



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

REGION 5: NORTH CENTRAL

CRITICAL SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN ENGAGEMENT

PHASE 2
DECEMBER 2023

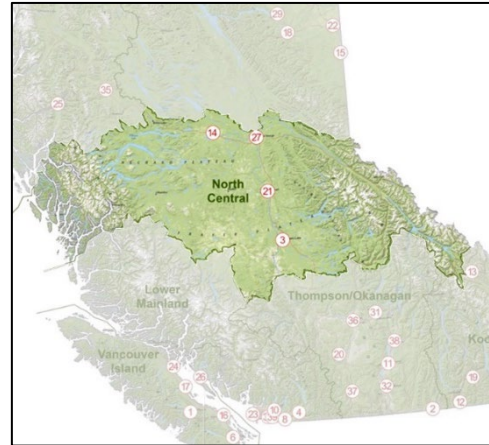
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David Nairne + Associates Ltd

REGION 5 – NORTH CENTRAL

Region 5: North Central BC is home to four (4) Métis Chartered Communities including:

- Cariboo-Chilcotin Métis Association (CCMA, Williams Lake)
- Métis Nation New Caledonia Society (MNCS, Vanderhoof)
- North Cariboo Métis Association (NCMA, Quesnel)
- Prince George Métis Community Association (PGMCA, Prince George)



REGIONAL MÉTIS POPULATION

The following table presents the available population data for Region 5.

	Citizens*	% Total Citizens	Total Métis Population **
Cariboo-Chilcotin Métis Association (CCMA, Williams Lake)	354	11%	1,074
Métis New Caledonia Society (MNCA, Vanderhoof)	191	6%	579
North Cariboo Métis Association (NCMA, Quesnel)	463	15%	1,406
Prince George Métis Community Association (PGMCA, Prince George)	2,132	68%	6,471
Region 5: Total Population	3,140	100%	9,530

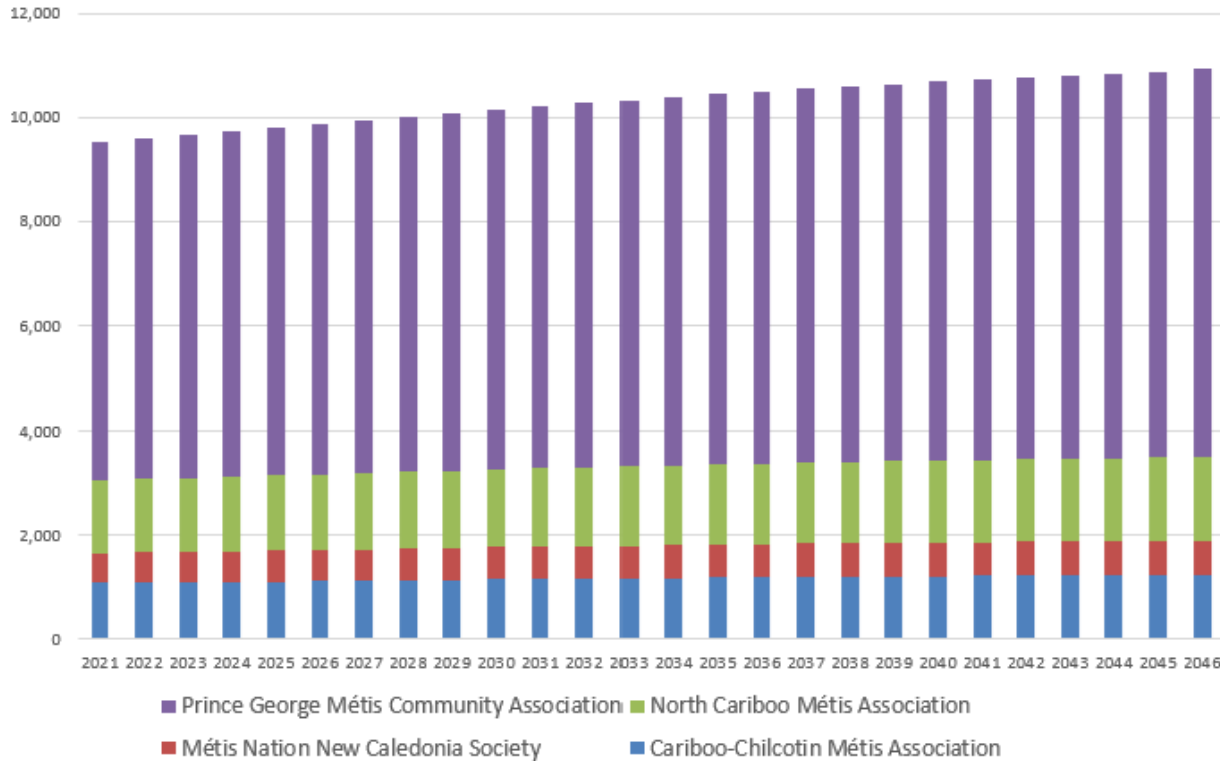
*The number of Registered Citizens by Chartered Community (Citizenship Data for Housing – June 2022).

**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 0.6%¹ per year over the next 25 years; from a population of 9,530 to 10,920. 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 opportunities 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 November 2022. Representatives from Region 5 were unable to attend.
- In-Person Workshops – An in-person workshop was held in Prince George, BC on February 1st, 2023. 13 MNBC Citizens from Region 5 attended.
- Online Workshops – Online workshops were held on February 6th and 7th, 2023. Two (2) Citizens from Region 5 attended the online workshops.
- Survey – 131 MNBC Citizens from Region 5 responded to the survey.

¹ Based on BC Stats growth projections for Cariboo/Nechako 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 rental housing, affordable ownership housing, and Elders housing
- Community education and training spaces, paid office staff, and cultural gathering places
- Financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills, access to high-speed internet and transportation between Chartered Communities
- Food security supports such as financial assistance with the purchase of groceries, traditional food harvesting opportunities, and community gardens/greenhouses
- Métis culture (language, arts, harvesting and hunting) and job skills and training programs
- Personal budgeting and financial wellness programs
- Transportation to health care services and health and wellness programs

The percentages in the charts below have been developed based on the survey responses from Region 5. 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 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 sessions²

This feedback has been used to formulate the CSI priorities for Region 5.

² 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.

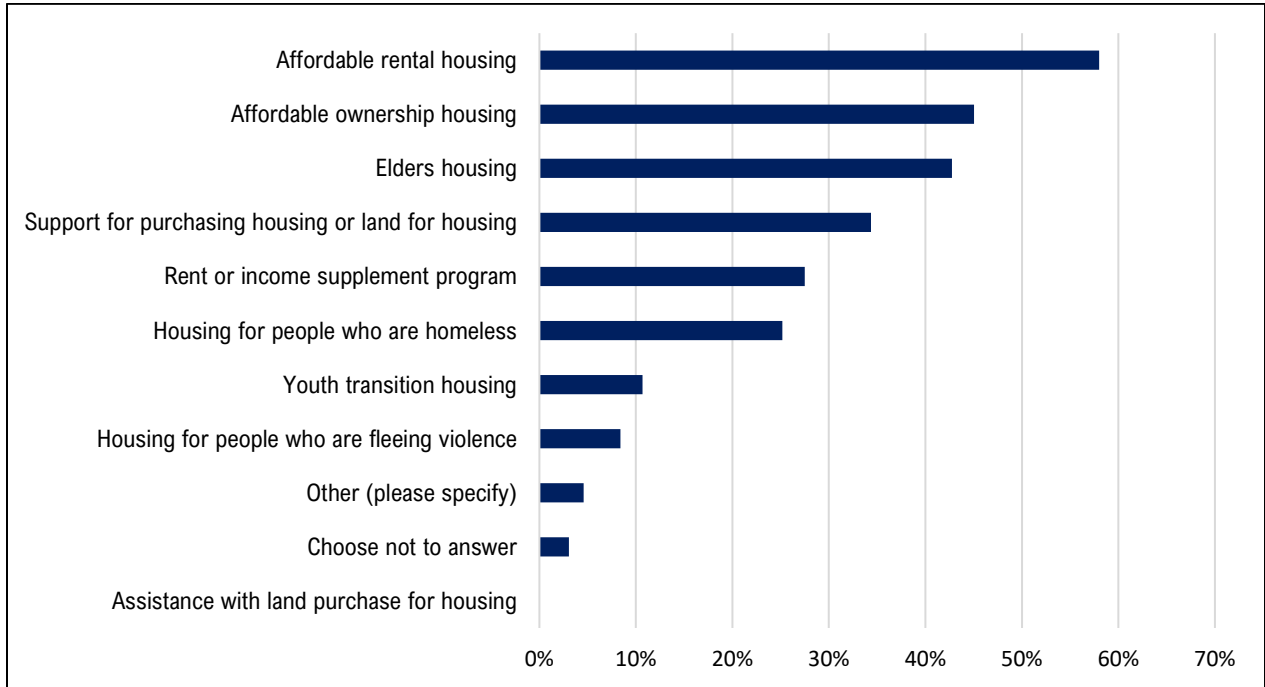


The photos above were taken at in-person workshops in Region 5. Post-it notes were used by Citizens to record their priorities.

Housing



Top housing priorities from the survey include affordable rental housing, affordable ownership housing, and Elders housing. Per the chart below, the highest need identified by survey respondents is for affordable rental housing.



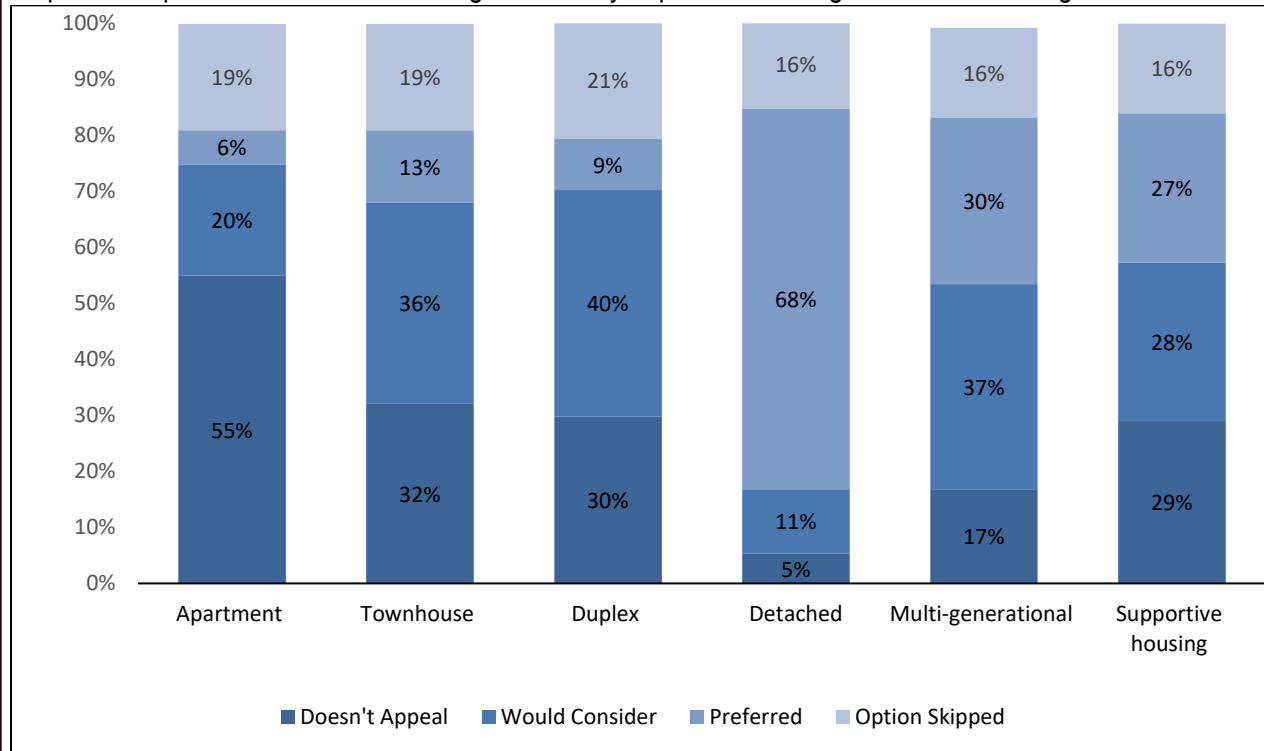
Priorities from the workshops include:

- Additional affordable housing and rental options and co-op ownership models
- Rent and income supplement program
- Transitional and supportive housing
- Accessible housing for persons with disabilities

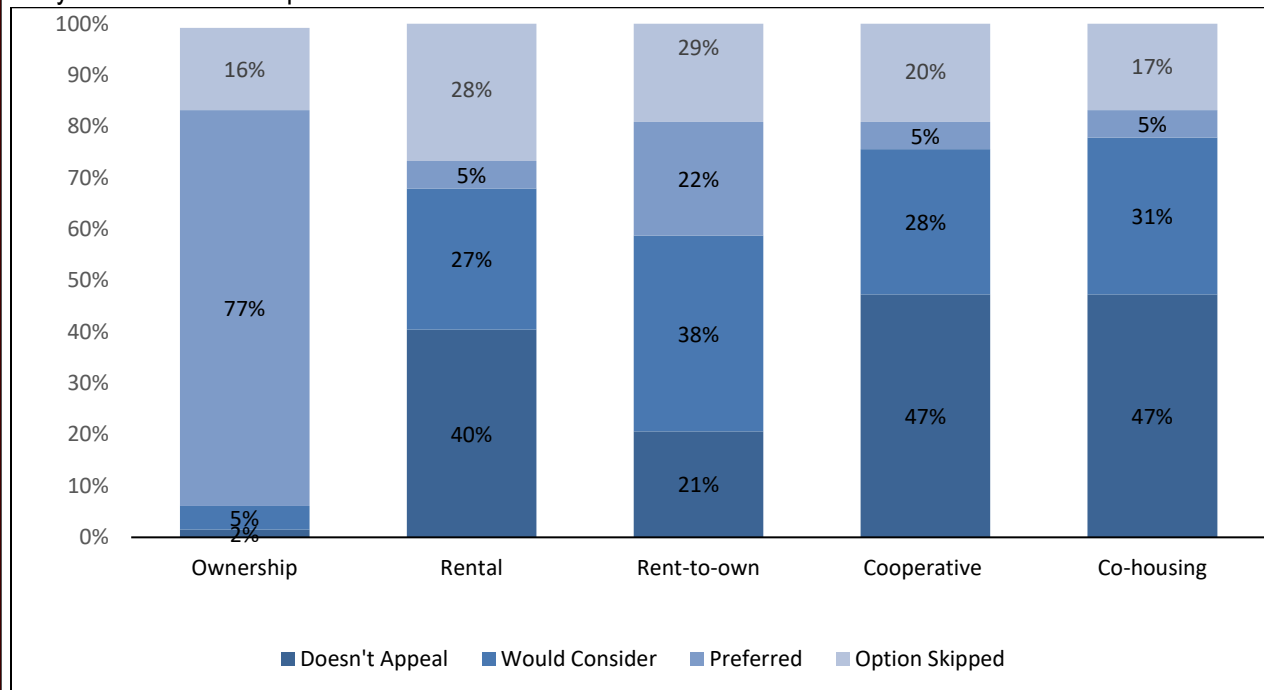
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Culturally appropriate and intergenerational housing – this includes Elders, family, and individual/small family housing
- Hire a housing support worker
- Métis-specific housing complex
- Financial support for housing maintenance

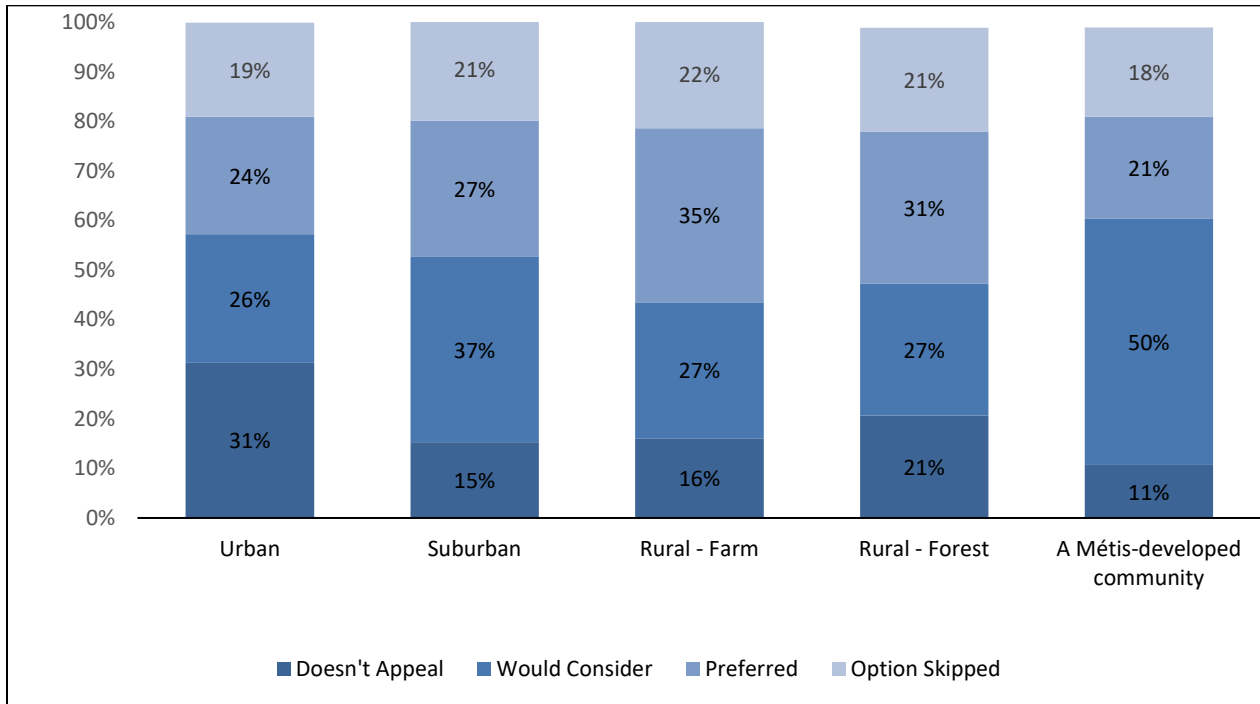
When asked to rank types of housing based on how well they would meet their family's needs, survey respondents preferred detached housing followed by duplex and multi-generational housing.



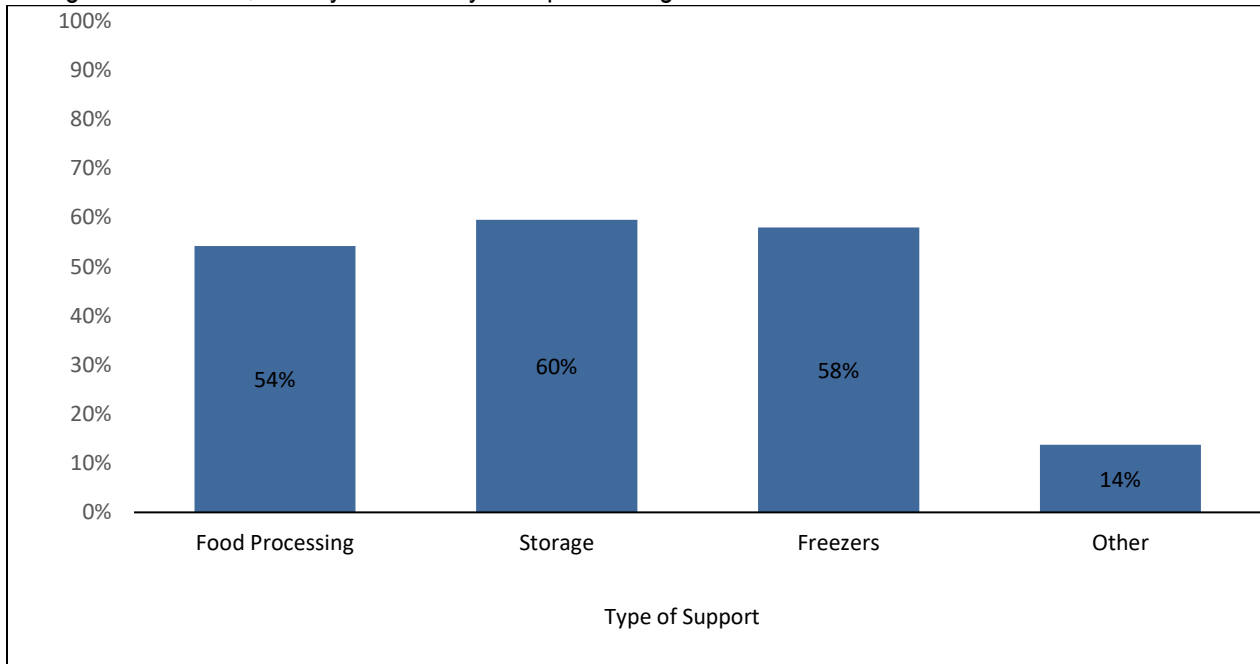
When asked to rank ownership/rental models to meet their family's current needs, respondents were more likely to select ownership and rent-to-own.



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



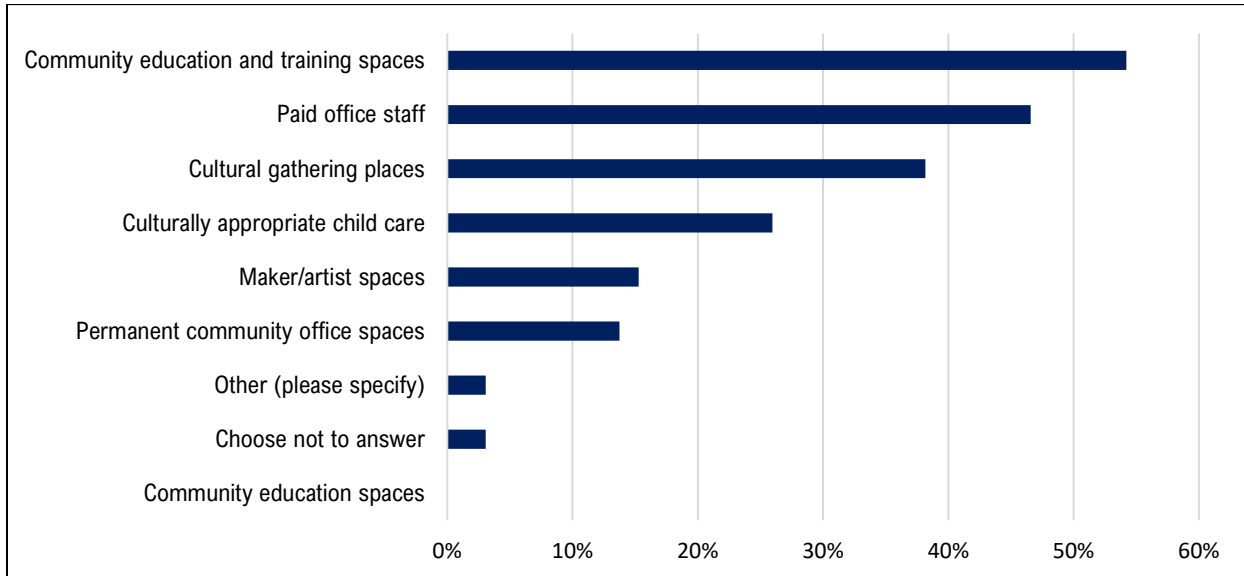
When asked what they would want in or near their home to best support their family, respondents preferred storage and freezers, closely followed by food processing.



Cultural/Community Spaces



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



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Cultural/community centre
- Community office space
- Childcare facilities
- Community hub

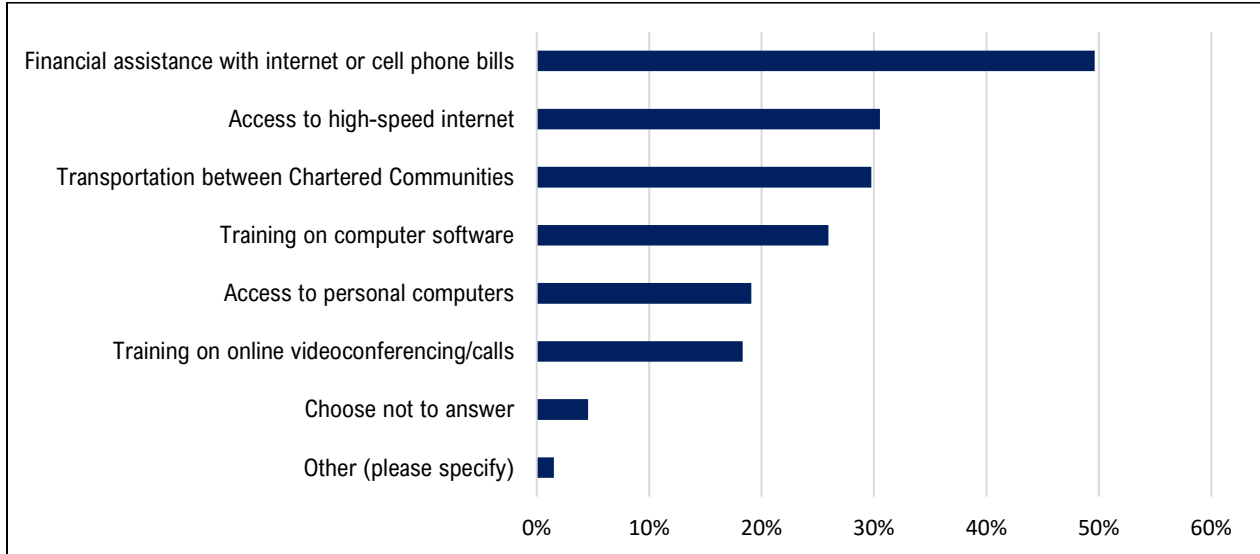
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Outdoor recreation spaces for events, cultural activities, camping, and retreats
- Hire qualified staff to support childcare services
- Employment training facility
- Outdoor Regional gathering space

Connectivity/Transportation



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



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Community transportation services including a free shuttle and carpool program
- Transportation to health services and medical appointments

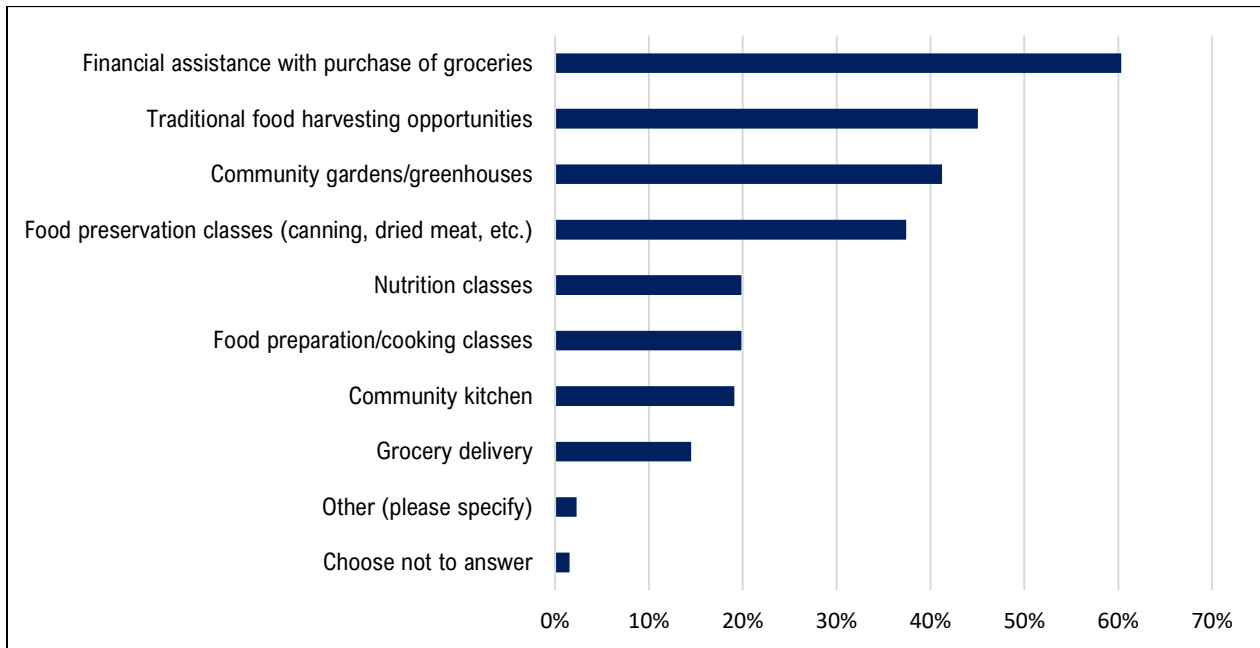
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Engage people outside chartered communities in events
- Purchase a community vehicle (12-seater bus or SUV van) for Métis
- Need access to computers

Food Security



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



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Food banks
- Grocery delivery program
- Community hall and kitchen

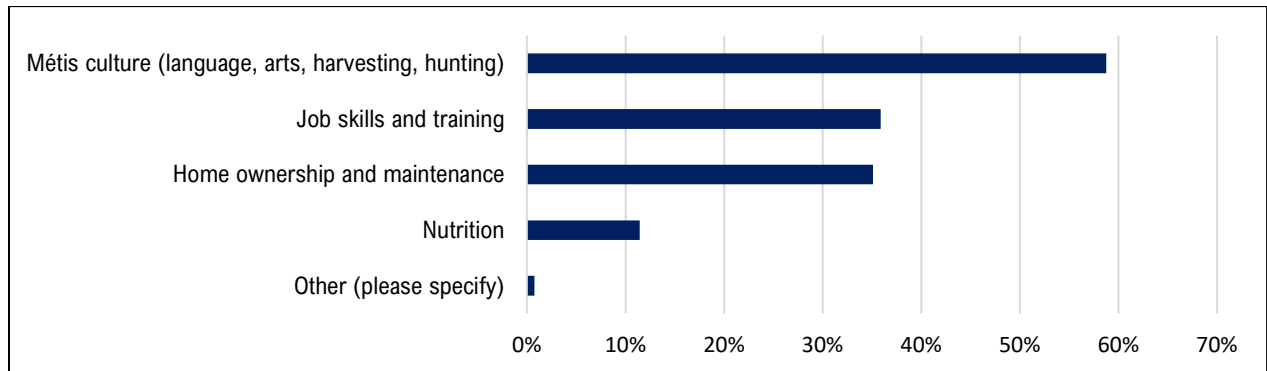
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Improve access to healthy foods and create food programs in local schools
- Hunting, harvesting, and food preservation courses including a community garden
- More food storage facilities including refrigerators and freezers
- Community events including BBQs, picnics, and food festivals

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:

- Cultural programming to pass on language, teachings, history, and traditions
- Elder programs and services
- Youth cultural and recreational programming

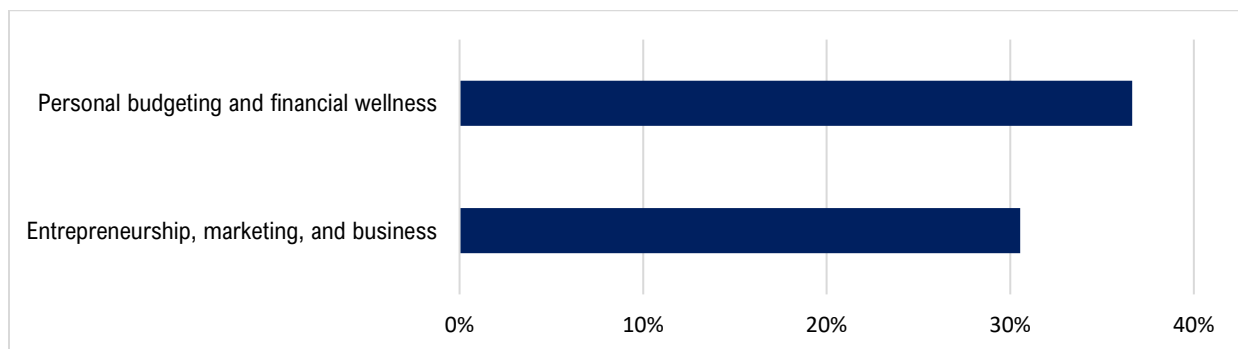
Other needs that citizens highlighted include:

- Detox and treatment centre
- Métis family services
- Childcare programs including hiring more Early Childhood Educators
- First aid courses offered in-community

Economic



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



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Financial wellness and personal budgeting programs
- Hire a community financial advisor
- Employment training
- Hire economic development staff

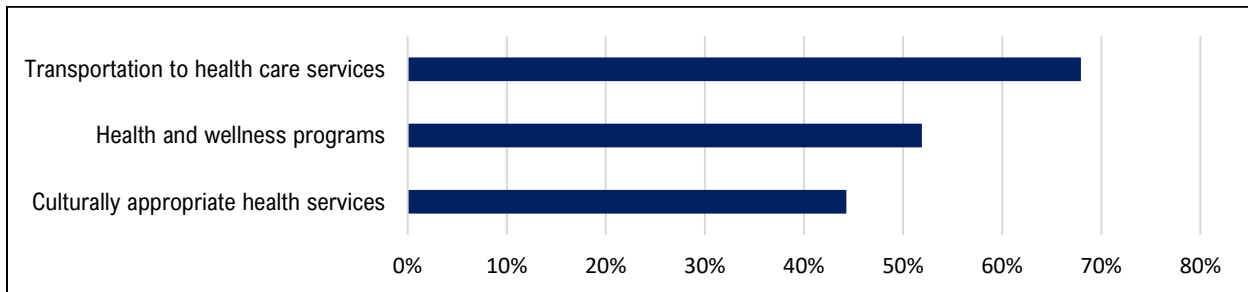
Other needs that citizens highlighted include:

- Partner with local Aboriginal Development Centre
- Financial assistance for employment-related equipment (e.g., work boots)
- Rent out community spaces for revenue
- Open house/pop-up markets to support Métis businesses

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 services including community support groups, harm reduction and safe supply programs, and a treatment centre
- Medical and dental plans
- Medical facility with various medical professionals including a doctor, nurse practitioner, and physiotherapist
- Senior/Elder support

Other needs that citizens highlighted include:

- Foster care program
- Access to culturally safe health services and programs
- Hire a Métis social worker to accompany members at medical appointments
- More support for people with disabilities

CONNECTIVITY/TRANSPORTATION

What transportation/connectivity supports do you think are most needed in your community?

Some add for to help the most community as they could have vehicles.

Walk from house to bus can be difficult

When weather too cold, be good to stay in touch with others

Computer training for elders and others who don't have cell phones we have to be conscious of who is hurting the most - especially with winter conditions.

Volunteer community effort - ie shuttle, car pool, food delivery service (provides service, huge difference, hard to reach out, provides dignity and independence)

Service would connect everyone, food program pilot project - still in first steps

health and housing - first things that come up

A centralized Metis College and housing for the Metis students.

We need to do everything we can with the tools we have, with volunteers are-on has a service, but it costs - so to be able to find a volunteer to get food medication

Race to sit around in a relaxing atmosphere - a cultural drop in centre for the Metis, more of a living advice, talking, and helping people

Answering machine - communicating hours of operation, Contact at this time.

Always the community together - a makes it a difference, the supporting help

Metis is so far different, makes a huge difference if we are getting people together

If the community had resources that help with each other

HEALTH

What health supports/programs do you think are most needed in your community?

Mental health retreat where everyone can gather so you can step out of the adults - fishing, kids-sports, ideal to have a centre to go to.

Sometimes you just need someone to reach out to more communication for young and elders a program to meet to connect

Communication for anyone who needs to get around, bad weather - difficult for elders or single mothers to go shopping, need to find a way to get citizens around.

Some kind of a service for the elders (who don't have licenses to drive), cooped up in apts, nice to have a service so they don't have to go to bus stop in -30 weather.

Medical items to help help seniors and disabled to stay bring at home. B Walker shower with handles, walkers, canes etc

Dental is always needed, health benefit is good & helpful, but \$500 can only take you so far. Assistance is greatly needed - would help everyone

Society's play big role with elders who struggle - or mothers - it's just that in communities, we need to address a certain set of needs for those who are struggling

Society's help - base for elders, big thing though is to take people around to get food and medication, and the bus service can be challenging



HOUSING

Are there specific types of housing and/or housing support programs that would best support your community as a whole?

MNBC Coordinators can help, set amt of money each year.

People need to apply.

People are struggling to get applications done.

There is always someone to answer the phone or email to provide help. People can also come to the office.

First time homeowners - is there anything available?

Challenging to own property in lower mainland, it would be good to have down-payment support system. Difficult for younger people to get their foot in the door.

Office and cultural space, indoor space for gathering, reading, outdoor gathering space for all coming in from the rest of the province.

A community hub for our 800 members to come together

Cultural programs ie museum, library, classes - that highlight Metis.

Cultural room for elders and fellow citizens to congregate in a relaxing atmosphere for talking.

An outdoor where we can teach kids tanning to our young as our hunters have nothing to do with the kids, no complaining from neighbours

Where do people go to get help, is there anything the society can help with? Or are they encouraged to go online for any of the programs?

Advocacy program for seniors, difficult getting a callback

Partner is not Metis, 288 over calling limit (rental supplement's) does that mean my partner will not be covered? What would happen then?

Transitional housing for aging out of care. A good program to have.

Rent supplement - <https://www.mnbc.ca/work-programs/mnbc-services/mnbc-housing/rent-supplement-program>

CULTURE/COMMUNITY SPACES

What cultural/community spaces and/or services do you think are most needed in your community?

Office and cultural space, indoor space for gathering, reading, outdoor gathering space for all coming in from the rest of the province.

A community hub for our 800 members to come together

Cultural programs ie museum, library, classes - that highlight Metis.

Cultural room for elders and fellow citizens to congregate in a relaxing atmosphere for talking.

An outdoor where we can teach kids tanning to our young as our hunters have nothing to do with the kids, no complaining from neighbours

A bus to take our Elders and others to events such as Chinatown, Van Dusen gardens etc

Housing support, monthly supplement program, renovations for low income or seniors, homelessness services program, shelter system

<https://www.mnbc.ca/work-programs/mnbc-services/mnbc-housing/rent-supplement-program>

The photos above were taken from online workshops. Digital post-it notes were used by Citizens to record their priorities.

Appendix 1 – Engagement Summary

REGION 5 – North Central

Prince George, BC
February 1st, 2023

CONNECTIVITY/ TRANSPORTATION

- Facilitate people outside chartered communities attending events and connectivity with community
- Phone Northern Health and arrange for medical ride
- Distance from health area, food support and more remote connections
- Carpooling-telephone tree
- Food for emergency transport for appointments out of town etc.
- Face to face community meetings (more opportunities to meet in person), need a building to have a meeting space and run programs
- Free transportation
- Purchasing 12-seater bus for Métis or SUV van

HOUSING

- Supportive housing/Elders housing/youth housing
- Disability housing
- Central location or “hub” for support, Métis centre with one stop shopping
- Many elders getting to the age where they will need help
 - o Difficult for them to access support at the moment
 - o Housing support worker for the community
 - “Navigator” salaried staff position → make sure it’s a safe space where people feel comfortable attending
- MNBC building with Prince George community office in site “why aren’t all the offices together?”
- Updated information and pathways on the website
- Type of tenure: young have less opportunity (almost impossible to buy a home)
- Co-op housing – could support elders immediately
 - o Programs on site
- Mortgage support for homeowners in need
- Low cost rental units
- Affordable housing for
 - o Seniors
 - o Families
 - o Disabled
 - o Transition
 - o Housing a hub: housing childcare, food, health
 - o Single parents, families
 - o Folks on social assistance
 - o Family housing
 - Men + Child
 - Women + Child
 - Generationality
- Want to keep connections to Métis community, prioritize Métis residents, especially for seniors
- Stay focus on community – can’t help each other if we don’t know each other
- Tenure depends – toward ownership for younger folks who want to - rent to own

- Younger (elder table) only farmers owned homes – not vital after WWII
- Have aboriginal low-cost housing
- Housing maintenance support – yard work, snow removal, etc.
- There were Métis housing developments in area, townhouses and apartments. Became aboriginal
- Down payment assistance
- Have Elizabeth Fry – not sure of need for transitional housing – haven't heard much about Métis-specific need
- Youth ageing out – comes up at school board meetings
- DV housing – haven't heard
- Lots of homeless and addiction → they need homes too
- Housing in one spot
 - o Community together/ connections
 - o Sense of community back – miss it
- Love to see youth rep. opportunities
- Love to see a youth group – needs space
- Transition housing – longer term
 - o Short term back into crisis
 - o Both men's and women's
 - o Training to help community members in crisis with suicide prevention
 - o Naloxone training

FOOD SECURITY

- Rising food costs
- Food bank – Partial food bank
 - o Need fridge/ deep freeze for perishables
 - o Approach conversation for partnership
 - o Illegally harvested meal that was confiscated
- Have conservation road kill – indigenous communities
- Community garden (connected to housing project)
 - o Program that provides seeds and gardening tips
 - o Owning land
 - o Kitchen for canning where workshops can occur
- Bricks and Mortar w/ certified kitchen
 - o To teach moms to bake
 - o Teaching people how to cook
 - o Kitchen, housing gathering space, playground
 - o Job generation
- Ex. Burks Lake band – empty high school
 - o Empty schools
 - o Central hub – Central location
 - o Safe but accessible
 - o Big enough to be grounded – not third floors

- Spread out – not stacked
- Top of Ospeaka – Bus services
 - No land downtown
 - University Way and Ospeaka
 - Grocery store closed by
- PO system way easier through Save-On for daycare – but still expensive
- Christmas hampers – Walmart or gift cards
 - Had to do cheques instead
 - About making a brighter Christmas for our members who are struggling
 - Nice to have a variety to meet different needs
- Nutritional Value
- Pogram for school
 - Partnership with school districts
- Rooftop garden at Métis centre with bees
- Short term – backyard gardens “for rent”
- Community effort; community benefits from it
- Connect with First Nation community for fish → need to go towards Sheena
- Sharing of the wealth
 - Connected for the people that need it and how to distribute it
- Be able to give food out from the community hall or facility
- Bulk buying for proteins or other goods
 - Being able to butcher locally
 - Walk in freezers or coolers
- Need to support full spectrum of ages
 - Youth
 - Adult
 - Elders
- Community BBQs/picnics
 - “Food brings people together”
- Hall or recreational space for functions/weddings
 - Could also reach out for revenue
 - Have someone in charge of marketing the space
 - Kluhus Lake
- Coordinated hunting programs
- Hunting license → how to skin
 - Teaching you how to do it
 - Workshop on what it means to have a harvesting license
- Classes teaching on how to grow a garden
- Food festivals
- Creating Métis grants to interview harvesters and fishermen
- Teach gathering classes: smudging
 - Composting

CULTURE/ COMMUNITY SPACES

- Purchasing property near a lake to use for events, farming, cultural activities, camping, retreats
 - o Ties to food security
 - o Beading
 - o Fiddle practice
 - o Elder programs
- Northern Development Trust \$300K grant

HEALTH

- Extended benefit plan for Métis members/ Group plan to lower rates “security in numbers”. OTC meds aren’t covered and should be
- NIHB program 100% coverage- FNHA → providing non-insured health benefits
 - o Dental, eyeglasses, prescriptions, etc.
- Need family doctors that know Métis, specific to Métis needs
- Different forms of medicine → opportunities to teach and gather herbal recipes/remedies and food, mushroom, herb harvesting
- Need more free transportation for to and from health appointments
- More help for disabled and people whose medications aren’t fully paid, glasses, walkers, dentures, etc. often aren’t covered

ALL THROUGH MÉTIS LENS

- Drug and Alcohol treatment centres
- Own physios. Speech and language for children and youth
 - o Have aboriginal but need Métis
- CDC is overwhelmed
- Natural facility – doctor or GP – nurse practitioner
 - o Drop-in
 - o On-site counsellor – children/youth/adult from a Métis/Cultural lens
- Funding programs for Mental health supports
- Harm reduction and safe supply – very important
 - o Cheaper in the long term
 - o Not engaged in crime – not looking for how to get their next hit
- Ambulances are busy responding to ODs
- Conscious decision to mix with childcare
 - o Separate
- Father’s support groups/their family
 - o Suicide predominantly male
 - o Mental health related
 - o 79% of ODs are male
 - o Toxic Masculinity - ableism
- Many supports are not culturally safe
 - o More harm than good

- Métis social worker at hospital
 - o Or goes to Doctors Appointment
 - o Lots of windows nice and bright

ECONOMIC

- MFCBC needs to start collaborating with local aboriginal development centre – local to PG
- Training – trades, help people start businesses. Shortage in ECE staff
- Don't offer level 3 first aid courses here
 - o Have to go to Vancouver
 - o No ECE first aid funded
 - o Get ECE, but still need level 3
 - o Need for lake property too
 - o WHMIS courses – training
 - H25 serving nights, working in ILLEGIBLE
- Financial advisors/ literacy/ budgeting
 - o Making good money – help with saving
- July 2022 – unknown reasons MNBC no longer has a senior ec dev staff member
 - o Was really amazing
 - o Still no date no new sr. staff for ec. dev. Time to have an economic development senior staff member again
 - o Try to get people jobs and contracts
 - o Need to fill position
- Big initiative for training employment current
 - o People need help to have a security – citizenship
- Helping elders apply for MNBC funding
- Basic computer training for elders or assistance
- Dedicated to helping community members
- Gr. 12 Graduation rate
 - o Handed out graduation rate
- SD lumps all FN together – have tick box for Métis but still combine
- Special funding for Métis students
 - o Looking for distinct funding relationship
- If someone gets a job – equipment funding
 - o Ex. Work boots, health/ safety, overalls
- Simplified process – challenging to go through
 - o Employment office
 - o Accessible for community members
 - o Lots of red tape
- Rent out meeting hall for revenue
- Craftspeople – ways to sell – lends opportunities, store by Métis Hall
- Open house/pop-up sales every couple months for Métis artist

- Growing and harvesting food, sales; gardening
 - o Farmer market
 - o Community gardens
 - o Personal gardens
 - o Group fishing/hunting and food put up for elders, families
 - o Food processing/storage
- Niwikowin coupons for farmer's market
- Gardens at housing facilities
- Niwikowin – canning and jam teaching/classes – need teachers for it and facilities – Niwikowin rents a commercial kitchen for classes
- Financial wellness and entrepreneurship education – business plans, marketing
- “Barn-raising” example – neighbours/community working together to help everyone grow business, build homes, etc. How can this become the norm again?

CULTURAL/ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- Lake – Own lease
 - o Planning – land-based teaching with school district
 - o Need gate/protection.
 - o Used to have caretaker, need someone to take care of
 - o Busing
 - o Traditional teaching
- Program yo pay for drugs and alcohol treatment
- Need community bus – to go together to camp (mentioned in transportation as well)
 - o Pay someone to get class 4
 - o More employable
 - o Could also work for daycare program
- Historic education – understanding where we come from
 - o Gather local history – workshop
 - o Teaching of the history of the Métis → sit in a group and learn
 - List of books to members
- Métis family services – 5 elders.
- Cultural center big enough to hold functions
 - o Louis Riel, workshop
 - o 17th village – housing, health, daycare, fire pit, aboriginal village, health center
- Need office space for chartered communities – more accessible to all members
- BC Farmers Market Grant – applied – food security – can shop at local market on Saturdays – canning
- Infrastructure plans – voted in community – Not by MNBC board
- Community members:
 - o Michif language programs
 - o Jigging group

- Weaving
 - Beading workshop
 - Ribbon skirt workshop
- Drop in child care
 - More space, qualified staff (ECE) to fulfill all spaces
 - Important job
- Drop in community centre
 - Space where people can gather
 - Multiple sizes of rooms
 - Adaptable spaces
 - Gymnasium – sports
- Education
 - Workshops on Métis history
- Paid staff; compensation for Board members
- Resources to help board members
- MNBC is not a service club; we are a nation and need to have recognition
- Need to listen and get everyone together
- Wellness programs → more information available
 - Programs provided through MNBC need to be more easily accessible; more information available for citizens
 - Communicating → some people don't have computers
 - How to get the word out
- Money set aside for sports
- Person to person meetings
- Card showing Métis status that will get citizens into cultural spaces for free (like free museum access across the country, etc.)
- Community hub (buy old school or church; owning land, grow garden)