



# MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

**REGION 7: NORTHEAST**

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

**PHASE 2**  
DECEMBER 2023

**DNA**

David Nairne + Associates Ltd

## REGION 7 – NORTHEAST

Region 7: Northeast BC is home to five (5) Métis Chartered Communities including:

- Fort St. John Métis Society (Fort St. John)
- Métis Community Society of Kelly Lake (Kelly Lake)
- Moccasin Flats Métis Society (Chetwynd)
- North East Métis Association (Dawson Creek)
- River of Peace Métis Society (Hudson’s Hope)



## REGIONAL MÉTIS POPULATION

The following table presents the available population data for Region 7.

	Citizens*	% Total Citizens	Total Métis Population **
Fort St. John Métis Society	439	44%	1,887
Métis Community Society of Kelly Lake	33	3%	142
Moccasin Flats Métis Society	135	13%	580
North East Métis Association	370	37%	1,590
River of Peace Métis Society	27	3%	116
<b>Region 7: Total Population</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,315</b>

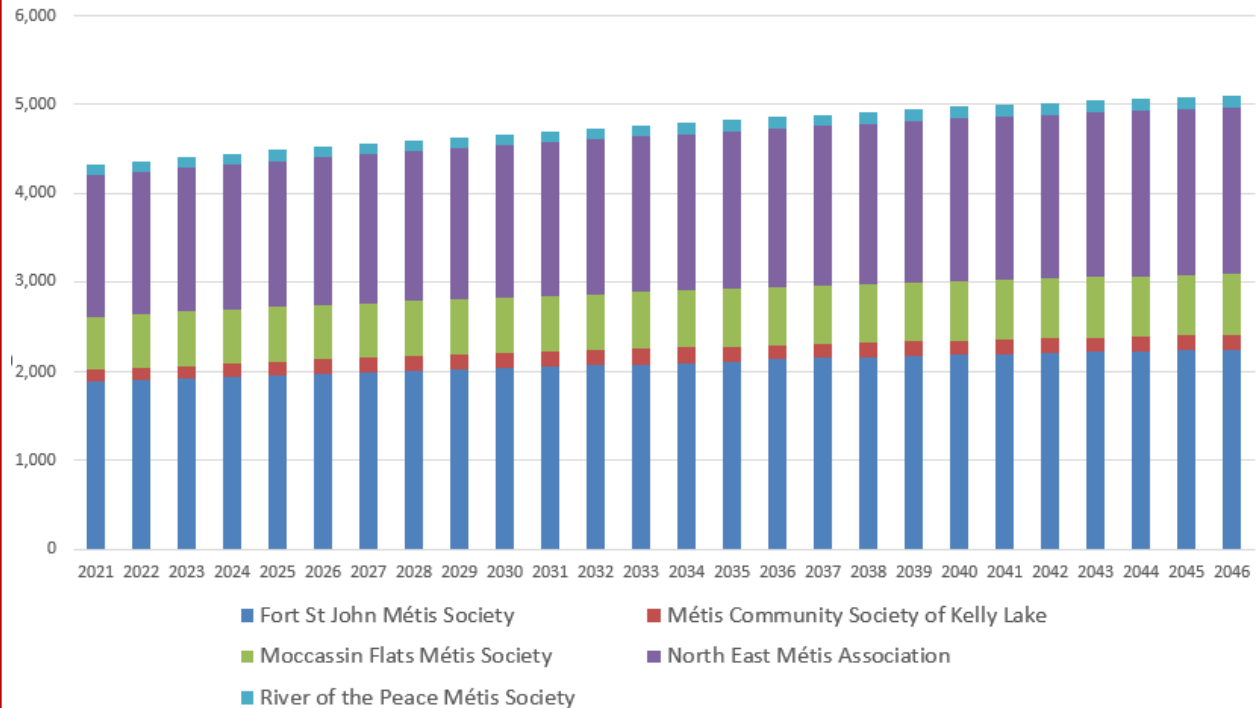
\*The number of Registered Citizens by Chartered Community (Citizenship Data for Housing – June 2022)

\*\*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 1,887 to 2,233. 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 and November 2022; no representatives from Region 7 attended.
- In-Person Workshops – An in-person workshop was held in Fort St. John, BC on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023; 23 MNBC Citizens from Region 7 attended.
- Online Workshops – Online workshops were held on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023; five (5) Citizens from Region 7 attended the online workshops.
- Survey – 40 MNBC Citizens from Region 7 responded to the survey.

<sup>1</sup> Based on BC Stats growth projections for Northeast 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 ownership housing, Elders housing, and support for purchasing housing or land for housing
- Paid office staff, community education and training spaces, and cultural gathering places
- Financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills, training on online videoconferencing/calls, and training on computer software
- Community gardens/greenhouses, traditional food harvesting opportunities, food preservation classes (canning, dried meat, etc.), and financial assistance with the purchase of groceries
- 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 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 7.

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<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.

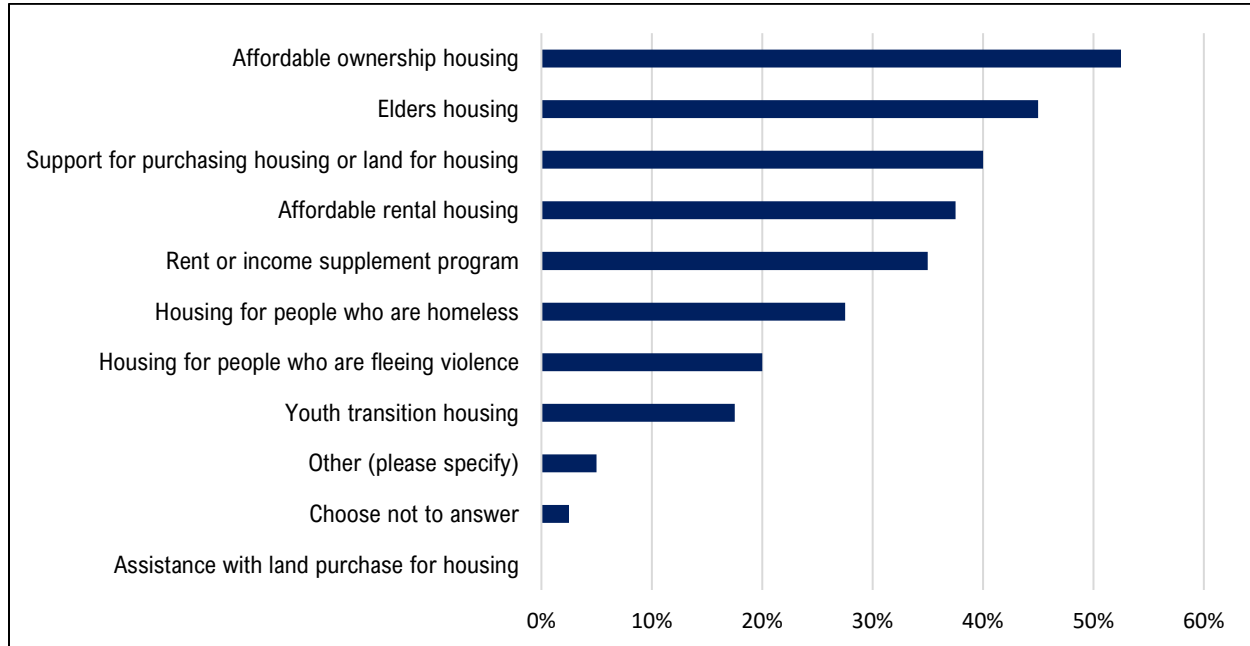


*The above photos were taken at the Fort St. John in-person workshop held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

## Housing



The top housing priorities from the survey include affordable ownership housing, Elders housing, and support for purchasing housing or land for housing. Per the chart below, the highest need identified by survey respondents is for affordable ownership housing.



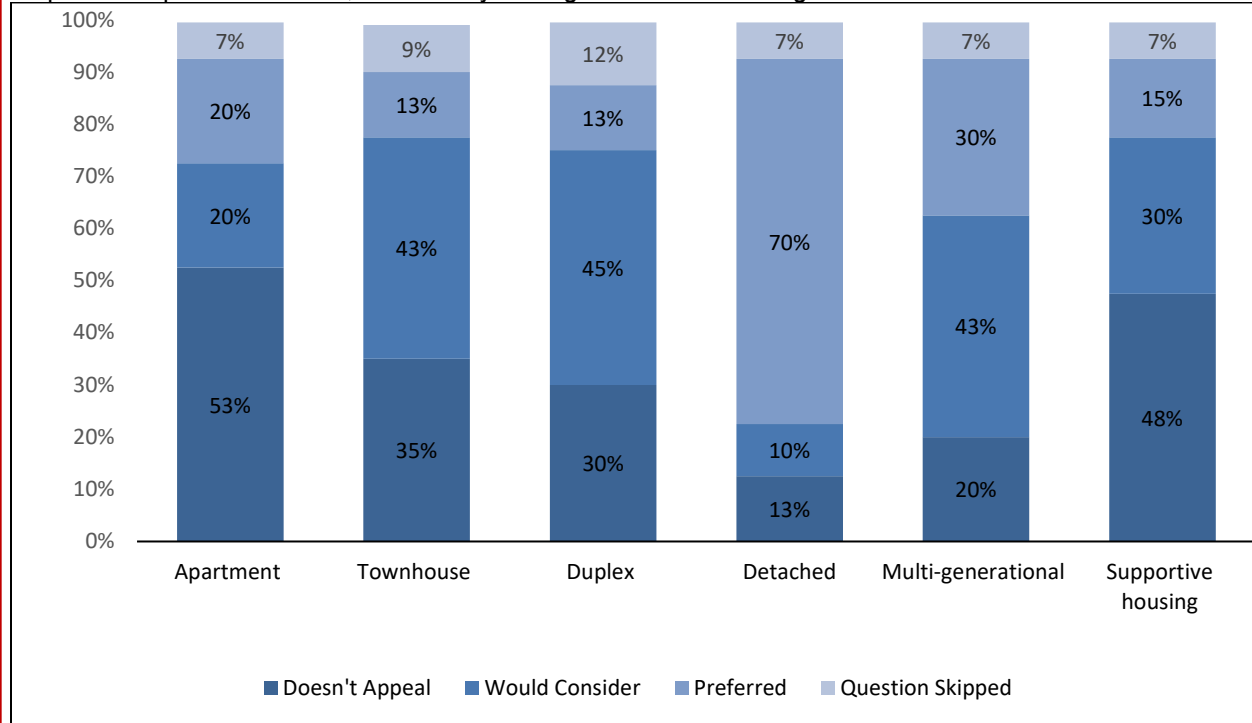
### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Elders/seniors, family, individual/small family, and student housing
- Housing maintenance and renovation support for Elders/seniors
- Transitional housing for youth ageing out of care

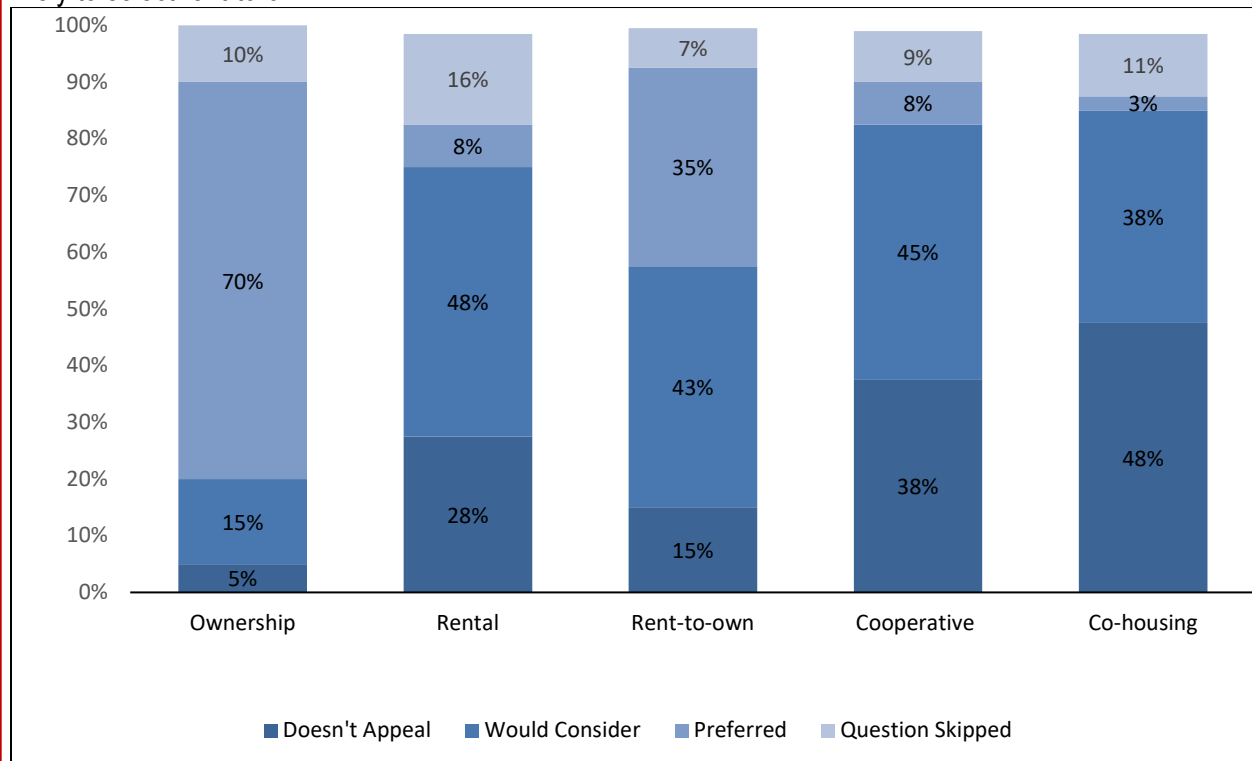
### Other top needs from workshops include:

- More affordable housing, rental, and co-op options
- Supportive housing and in-home care for Elders/seniors
- Intergenerational housing
- Common rooms in multi-unit residences to build connections

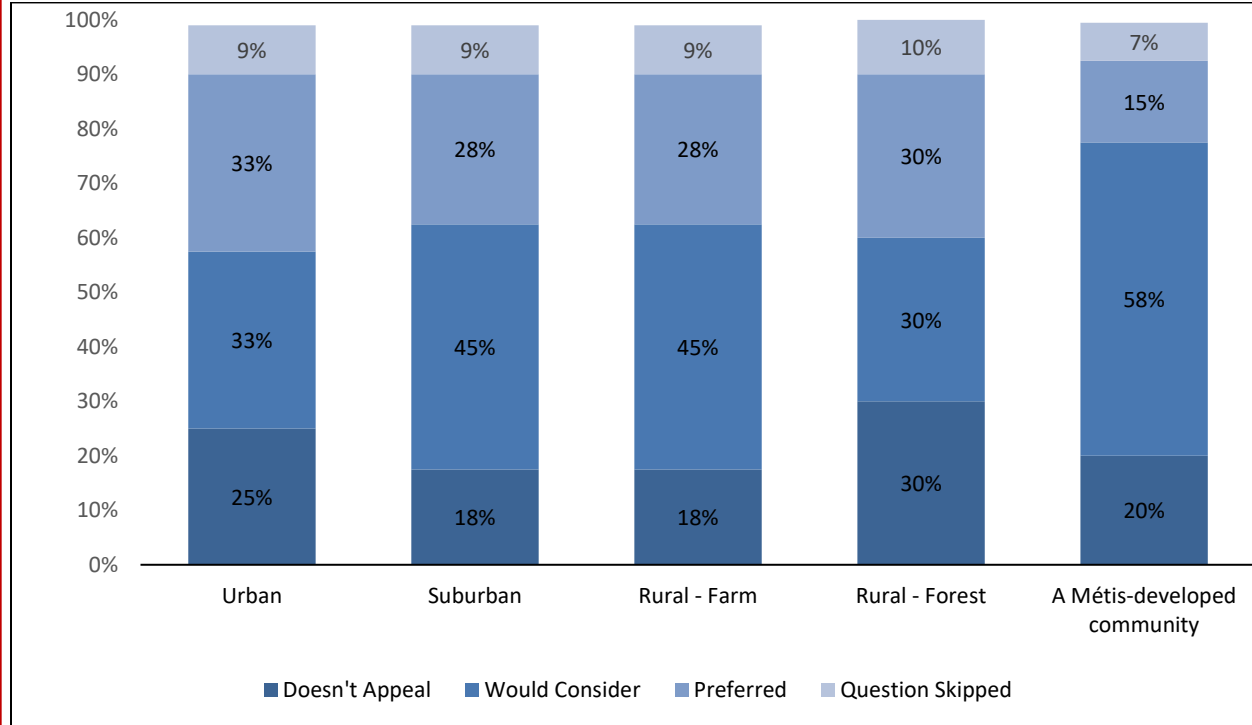
When asked to rank types of housing based on how well they would meet their family's needs, survey respondents prefer detached, followed by multi-generational housing.



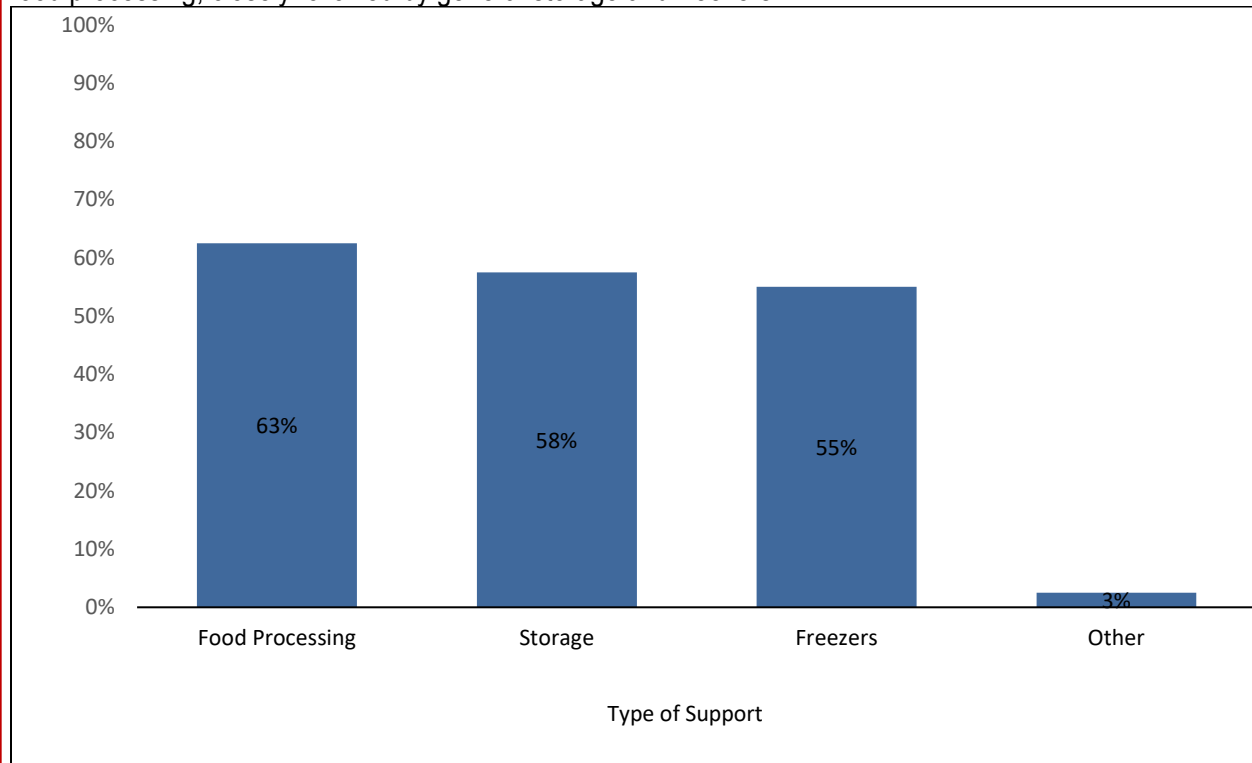
When asked to rank ownership/rental models to meet their family's current needs, respondents were more likely to select rent-to-own.



When asked which locations their family would prefer to live, respondents were most interested in urban 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 general storage and freezers.

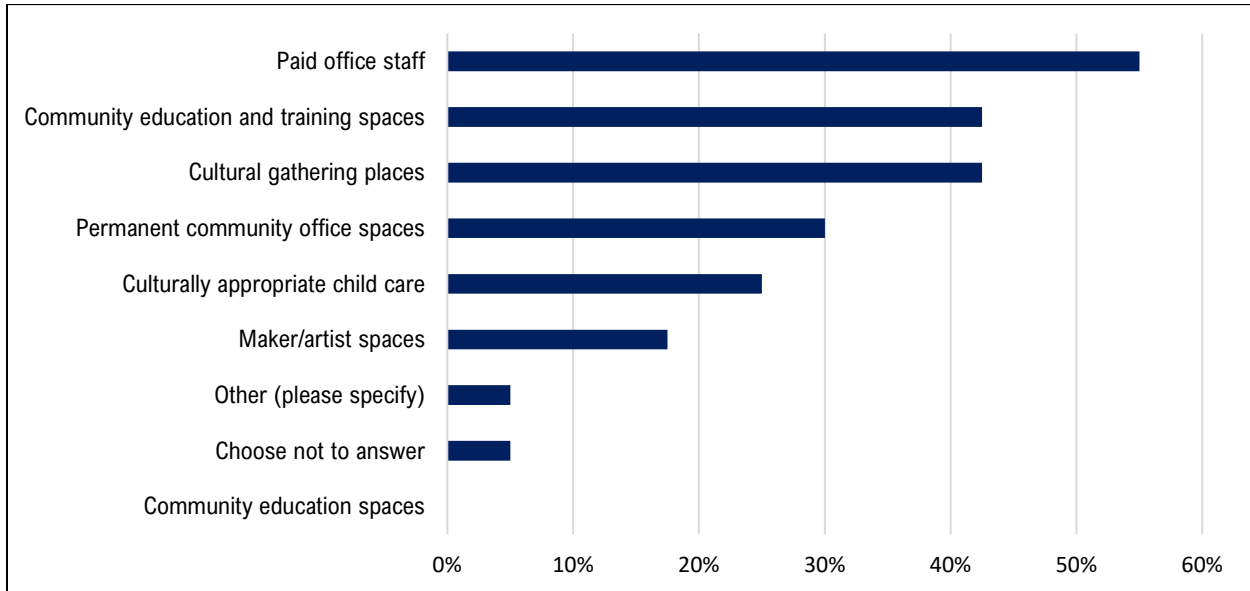




## Cultural/Community Spaces



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



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Community/cultural gathering space for programs and events (indoor and outdoor)
- Gathering spaces for youth including a playground and youth centre
- Community fundraising offices

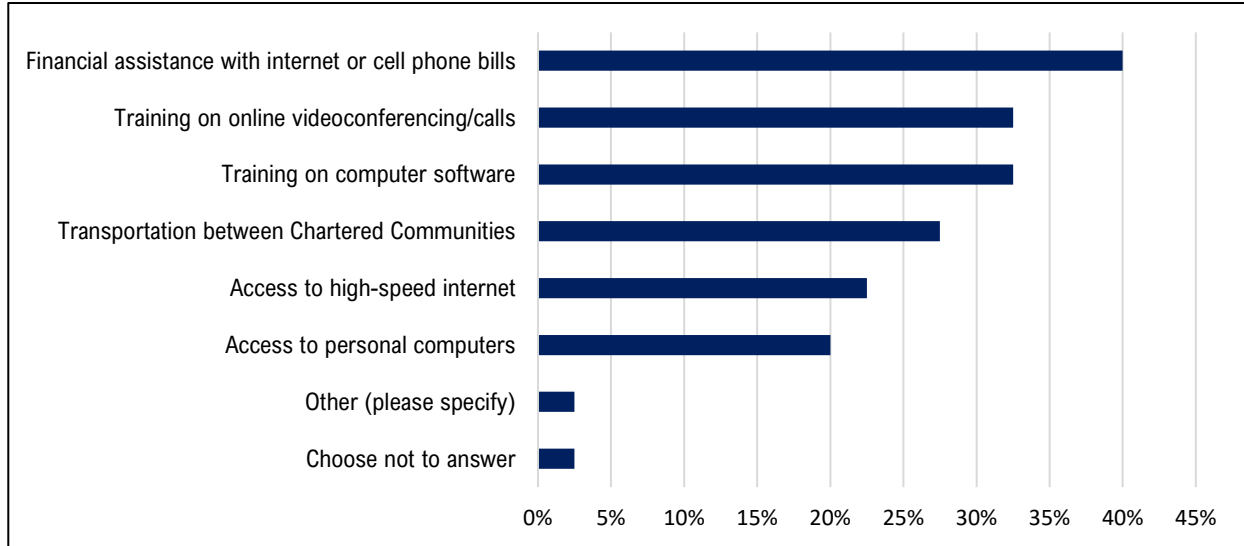
### Other top needs from workshops include:

- Communal multi-use spaces to support a variety of social activities
- Need community infrastructure including northern/west wind walls and raised pathways with benches
- Arts Council space with a community art gallery

## Connectivity/Transportation



Connectivity/transportation priorities from the survey include financial assistance with internet or cell phone bills, training on online videoconferencing/calls, and training on computer software.



**Priorities from the workshops include:**

- Transportation support for people with disabilities

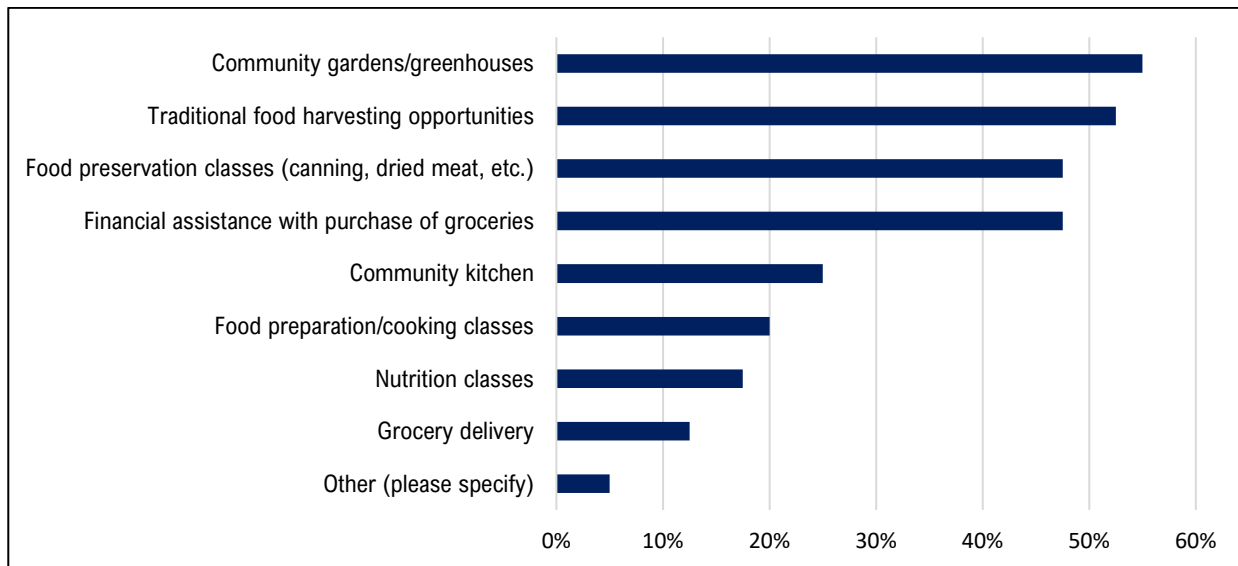
**Other top needs from workshops include:**

- Community transportation/shuttle services
- Regular scheduling of community events
- Virtual broadcast of community meetings in public gathering spaces

## Food Security



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



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Food sustainability programs
- Community garden/greenhouse
- Grocery delivery for seniors and families
- Access to traditional food

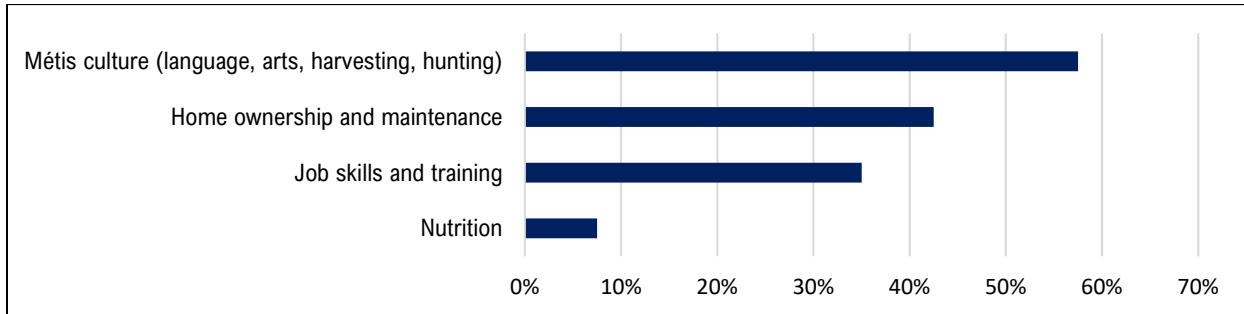
### Other top needs from workshops include:

- Community kitchen, barbeque, and fire pit
- Traditional food preservation, preparation, and harvesting classes
- Co-op and farmers markets for groceries
- Food assistance programs for those in need

## Cultural/Personal Development Programs



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



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Cultural programming to advance ability to pass on stories, language, skills, and history
- Community meeting spaces
- Regular community programming

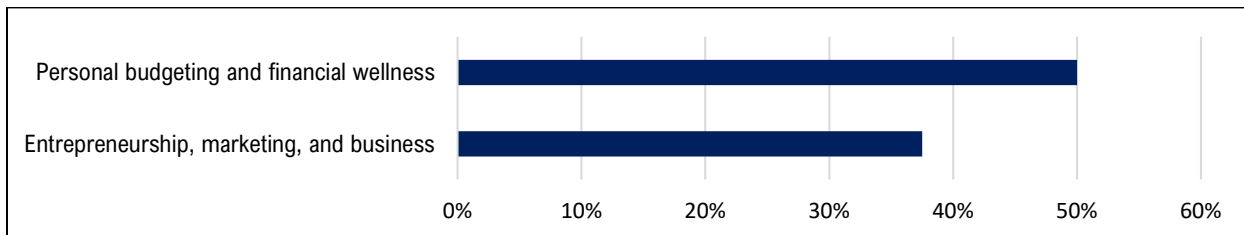
### Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Community storage facilities
- Programs for different age groups including crafting and beading workshops and spiritual and religious activities
- Administrative open houses for information sharing
- Cultural camps and activities outside of the community

## Economic



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



### Priorities from the workshops include:

- None identified

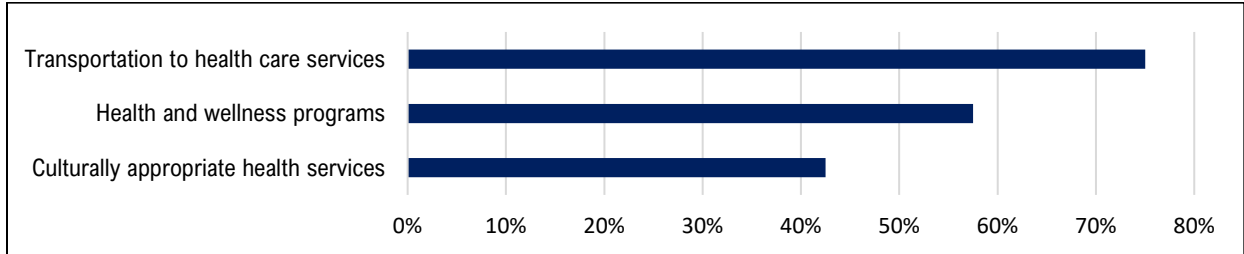
### Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- More office space with public co-working options

## Health



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

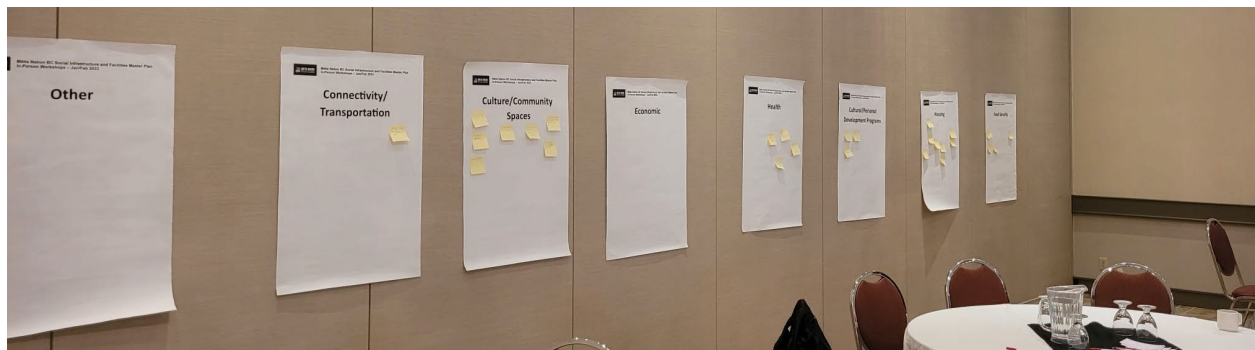


### Priorities from the workshops include:

- Health benefits
- Access to medical and health services
- Transportation to medical appointments and health care services
- Access to telemedicine support and spaces for people don't have technology

### Other needs that Citizens highlighted include:

- Hire local healthcare practitioners and a health care advisor to help schedule appointments
- Health and wellness spaces
- Mental health and addiction support
- Financial assistance for travel associated with medical/health care services



Post-it notes present the top priorities identified by Citizens at the Fort St. John in-person workshop held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## Appendix 1 – Engagement Summary

REGION 7 – Northeast

Fort St. John, BC  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## HOUSING

1. Who in the Métis community needs housing in Fort St. John?
  - a. People in need, low income
  - b. People with disabilities
  - c. Elders/Seniors
  - d. Youth ageing out of care
  - e. Singles
  - f. Families
  - g. Multigenerational families
  - h. Singles → women, young or elder
  - i. People fleeing abuse
  
2. How do we prioritize who lives in the 94<sup>th</sup> Street housing project?
  - a. Unable to physically maintain home
    - i. Seniors/Elders
    - ii. Young families
    - iii. Single parents
    - iv. Evaluation, screening process
    - v. Is it possible to do multiplex

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

- Need to be able to modify homes
- Housing projects → larger apartments for families (i.e. 4 bedrooms)
- Allow for intergenerational housing
- Even if temporary for youth ageing out of care
- Parking will be challenging → underground is \$50,000 per stall
- Could have garden or play area for daycare
- Challenging to have Elders and youth/young people living together
  - o Elders
  - o Families
  - o Single parents
- Hard for Elders and children to live together → put Elders on the upper floor
- Need to be careful about Métis (young) → be careful not to discriminate against youth/young single people
- Future project → youth ageing out of care and those pursuing education
- This is for people in need
- Set income limits on the project → it's affordable housing
- Need same opportunities as First Nation
- Wrap around services in housing → assisted community living
- Miniki program needs to be improved → income cap is too low

- Lift the funding cap → should be first come first serve
- Challenge when those who make more when accessing programs
- If can't fill the building with Métis citizen reach out to Indigenous
- Any partnerships for existing apartments
  - Passive apartment near fire hall ~ 10 units to BC Housing (3-5 years)
  - Motel conversions (on the Alaska Highway there's a caravan → formerly Bluebell) possible location?
- In-home care for seniors; home assistance
- Ageing in place → renovations, maintenance, upkeep
- Intergenerational living → seniors and young family
  - Housing and gathering space
  - Cold can be isolating; sharing in chores and communal space
- Type of co-housing → sharing the work; sharing garden; "grandparents" to be there
- Common room in multi-residences → show connections
  - Combating disconnections; a way to build connections
  - Gathering space
  - Communal space important
  - Building community helps get through
- More BUILDINGS!
- Leasing units to sublet to citizens
- Housing for Métis people
  - Elders/seniors
  - Singles
  - Women and Men
  - Low income
  - Intergenerational for single women
- Housing up, grading for senior citizens
- Housing for ageing out youth and students
- Housing renovations for seniors
- Subsidize housing for seniors

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

1. What activities and uses would you like in the proposed Cultural/Community space in the 94<sup>th</sup> Street project?
  - a. Preparing Traditional Food
  - b. Crafting and Beading
  - c. Spiritual and Religious Activities
  - d. Storage (a place for beads, leather etc.)
  - e. Ways to use a space in different ways → there will be a kitchen
    - \*Need to have a scheduling system in place



2. What cultural or personal development programs do you think are most needed in your community?
  - Challenge of income limits on MNBC programs
    - o If you're a Métis citizen should be able to access funding
  - Commercial kitchen
  - Jigging → girls and boys and competitions
  - Michif language
  - Bingo
  - Gathering place for youth/youth centre
  - Land outside of town for cultural camps and activities
  - Trapping courses and activities
  - Métis – education in the public school system → curriculum
    - o Get Michif into the schools
  - Youth activities at the youth centre
  - Learning how to cook
  - Fiddling
  - Separate building for social events, etc.
    - o Purchase old fire hall?
  - Subsidized rental for additional spaces (e.g. senior's hall)
    - o Scheduling advanced and regularly
  - Flexibility of space that has a schedule so people can organize
  - History → elders sharing; more opportunities to learn from people in the community
    - o Tea with stories; opportunity to gather
    - o Specify Age brackets → different needs, interests and events
  - Open admin night
    - o Folks can show up to get information
    - o Get help with paperwork, forms, printer, online
    - o Help with computer literacy
    - o Having a regular administration space
  - AGM on large screen in gathering spaces
  - More gatherings → community space/office now at the senior's centre
  - Métis education
  - Community meeting spaces
  - Métis stories, history, Elders
  - Community program of any kind that happens regularly

### **CULTURE COMMUNITY SPACES**

1. What types of outdoor spaces would you like to see in the 94<sup>th</sup> Street project?
  - a. Community Garden
  - b. Raised beds and pathways with benches

- c. Covered Gathering Space
  - d. Deck and covered patio off the back slope
2. What other uses other than housing and childcare should be accommodated in the 94<sup>th</sup> Street project?
  - a. Communal kitchen space
  - b. Artist Space/Gallery → Arts council space
  - c. Library Wall
  - d. Lounge Space
  - e. Co-working office space (at other locations; not this one per se)
3. What other cultural/community spaces and/or services do you think are most needed in your community?
  - Purchase existing building
  - Communal BBQ
  - Gathering space/ Culture gathering space for events
  - Community garden
  - Fire pit/Bannock/communal garden
  - Need wind protector → Northern/West wind walls
  - Playground for children
  - Within building need business space → there is one next door at Steps
  - Multi-use space
  - Community centre, kiosk, etc.
  - Could have soup and Bannock, etc.
  - Public co-working space (also falls under economic)
  - Not duplicating buildings/spaces → need to be smart with the resources we have
  - Opening the space to communities
  - MNBC to be working with the city → partnerships
  - Health and wellness spaces (access to health services is problematic)
  - Shared building – open and draw others to events
  - Social activities
  - Space for youth for cultural events and programs
  - Community fundraising offices

### **HEALTH**

- Need extended health care for citizens
  - o Start with elders – pay for prescriptions, modified housing, dental care

### **FOOD SECURITY**

- One of the biggest issues
- Food sovereignty should be a new ministry

- Need access to traditional food
- Teach Métis people how to grow food
  - o Go back to growing food
- Farming
- Food prices per month
- Greenhouses → can grow food all year long
- Paulette could grow food in hoop houses for Métis people
- Food co-op where people can pool their food
- Need self-sufficiency
- Financial support for hardships → related to food

## **HEALTH**

- Health and wellness – Northern Health understaffed
- Help to get to appointments, etc.
- Telemedicine – must be able to practice in the region
- Support for mental health/addiction
- Need great enough that culture is secondary → just medicine before Métis medicine
- Digital literacy and access
- Drivers or cab subsidies/ Métis run or partner with northern Health. Handi-Dart is overbooked/understaffed
- Spaces for telemedicine (available to people who don't have technology or need help with logging on for telemedicine)
- Métis bus
- Medical and health service access
- Health care travel assistance
- Food security ties into health

## **CONNECTIVITY/TRANSPORTATION**

- Handi-Dart
- Scheduling of events
- Help for handicap

## **ECONOMIC**

- Métis co-run co-work spaces
  - o Flexible office space



## FOOD SECURITY

- Health benefits (ties into health)
- Food sustainability
- Community gardens
- Grocery help for seniors and families