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Inclusive Resilience Project Indigenous Learnings

Assembly of First Nations
Emergency Management Forum - March 5-7, 2024

Presented by Sarah Rain, Senior Advisor Indigenous DRR-CCA



The Inclusive Resilience Project



The Inclusive Resilience project is a four-year initiative funded by Public Safety Canada, implemented by the Canadian Red Cross in partnership with Community partners and subject matter experts. FireSmart Canada, Partners for Action (University of Waterloo), BC Earthquake Alliance, and the Native Women's Association of Canada.



Public Safety
Canada

Sécurité publique
Canada



PARTNERS FOR ACTION



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

Inclusive Resilience is a learning project

- We are trying to learn the best ways to encourage **women, older adults, newcomers and low-income households** to prepare for wildfires, floods, and/or earthquakes by identifying innovative ways of engagement.
- We took a specialized approach to learn from **Indigenous** communities by having interviews with key knowledge holders and subject matter experts, including surveys, community-based activities, and awareness campaigns.
- Seeks to identify effective means to **increase critical awareness** of natural hazards and **practical actions** to prepare for these hazards among under-served and under-resourced populations.

Selected Communities

- Richmond, BC
- Ottawa, ON
- Lake Babine Nation, BC
- Thompson, MB
- Moose Cree First Nation, ON
- Bay St. George, NL



Key Components



Research

Conversations and learnings

Research: Desk Review

- The Indigenous Knowledge Gathering Project began in February of 2021.
- Initial desk review by a settler researcher, Dr. Stephen Penner from the University of Winnipeg.
- A total of **37 Knowledge holders** from across Canada were interviewed.
- Currently Indigenous-led research
- **Literature review**
 - *Looking at epistemic injustice in climate adaptation*
 - *Conceptual shifts of Disaster Risk Reduction*
 - *Exploring Indigenous ways of coping after disaster*
- Asset creation, **gifting back** the knowledge that was shared.

“One way to promote sustainable adaptation is by including local knowledges and in particular Indigenous knowledges within climate adaptation policies and practices.”

Ford et al. 2010, 2014;
Naess 2013

Research: Survey and Interviews

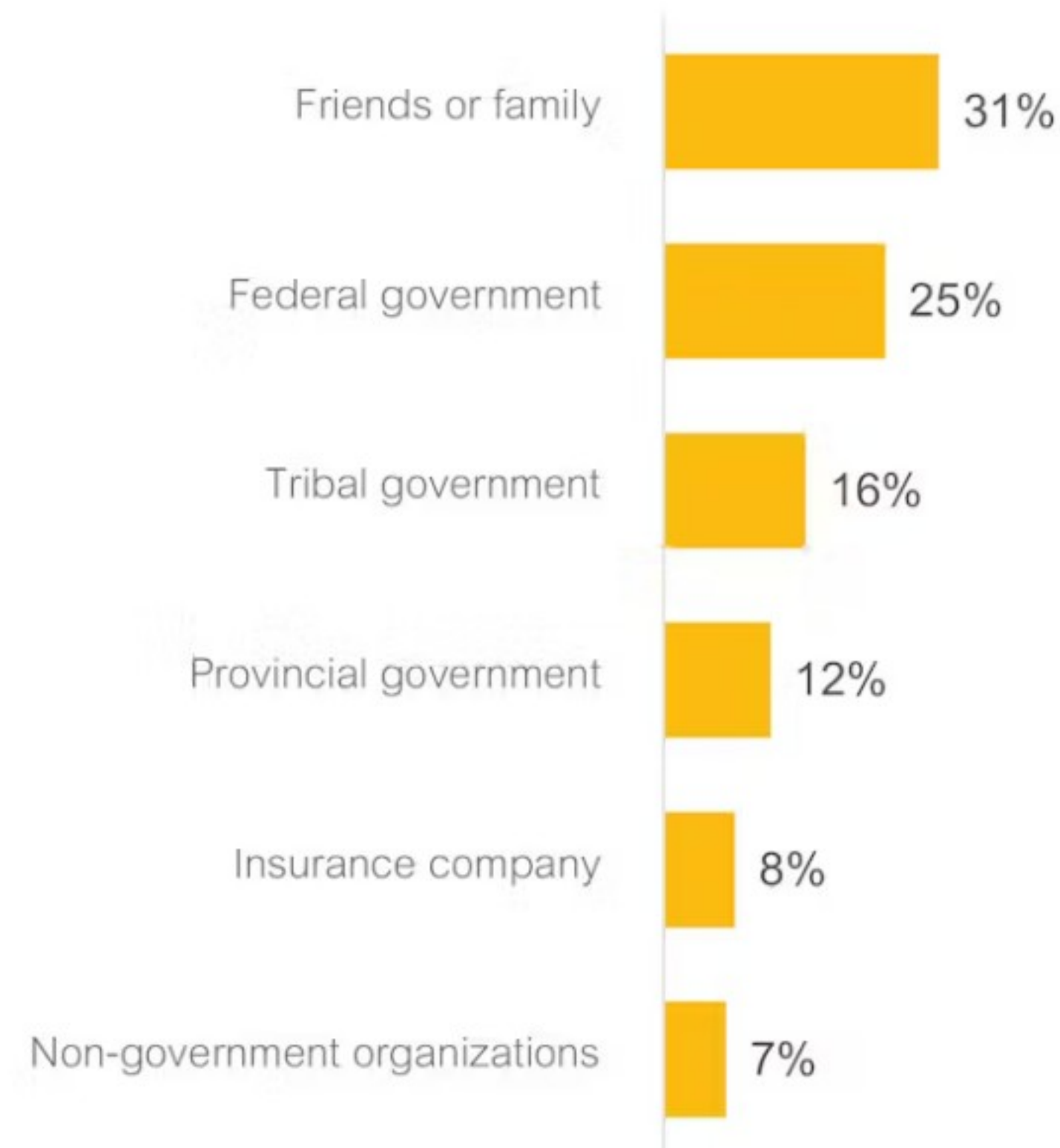
- 100-person survey looking at the experiences of disaster and barriers to preparedness in December 2022.
- Six interviews with six Indigenous women, Two-Spirit and gender diverse community members which took place in March 2023.

From the following communities:

- Iqaluit, NU
- Lake Babine Nation, BC
- Nicola Valley, BC
- St. George's Bay, NL
- Temagami First Nation, ON
- St. George's Bay, NL

Research: Spotlight on Kinship in Disaster

Q34 In the event of a disaster, who would you expect the most help from?

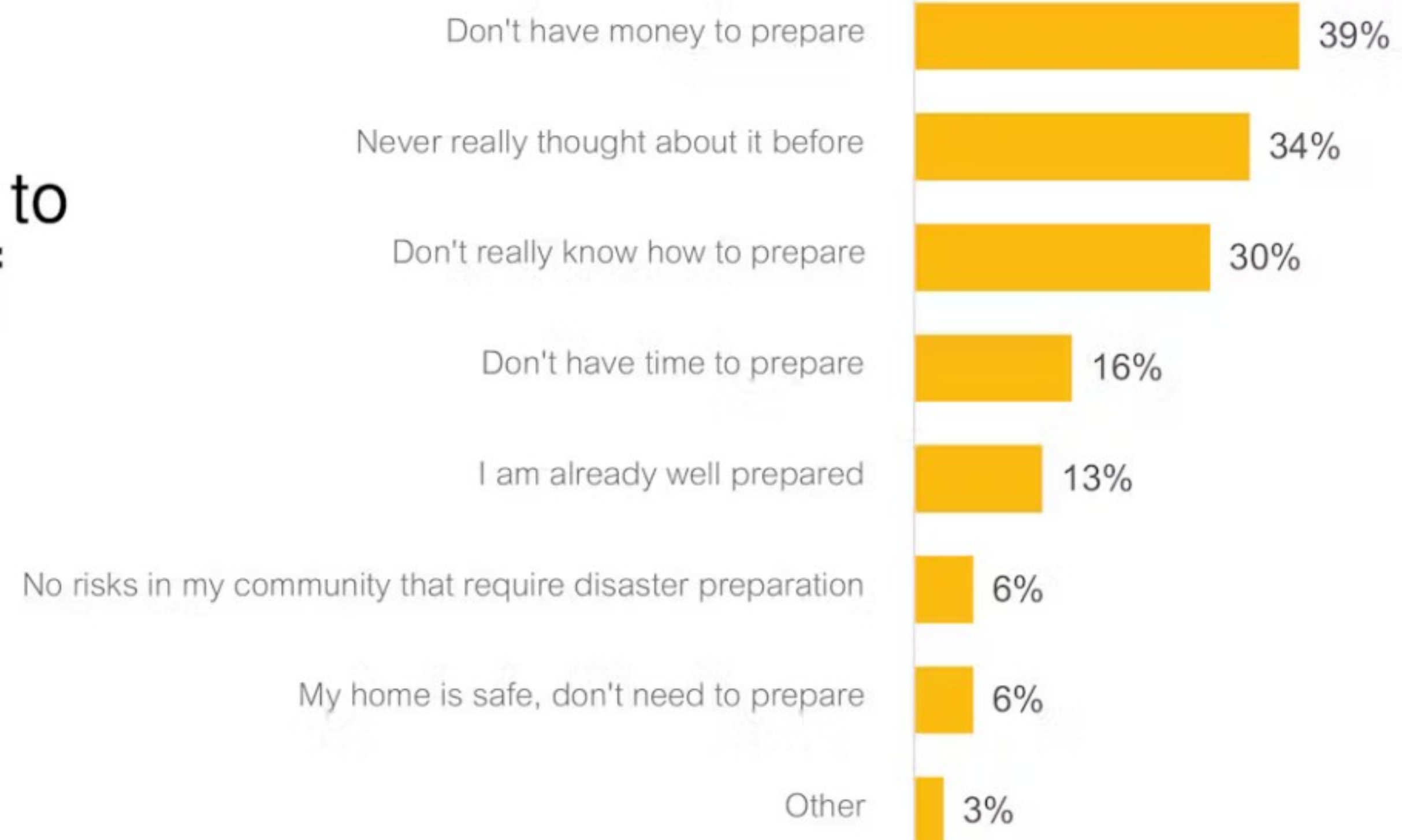


- Friends and family are the first source of help in the event of a disaster.
- 61% say they have family outside their current area who can help in a disaster (financial and evacuation).
- A quarter of those surveyed say they expect help from other levels of government.

Research: Spotlight on Barriers to Preparedness

Q31 Have any of the following ever prevented you from taking disaster preparedness actions? (Multiple responses allowed)

The most widely reported barriers to disaster preparedness are **lack of finances** and **lack of awareness** about why and how one should prepare.



Research: Interviews

On Response

- The most identified personal concerns in disaster were financial, evacuation, and transportation needs; mental and physical effects; and social determinants of health.
- Notably, one participant shared that the pandemic significantly affected the community because they lost matriarchs, Knowledge Holders, and Traditional language retention, including the ability to gather for ceremonies and cultural events.

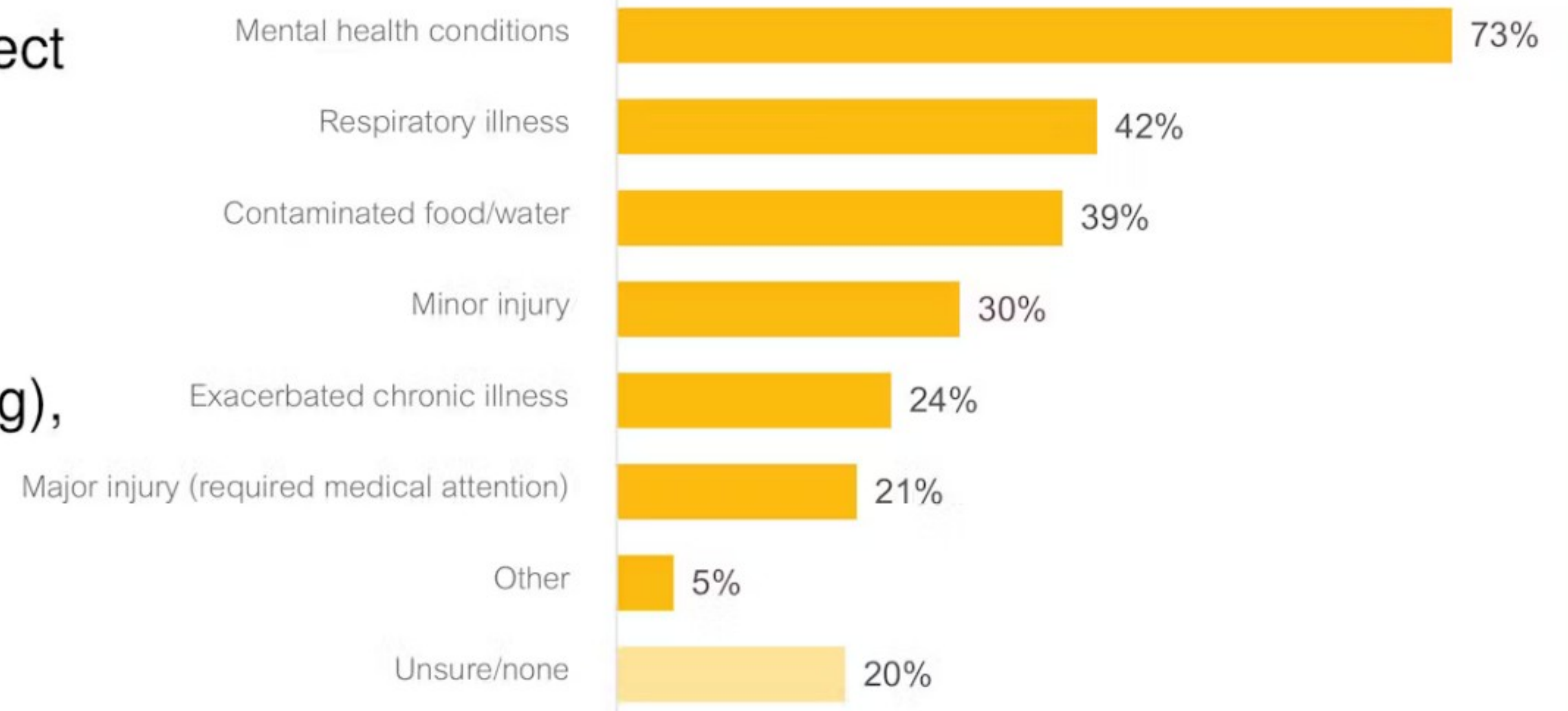
*“A lot of people are on social assistance so if there is no money coming in, they cannot prepare or plan for the disaster let alone have emergency kits. In the north, **social determinants of health really play a big role in what type of preparedness you can have.** For some people, they might not think about emergency preparedness. They might think more about everyday food coming in, everyday safety for women. We do put the unlikely, such as emergency disasters, at the back of our thoughts. I think policy makers should really take that into consideration. **Social determinants of health should be a priority.**”*

Participant A, Iqaluit

Research: Spotlight on Social Determinants

Q8 From what you know or have heard, what were the health effects on community members from the disaster?

- Among those reporting a disaster in their community in the past five years, the most widely reported effect is on **mental health conditions**.
- Community gatherings, cultural events, financial assistance (including food, shelter, and clothing), and Healing Centres (access to Elders, a place to recover from trauma) as the most vital in **recovering** from disaster.



Research: Spotlight on Cultural Access

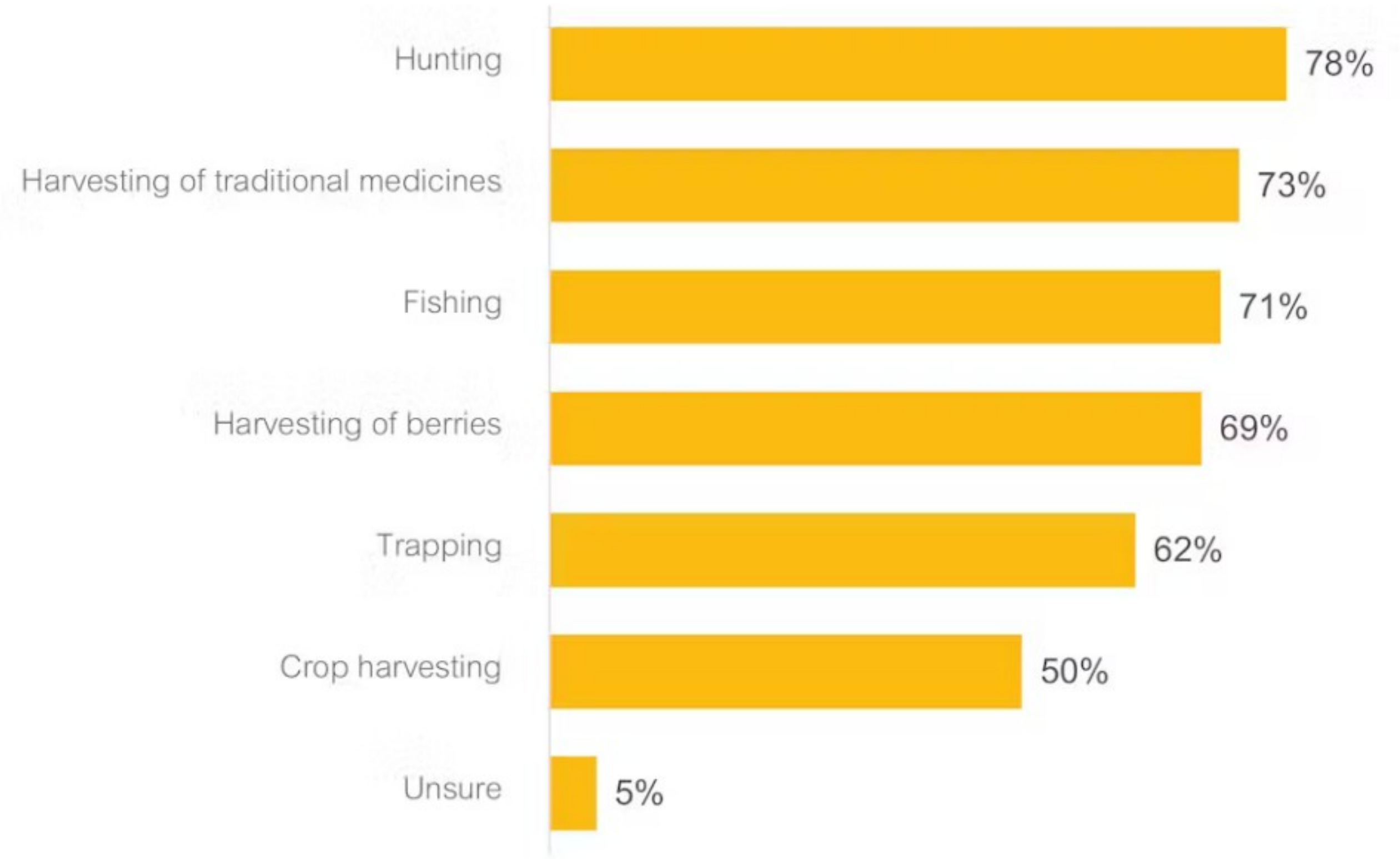
Q18

Which harvesting practices would be most affected by disaster?

“The land and the lake are our home. If anything were to happen to that, I would be devastated.”

Participant E, Temagami FN

Many shared how traditional knowledge of the land **sustains** them, and how harvesting, hunting, and understanding the land are important in **managing** (stewardship) future disasters.



Research: Interviews

On Preparedness

- Four out of six participants said that their communities did **not have an effective communication system** regarding disaster warnings.
- Most viewed **word-of-mouth** as **the most effective** form of disaster warning and communication, as well as social media.
- All six participants indicated a want and a need for **more training** around disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Participants wanted **more information** on supporting others, packing necessities, and developing an evacuation plan.

Research: Interviews

What we heard

- Increase community awareness around disaster response, develop a **“What to do” toolkit**, and provide **emergency contact information** for every household.
- **More access more training.**
- **How to create an evacuation plan**, and **what to pack** in the event of a disaster.
- There is a need for Indigenous communities **to develop more effective communication systems and information sharing processes** regarding disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts.

“I would like to see each Nation have a day where you make a kit, where you take it home, where you learn what to pack, what to put in there, so, you cannot say ‘I don’t know what to pack’, because everyone went. You get a tote. You keep it in your car, you keep in your basement and it’s ready to go.”

Participant C, Nicola Valley

Community Based Activities

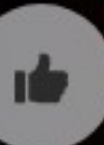
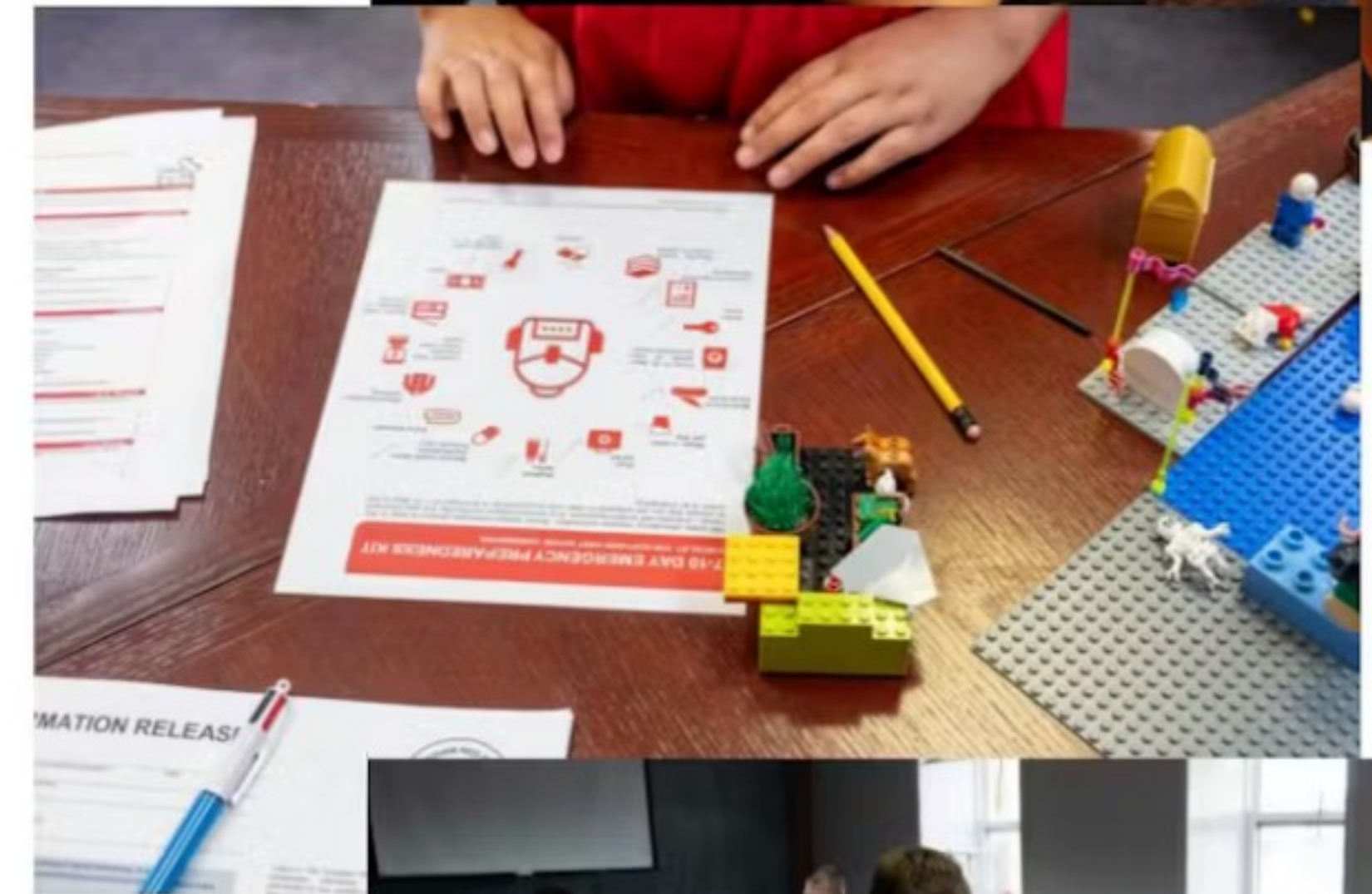
- The activities seek to **raise awareness** of hazard risks and promote practical actions to address these risks at a community level.
- **Culturally relevant ways**, partnering with existing events:
 - Gathering of Our People, Moose Cree First Nation, ON
 - Sweetgrass Festival, Stephenville, NL
 - Emergency Preparedness Event, Lake Babine Nation, BC
- Friendship Centres
 - Ma-Mow-We-Tak IFC Friendship Centre, Thompson, MB
 - People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre, Stephenville, NL
- Children and youth focused DRR activities
 - Lego activity (using Lego Serious Play to risk map, identify hazards, and facilitate age-appropriate discussion around disaster and risk).
 - Elder-led sharing circle

Community Based Activities

“Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula.”

Sendai Framework: Role of Stakeholders, Section 36.ii

- Joining existing community events: Sweetgrass Festival, Stephenville, NL, from August 19-21, 2023
- Piloting the Children’s LEGO DRR activity, sharing translated preparedness messaging in Mi’kmaq.





7-10

kisiikw

ê-papâsi-waskawêtotamihk kwayâstêw-maskimot

tahtwâw ê-papâsi-waskawêtotamihk mâna namoya katâc mâna ta-sikoci-nakatamihk. âskaw kinwêw poko ta-kisâtamihk kûkûh — ahpô namoya mistêhi ta-ohci-paspâh tâpiskoci mîciwin, kiwêtinôh kâ-ayûki ihtâwina, poko ka-kwayâstastâh kîkwêya nânitaw tâpaskoh isko mîttâht kisiikwa kâpin ê-papâsi-waskawêtotamihk.

**akopisewin
maskimot**



**mîciwin nânitaw
tâpaskoh isko mîttâht
kisiikwa êkâ
kâ-misawenahôki**



**mohkomâni
ahpô
âpacihiikana**



**nîp, nânitaw
eyindoh
minhkwâciikana
ka-tâpâpâh
têhro kisiikwê**



âpichiwâciikana



**masinahikana
kâ-âpâhiki**



**pîpâkôpâhikana,
masinahikana ahpô
mîttawêwina/mîttawâkâna**



nânitôh kanêcihiikana




**kâ-nîwêyîhtamihk
kîkwêya (maskûhiya,
têhthââpûhikân)**



**cîttâwimîciikan
(êkâ kâ-âpacihiikâ
wêhkwâpâpâna
ahpô kâ-wêhkwâhikân)**



kîwêwêwina



stêyîwê



**eyiwêk
ê-tâhkwâmihk
akôpâ**



**wêhkwâciikânâ, pîmî,
kacawêciikânâ,
êwêw sakêw
kîwêwêwîpîciikân**



**ê-wêwêkânâmihk
ahpô iskwêwêw
wêhkwâciikânâna
asici ka-eyiwêkîpâpâh
iskowêw**



kîtpîciikana



kotak kîkwêy kâ-nohtê-kiskêyîhtamihk - tâpiskoci kâ-sêsiwîhik kahkiyaw kitayisiyînimak ta-tôhtâhik -
kâ-kî-miskamihk www.redcross.ca/read

Awareness Campaigns

- Translation of general preparedness materials into Indigenous languages.
- Including: Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Mi'kmaq, Ojibwe, and Oji-Cree
- Inclusive asset creation: partnerships with Indigenous-owned and operated vendors.



Research: Conversations

When asked, *“How do you see the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through your community lens, through your Indigenous worldview?”*

Anthony Moore from the Nisga’a Village of Gitwinksihlkw provided a powerful answer that speaks to the cultural holistic approach to DRR within his community, and the resiliency that has long existed:

“Our First Nations in particular have been dealing with disasters since time immemorial.”

- Indigenous life-ways, cultural practices, ceremony
- Traditional governance, kinship, Matriarchy, feast systems, protocols
- Food security, harvesting, canning, sharing resources
- Colonial disruption: Residential School, Day School, 60’s Scoop
- Reclamation of knowledge, and ceremony. Coming of age, welcoming home feasts. Teaching the young people how to process traditional foods.

Research: Conversations

When asked, *“How do you see the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through your community lens, through your Indigenous worldview?”*

Telaxten from the Tsartlip First Nation:

“Language and traditions teach survival.”

“When we had to spend a night in the bush, very seldom we'd build a fire because we didn't want to cause a fire. We'd build a shelter to protect us from the elements, but very seldom would we build a fire because we didn't want to start one. It prepared us for future trips.”

- DRR is rooted in stewardship.
- DRR is rooted in kinship and community.

Deeper Listening

*“A lot of times it was just coordinating with external agencies, so the risk reduction itself – it’s more educating the other agencies, the ministries on **what we’re already capable of, and how they can support those areas.**”*

Anthony Moore

What does Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience mean to you?



How do we grow this conversation into action among community members?

Waiting for responses ...





Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA)



What is eVCA?



Identify vulnerabilities:

Understand the specific risks and challenges they face.

Evaluate capacities:

Identify existing resources, knowledge, and skills within the community that can be leveraged to address such challenges.

Strengthen resilience:

Take informed actions to reduce risk and enhance the community's ability to cope with and recover from adversity.

Why do an eVCA?

- For communities to better **understand** the nature and extent of existing **changing and emerging risks** they are and will be facing.
- For communities to **identify relevant and practical actions to reduce their risks** and strengthen their resilience based on their priorities.
- To **raise awareness and mobilize resources** within the community and externally so that the community can implement a risk reduction action plan.
- For National Societies to support communities to reduce their prioritized risks, including by influencing policies, laws, and funding which can benefit those communities.

What is the role of the Red Cross?

The eVCA is **not** a standalone process carried out solely by a National Society. Our role is a **facilitator of community participation and empowerment**.

The eVCA is founded in the understanding that **resilience is not something that can be brought to or built for communities**. Strengthening resilience at every level is a participatory journey led by communities. As a National Society, the eVCA requires us to reconsider ways of working, with the following principles in mind:



Accompany



Enable



Connect



FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION



SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW



DIRECT OBSERVATION



RESILIENCE STAR



COMMUNITY FACTSHEET



PROBLEM TREE



HISTORICAL PROFILE & VISUALISATION



TRANSECT WALK



MAPPING



SEASONAL CALENDAR



VENN DIAGRAM



SECONDARY SOURCE REVIEW

eVCA Toolkit



Dimensions of Resilience

Eleven dimensions of community resilience



1. Risk management

A resilient community knows and manages its risks.



2. Health

A resilient community is healthy.



3. Water and sanitation

A resilient community can meet its basic water and sanitation needs.



4. Shelter

A resilient community can meet its basic shelter needs.



5. Food and nutrition security

A resilient community can meet its basic food needs.



6. Economic opportunities

A resilient community has diverse economic opportunities.



7. Infrastructure and services

A resilient community has well-maintained and accessible infrastructure and services.



8. Natural resource management

A resilient community has access to, manages and uses its natural assets in a sustainable manner.



9. Social cohesion

A resilient community is socially cohesive.



10. Inclusion

A resilient community is inclusive.



11. Connectedness

A resilient community is connected.

eVCA and Community Resilience

Strengthening community resilience through eVCA involves:

- Assisting communities to adopt **risk-informed, holistic** approaches to address their underlying vulnerabilities.
- A **demand-driven, people-centred** approach.
- Being (and remaining) connected to communities.

With the 11 dimensions of resilience in mind, the eVCA process seeks to answer the following:



Pilot project: Bay St. George, NL

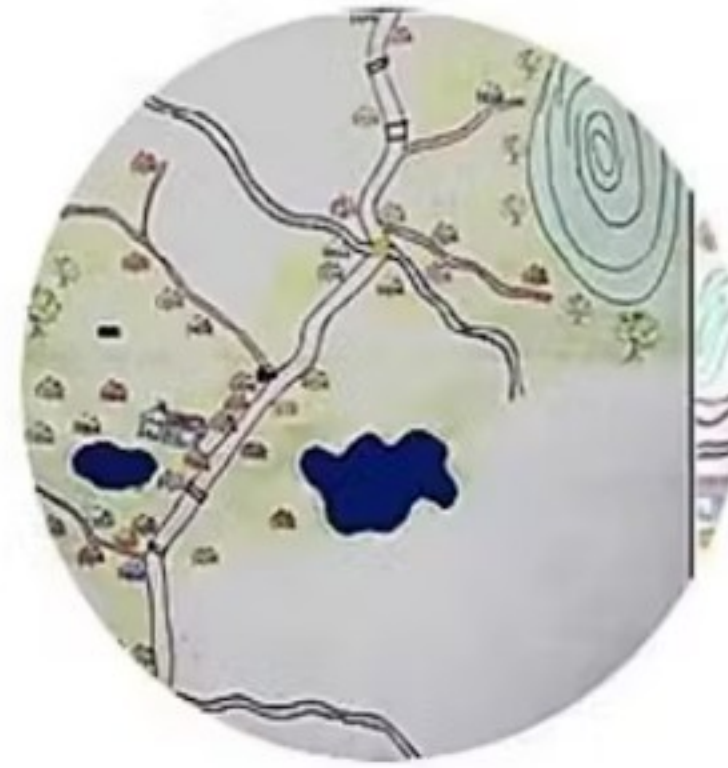
- Canadian Red Cross has a long history of emergency response in the region; over the last several years, our focus has expanded to include community engagement through the Inclusive Resilience Project.
- Over the course of four days, CRC met with 15 residents from the BSG region and encouraged them to share their knowledge and ideas on what would make their community more resilient.
- Participants included both long-time residents and newcomers, People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre staff and volunteers, Chiefs and Elders, community leaders, and emergency management personnel (amongst others).



Workshop Activities



COMMUNITY FACTSHEET



MAPPING



SEASONAL CALENDAR



PROBLEM TREE



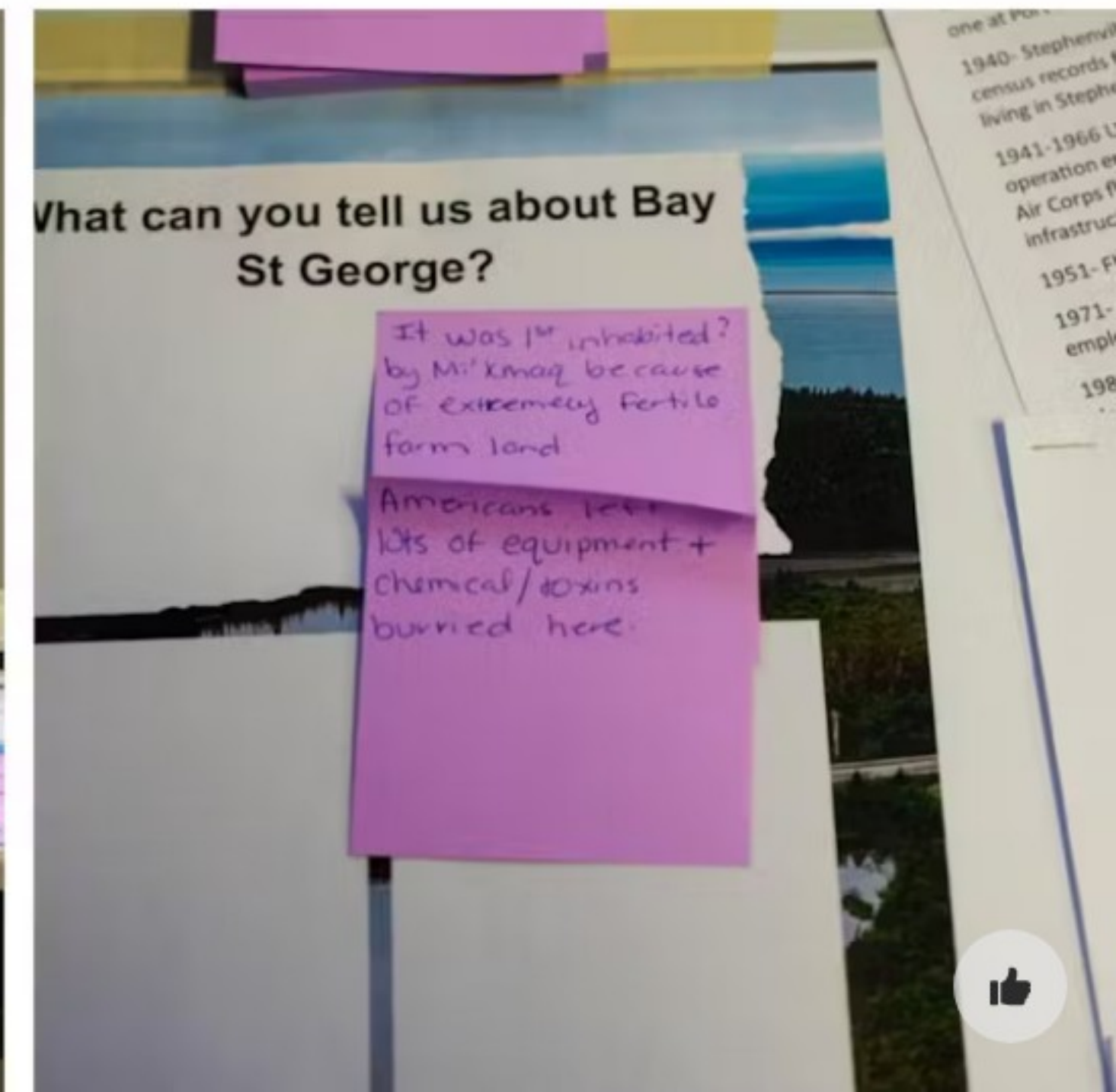
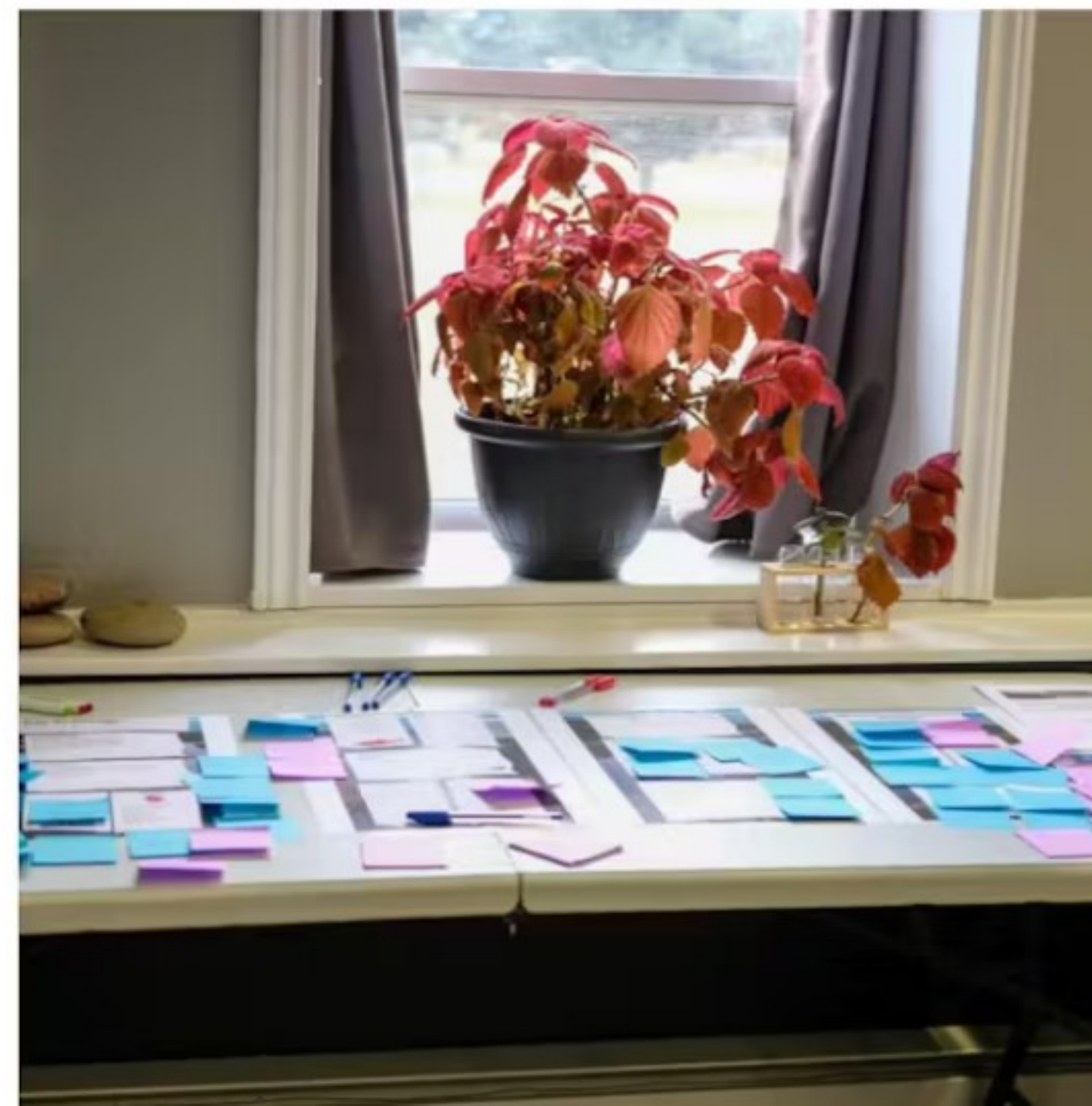
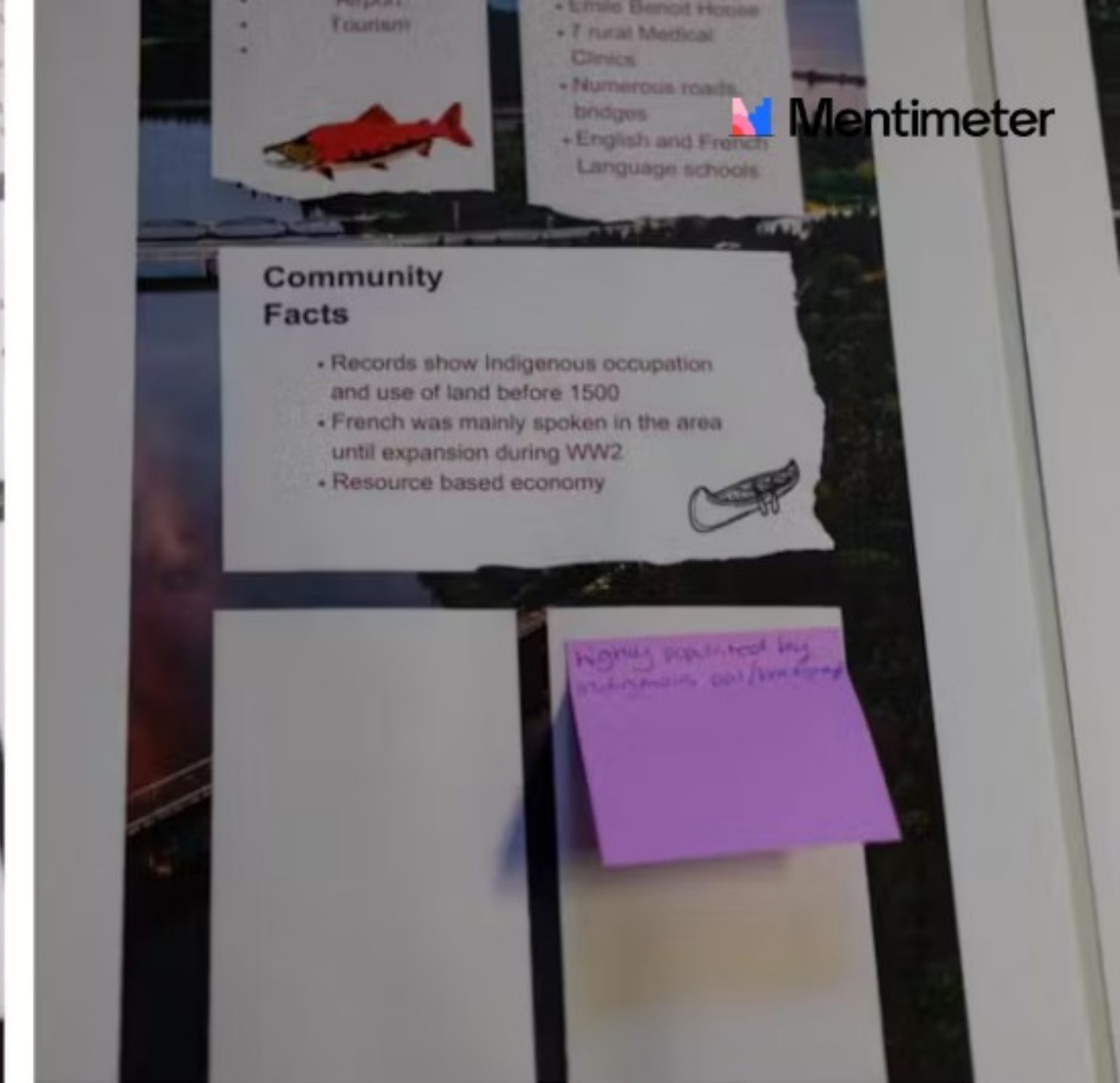
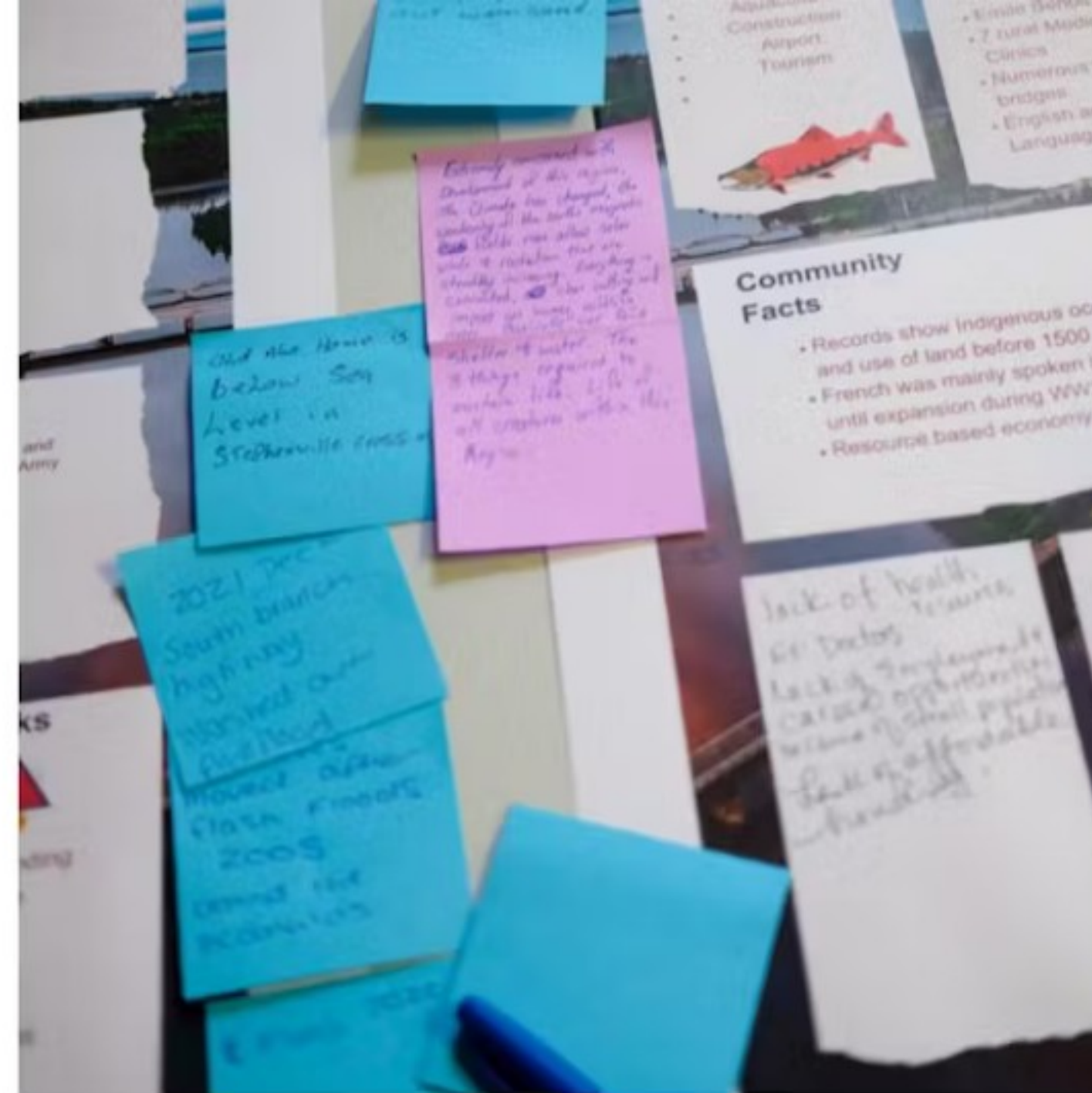
HISTORICAL PROFILE & VISUALISATION



RESILIENCE STAR

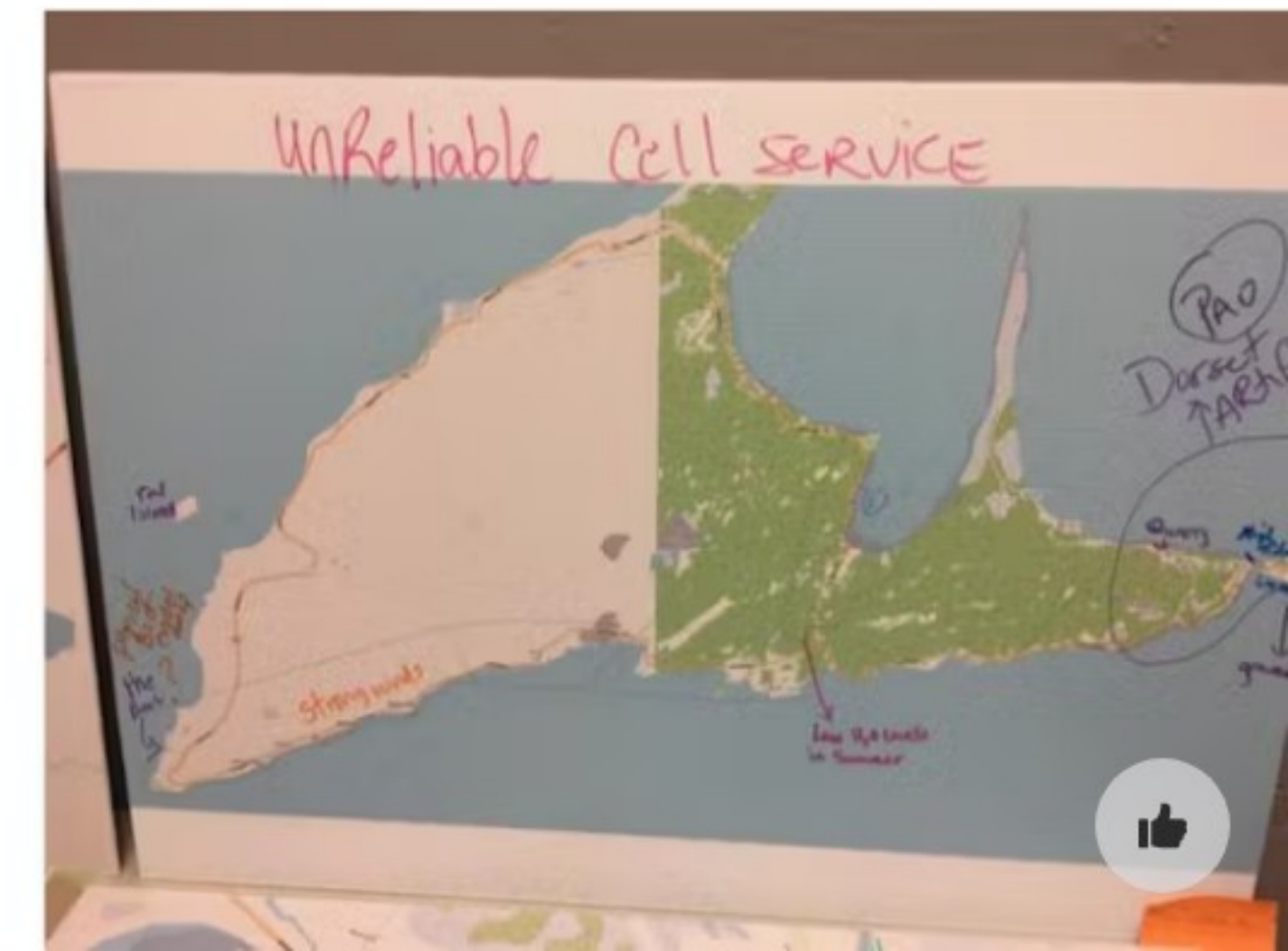
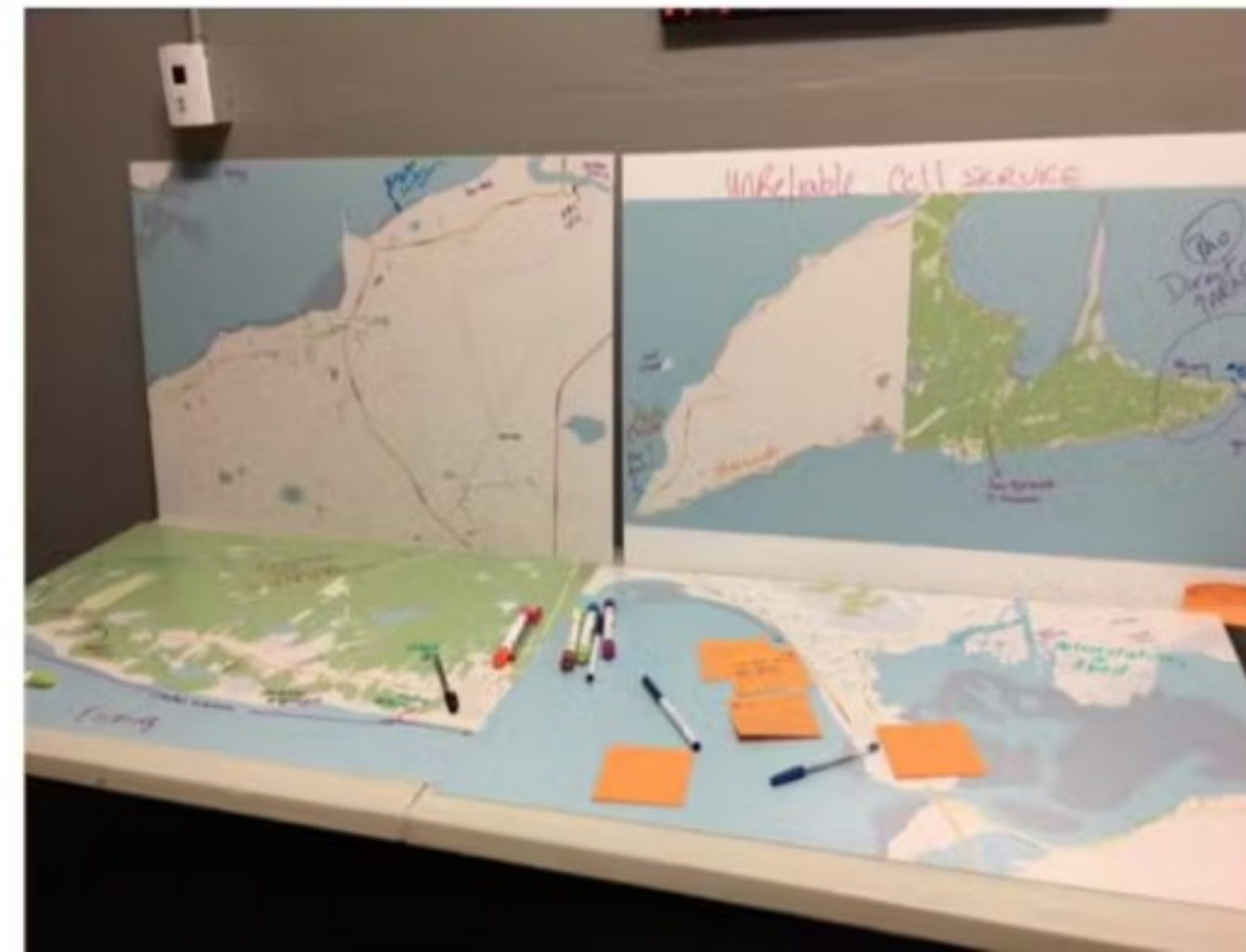
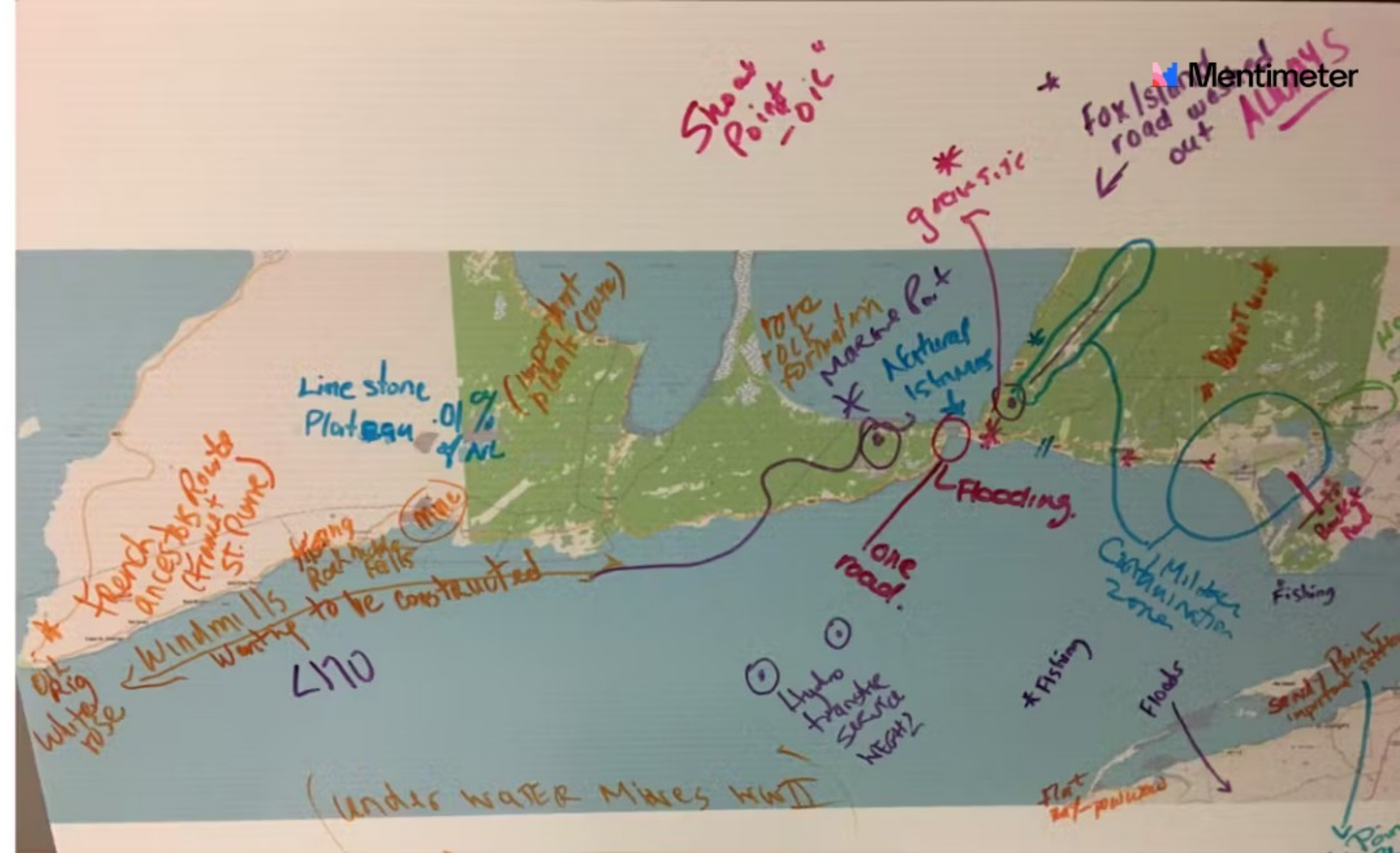
Community Fact Sheets

- Printed community factsheets with basic information filled in.
- Sticky notes for participants to fill in more information, history, or context that was important to them, their families, and community.
- Facilitator and question prompts.



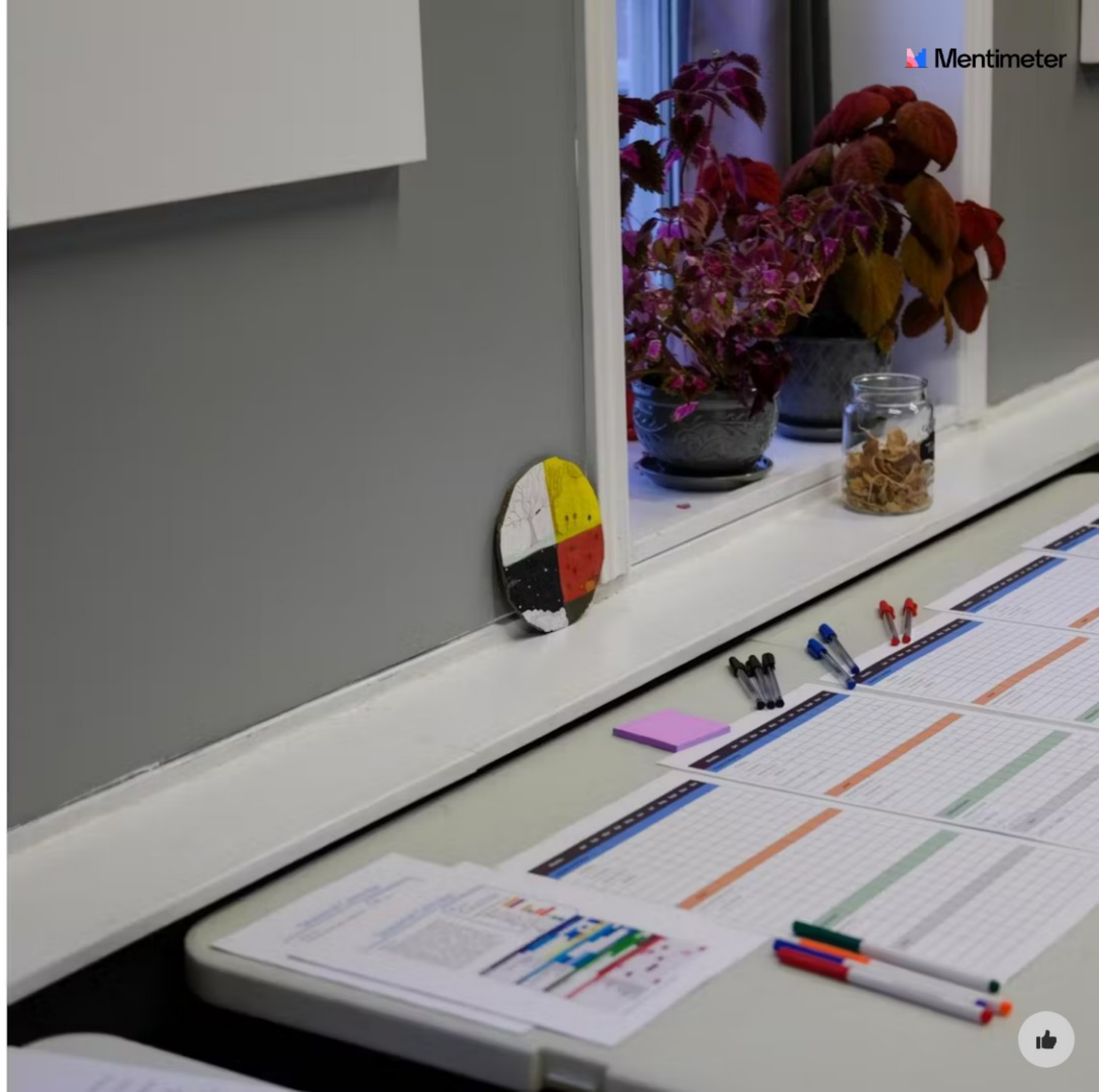
Mapping

- 1 large regional map and 5 maps focused on different parts of the region.
- Activity was adapted through inspiration from the Inclusive Resilience project.
- Whiteboard markers and sticky notes/
- Prompts to get the conversation started.
- Facilitators ready to engage and collect data.



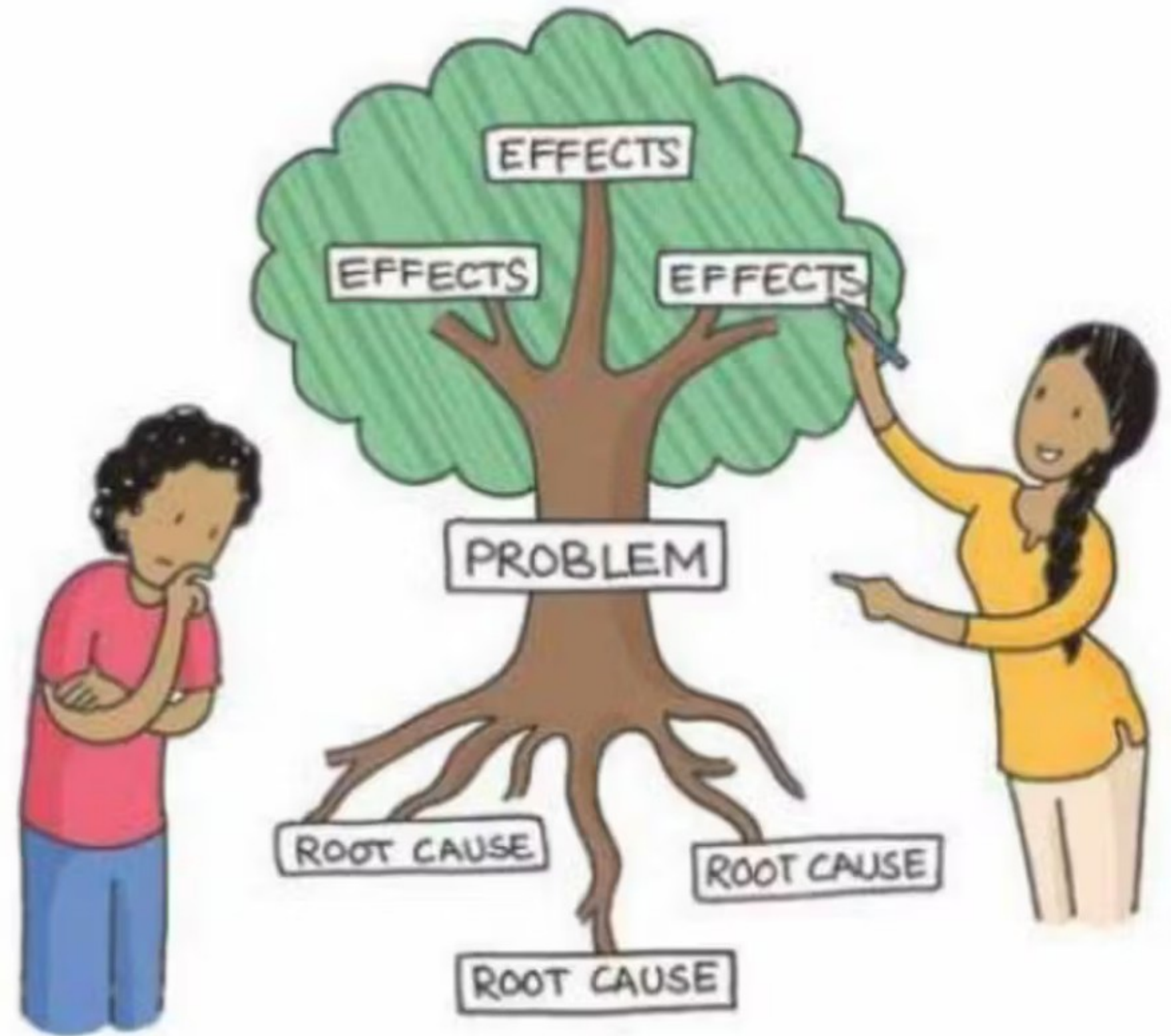
Seasonal Calendar

- Printed copies of calendars to add important seasonal events.
- People could add sticky notes or write on a calendar.
- Responses ranged from seasonal events to harvest and hunting seasons, and comments on changing seasonal patterns due to climate change.



Problem Tree

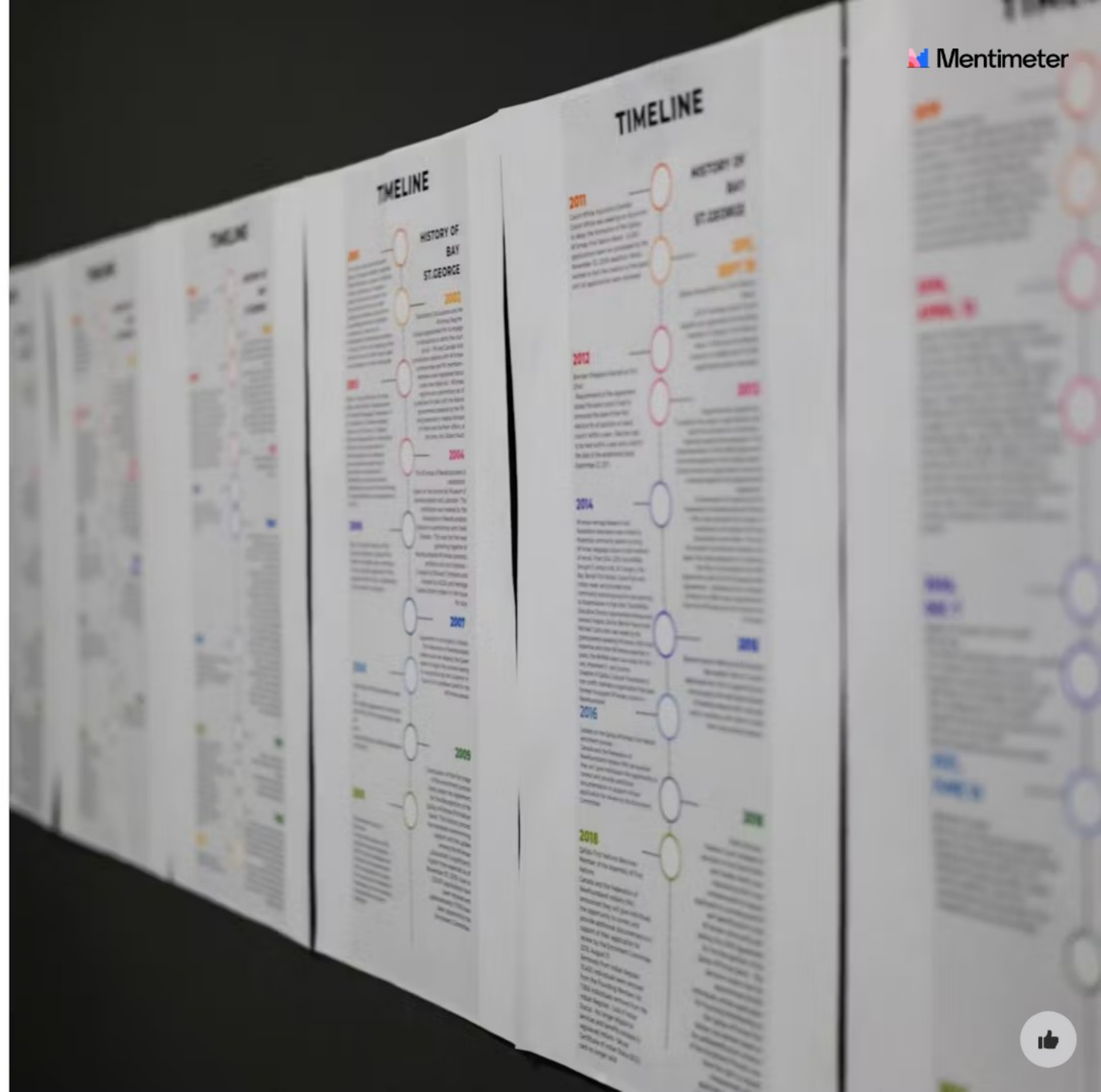
- Flip chart with tree and roots drawn.
- Conversation with group around identified issues.



Maldivian Red Crescent VCA Toolbox

Historical Profile

- A printed timeline of the area, with the majority of information compiled by communities.
- Conversations around the history of the region and the people.



Resilience Star

- Most well received activity
- Red sticky notes for hazards/risks
- Green sticky notes for capacities
- Pink sticky notes for solutions
- Rich, vibrant discussion with community as the experts on their lived experience



What we heard

eVCA participants identified local hazards, strengths, challenges, and solutions.

Key findings included:

- The BSG region faces various risks, such as severe weather, coastal hazards, climate change threats, and unique challenges in rural and remote communities.
- Strengths include strong community cohesion and social capital, dedicated community supports and organizations, ingrained sense of cultural identity, abundant natural resources, and a culture of volunteerism and connectedness.
- Identified challenges include food insecurity, the need for better community preparedness, aging infrastructure, healthcare access, housing issues, and limited opportunities to engage in decision-making.
- Participants were encouraged to propose small-scale community-driven initiatives to address these challenges. Potential solutions included local food production, youth mentorship, skill-building programs, preparedness workshops, and community health and wellness events to address these challenges.

Process Learnings

What went well:

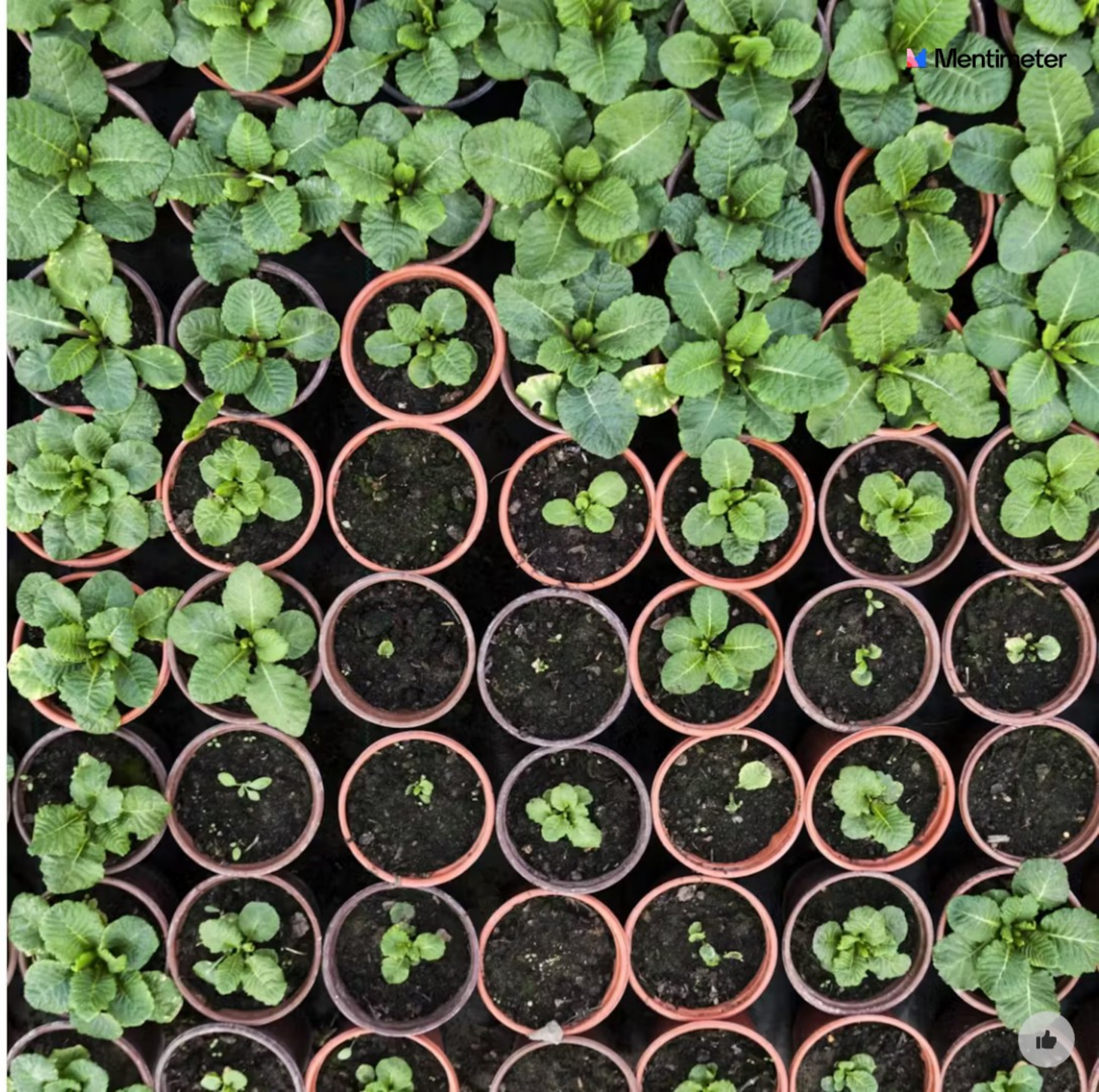
- Engaging activities
- The activities sparked many conversations
- People mapped out risk areas, culturally significant areas, and areas of economic opportunity

Areas for improvement:

- Longer more dedicated time for certain activities
- Including more directed prompts
- Exploring other facilitation methods for each activity
- More locations within the community

Food Sovereignty Project

Conversations are ongoing to launch a community-led project, supported by the CRC focused on food sovereignty.



Looking to the future

- Working with communities on action planning.
- Supporting small community-based projects.
- Walking with community: listening and learning.
- Incorporating lessons learned into process for future pilots.



What is most important to you and your community to share with allies and ally organizations who want to exchange knowledge and walk alongside you?





Canadian Red Cross

DRM Framework for
Tools, Resources, and Toolkits
for Indigenous Communities



Introduction

Kellyann Meloche
Senior Manager

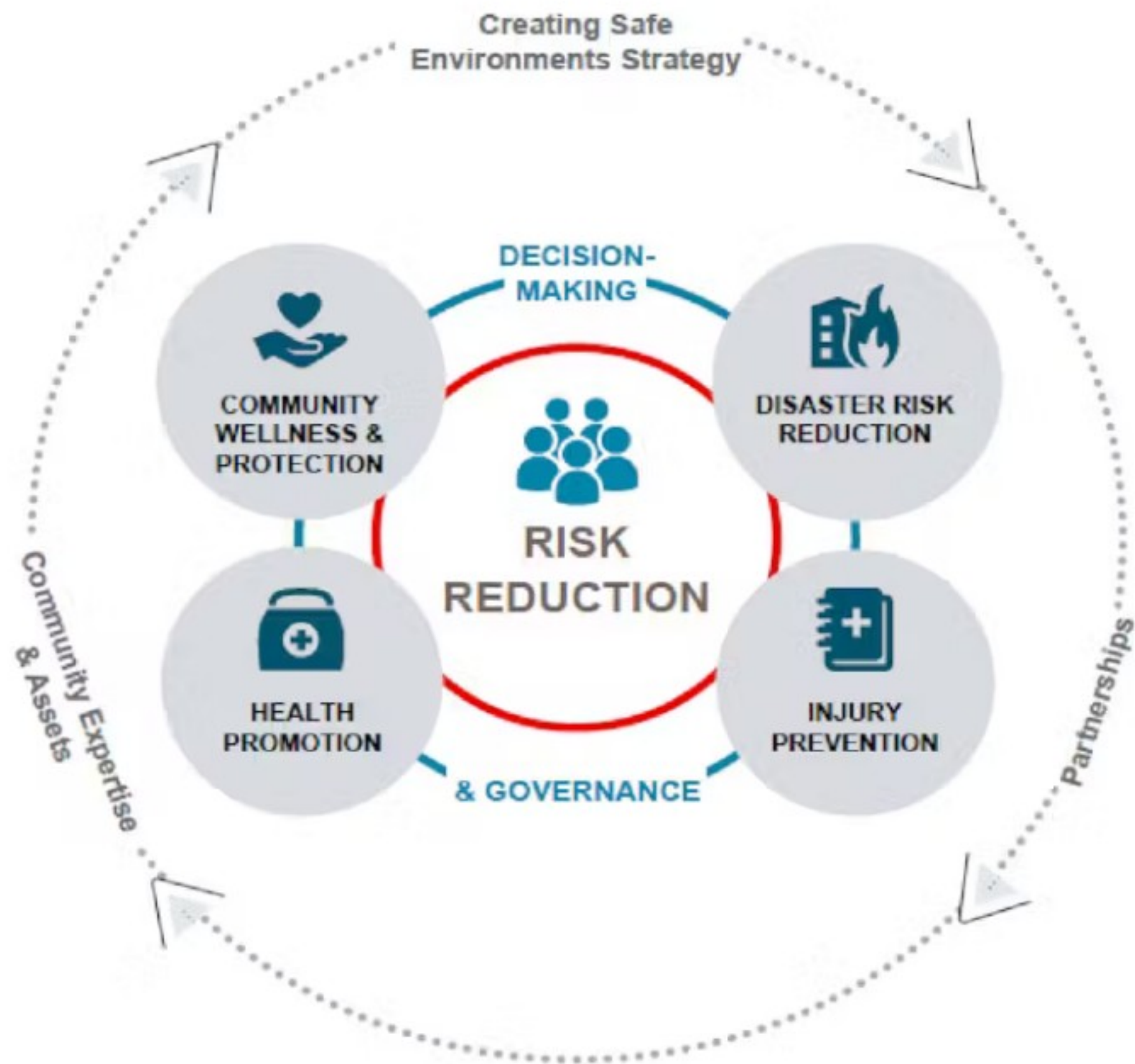
Disaster Risk Management Advisors:

Bran Friesen

Tracey Anderson



Help Desk for Indigenous Leadership



“Think of us as an extension of your workforce”

Disaster Risk Management Learning Events

Planning and preparedness

Reviewing and recommendations on EM plans

Communication during emergencies

Recovery after a disaster

Disaster risk planning

Preparedness webinars

Sheltering in place

Risk exposure and identification of hazards

Workshops and tabletop exercises tailored to community needs



Disaster Risk Management Development and Sharing

Evacuation
preparedness

Emergency
planning for
households

Emergency
preparedness
checklists

Fire
preparedness

Flood
preparedness

7-10 day
emergency kits

72-hour
emergency
backpack

Grab and go for
Elders and
children

Other
community-
specific
resources



Standards and Model



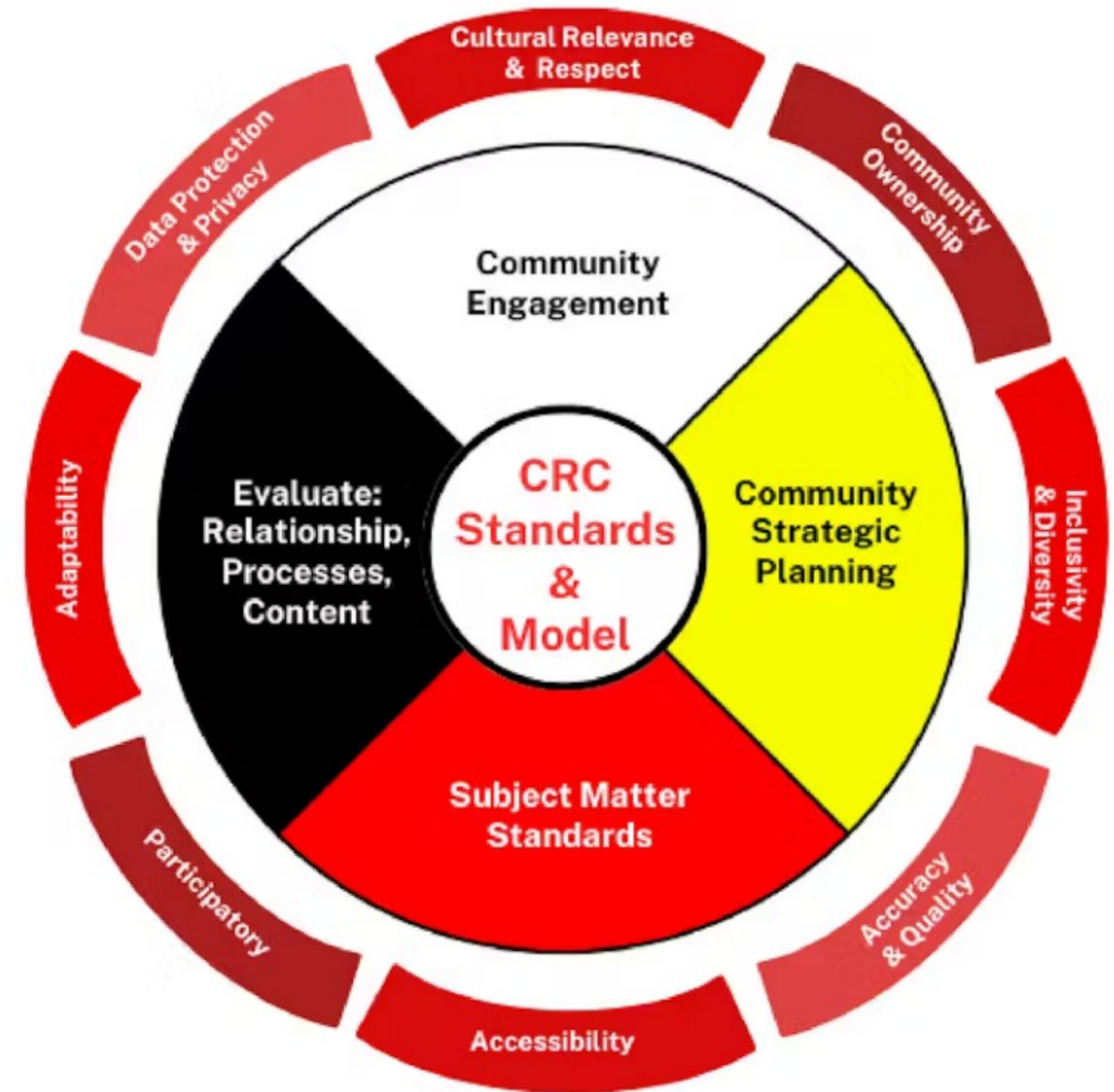
Everything starts with a question

How can we add to the emergency management tools, resources and toolkit needs of Indigenous communities?

CRC Standards



Model



Framework Overview

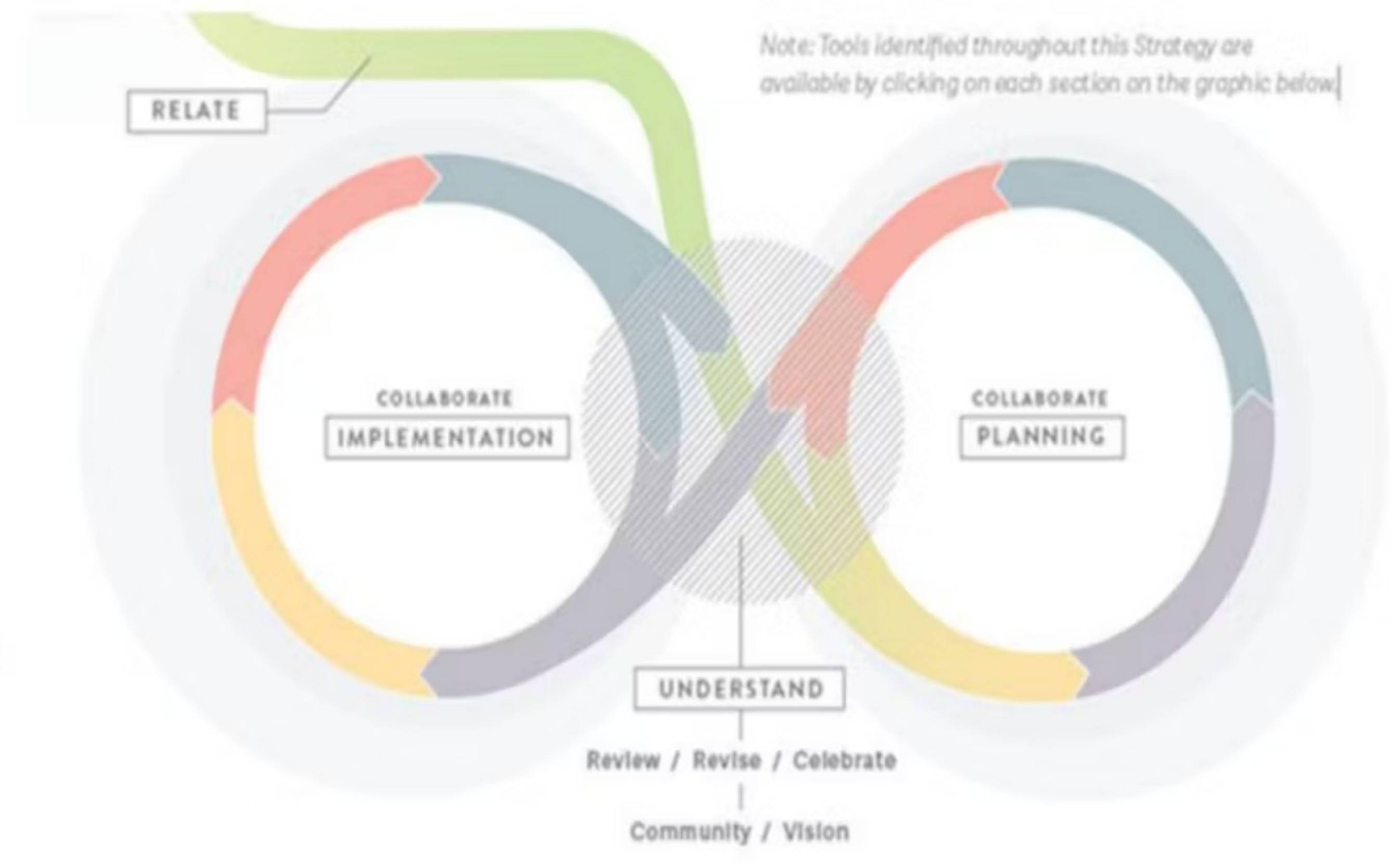


Evolving Framework

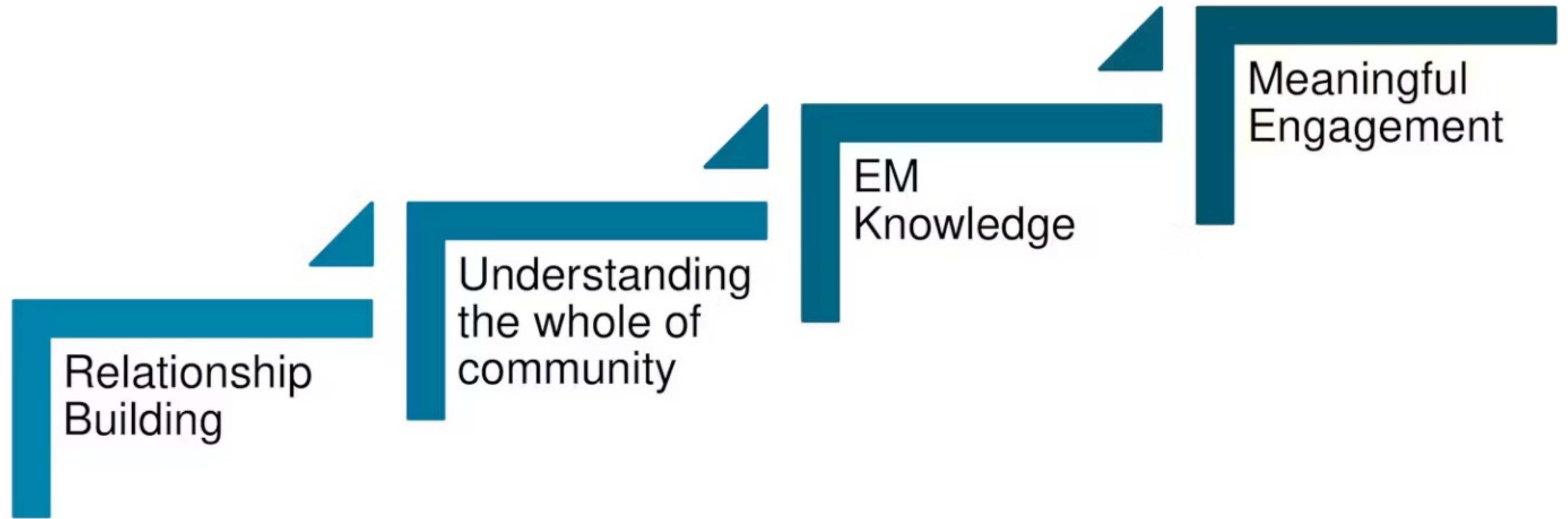


Framework Components

- The components represent key steps and information pathways to increasing a community's resilience to disaster.
- CRC works to build relationships, align with community needs and realities, collaborate alongside communities to plan and implement projects, and understand areas of success and improvement.



Community Engagement



Community Strategic Planning

Walk alongside communities to assist them to:

- Identify a vision for an Emergency Management community program
- Identify community needs
- Set priorities
- Develop a strategic planning cycle and multi-year EM workplan

Assist communities to ensure they have identified:

- EM leads
- EM planning group
- Relevant EM bylaws and/or BCR's
- EM Fin/Admin response mechanism

Admin—Assist communities to ensure they have a good EM Program Admin in place that might include:

- EM funding needs/management
- EM records management
- EM plan maintenance/record of amendments
- EM plan distribution list and processes
- Other EM plan tracking

Assessments—Assist communities to identify assessments that may benefit such as:

- Hazard Identification and Risk & Vulnerability Assessments
- Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA)
- Capabilities Assessment
- Resource Needs Assessments and Inventory
- Climate Change Assessment
- Critical Infrastructure Assessment
- Training Needs Assessment and Training Plan

Mitigation—Assist communities to assess what they can do to prevent or lessen the impact of events through:

- Mitigation planning
- Hazard mapping
- Flood plain mapping
- FireSmart program
- Establishing 911

Preparedness—Assist communities to identify areas that will help them prepare through:

- Notification plans and systems
- Activating an EM Plan
- EOC activation
- Warning/information monitoring
- Communication plan
- Request for assistance processes
- Contact directories
- MOU (needs and management)
- Working with external volunteers
- Community volunteer management
- Hazard specific plans/procedures
- Business continuity planning
- Climate Change Adaptation awareness/planning
- EM public awareness
- Establishing an exercise program

Response—Assist community response needs with tools and resources such as:

- Situation information management
- Operational levels
- Shelter in place
- Evacuation assessments
- Evacuation roster and roles/responsibilities of essential employees remaining/early return and supports they may need
- Evacuation checklists, community EM liaisons, ESS, health EM processes, etc.
- Evacuation animal considerations

Recovery—Tools and resources for building community support mechanisms for post-disaster recovery:

- Various assessments
- Community re-entry planning
- Recovery and resilience planning
- Debriefing
- After action and EM improvement planning

Evaluate

Relationship

Tools, Resources, Toolkits

Community Strategic EM
Program Goals

Project Direction





Not reinventing
the wheel

Direction

E-Scan

Gaps

Tailoring

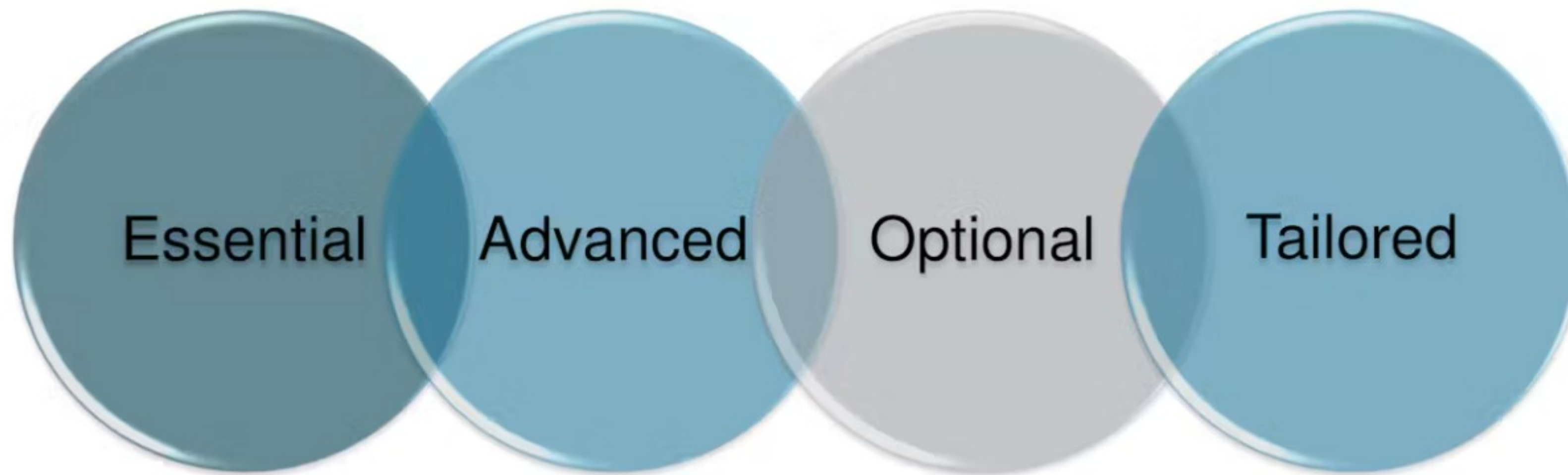
What types of tools and resources would you like to see?



Group Activity

What are the challenges you see within your community or other Indigenous communities regarding Emergency Management tools and resources?

Toolkits



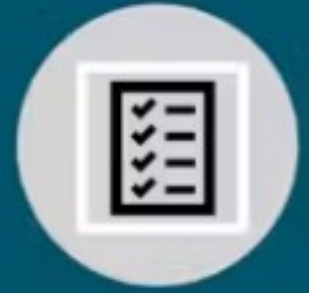
ENGAGEMENT



STRATEGIC
PLANNING



MITIGATION



PREPARED-
NESS



RESPONSE



RECOVERY



EVALUATION

The Help Desk is available
7 days a week
8 am to 8 pm CST

1-833-937-1597

[IndigenousProgramsHELPDESK@
redcross.ca](mailto:IndigenousProgramsHELPDESK@redcross.ca)

Messages will be responded to
within 24 hours.





Questions and Comments

0 questions

0 upvotes

