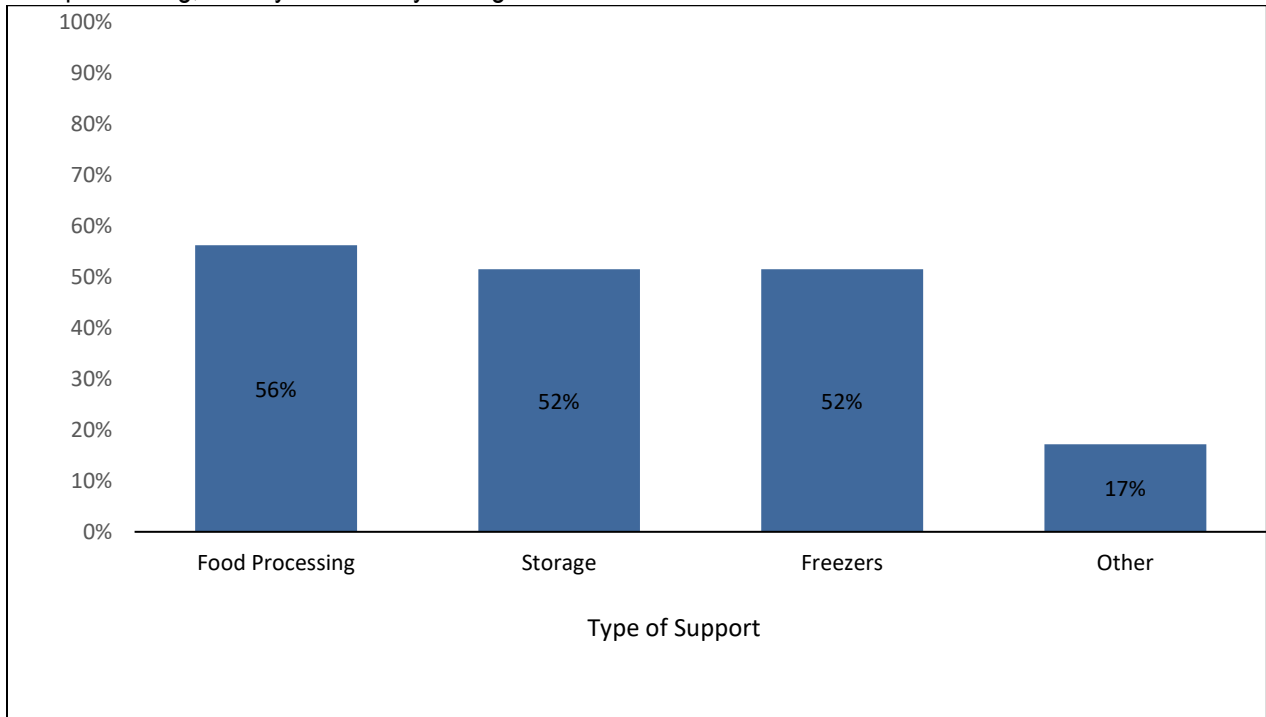
When asked to rank ownership/rental models to meet their family's current needs, respondents were more likely to select ownership and rent-to-own housing.



When asked which locations their family would prefer to live, respondents were most interested in rural farm or rural forest locations.



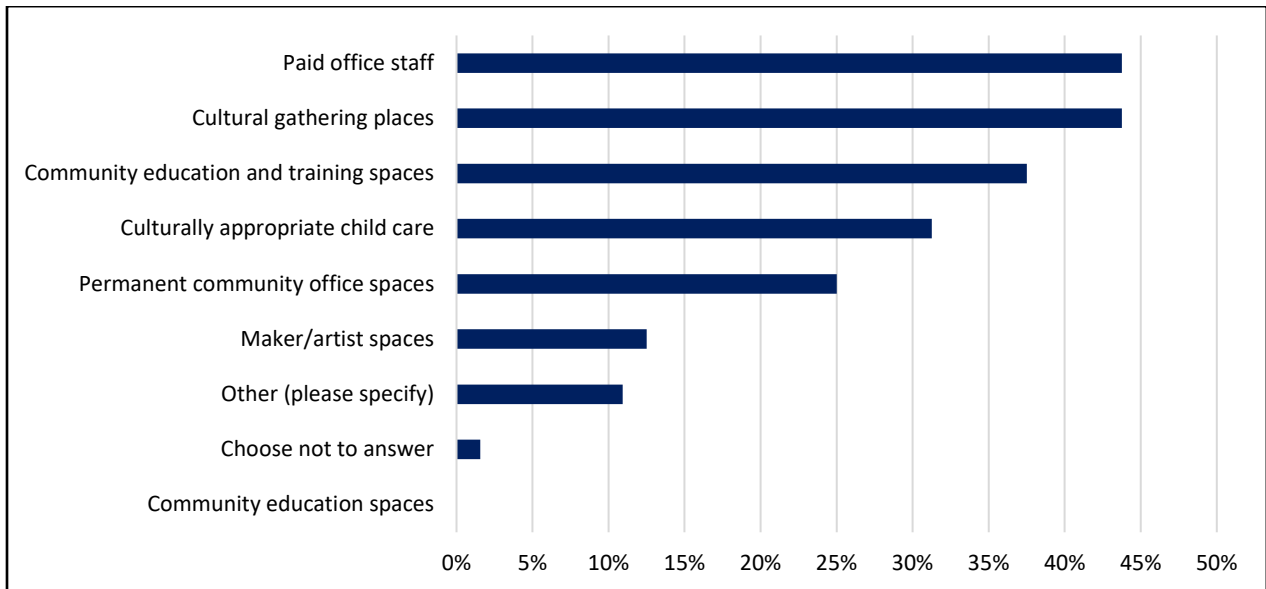
When asked what they would want in or near their home to best support their family, respondents preferred food processing, closely followed by storage and freezers.



## Cultural/Community Spaces



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



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Culture/community gathering spaces including a community centre with designated spaces for seniors/Elders (indoor and outdoor)
- Childcare facilities
- Community office space
- Operational funding for community programs and services

### Other top needs from workshops include:

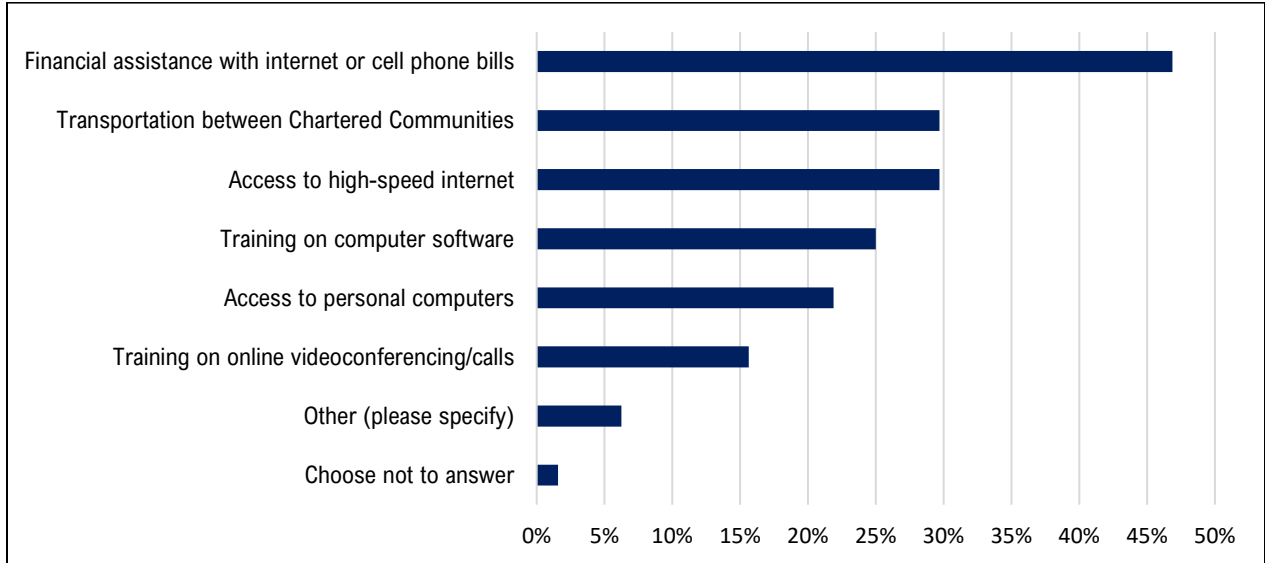
- Community storage facility
- Database with Regional Elder contact information
- Cultural hub for people to gather including a cultural institute and a Métis Friendship Centre
- Centralized Métis college and student housing



## Connectivity/Transportation



Connectivity/transportation priorities from the survey include financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills, transportation between Chartered Communities, and access to high-speed internet.



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Community shuttle service
- Transportation to medical appointments and health care services

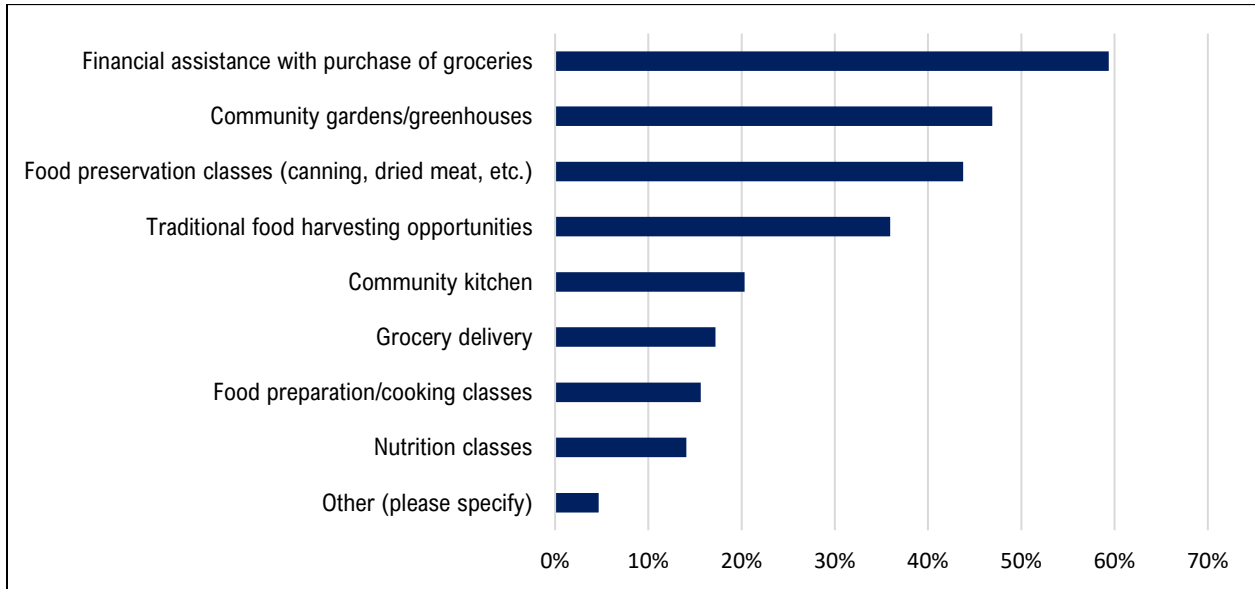
### Other top needs from workshops include:

- Community carpool program
- Computer training for Elders
- Technology training for Elders including computers and cellphones
- Community virtual gatherings to stay connected with each other including access to cell phones

## Food Security



Food security priorities from the survey included financial assistance with the purchase of groceries, community gardens/greenhouses, and food preservation classes (canning, dried meat, etc.).



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Food delivery program for Elders

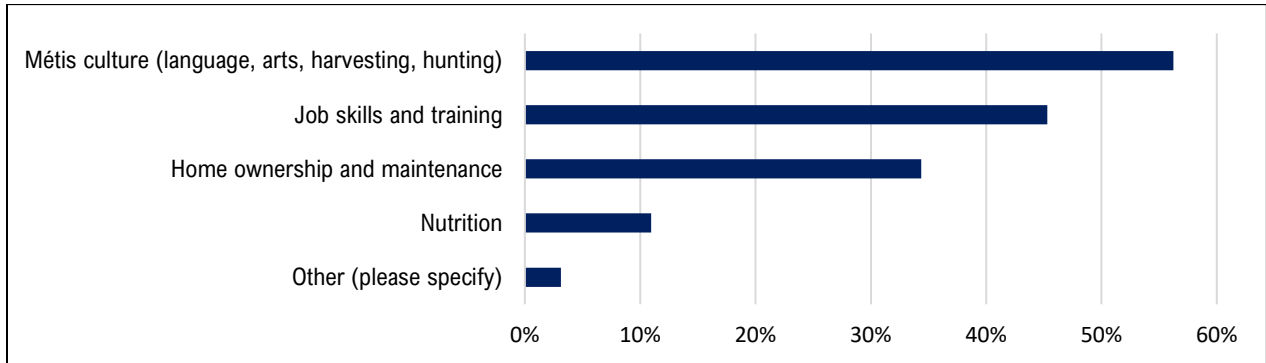
### Other top needs from workshops include:

- Commercial kitchen for food preparation and cooking classes
- Need facilities for food production and storage
- Co-op for groceries
- Community garden

## Cultural/Personal Development Programs



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



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Social services
- Youth cultural and recreational programming
- Senior’s programs and services including harvesting, fishing, and hunting outings
- Integrate Michift language, culture, and symbols into community facilities and programming

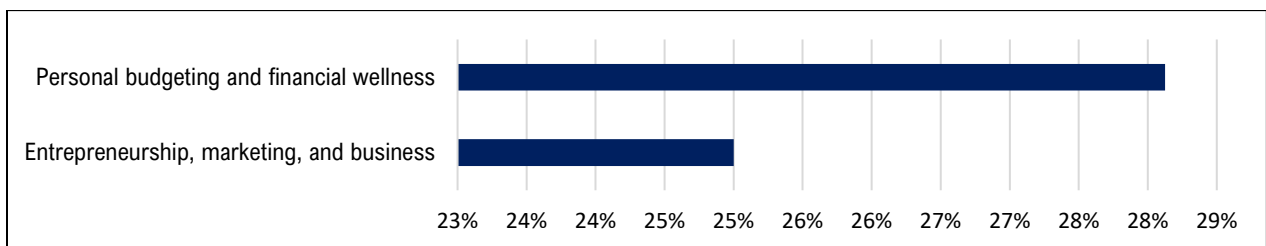
### Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Senior’s programs and services
- More opportunities to bring the Métis community together especially Elders and youth
- Cultural programming to pass on cultural practices, skills, and history – this could include beading and hide tanning classes
- More opportunities to connect with other communities

## Economic



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



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Funding for infrastructure
- Local funding for Chartered Communities including administrative support and staffing

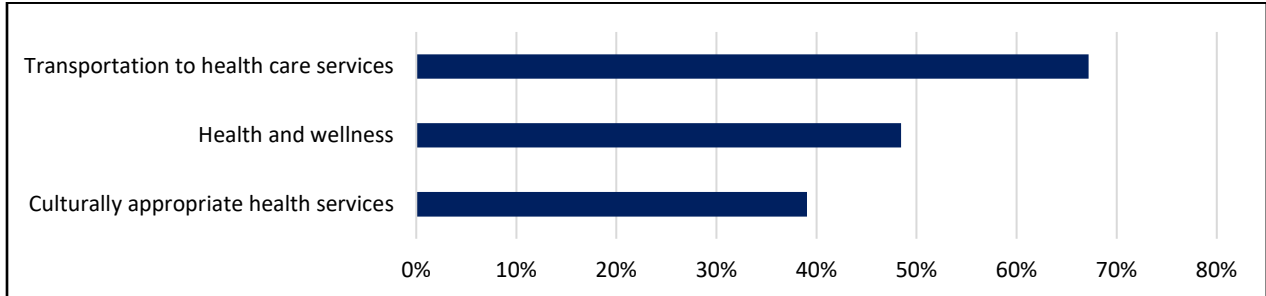
### Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Funding for community programs and services
- Supports for Métis business development and entrepreneurs
- Paid staff for liaison between communities and MNBC

## Health



Health priorities from the survey include transportation to health care services followed by health and wellness programs.

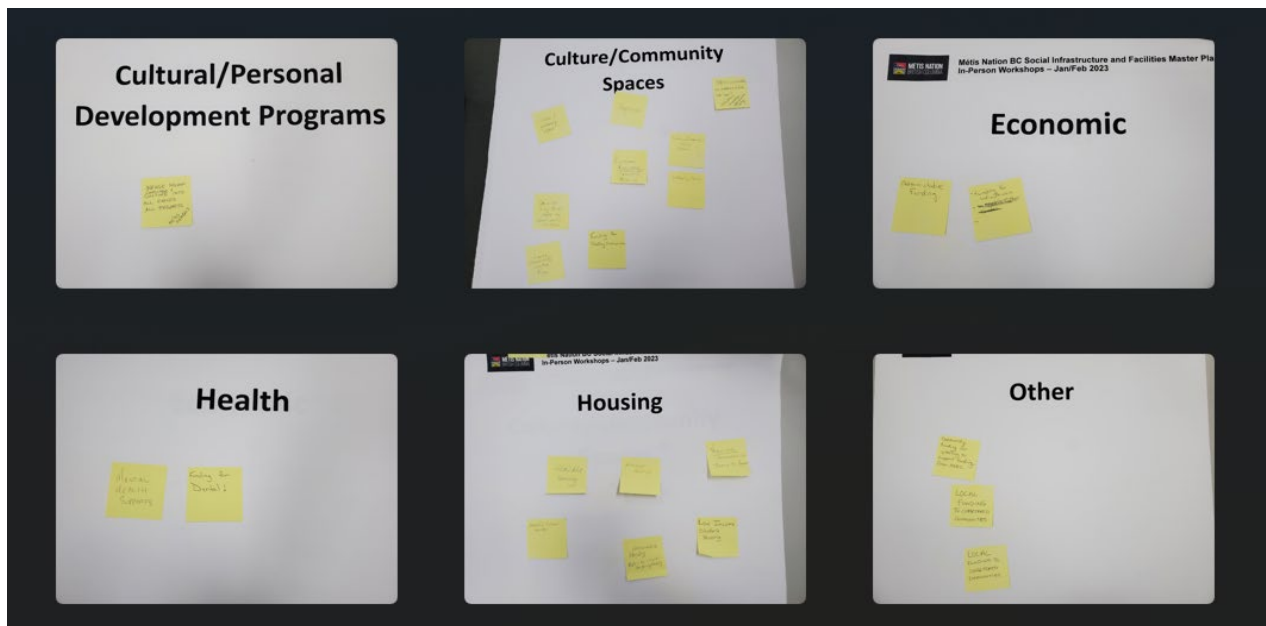


### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Mental health and addictions programs
- Medical and dental plans
- Transportation to medical appointments and health care services

### Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Mental health and addictions programs including a mental health retreat
- Hire a community health advisor to help people navigate the healthcare system
- Funding to support safety-proofing homes for seniors/Elders
- Medical transportation assistance (services and funding) including hiring a Métis social worker to accompany members at medical appointments



*The photos above were taken from the in-person workshop held in Cranbrook, BC on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Post-it notes were used by Citizens to record their priorities.*

## Appendix 1 – Engagement Summary

### REGION 4 – Kootenays

Cranbrook, BC  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## CULTURE/ COMMUNITY SPACES

- Culture gathering space. Culture/ community office space
  - o Community centre
    - Kitchen + kitchen parties
    - Jiggings.
    - Gathering
    - Beading
    - Engagement sessions
    - Celebrate distinctive culture
    - Métis friendship centre
    - Daycare
- Métis Culture in everything we do!
  - o Celebrations, language, Métis kitchen, party
- Cultural knowledge
  - o Gathering space, ceremony, and healing
- Large community centre and van
- Funding for staffing infrastructure
- Regional elder contact/ database
- Personal cultural institute
- Consistent funding for programming
- Local community facilitators
- Space for food recovery and other navigator run programs
- Operational funding
  - o ED
  - o Navigators
  - o Admin
- Traditional teaching services/ ceremony
- Have people there to teach each other cultural practices
- No places for things – need storage as well
- Need a building – gather, store stuff
  - o Friendship centre
  - o Métis friendship centre
  - o Prayer groups, smudging, beading
- Get together with other indigenous communities
- Will need money for upkeep/ maintenance/ operating funding
- Cultural space available for ceremonies, with people who care
- Would be nice to know what funding you have on an ongoing basis instead of going after grants all the time
- Also space for community gardens
- Storage of daycare spaces
- Need outdoor gathering space
- Sea cans

- There is no mental health services and zero Métis related services – this is needed

## **FOOD SECURITY**

- Food Security is so important a culture perspective
- Commercial kitchen needed to help support process meat to distribute to community
  - o A lot of seniors have food security issues
- Space for processing meats/ vegetables
- Able to buy in bulk and have staples
  - o Have a community co-op store for groceries at cost, people could buy bulk things and distribute them
- Community garden
- Food Box Program – Delivered – Food Shared + Given away (Cranbrook)
  - o Meat
  - o Bread
  - o Staples
  - o Food Recovery

## **HOUSING**

- Affordable Housing
  - o Housing
    - Affordability
    - Entry to Market
    - Rent to own for young family
    - First time home buyers
    - Low income student housing/ Student housing supports/subsidies
    - Seniors housing
    - Subsidized housing
    - Young adults/ youth/ middle housing support
- Métis Cultural Centres
- Clarity around what CSI is and this engagement process would be like
- More community consultation on housing + programs
- Culturally appropriate engagement when doing these programs/ housing engagements.
  - o Increase safety
- Localized consultants/ event organizers/ service providers
- Incorporate culture
- Michif names for the housing/ buildings
- Help elder family member to join their younger relatives – grants
- Need housing in general – resort community – lots of demand
- Elderly people smuggling with high rent (and youth etc.)
- People living in trailers – lots of people unhoused/ inadequately housed
- Subsidized housing, buy land for apartments building

- Family, elders, everyone
- People also stuck renting because can't afford to buy
- People just barely making rent
- Supply issue – need more low rental everything
- Lions Manor across from hospital – 100 little apartments
  - Low rental 55+ for seniors – more need of this
- FN housing in town has no smoking rules and people getting kicked out
- Housing should consider people with addictions
- Support for mental health/ addictions
- Housing should be inclusive
- Buy chunk of land + build houses – could be small – tiny houses etc.
- Tiny home village – important to have home ownership options
  - Rent to own options

### **CONNECTIVITY/ TRANSPORTATION**

- If you don't have a car and you're staying home
- Only bus services between Golden/ Invermere/ Cranbrook
- Hard to get around within each communities
- They do have public transit services and medical bus but it's not great/ accessible option. I.e.. Two stops in Invermere/ runs once or twice a day
- Invermere would need to be located downtown
- Could have a fundraiser/ grant to get a van
- Big area geographically – need vehicle support to get around
- Property in Invermere (Potential)
  - Old bungalow
  - Interest in creativity in solutions/ mixed use bag
  - All culturally based services

### **ECONOMIC**

- Fund CC's – Staff
  - Programs
  - Spaces

### **CULTURAL/ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

- Infuse Michif language and culture into All events and All projects.
  - Métis Symbols



**HEALTH**

- Administrative funding
- Funding for infrastructure
- Mental health supports
- Funding for Dental/Dental Plan
- Métis Navigator in the hospital
- Medical transportation Assistance funding/ programming

**OTHER**

- Community funding for staffing to support funding from MNBC
- Local funding to Chartered Communities