KIRKLAND LAKE

Community Engagement Session Report

Number in Attendance: 14 (2 youth, 1 Elder, 12 others Indigenous participants ~ 7 (including Elder & youth

Participants with Lived experience: 0

Organizational Encounters with human trafficking: Pavillion Centre has had 10 instances since 2015, another participant heard of a case but it would have proceeded as a sexual assault, not human trafficking

Types of organizations: CMHA Cochrane Timiskaming Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Pavilion Women's Centre, Centre Passerelle pour femmes du nord de l'Ontario, Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group, Victim Services (Temiskaming and District)

Summary:

During the day, we noted that there seemed to be some clear differences between Timmins and the Temiskaming Shores/ Kirkland Lake area due to Timmins' position on the TransCanada highway and it being a mining community. Mining results in higher than average disposable incomes for some community members while other community members, including vulnerable women, may struggle to meet the high rental rates that are geared toward those with higher incomes.

There was a strong emphasis on Indigenous culture throughout the day. Participants at this session were concerned with the intersection of diverse cultures and services and how to better manage practices and ensure safety for all people seeking support. The discussion included the differing needs of French-speaking and Indigenous communities. The most cited theme was gaps in resources which included collaboration, safe spaces, funding, education and research. The discussion on collaboration focused on networking with local and provincial agencies, people in political office (mayors, chiefs, etc.), schools, and families. Education was cited as a collective responsibility including the general public, first responders, schools, families, industries (hospitality), communities, and self-education.

Participants voted for awareness and education as the most important next step. They called for education efforts catering to first responders, the general public, and youth. Participants also discussed education as a way to eradicate stigma and judgement. Participants noted that cultural education, along with education to eliminate stigma, can create safe spaces for Indigenous individuals seeking support. The Dotmocracy also emphasized the need for input from people with lived experience. The themes of collaboration and funding tied for the third most voted on category.

Top Three Themes of Discussion:

1.Gaps in Resources:

i. Acknowledgement/awareness

ii. Funding

iii. Data and numbers

iv. Safe spaces: transition house, culturally sensitive services (cultural training, language variety, and spiritual considerations)

v. Collaboration: Need to hear voices of youth and survivors, coordinating committees, resource guide/service mapping, uniform strategies for each phase (recruitment, while being trafficked, while exiting the situation and support after exiting)

vi. Discretionary power of people in charge is a barrier. We need policy, curriculum, documents, etc. to protect work we're doing, rather than leaving it up to the whim of administrators

2. Collaboration:

i.   Network with: those not at the session (specifically Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services), stakeholders (police services, mental health providers, schools, etc), provincial groups (ONWA, shelters, francophone, other research groups, etc.), funders, people in positions of power, schools, families

ii.   Locally developed resources: info developed here, community development

3. Education:

i. First responders, public, youth, schools, hospitality industry, families, communities, self-educate (collective responsibility)

Dotmocracy Top Three Results:

1. Awareness/Education (11)

i. Awareness/education: first responders, public, youth (3)

ii. Acknowledge there is a problem (2)

iii. Talk about it more (2)

iv. Remove judgement (2)

v. Create culturally safe places - open up, talk (2)

vi. Hear from people with lived experience (5)

2. Collaboration (3)

i. Networking (2)

ii. Locally developed resources - info developed here, community development (1)

iii. Mobilizing those not at the table (Child and Family Services) (0)

3. Funding (3)
i. Government funding, remove barriers (2)
ii. Sustainability of services - not year to year funding (1)