



CHARTING OUR OWN PATH FORWARD  
Education Forum 2018

**Inclusive Planning:  
Community Needs Assessments  
For First Nations Education**

January 16 – 18, 2018 Chelsea Hotel

# What Is A Community Needs Assessment?

- **Inclusive involvement** of members in planning for community decision-making
- **Elements:** Challenges/Barriers; Capacities/Opportunities; Goals/Priorities; Approach
- **Level:** Community-wide; Department/School; Education Program; Local  $\leftrightarrow$  Collective
- **Scope of Application:** Evaluation; Budget Priorities; Comprehensive Plan

# Why Community Needs Assessments? The Case For Inclusive Involvement

- **Beyond Consultation:** Social+Political process aimed at direct community role in planning + decision-making; builds informed support
- **Collective Problem-Solving:** Encourage wider community insights + expertise into constructive engagement with concrete issues
- **United Action:** Builds resolve + solidarity to undertake well-informed strategic action for community priorities based on identified challenges/barriers/capacities/opportunities

# An Inclusive Approach For First Nations

- **Strength-Based:** Build local bases of nationhood development + self-determination in education
- **Simple + Concrete:** Less is more; relatable issues
- **Accessible:** Observe cultural ways; present process/info in sensible fashion; remove barriers to participation
- **Shared Purpose:** What is proposed to be done + why; intent to inform collective action
- **Defined Plan:** Clear steps + supports; encourage constructive critical feedback; revise initial plan; trouble-shoot + adjust CNA process

# Community Needs Assessment: 5 Steps

- 1) **Propose Plan:** Purpose + Principles; Process + Participation; Outcomes + Action; Feedback + Revise
- 2) **Ratify Plan:** Present + Revise; Project Plan with Supports; Monitor/Feedback + Adjust
- 3) **Dialogue:** Larger forums; Small-groups; Face-to-Face
- 4) **Initial Findings + Recommendations:** Results; Analysis; Queries; Proposed Action
- 5) **Implementation Plan + Evaluation**

# What Could A Local Community Needs Assessment For Education Look Like?

- 1) **Proposal Gathering:** Present; Get Input; Revise Plan
- 2) **Ratification Gathering:** Present; Feedback; Final Plan Revisions
- 3) **Small Group Meetings:** By family, neighbourhood, demographic, staff role, etc.
- 4) **Youth-led Community Research:** Interview elders + family leaders for identifying + provide teachings/ details related to learning needs
- 5) **Analysis Team:** Generate preliminary results, analysis findings, action recommendations
- 6) **Initial Findings Gathering:** Feedback + Revise
- 7) **Implementation Plan + Evaluation Gathering**