



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

REGION 6: NORTHWEST

**CRITICAL SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN ENGAGEMENT**

PHASE 2
DECEMBER 2023

DNA

David Nairne + Associates Ltd

REGION 6 - NORTHWEST

Region 6: Northwest BC is home to three (3) Métis Chartered Communities including:

- Prince Rupert and District Métis Society (Prince Rupert)
- Northwest BC Métis Association (Terrace)
- Tri-River Métis Association (Smithers)



REGIONAL MÉTIS POPULATION

The following table presents the available population data for Region 6.

	Citizens*	% Total Citizens	Total Métis Population **
Prince Rupert and District Métis Society	142	19%	360
Northwest BC Métis Association	307	40%	779
Tri-River Métis Association	312	41%	794
Region 6: Total Population	761	100%	1,933

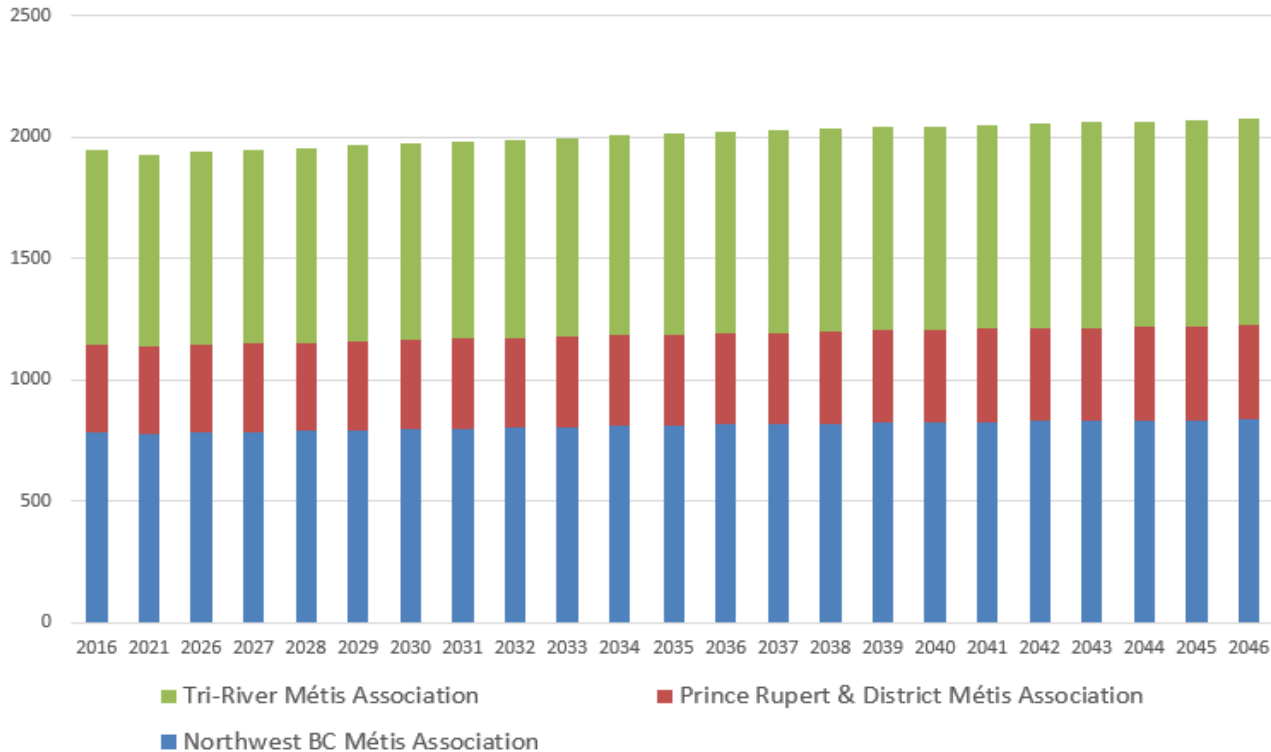
*The number of Registered Citizens by Chartered Community (Citizenship Data for Housing – June 2022)

**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 0.3%¹ per year over the next 25 years; from a population of 1,933 to 2,073. 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 November 2022; five (5) representatives from Region 6 attended.
- In-Person Workshops – An in-person workshop was held in Terrace, BC on January 4th, 2023; six (6) MNBC Citizens from Region 6 were in attendance.
- Online Workshops – Online workshops were held on January 9th and 10th; one (1) Citizen from Region 6 attended the online workshops.
- Survey – 40 MNBC Citizens from Region 6 responded to the survey.

¹ Based on BC Stats growth projections for North Coast 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 and Elders housing;
- Paid office staff, community education and training spaces, and permanent community office spaces;
- Financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills, transportation between other Chartered Communities and training on online videoconferencing/call;
- Traditional food harvesting opportunities, financial assistance with the purchase of groceries, and food preservation classes;
- Métis culture (language, arts, harvesting and hunting) and job skills and training programs;
- Entrepreneurship, marketing, and business programs; and
- 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 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 sessions²

This feedback has been used to formulate the CSI priorities for Region 6.

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.

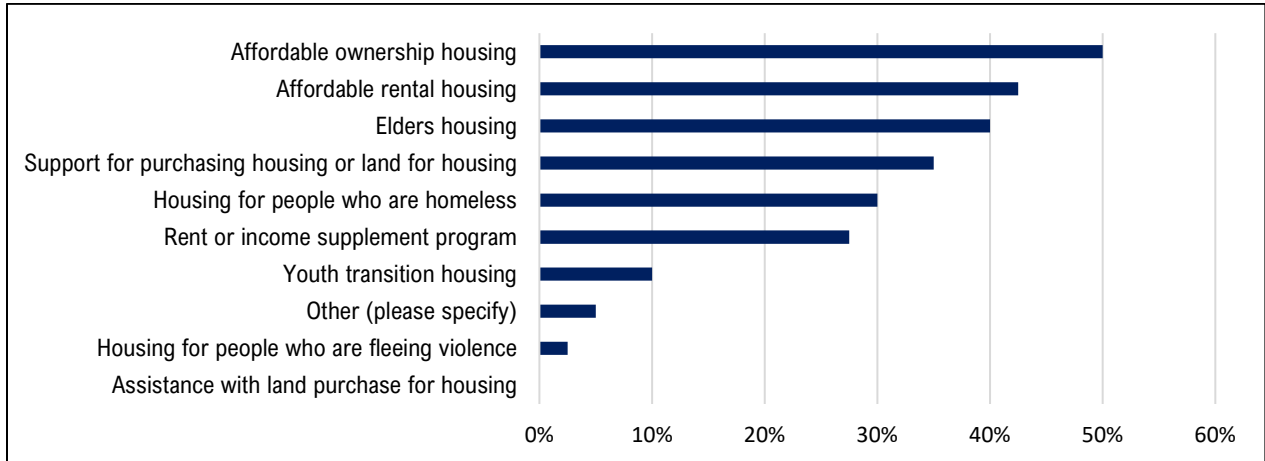


The photos above were taken at in-person workshops in Region 6. Post-it notes were used by Citizens to record their priorities.

Housing



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



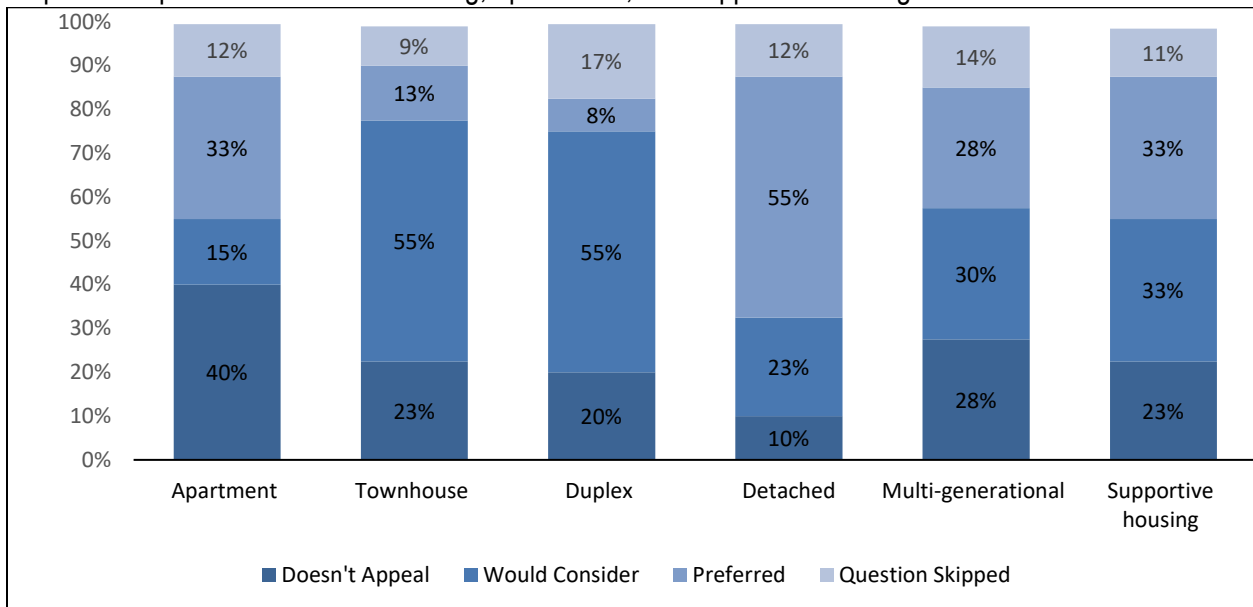
Priorities from the workshops include:

- Second stage housing
- Coordination with and financial support for existing social service providers

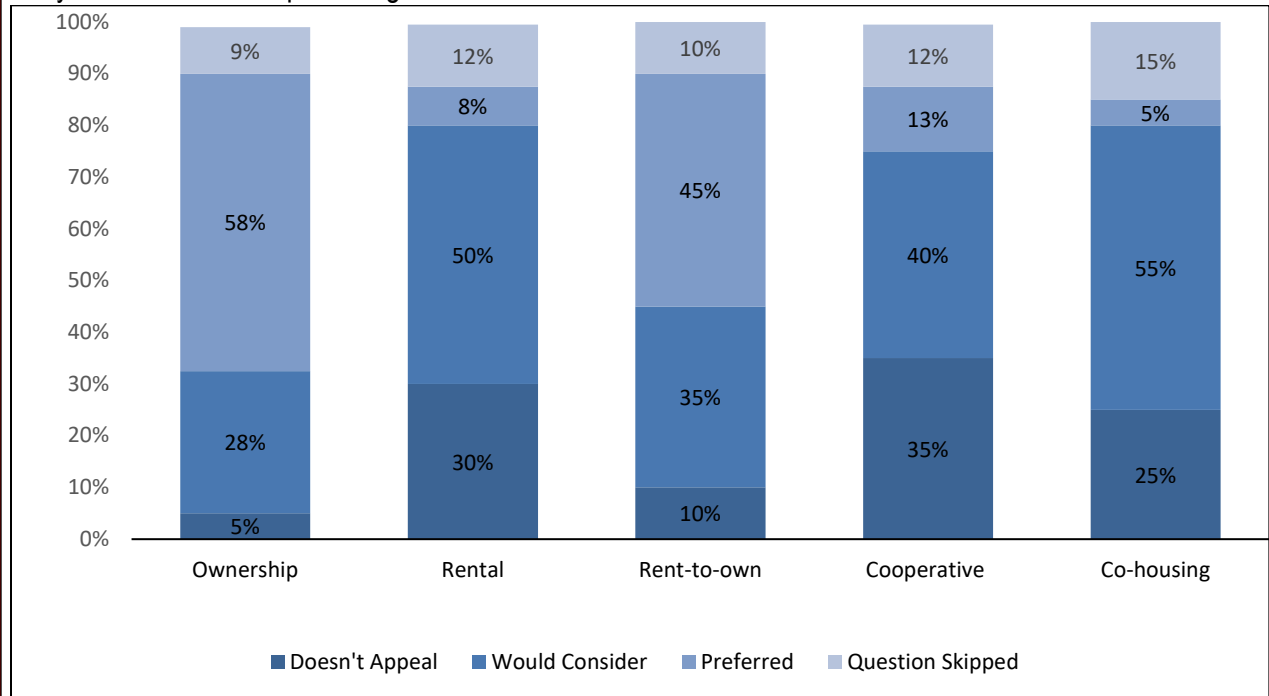
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Additional affordable housing and rental options and co-op ownership models
- Integrating services into housing
- Culturally appropriate housing
- Elders, family, and individual/small family housing

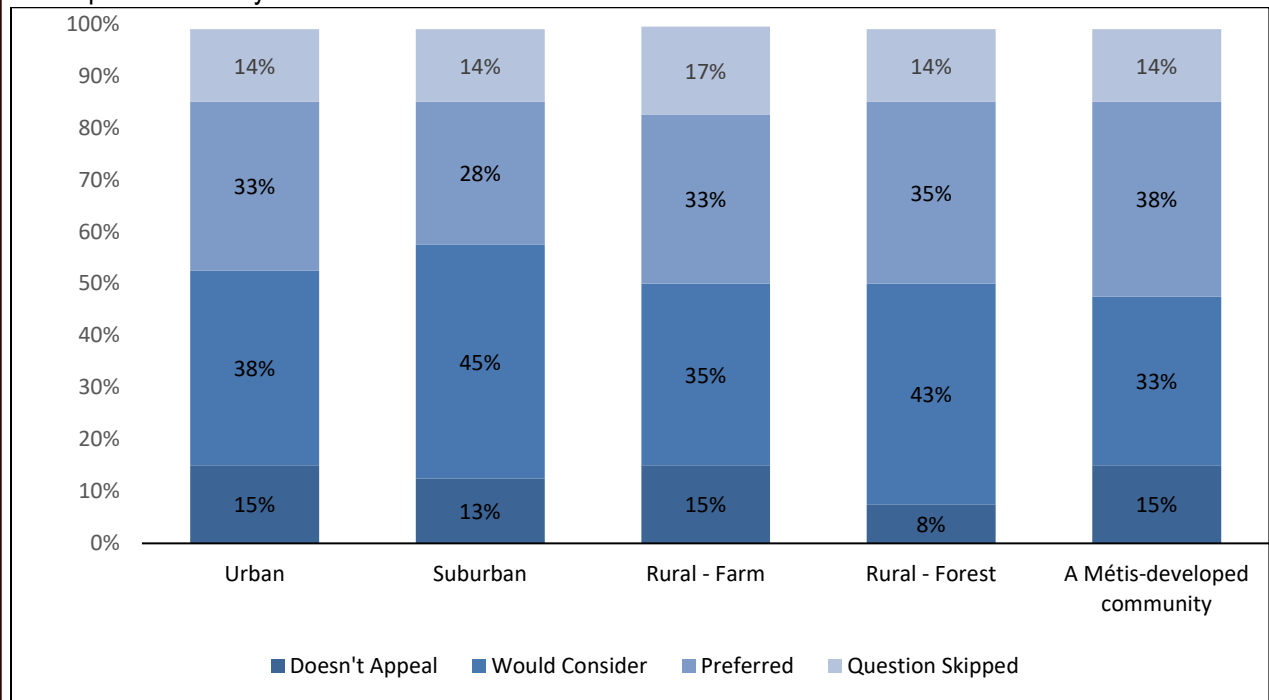
When asked to rank the types of housing based on how well they would meet their family's needs, survey respondents preferred detached housing, apartments, and supportive housing.



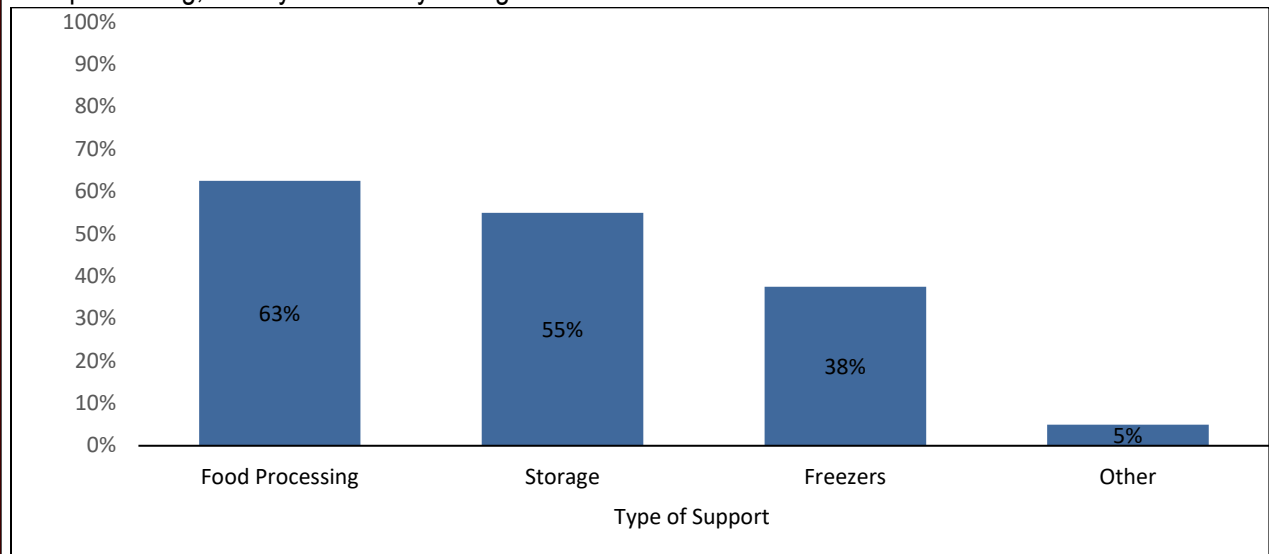
When asked to rank ownership/rental models to meet their family's current needs, respondents were more likely to select ownership housing and rent-to-own.



When asked which locations their family would prefer to live, respondents were most interested in a Métis-developed community or rural forest location.



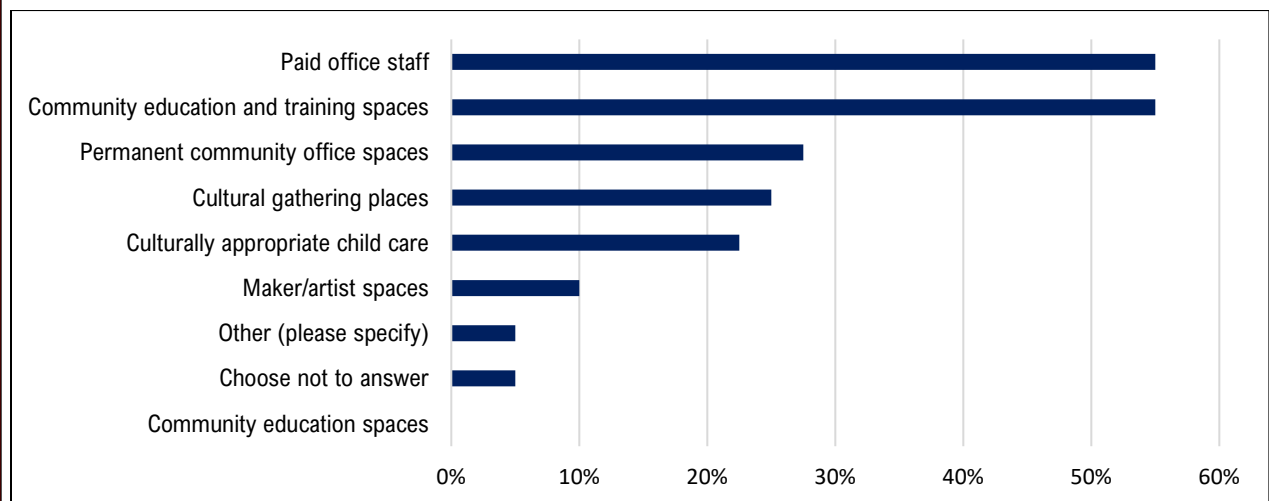
When asked what they would want in or near their home to best support their family, respondents preferred food processing, closely followed by storage.



Cultural/Community Spaces



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



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Métis office
- Paid staff
- Community space for everyone
- Accessible community facilities (e.g., ramps)

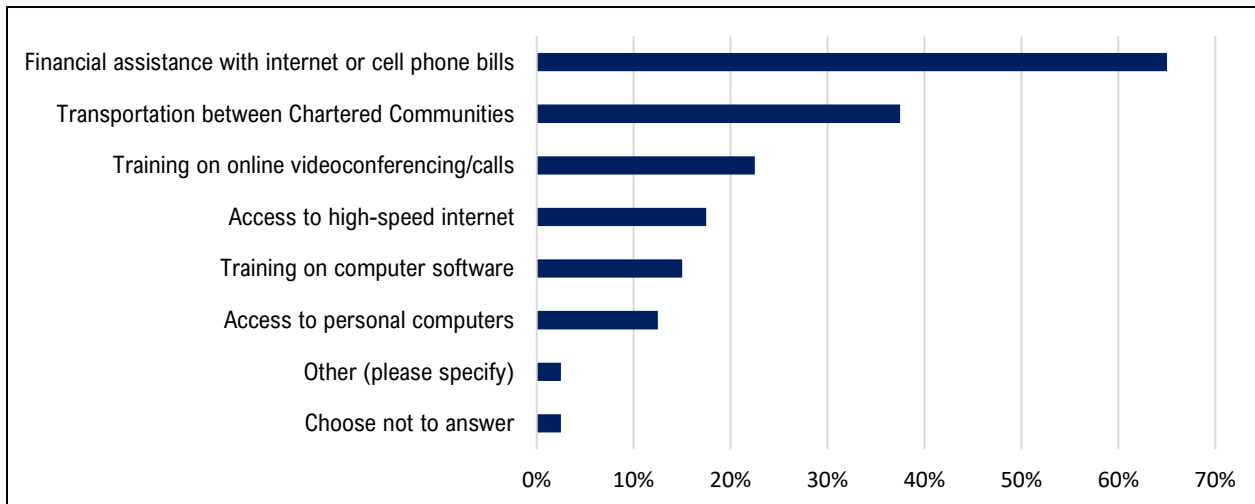
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Bringing youth together and facilitating a sense of belonging among children is a challenge
- Community education and training space, including a community kitchen
- Detox center, treatment center, and housing for the hardest to house

Connectivity/Transportation



Connectivity/transportation priorities from the survey include financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills followed by transportation between Chartered Communities and training on online videoconferencing/calls.



Priorities from the workshops include:

- None identified

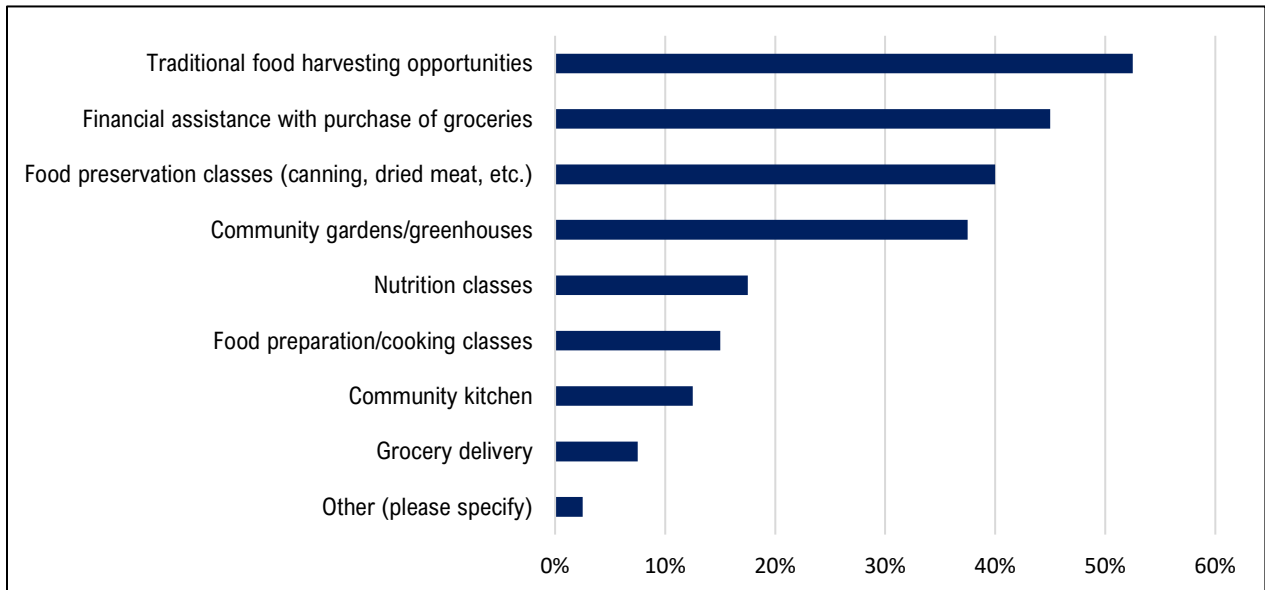
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Transportation to medical appointments and health care services
- Transportation between Chartered Communities
- Financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills

Food Security



Food security priorities from the survey include traditional food harvesting opportunities, financial assistance with the purchase of groceries, and food preservation classes (canning, dried meat, etc.).



Priorities from the workshops include:

- More food options

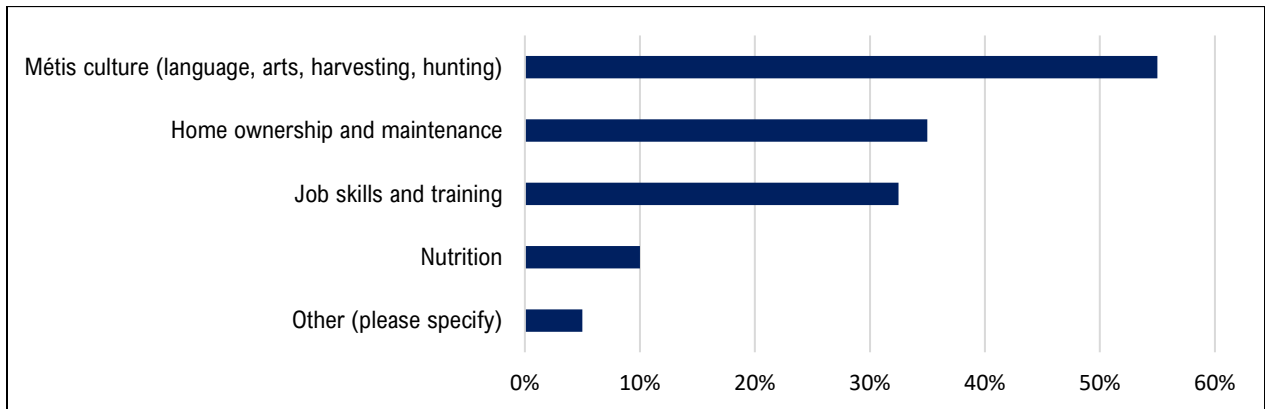
Other top needs from workshops include:

- Co-op and farmers markets for groceries
- Food preservation classes and traditional food harvesting opportunities
- Lack of land/spaces for food production
- Need facilities for food production and storage

Cultural/Personal Development Programs



Cultural/personal development program priorities from the survey include Métis culture (language, arts, harvesting and hunting) and home ownership and maintenance.



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Youth programs
- Senior's programs and services

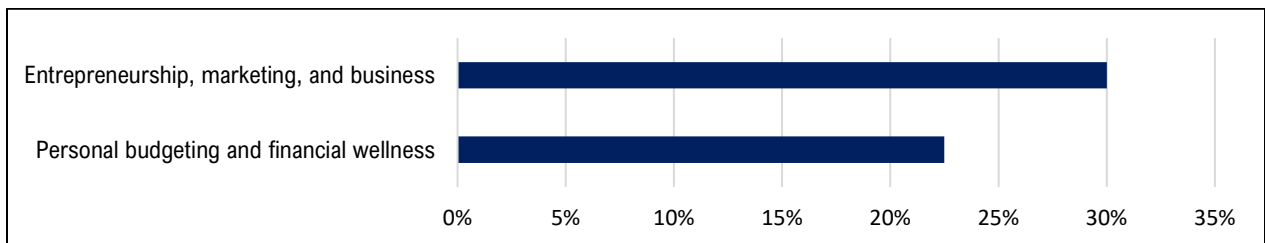
Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Cultural camps on rural land near a river with traditional experiences
- Cultural programming to advance ability to pass on language, skills, history, and maintain connection
- Paid staff for each Chartered Community

Economic



Entrepreneurship, marketing and business training programs is the top economic priority from the survey.



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Jobs that match inflation

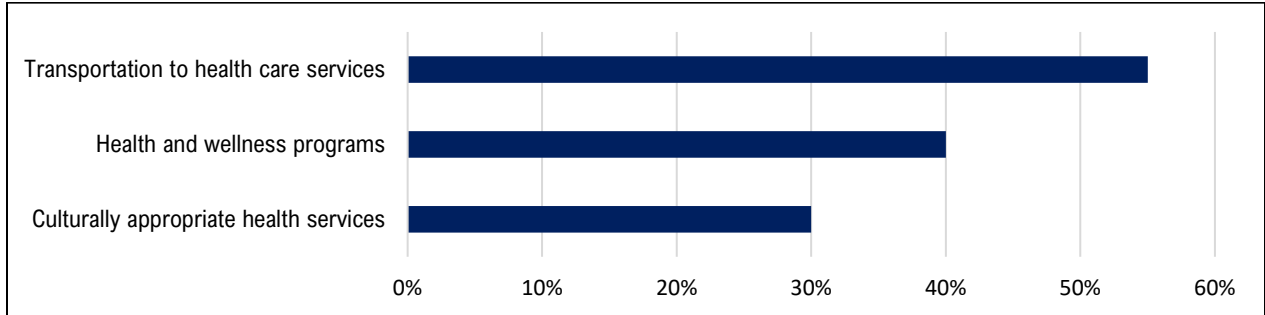
Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Bridging training to sustained employment
- Trauma-informed care training and support workers
- Focus on partnerships, building relationships with existing providers
- A MNBC business directory

Health



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



Priorities from the workshops include:

- Detox centre
- Treatment centre
- Long term care homes
- Medical and dental

Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Extend childcare operating hours
- Funding for travel associated with health
- Freezer space for food storage to support those dealing with unexpected health issues

Appendix 1 – Engagement Summary

REGION 6 – Northwest

Terrace, BC
January 4th, 2023

HOUSING

- Housing
- Second stage housing
- Coordination with and financial support for existing social service providers
- Accessible and safe housing for kids and guardians
- Secure housing, crisis
- Senior and LT care housing needed – whole spectrum
- Foster kids – place for between fosters, and aging out youth
- Low-income seniors, some level of assisted living
- Keeping People in their homes, equipment needs, other; CCBC clients need, respite homes – could be for 1-2 clients at a time, short-term (1-2 days per client)
- Contribution to existing programs/providers/Skeksan or Kermody (sp?)
- Housing isn't just housing, it's food, childcare, safety, dignity, women's shelters too dangerous
- Many kids/grandkids living – can't afford to run places
- High heating costs (inefficient buildings)
- Lots of illegal suites, many homes with 70-100 amp, old heaters no insulation
- Tent protections/supports
- Safe secure housing helps consumers support these people
- Stress cumulation impact
- Transitional housing high need – more all – nation projects that are Métis supportive; not eager for Métis only
- Difficulties to find contractors
- Need for home maintenance training
- There's a need of senior housing (they are not purpose built)
- Seniors most likely are sharing housing
- They need to be handicap accessible
- Needs to be low-income senior housing
- Security is important (like gated)
- Affordable housing that people can purchase with no interest (Twin River States) People can be on the waitlist to get in, but wait list is long
- There is a need for low income housing for combination of singles and families
- Due to current economic situation of Kitimat, residents of Kitimat have moved to Terrace. Some people work in Terrace but live in Prince Rupert
- Even with the new less restricted rental laws, there is still a big shortage
- Create opportunities for people who need social support through housing
- Looking at different types of housing like co-op housing or co-housing
- Housing support for young people who finished school
- Because of regional centre and the services provided in Terrace, Terrace is facing more homelessness challenges, especially in downtown
- Combination of housing and health. They are at a stage that still need care but need housing and can't find accommodation that has care

- Attaching services to housing is really important
- Not splitting up and not relocating people is important
- Not a lot of Airbnb in Terrace

FOOD SECURITY

- Few community gardens started few years ago but didn't catch on
- Lack of lands for producing food
- Most of the rich farmland are in floodplain area. Flood happens in Terrace often
- How about bulk purchasing? Could reduce groceries costs – may not work in Terrace. Bulk purchasing seasonal vegetables
- Farmers markets are important regionally. They come from cities around and it happens in summer

CULTURE COMMUNITY SPACES

- Daycare capacity
- Métis office
- Paid staff
- Community space for everyone
- Office
- There are some cultural and community services with Nisga local and friendship society and Métis people were always welcomed
- Métis community services should be open to all but here their own identity while welcoming others
- Within school district there are some good programs for aboriginal communities
- Métis community needs to be encouraged to get together more
- Youth activities such as hockey game can help bring people tighter
- Some other communities have the same issues. They need big incentives to attract people
- Bringing youth together is also a big challenge
- Being active in social media is also very important
- Horse camp was a really good idea to bring children together
- Things like outdoor activities like camping
- Youth together which help to bring communities together in a bigger scale
- Strategy for bringing youth together is important event inviting non-Métis
- It is important to create the sense of belonging in children
- There is also a shortage of activities for youth
- Having leadership/staffing to lead or plan these sorts of activities

CONNECTIVITY/TRANSPORTATION

- Big need of transportation in Terrace, especially after closing Greyhound

- Transportation companies don't have much incentives in regions like Terrace
- Especially with the hospital being built, there is a need of more transportation
- Need more taxi services in Terrace
- Not enough transportation options between cities like Terrace to Smithers
- People don't take the train to go to nearby cities due to constant delays
- There are some shuttles between cities

CULTURAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- Youth programs
- Senior's programs and services
- Leather mark classes, traditional activities and sewing
- Harvest and practices medicine
- Canning/Smoking fish – new facilities could partner/ trade with First Nations – focus on partnering and not doing it all by themselves
- Processing wild game – lots of processing skills but no facilities
- Cultural camps, rural land near a river for traditional experience with cabins, outdoor kitchen, camping areas
- Concern about FN connections and communications
- Back to Batoche – travel expenses and ability to travel
- Some have no connections to homeland
- Need connection to family/history – genealogy
- Ability to pass on language, skills, history
- Grants to support cultural development – neither language, beading, etc.
- Gathering space, community kitchen, drop-in space

ECONOMIC

- Jobs that match inflation
- Needs to pay staff – etc.; office space
- Training funds are great, but no bridge to employment. Camp jobsites very difficult to navigate (trades). Section 10 indigenous peoples (cancellations of moving for training). Métis visibility/presence/cultural supports on camps (FN have rep to cultural training)
- Budgeting homelessness don't get shelter amount (?)
- Staffing for homeless – nobody trained in community support workers – community core training
- Trauma-informed care training – trainees needed it themselves
- Avoid replicating existing services
- Bridge from training to employment (long-term, sustainable)
- Focus on partnerships, building relationships with existing providers
- Partnerships with business to hire trades/Métis trainees
- Gig economy for Indigenous people – cleaning horse for day labour; shift bidding (temp agency?)

- Need for local contractors
- Business directory

HEALTH

- Kermant(sp?) can't accept kids before 8:30 and don't keep after 4:30. Problematic for working parents. Both parents shortened working hours and manage daycare schedule (ideal 6am-6:38 pm, need funding for trained staff/ECE
- Respite space for 1-2 clients
- To accommodate families
 - o Detox
 - o Treatment
 - o Second stage housing
- Nearest detox is in Prince George (8-10 hr drive) where there are four beds for Northwest
- There are no safe injection sites, no drug in the NW
- Funding for elders, youth, young parents to cover health costs, not typically covered by health care – diapers, condoms, depends, etc.
- Funding for funeral services – death benefit
- Funding to help travel to help a family member – travel, lodging , food etc.
 - o One point person to deal with deaths including travel, etc. so people can grieve
- Freezer space for food storage to support traveling people dealing with death, health issues
- Support for traditional hunting and gathering – often working hour issues
- Detox centre
- Treatment centre
- Long term care homes
- Dental
- Medical