



INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES
RESILIENCE
FUND

The Path Forward

How to Best Serve Community?

Within the relations of all - to live well

GATHERING #5

OCTOBER 26 2022 + WEST

PROUDLY INDIGENOUS-LED

IMPORTANT!

TO LEADERS & COMMUNITY
TO APPLICANTS

CONSIDER: (RE)DEFINE?

"ONE OF THE ONLY GRANTS WE COULD APPLY FOR WHERE WE COULD BE HONEST"

(OTHERS FORCED TO REPRESENT OURSELVES THROUGH THE WORK WE'RE DOING)

I AM ME + MY GOALS

"They want to do things in Indigenous ways without having to contort themselves to western ways to achieve the funding they need."

VISION

HEALTHY,

RESILIENT,

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

BASED ON: AN ABUNDANCE OF LOCAL FOOD.



THE ABILITY TO CONTINUE WORKING → WORKERS

ABILITY TO FINISH:
- TRAINING
- TRADES
- SKILLS

+ CREATE SHAREABLE TOOLS

VISION:

BRING BACK

+ EMBEDD LANGUAGE
+ ADAPTABLE TEACHINGS

BRINGING BACK FOOD GOES HAND-IN-HAND WITH BRINGING BACK TRADE, SKILLS, TRADITIONS.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

AS A **PILLAR** IN REBUILDING OUR NATIONS.

öba 'ClqΔ.ö
[nikânastamâkêwin]
"LEADERSHIP"

"WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE IPRF MODEL REPLICATED IN OTHER ORGS."

"GO LOOK AT WHAT IPRF IS DOING!"

EMBEDD LANGUAGE IN CULTURE

AND SAY: HEY, THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING!

NOT JUST MY WORK

SUPPORT OUR ELDERS

"IT'S ONE THING TO READ IN A BOOK"



OR LOOK AT PICTURES



BUT WE HAVE ELDERS WHO HAVE LIVED IT."

"HAVING A LIVING ELDER BY YOUR SIDE... FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO COME AND LISTEN..."

... AND THAT FEELING OF BEING CONNECTED TO THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE...

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT AND STRENGTHENING

VITAL

living memory



"INSPIRING" "RESPONSIVE" "FORWARD-THINKING" "INDIGENOUS-LED" "EXCITING" "TOGETHER" "GENEROUS" "SUPPORTING" "IPRF IN ONE WORD"

FOOD IS A KEY PIECE FOR HEALTH OF OUR NATIONS.

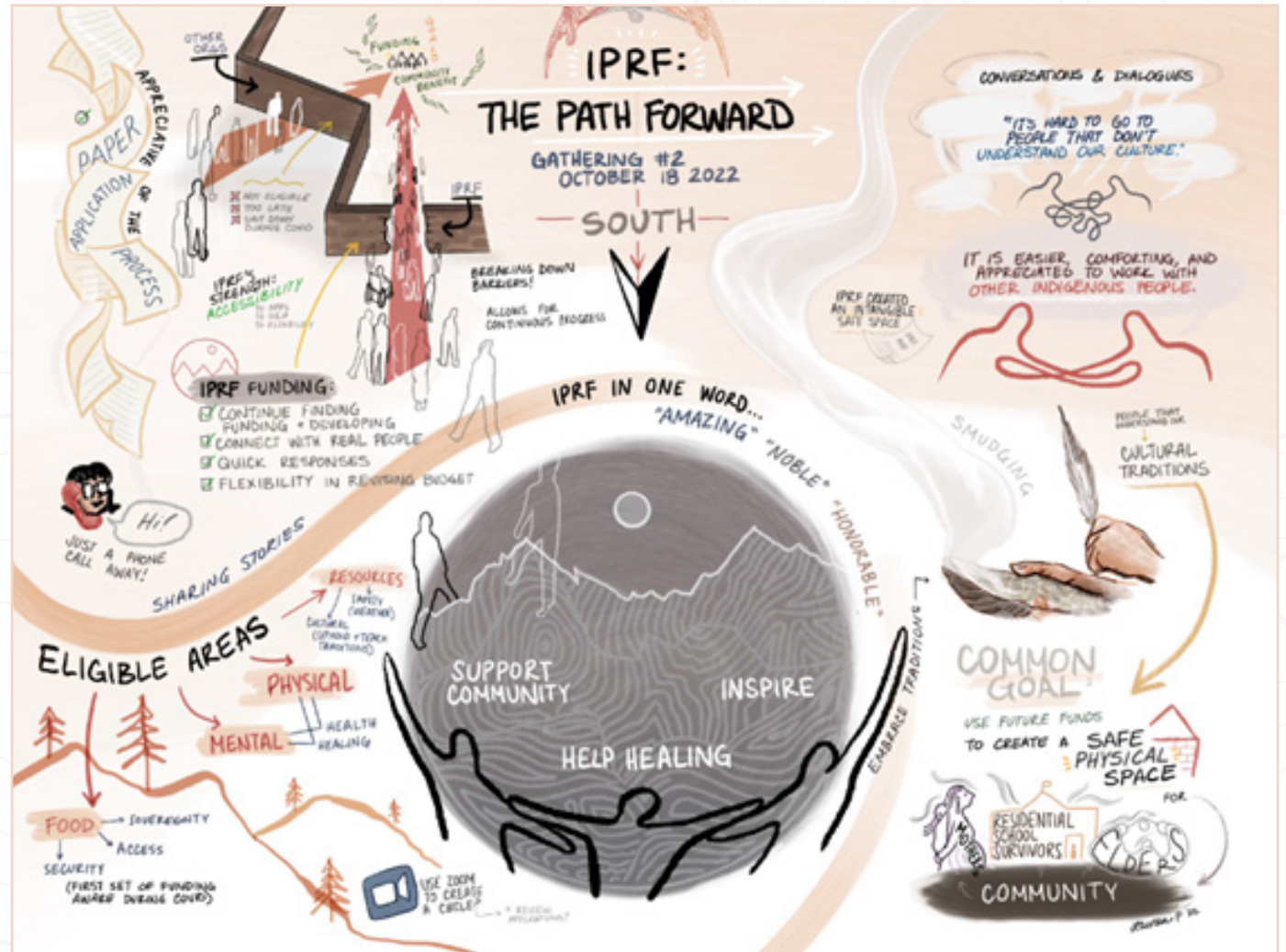


Graphic illustration from virtual gathering

Three years into its journey as an Indigenous-led philanthropic organization, the **Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund (IPRF)** is seeking to better understand ways to continue to serve Indigenous communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast beyond the urgency of the *COVID-19 pandemic*. IPRF is known for meeting communities and organizations where they are at. They take the lead from the people who are on the ground, working with the resources at hand to improve their communities. This engagement report outlines the desire from Indigenous communities across the country to move from pandemic-specific emergency funding to recovery to rebuilding to sustainability towards planning for the future.

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Rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and being, IPRF will honour the value that the community knows what the community needs.



Graphic illustration from virtual gathering #2

What We Heard:

Circles of support with culture at the centre

IPRF knows Indigenous communities and has witnessed the limitations of traditional granting systems. By leading with the understanding that “communities know best”, **IPRF has empowered organizations and communities** across the country to write their own stories and speak their own truths.

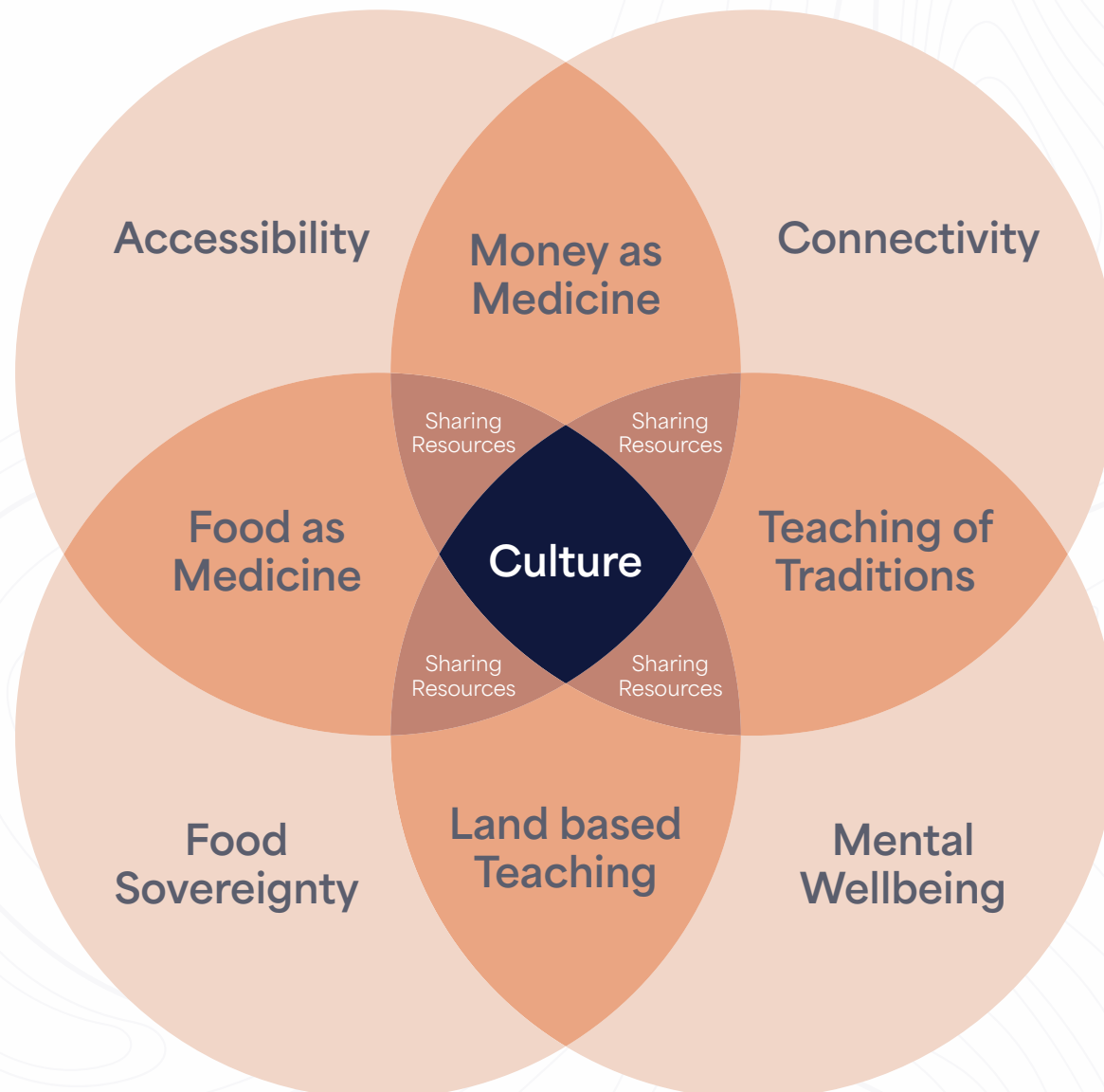
When looking back on all of the projects funded by **IPRF** to date, each community initiative could be categorized into one of three categories:

- Food sovereignty / food security / food justice
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Connectivity / access to internet

When PGS reflected these categories back at the virtual Gatherings, participants could see right away where their projects fit, and many of them commented on how the themes are interrelated and overlapping. A fourth category “Accessibility” was added to speak to the specific transportation and resource needs of communities in the North. Once these four circles of support were agreed upon, secondary themes emerged such as “Money as medicine”, “Food as medicine”, “Teaching of traditions” and “Land-based teachings”. Each of these themes are related to culture, and connect to more than one circle of support.



One comment heard over-and-over was that connection to culture was at the centre of everything the communities are working for.



Summary of Recommendations

Overall Support

- Consider offering funding over a 2-3 year period.
- Continue to support non-qualified donees.
- Consider funding concurrent projects within the same community or organization so that one program isn't affected by the funding or reporting timeline of another.
- Continue to offer open funding with few restrictions on how the bundles can be spent.
- Consider a base add-on for rural, remote and Northern communities to assist with the extra costs that other communities might not experience to establish a more equitable allocation of funding.
- Prioritize applications that centre culture, have activities that promote intergenerational knowledge transfer, and consider the well-being of Elders in the community.
- Continue to provide COVID-related funding.

Application & Reporting Process

- Continue to prioritize an easily accessible application process.
- Review and modify application and evaluation processes based on regional suggestions from Path Forward feedback.
- Design a communications strategy that considers the suggestions from the Path Forward feedback.
- Expand staff/volunteer team to be able to offer feedback to applicants who were not successful at receiving bundles.
- Recruit more French-speaking staff/volunteers to allow for a greater level of assistance and accessibility to those who speak French.
- Continue to allow ease of access to people who call in with inquiries about their applications.
- Continue to offer bundles through a process that is as open and as non-prescriptive as possible.
- Review and improve upon budget reporting instructions.
- Review timelines for funding. If possible, make space for more flexibility that allows for longer-term funding or overlapping of projects within the same organization.
- Continue to employ the methods of allowing applicants to submit in any form, but follow up with secure documentation for the record.

Summary of Recommendations

The Reviewer Experience

- Consider growing the review team and creating a rotation of reviewers if IPRF offerings continue to be multiple times a year.
- If the schedule moves to quarterly reviews, have emergency funds set aside for crises in between, and have a team of reviewers on stand-by to help with these emergency call-outs.
- Improve communication with reviewers with calendar invites and as much lead-time as possible for reading multiple applications.
- Consider other ways to support reviewers so that they can consistently show up and effectively volunteer.
- Review and make changes to how Indigenous organizations are vetted to be sure that Indigenous community members are always benefiting from the gifts/bundles offered.

The Path Forward: Ideas from Applicants

- Offer training within the philanthropic landscape.
- Offer mentoring or coaching around philanthropy in general.
- Create opportunities for communities to be able to connect to one another.
- Connect applicants to other funders or funding opportunities.
- Showcase community stories.