

# COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND



# RIC AND UAAC MEMBER SURVEY

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

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in Collaboration with the Community Initiatives Fund

August, 2009

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this survey was to obtain Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC) and Urban Aboriginal Adjudication Committee (UAAC) Member perspectives on committee involvement and Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) projects. The survey also gathered committee member perspectives on the capacity of community-based organizations and on the potential for future programming considerations.

The RIC/UAAC survey was developed collaboratively between the CIF Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (TPCS), based on a review of existing instruments and literature related to quality of life and community vitality. The survey was conducted from December 8, 2008 until the end of March 2009.

Two approaches were used to invite RIC and UAAC members who served on a committee within past two years to participate in the survey: 1) Direct email invitations sent to RIC and UAAC members; and 2) Direct mail invitations sent to RIC and UAAC members. A total of 139 RIC and UAAC members (n=139) completed the survey (overall response rate: 55.2%).

The majority of respondents were female, employed full-time with nearly two-thirds attaining an educational level of bachelors degree or higher. On average, respondents were 48 years of age, had lived in their current community for 22 years and spent an average of 5 hours per week volunteering in the past year.

Most respondents reported they were involved in a RIC compared to a smaller proportion that was involved in a UAAC. The average time served on a committee was slightly over five years for RIC members and over three years for UAAC members. Just over half of respondents reported their RIC/UAAC involvement as a Grant Review Committee member. The most commonly reported demographic group involved in RIC or UAAC decision-making was First Nations or Métis. Other demographic groups commonly involved in decision-making were rural residents and young adults (19-29 years).

CIF Application Funding Guidelines and the RIC were reported as the most frequently used and most helpful information sources regarding the CIF. Other information sources commonly used were family, friends and work colleges; Government of Saskatchewan staff; and an organizational partner.

Nearly all respondents reported that CIF funded projects in their region or municipality were designed to meet community-identified needs. Most respondents also reported that these projects increased awareness of an issue within the community. However, only a small proportion of respondents stated that projects had enough money or funding.

Most respondents reported it would be quite or extremely useful for local community groups (LCG's) to receive CIF supported capacity building initiatives. From a list of possible capacity building initiatives respondents identified: 1) funding source identification; 2) collaborative planning skills; and 3) grant writing skills as the probable most useful initiatives. Almost all respondents reported that: a lack of stable core funding; and a lack of funding for emerging needs as barriers preventing LCG's from providing programs or services.

Overall, respondents' ratings were fairly low for the level of capacity and support that LCG's had. Less than half of respondents reported that many or all LCG's are aware of the CIF or submit applications consistent with funding priorities. Only a very small proportion of respondents stated that LCG's had enough resources to support emerging needs and/or new initiatives; have enough resources to be sustainable; or have enough resources to adequately support their existing activities.

Most respondents stated they represent another organization while they are involved with a RIC or UAAC with most of those being employed full-time with that organization. The type of organization respondents reported most frequently as representing were: a health or human services agency; a registered non-profit organization; and a school or educational institution. For the majority of those organizations the operation was reported as being either regional or local in scope. Just over half of respondents reported that the organization they represent has someone working with community groups to help identify and obtain financial assistance in support of their programs and services.

Almost all respondents stated that the organization they represent engages in collaborative planning to develop a plan or strategy to improve the quality of life of local residents. The demographic groups included most frequently in these plans or strategies were First Nations or Métis; teens (13-18 years); and low-income residents.

Respondents were asked to report on CIF funding requests from community groups over the past two years and where they thought community groups have the greatest potential to make a difference over the next two years. Over half of respondents reported receiving requests for programs and services related to health and in particular healthy families/family wellness programming. About one-third of health requests were related to general health services and substance abuse services. Respondents also stated that community groups have the greatest potential over the next two years providing health programs and services in these same three areas.

Less than half of respondents reported receiving requests for programs and services related to other basic needs. Of those, request for affordable food; and violence prevention were the most frequent. Respondents also stated that community groups have the greatest potential over the next two years providing other basic needs programs and services related to affordable housing; affordable food; and affordable childcare.

Over half of respondents reported receiving requests for programs and services related to personal development and in particular teen leadership development or engagement programming. Nearly half of personal development requests were related to early childhood development; First Nations or Métis leadership or development; and young adults' leadership or development. Respondents also stated that community groups have the greatest potential over the next two years providing personal development programs and services in these same three areas.

A majority of respondents reported receiving requests for programs and services related to sport, culture and recreation. Two thirds of respondents reported requests for informal recreation programs; and sport or other organized recreation programs while over half reported requests for programs related to culture and heritage activities, organized clubs or groups, physical activity or fitness, and literary arts. Respondents stated that the sport, culture and recreation programming that community groups have the greatest potential of providing for over the next two years are: sport or other organized recreation programs; informal recreation programs; physical activity or fitness programs; and cultural heritage activities.

In short, the findings from this study suggest that the RIC and UAAC respondents had a very positive view of the CIF. Study results also suggest that these respondents perceived large gaps in the ability of local community organizations to meet the needs of the community particularly in the areas of capacity and securing resources. The findings also provide insights on how to improve RIC/UAAC effectiveness and the CIF policy and delivery process.

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) offers two major grant programs for communities: 1) The Community Grant Program (CGP) which is adjudicated via 10 Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs); and 2) The Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program (UACGP) which is adjudicated via 14 municipal Urban Aboriginal Adjudication Committees (UAACs).

The purpose of this survey was to obtain RIC and UAAC Member perspectives on committee involvement and Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) projects. The survey also gathered committee member perspectives on the capacity of community-based organizations and on the potential for future CIF programming considerations. It is the intent to use survey results to inform program improvements and future planning for the CIF.

The RIC and UAAC Member survey was developed collaboratively between the CIF and the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (TPCS) based on a review of existing instruments and literature related to quality of life and community vitality. The survey also incorporated information from a review of the CIF CGP and UACGP database.

The RIC and UAAC Member survey was one of three surveys conducted by the CIF to help improve the CIF grant process and the CIF's ability to help local community groups (LCG's) contribute to the quality of life in Saskatchewan communities. This report presents only the results of the RIC and UAAC Survey.

Separate reports are available for the results of the other two surveys: 1) Applicant; and 2) Municipal Administrator on the TPCS Evaluation Unit website at: [www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/EU-Reports](http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/EU-Reports).

In addition to the three stakeholder surveys, the CIF and TPCS are conducting a survey of 4,000 Saskatchewan households that is a part of the CIF Research Project. A report containing the results of this Public Survey is expected to be available on the CIF/TPCS website in the fall of 2009.

Information about the CIF, the Community Grant Program, and the Urban Aboriginal Grant Program can be found on the CIF website at [www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/CIF](http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/CIF).

## **SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY**

The focus of this survey was individuals who had recently (within past two years; 2006/07 and 2007/08) served on either a RIC or UAAC.

A list of committee members from each grant adjudication committee, along with contact information (email and/or mailing address) was obtained from the CIF grant databases. The lists were aggregated and any duplicate RIC and UAAC Member contacts were removed. An attempt was made to acquire contact information for individuals with incomplete information. This process resulted in a total of 302 RIC and UAAC contacts with email or mailing contact information.

Two approaches were used to invite RIC and UAAC contacts to participate in the survey: 1) Direct email invitations sent to RIC and UAAC contacts; and 2) Direct mail invitations sent to RIC and UAAC contacts. Data was collected from December 8, 2008 until the end of March 2009. Based on a combination of the two approaches, a total of 139 RIC and UAAC contacts completed the survey (overall response rate: 55.2% (139 out of 252)).

### ***Direct Email***

A total of 220 RIC and UAAC contacts were directly emailed an invitation to participate in the online survey. Of those, 42 emails either bounced (6) or were undeliverable (36), resulting in 178 delivered emails. Twenty nine of the 42 RIC/UAAC contacts with undeliverable or bounced emails had useable mailing information and were added to the direct mail contact list.

Two reminder-emails were sent to non-respondents at approximately two week intervals from the initial email invitation. The email invitations and reminder emails all had an embedded link to the online survey. Of the 178 direct email contacts, 105 had not responded by January 15, 2009 and were sent one final direct mail invitation to participate which included a cover letter with the survey web address, a paper copy of the survey and a postage paid return envelope.

### ***Direct Mail***

A total of 77 RIC and UAAC contacts (including those with bad email addresses) were mailed a paper version of the survey, accompanied by a cover letter and postage-paid return envelope. Of those, 8 were undeliverable due to out of date or inaccurate contact information for a total 69 successfully delivered surveys.

RIC and UAAC contacts had the option to return a completed paper survey in the postage-paid envelope or complete the survey online by entering the web address that was provided in the cover letter. Non-respondents were mailed a postcard reminder and replacement survey, two weeks and four weeks after the initial mail invitation, respectively.

### ***Analysis***

The Evaluation Unit was responsible for the administration and analysis of the RIC and UAAC members' survey. All identifiers were removed immediately to protect the privacy of survey respondents.

**SECTION 3: DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Gender**

The majority of respondents (58.8%) were female.

**Age**

On average (Mean<sup>1</sup>), respondents were 48 years of age (Median<sup>2</sup>: 49 years; Range: 23 to 71 years).

**Aboriginal Status**

Slightly less than one quarter of respondents (20.3%) self-reported as Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis or Inuit).

**Disability**

A small proportion of respondents (5.3%) indicated that they had a physical or mental condition that limits the amount and/or kind of activity they can perform.

**Place of Birth**

Most respondents (81.0%) were born in Saskatchewan. Less than one-fifth of respondents (16.1%) were born in another Canadian province or territory and a smaller proportion (2.9%) were born outside of Canada.

**Years of Residence**

On average (Mean), respondents reported living 22 years in their current community (Median: 19 years; Range: 0 to 63 years), and 41 years in Saskatchewan (Median: 45 years; Range: 0 to 69 years).

**Employment Status**

Almost all respondents (95.7%) reported being employed full-time.

**Table 3.1 – Employment Status**

	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>
Employed full-time	95.7%
Employed part-time	1.4%
Self-employed	2.2%
Homemaker	2.2%
Retired	2.2%

<sup>1</sup> Mean – the mathematical average of the scores/responses.

<sup>2</sup> Median – the middle number in a given sequence of numbers, or the point below which 50% of the scores/responses fall.

**Highest Level of Education**

The majority of respondents reported having either a bachelor’s degree (35.3%) or a graduate or professional degree (30.1%)

**Table 3.2 – Highest Level of Education**

	Percent of Respondents
Secondary school graduation or equivalent	2.2%
Some college	9.6%
Trades certificate/diploma	5.1%
Other non-university certificate/diploma	17.6%
Bachelor’s degree	35.3%
Graduate or professional degree	30.1%

**Hours per Week Volunteered**

On average (Mean), respondents reported volunteering 5 hours per week during the past year (Median: 2 hours; Range: 0 to 40 hours).

**Community Size**

The majority of respondents (79.7%) indicated that they lived in a community of 2,000 people or more with a quarter of respondents (24.8%) living in a community of 50,000 people or more.

**Table 3.3- Community Size**

	Percent of Respondents
Farm or acreage	7.1%
Up to 499 People	4.4%
Between 500 and 1,999 people	8.8%
Between 2,000 and 4,999 people	10.6%
Between 5,000 and 9,999 people	7.1%
Between 10,000 and 29,999 people	23.9%
Between 30,000 and 49,999 people	13.3%
50,000 people or more	24.8%

## SECTION 4: TOP OF MIND

Respondents were asked “What three words or short expressions come to mind when you think of the Community Initiatives Fund?” RIC/UAAC Member survey responses were combined with Applicant survey responses which together provided over 1,200 unique response items to this survey question. Responses were then categorized into six themes and 25 sub-theme categories.

Almost all RIC/UAAC Member respondents (96.4%) provided at least one response to this open-ended question. RIC/UAAC Member respondents provided over 400 of the 1,200 unique response items. Table 4.1 provides a summary of the 25 sub-themes arranged by theme.

Two of the six themes had a high proportion of responses in one or more sub-themes. The sub-themes with the highest response rates are indicated by an asterisk and were: 1) Profile of the CIF: i) *Beneficial and needed by communities*; and ii) *Funding provider and investor*; and 2) Community Capacity: i) *Rural and grassroots development*; and ii) *Support and opportunity for local development*.

**Table 4.1 – Community Initiative Fund Top of Mind**

<b>Programming Themes and Sub-Themes</b>
<b>Profile of the CIF</b>
* <b>Beneficial and needed by communities</b>
* <b>Funding provider and investor</b>
Motivational and empowering facilitator
Operated by government and other organizations
<b>Community Capacity</b>
* <b>Rural and grassroots development</b>
* <b>Support and opportunity for local development</b>
Collaboration and engagement
Leadership development and employment
<b>Program Benefits</b>
Arts and culture
Children and youth
Recreation, physical activity and sport
Vulnerable groups support and intervention
Education and human development
<b>Grant Process</b>
Flexible and innovative
Negative perceptions of application process
Sustainable, start-up and leveraging funding
Partnership support and facilitation
Positive perceptions of application process
Negative perceptions of fairness
Positive perceptions of fairness
Staff support helpful
<b>Access and Responsiveness</b>
Increased cultural awareness and sensitivity
Responsive to local needs
Increased access and reduction of barriers
<b>Misconceptions</b>
Unaware or lacking knowledge about CIF

## SECTION 5: COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

### ***RIC or UAAC Committee Involvement***

Respondents were asked to identify if they were involved in either a Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC); and/or an Urban Aboriginal Adjudication Committee (UAAC). Most respondents (82.0%) reported being involved with a RIC while about one quarter (26.6%) reported being involved in a UAAC. A small proportion of respondents (5.9%) reported being involved in both a RIC and a UAAC.

### ***Number of Years Involved in Committee***

On average (Mean), respondents that have been involved with a RIC were involved for 5.4 years (Median: 5.0 years; Range: 1 to 18 years). Those respondents that were involved with a UAAC were on average involved for 3.5 years (Median: 4.0 years; Range: 1 to 7 years).

### ***Committee Roles***

Those respondents that were involved with a RIC were most often involved as a Grant Review Committee member (54.4%). Considerably fewer respondents reported being involved to provide assistance/support to local community groups (LCGs) (28.1%); to promote the CIF (24.6%); or to partnering with a LCGs that deliver CIF funded projects (21.1%).

Those respondents that were involved with a UAAC were also most often involved as a Grant Review Committee member (56.8%). Smaller proportions of respondents reported being involved as a municipal contact or grants administrator (43.2%); or as someone who provided assistance/support to LCGs (32.4%).

**Table 5.1 – Committee Roles**

	<b>RIC</b>	<b>UAAC</b>
Grant Review Committee member	54.4%(1)	56.8%(1)
Municipal contact or grants administrator	--	43.2%(2)
Provide assistance/support to community group(s)	28.1%(2)	32.4%(3)
Promote the CIF	24.6%(3)	18.9%(4)
Partner with a community group(s) that delivers CIF funded projects	21.1%(4)	18.9%(5)
Provide advice in order to inform CIF program policy and direction	17.5%(5)	16.2%(7)
RIC chair or co-chair	14.9%(6)	--
Find or coordinate additional funding sources for CIF funded projects	13.2%(7)	2.7%(11)
Other <sup>1</sup>	13.2%(8)	--
Deliver CIF funded projects	13.2%(9)	18.9%(6)
Develop or write CIF grant applications	12.3%(10)	13.5%(9)
Report on CIF funded projects	9.6%(11)	13.5%(8)
RIC coordinator	8.8%(12)	--
Grant review committee chair or co-chair	7.0%(13)	8.1%(10)

*\*Percent of respondents involved in each role while involved with a RIC or UAAC. <sup>1</sup>No additional unique responses were commonly reported.*

### **Individuals Involved in Decision-Making**

From a list of potential demographic groups, respondents were asked to rate the groups level of involvement, from (1) Not Involved At All to (5) Extremely Involved, in RIC/UAAC decision-making. Demographic groups most often involved in RIC decision-making were First Nations or Métis (20.9%); rural residents (18.0%); and young adults (9.8%). Low proportions of the other demographic groups were reported to be involved in RIC decision-making.

A high proportion of First Nations or Métis residents (74.3%) were involved in UAAC decision-making. Young adults (30.3%); low-income residents (26.5%); and rural residents (21.9%) were other demographic groups reported to be involved in UAAC decision-making. Low proportions of the other demographic groups were reported to be involved in UAAC decision-making.

**Table 5.2 – Individuals Involved in Decision Making**

	<b>RIC</b>	<b>UAAC</b>
First Nations or Métis	20.9%(1)	74.3%(1)
Rural residents	18.0%(2)	21.9%(4)
Young adults (19-29 years)	9.8%(3)	30.3%(2)
Persons with a disability	5.0%(4)	9.4%(5)
Seniors (65+ years)	4.0%(5)	3.1%(7)
Teens (13-18 years)	4.0%(6)	6.1%(6)
Low-income residents	4.0%(7)	26.5%(3)
Recent immigrants	3.0%(8)	--

*\*Percent of respondents who reported that each group was Somewhat, Very or Extremely Involved in decision-making, based on a 5-point scale from (1) Not Involved At All to (5) Extremely Involved.*

### **Use and Helpfulness of Information Sources**

From a list of potential information sources, respondents were asked to identify the sources they used to find information about the CIF. Most respondents (88.5%) reported using the CIF Application Funding Guidelines; and a RIC (83.2%) as information sources. A majority of respondents also reported using family, friends, and work colleagues (59.6%); Government of Saskatchewan staff (55.6%); and an organizational partner (53.3%) to find information about the CIF.

Respondents were also asked to rate the helpfulness of each information source they used, based on a scale from (1) Not at all Helpful to (4) Extremely Helpful. Of those information sources used, the four sources identified most frequently as very or extremely helpful were: 1) Regional Intersectoral Committee (88.2%); 2) Municipal Urban Aboriginal Adjudication Committee (80.6%); 3) CIF application funding guidelines (78.1%); 4) CIF office (76.9%); 5) Government of Saskatchewan staff (76.7%); and 6) Local municipality (75.0%).

**Table 5.3 – Use and Helpfulness of Information Sources**

	Used Source (% Yes)	Helpfulness (% Very/Extremely Helpful)
CIF application funding guidelines	88.5%(1)	78.1%(3)
Regional Intersectoral Committee	83.2%(2)	88.2%(1)
Family, friends, and work colleagues	59.6%(3)	70.8%(8)
Government of Saskatchewan staff	55.6%(4)	76.7%(5)
Organization partner	53.3%(5)	70.2%(9)
Lottery partners	44.3%(6)	71.2%(7)
Other interagency groups	41.6%(7)	65.1%(11)
CIF office	41.5%(8)	76.9%(4)
Government of Saskatchewan website	41.2%(9)	65.9%(10)
Municipal Urban Aboriginal Adjudication Committee	35.5%(10)	80.6%(2)
Local municipality	35.1%(11)	75.0%(6)
Business partner	12.2%(12)	53.3%(12)
Other <sup>1</sup>	10.3%(13)	42.9%(13)

*\*Percent of respondents who 1) Used each source; and 2) rated each source as (3) Very or (4) Extremely Helpful based on a 4-point scale from (1) Not at all Helpful to (4) Extremely Helpful. <sup>1</sup>No additional unique responses were commonly reported.*

### **About CIF Projects**

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with several statements related to projects that applied for CIF funding in their region or municipality. Almost all respondents (96.0%) agreed or strongly agreed that projects applying for CIF funding were designed to meet community-identified needs. Also, most respondents were in agreement that projects increased awareness of an issue within the community (83.3%); and that funding was received from the CIF in time to implement the project (81.1%).

While the majority of respondents were in agreement with the other statements regarding projects that applied for CIF funding, only a third (34.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that projects in their region or municipality had enough money or funding.

**Table 5.4 –About CIF Projects in Region or Municipality**

	Percent of Respondents
Were designed to meet community-identified needs	96.0%
It increased awareness of an issue within the community	83.3%
Funding was received from the CIF in time to implement the project	81.1%
Received clear feedback about their application	77.0%
It provided leadership for teens (13-18 years)	75.8%
It provided leadership for young adults (19-29 years)	71.7%
Were able to obtain adequate facilities or space	70.9%
Provided leadership opportunities for First Nations and Métis	63.4%
Well-promoted within the community	63.3%
Increased the skills of local volunteers	61.9%
We were able to get enough volunteers	55.1%
Was easily accessible for persons with disabilities	55.0%
Had enough money or funding	34.2%

*\*Percent of respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with each statement, based on a 5-point scale from (1) Strongly Disagree to (5) Strongly Agree.*

## SECTION 6: CAPACITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

### ***Potential Initiatives to Increase Capacity***

From a list of potential training and informational initiatives, respondents were asked to rate how useful, from (1) Not at all Useful to (5) Extremely Useful, it would be for LCGs to receive such support. Most respondents reported that it would be quite or extremely useful for LCGs to receive support with: 1) Identification of other funding sources (85.5%); 2) Collaborative planning skills (76.7%); and 3) Grant writing skills (75.4%). Overall, the majority of respondents also agreed that the other initiatives listed would be quite or extremely useful in helping to increase the capacity of LCGs.

**Table 6.1 – Potential Initiatives to Increase Capacity**

	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>
Identification of other funding sources for local community groups	85.5%
Collaborative planning skills	76.7%
Grant writing skills	75.4%
Opportunities to share success stories or best practices	61.8%
Board governance and management skills	61.2%
Volunteer recognition	58.5%

*\*Percent of respondents who reported that CIF initiatives would be Quite or Extremely Useful, based on a 5-point scale from (1) Not at all Useful to (5) Extremely Useful.*

### ***Barriers for Local Community Groups***

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with several potential barriers that have prevented LCGs in their region or municipality from providing programs or services. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that lack of stable core funding (90.0%); and lack of funding for emerging needs (81.3%) are barriers for LCGs. The majority of respondents were also in agreement that lack of trained volunteers (65.9%); lack of trained staff (65.5%); and high staff turnover (56.6%) prevented LCGs from providing programs and services.

**Table 6.2 Barriers for Local Community Groups**

	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>
Lack of stable core funding	90.0%
Lack of funding for emerging needs	81.3%
Lack of trained volunteers	65.9%
Lack of trained staff	65.1%
Lack of accessible transportation	60.5%
High staff turnover	56.6%
Lack of awareness	54.3%
Geographic distance from people that most need services	53.1%
Lack of marketing or advertising	44.6%
Lack of adequate facilities or space	38.3%
Competition with other agencies that provide similar services	36.7%
Lack of partners that are willing to be actively involved	35.7%
Lack of participants	17.1%

*\*Percent of respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed that each item was a barrier, based on a 5-point scale from (1) Strongly Disagree to (5) Strongly Agree.*

### **Capacity of Local Community Groups**

Respondents were asked to rate their perception, from (1) None to (5) All, with several statements regarding capacity and level of support and resources that LCGs have in their region or municipality. While the majority of respondents reported that many or all LCGs received notification of funding decision in a timely fashion (65.3%), ratings of capacity and support for LCGs were moderate to low overall. Less than half of respondents reported that many or all LCGs are aware of the CIF (46.9%); submit applications consistent with funding priorities (45.0%); or have received CIF funding (42.4%).

Only a very small proportion of respondents stated that many or all LCGs had enough resources to support emerging needs and/or new initiatives (1.6%); had enough resources to be sustainable (7.3%); or had enough resources to adequately support their existing activities (7.4%).

**Table 6.3 - About Local Community Groups**

	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>
Receive notification of funding decision in a timely fashion	65.3%
Are aware of the CIF	46.9%
Submit applications consistent with funding priorities	45.0%
Have received CIF funding	42.4%
Have a lot of support from local community leaders	37.3%
Do a good job of promoting their programs or services	35.2%
Collaborate with other partners to provide programs or services	35.2%
Plan ahead before making their project proposal	34.6%
Have adequate facilities or space	30.6%
Find the CIF application process easy	28.8%
Have a lot of support from our municipal government	22.8%
Are able to recruit and retain qualified staff	19.2%
Have the capacity to effectively plan for the future	16.8%
Have a lot of support from local businesses	13.6%
Have enough resources to adequately support their existing activities	7.4%
Have enough resources to be sustainable	7.3%
Have enough resources to support emerging needs and/or new initiatives	1.6%

*\*Percent of respondents who reported that each item applied to Many or All local community groups, based on a 5-point scale from (1) None to (5) All.*

### **Program Areas Where CIF Funding Could Make a Difference in Communities**

Respondents were asked “In your opinion, what are the top three areas where CIF project funding could increase the capacity of local groups to make a difference to the quality of life in your region or municipality?” RIC/UAAC Member survey responses were combined with responses from the other two surveys (Municipal Administrator and Applicant) which together provided over 1,700 unique response items to this survey question. Responses were then categorized into seven themes and 23 sub-theme categories.

The majority of RIC/UAAC Member respondents (83.2%) provided at least one response to this open-ended question. RIC/UAAC Member respondents provided over 300 of the 1,700 unique response items that fit into six of the seven themes and 17 of the 23 sub-theme categories. Table 6.4 provides a summary of the 17 sub-themes arranged by theme.

Two of the six themes had a high proportion of responses in one or more sub-theme categories. The sub-themes with the highest response rates are indicated by an asterisk and were: 1) Program Access: i) *Basic Needs and low-income support*; ii) *Family crisis/violence support and prevention*; and iii) *Family wellness support* and 2) Grant Funding: i) *Long-term funding and sustainability*.

**Table 6.4 –Program Areas Where Funding Could Make a Difference**

<b>Programming Themes and Sub-Themes</b>
<b>Program Access</b>
* <b>Basic needs and low-income support</b>
* <b>Family crisis/violence support and prevention</b>
* <b>Family wellness support</b>
Fitness, recreation and sport
Leadership, career and volunteer training
Arts, culture and heritage
Tourism development and activities
<b>Grant Funding</b>
* <b>Long-term funding and sustainability</b>
Access, adaptability and innovation of finances
Evaluation and accountability
<b>Paid Staffing and Volunteers</b>
Planning and leadership development of staff and volunteers
Staff and volunteer recruitment and retention
<b>Community Development</b>
Connectedness, collaboration and enhanced social networks
Awareness and marketing of CIF and programming
Integration and inclusion of marginalized groups and individuals
<b>Community Safety</b>
Violence and crime prevention
<b>Grant Writing</b>
Grant writing and funding source help

## SECTION 7: ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

### **Organization Represented While Involved with RIC or UAAC**

Most respondents (84.6%) represented another organization while they were involved with a RIC or UAAC. Of those respondents that represented another organization, 87.2% were employed full-time with that organization. A much smaller proportion (9.2%) indicated that they represented another organization in a volunteer capacity.

### **Type of Organization**

From a list of potential organization types, respondents who reported representing another organization were asked to select the type(s) of organization they represented. The organizations with the highest proportions represented were: 1) Health or human services agency (28.6%); 2) Other (22.7%); 3) Registered non-profit or charity (20.9%); and 4) School or educational institution (19.3%). Most respondents that chose "Other" were representing either a provincial or federal government.

**Table 7.1 - Type of Organization**

	Percent of Respondents
Health or human services agency	28.6%
*Other	22.7%
Registered non-profit or charity	20.9%
School or educational institution	19.3%
Municipal agency	15.1%
Aboriginal, First Nations or Métis organization	10.1%
Arts, culture, or heritage organization	9.2%
Sport or recreation organization	8.4%
Youth group or youth development organization	5.9%
Unregistered charity or non-profit	3.4%
Faith-based organization	2.5%

*\*Percent of respondents who indicated that each type described their organization. "Other" most often represented either a provincial or federal government.*

### **Scope of Organization**

Most respondents reported that the organization they represent was either regional (38.7%) or local (30.6%) in scope. A smaller proportion of respondents (23.4%) reported that the organization they represent was provincial in scope.

### **Works with Local Community Groups to Obtain Funding**

Over half of respondents (55.0%) reported that the organization they represent had someone who works with LCG's to help identify and obtain financial assistance to support the programs and services provided. Of those reported to be working with LCGs, one third (33.6%) are full-time paid employees.

### **Engagement in Collaborative Planning**

Most respondents (91.1%) reported that the organization they represented engages in collaborative planning to create a plan or strategy to improve the quality of life of local residents.

**Target Groups of Collaborative Planning**

From a list of potential target demographic groups, respondents were asked to select which group(s) their organization's plan or strategy to improve quality of life focused on. Respondents reported that the demographic groups with the highest proportion of plans or strategies directed towards them were; 1) First Nations or Métis (71.8%); 2) Teens (13-18 years) (69.1%); 3) Low-income (68.2%); 4) Young adults (19-29 years) (63.6%); and 5) Elementary school aged children (6-12 years) (62.7%). Almost all of the "Other" category responses stated that the program targeted all resident groups.

**Table 7.2 – Target Groups of Collaborative Planning**

	Percent of Respondents
First Nations or Métis	71.8%
Teens (13-18 years)	69.1%
Low-income residents	68.2%
Young adults (19-29 years)	63.6%
Elementary school aged children (6-12 years)	62.7%
Pre-school aged children (newborn-5 years)	60.0%
Persons with a disability	58.2%
Adults (30-64 years)	51.8%
Seniors (65+ years)	47.2%
Recent immigrants	40.9%
Other	7.3%

*\*Percent of respondents indicating that resident group was addressed in plan or strategy.*

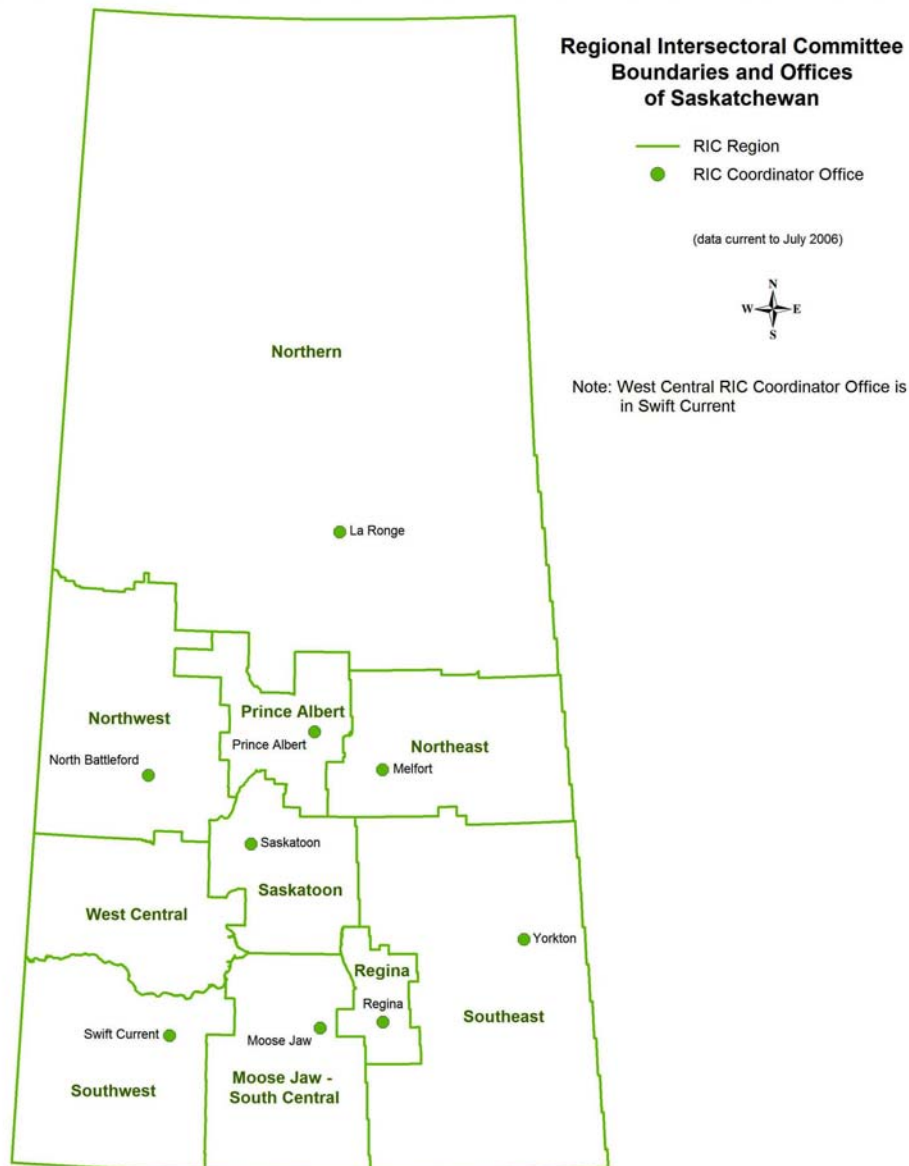
**Regional Intersectoral Committee Region**

Respondents were asked to identify all of the RIC regions that their organization provided programs or services in. Results were distributed throughout the province with larger proportions in: RIC 5 – Northwest (21.8%); RIC 1 – Southeast (20.2%); and RIC 4 – Moose Jaw South Central (18.5%); and smaller proportions in RIC 2 – West Central (10.1%); and RIC 6 – Northern (11.8%). (Refer to Table 7.3 and Map on next page)

**Table 7.3 – Regional Intersectoral Committee Region**

	Percent of Respondents
RIC 5 – Northwest	21.8%
RIC 1 – Southeast	20.2%
RIC 4 – Moose Jaw South Central	18.5%
RIC 8 – Regina	16.8%
RIC 9 – Saskatoon	16.0%
RIC 3 – Northeast	16.0%
RIC 10 – Southwest	16.0%
RIC 7 – Prince Albert	14.3%
RIC 6 – Northern	11.8%
RIC 2 – West Central	10.1%

*\*Percent of respondents indicating their organization provides programs or services in that region.*



## SECTION 8: COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### ***Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Health***

Respondents were asked “In the past two years have LCGs in your region/municipality requested CIF funding for any of the following *Health* related programs or services?” Respondents reported that the health related programs and services with the highest frequency of request in the past two years were: 1) Healthy families/family wellness programming (59.0%); 2) General health (36.0%); 3) Substance abuse services (31.7%); and 4) Alcohol abuse services (26.6%).

**Table 8.1 – Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Health**

	Percent of Respondents
Healthy families/family wellness programming	59.0%
General health services	36.0%
Substance abuse services	31.7%
Alcohol abuse services	26.6%
Mental health services	21.6%
Pregnancy, prenatal or postnatal services	20.1%
Senior services	13.0%
Problem gambling	7.9%
Other	7.2%
Dental services	2.9%

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group requested funding in past two years.*

### ***Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Health***

Respondents were asked to provide three choices to the question: “In the next two years what are the top three *Health* related programs or services where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the lives of residents?” The programs or services identified most frequently by respondents as the first choice program or service with the greatest potential were: 1) Healthy families/family wellness programming (29.2%); 2) Substance abuse services (19.2%) and 3) General health services (14.6%).

Overall, as either a first, second or third choice, most respondents (73.1%) chose Healthy families/family wellness programming as the program area where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the next two years. Respondents also frequently chose substance abuse services (52.3%); general health services (43.8%); and mental health services (37.7%) as one of their top three choices.

**Table 8.2 – Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Health**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice
Healthy families/family wellness programming	29.2%(1)	73.1%(1)
Substance abuse services	19.2%(2)	52.3%(2)
General health services	14.6%(3)	43.8%(3)
Alcohol abuse services	13.1%(4)	35.4%(5)
Mental health services	10.8%(5)	37.7%(4)
Pregnancy, prenatal or postnatal services	10.0%(6)	23.1%(6)
Senior services	1.5%(7)	14.6%(7)
Dental services	0.8%(8)	0.8%(10)
Other	0.8%(9)	6.2%(9)
Problem gambling	--	7.7%(8)

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group has greatest potential in next two years.*

**Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Other Basic Needs**

Respondents reported that the other basic needs related programs and services with the highest frequency of request in the past two years were: 1) Affordable food (43.2%); 2) Violence prevention (37.4%); 3) Crisis intervention services (30.9%); 4) Affordable childcare (30.2%); and 5) Affordable housing (23.0%).

**Table 8.3 – Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Other Basic Needs**

	Percent of Respondents
Affordable food	43.2%
Violence prevention	37.4%
Crisis intervention services	30.9%
Affordable childcare	30.2%
Affordable housing	23.0%
Locally produced food	20.9%
Child abuse or neglect prevention	20.9%
Public transportation	13.7%
Protection services	5.8%
Other	2.2%

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group requested funding in past two years.*

**Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Other Basic Needs**

The other basic needs related programs or services identified most frequently by respondents as the first choice program or service where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the lives of residents during the next two years were: 1) Affordable Housing (37.4%); 2) Affordable Food (16.8%) and 3) Affordable Childcare (16.0%).

Overall, as either a first, second or third choice, most respondents (72.5%) chose Affordable housing as the program area where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the next two years. Respondents also frequently chose Affordable food (51.1%) and Affordable childcare (46.6%) as one of their top three choices.

**Table 8.4 – Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Other Basic Needs**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice
Affordable housing	37.4%(1)	72.5%(1)
Affordable food	16.8%(2)	51.1%(2)
Affordable childcare	16.0%(3)	46.6%(3)
Child abuse or neglect prevention	10.7%(4)	31.3%(5)
Violence prevention	6.1%(5)	34.4%(4)
Crisis intervention services	5.3%(6)	29.8%(6)
Locally produced food	3.8%(7)	8.4%(8)
Public transportation	2.3%(8)	16.8%(7)
Protection services	0.8%(9)	3.8%(9)

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group has greatest potential in next two years.*

**Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Personal Development**

Respondents reported that the personal development related programs and services with the highest frequency of request in the past two years were: 1) Teen leadership development or engagement (51.8%); 2) Early childhood development (46.0%); 3) First Nations or Métis leadership development or engagement (42.5%); 4) Young adults leadership development or engagement (38.1%); and 5) Volunteer leadership development (37.4%).

**Table 8.5 - Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Personal Development**

	Percent of Respondents
Teen leadership development or engagement	51.8%
Early childhood development	46.0%
First Nations or Métis leadership development or engagement	42.5%
Young adults leadership development or engagement	38.1%
Volunteer leadership development	37.4%
Employment opportunities for youth/young adults	27.3%
Spiritual or faith-based activities	17.3%
Tutoring or homework help for school children	13.7%
Career planning/job preparation	13.0%
Volunteer management training	8.6%
Other	2.2%
Tutoring or homework help for adults	1.4%

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group requested funding in past two years.*

**Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Personal Development**

The personal development related programs or services identified most frequently by respondents as the first choice where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the lives of residents during the next two years were: 1) First Nations or Métis leadership development or engagement (23.8%); 2) Early childhood development (23.1%) and 3) Teen leadership development or engagement (19.2%).

Overall, as either a first, second or third choice, a majority of respondents chose teen leadership development or engagement (54.6%); and early childhood development (52.3%) as a personal development related program or service where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the next two years.

**Table 8.6 – Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Personal Development**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice
First Nations or Métis leadership development or engagement	23.8%(1)	45.4%(3)
Early childhood development	23.1%(2)	52.3%(2)
Teen leadership development or engagement	19.2%(3)	54.6%(1)
Volunteer leadership development	15.4%(4)	28.5%(5)
Career planning/job preparation	5.4%(5)	27.7%(6)
Young adults leadership development or engagement	4.6%(6)	33.8%(4)
Volunteer management training	3.8%(7)	15.4%(8)
Employment opportunities for youth/young adults	2.3%(8)	26.9%(7)
Tutoring or homework help for school children	2.3%(9)	3.8%(10)
Spiritual or faith-based activities	--	6.9%(9)

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group has greatest potential in next two years.*

**Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Sport, Culture and Recreation**

Respondents reported that the sport, culture and recreation related programs and services with the highest frequency of request in the past two years were: 1) Informal recreation programs (66.2%); 2) Sports or other organized recreation programs (62.6%); 3) Organized clubs or group programs (57.6%); 4) Cultural heritage activities (57.6%); and 5) Physical activity or fitness programs (54.0%).

**Table 8.7 - Funding Requests for Programs or Services Related to Sport, Culture and Recreation**

	Percent of Respondents
Informal recreation programs	66.2%
Sports or other organized recreation programs	62.6%
Organized clubs or group programs	57.6%
Cultural heritage activities	57.6%
Physical activity or fitness programs	54.0%
Literary arts	50.4%
Visual arts or crafts	41.7%
Performing arts	38.1%
Media arts	30.9%
Other	4.3%

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group requested funding in past two years.*

**Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Sport, Culture, and Recreation**

The sport, culture and recreation related programs or services identified most frequently by respondents as the first choice where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the lives of residents during the next two years were: 1) Sports or other organized recreation programs (24.6%); 2) Informal recreation programs (22.3%) and 3) Physical activity or fitness programs (20.0%).

Overall, as either a first, second or third choice, about half of respondents chose physical activity or fitness programs (53.1%); sports or other organized recreation programs (52.3%); informal recreation programs (51.5%); and cultural heritage activities (50.0%) as a program or service where LCGs have the greatest potential to make a difference in the next two years.

**Table 8.8 – Greatest Potential with Programs and Services Related to Sport, Culture, and Recreation**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice
Sports or other organized recreation programs	24.6%(1)	52.3%(2)
Informal recreation programs	22.3%(2)	51.5%(3)
Physical activity or fitness programs	20.0%(3)	53.1%(1)
Cultural heritage activities	14.6%(4)	50.0%(4)
Organized clubs or group programs	8.5%(5)	35.4%(5)
Literary arts	5.4%(6)	16.2%(7)
Performing arts	3.8%(7)	18.5%(6)
Visual arts or crafts	0.8%(8)	12.3%(8)
Media arts	--	8.5%(9)

*\*Percent of respondents indicating community group has greatest potential in next two years.*

### **Suggestions to Improve the Community Initiatives Fund**

Respondents were asked to provide an open-ended response to the question “Please share any suggestions you may have to improve the CIF.” Less than half of respondents (40.3%) provided a response to the open-ended question

Overall, the comments that were shared by respondents were consistent with the responses from the other two open-ended questions: 1) “In your opinion, what are the top three areas where CIF project funding could increase the capacity of local community groups to make a difference to the quality of life in your region or municipality?”; and 2) “What three words or short expressions come to mind when you think of the Community Initiatives Fund?”.

The most frequently cited responses focused on the following three areas: 1) Long-term funding and sustainability; 2) Adaptability of CIF funding; and 3) Awareness of the CIF.

**Long-term funding and sustainability:** Many respondents related to the challenges community-based organizations face trying to secure reliable funding to provide ongoing programs and services. The three quotes below capture the sentiment of those respondents:

*“Having different levels of grants, for one year, three year and five year projects would assist programs in longer term planning.”*

*“There is a need to come up with ways to provide core funding to activities that need to be stable in the community.”*

*“Please consider multi-year funding. Consider funding programs that are addressing a need and have a measurable outcome - not just new initiatives.”*

**Adaptability of CIF funding:** Many respondents expressed a desire to have funding programs that are more flexible and responsive to needs at the local level. The three quotes below capture the sentiment of those respondents:

*“I think still allowing the communities to design programs to fill missing gaps in their communities by providing a variety of program criteria.”*

*“Less bureaucracy and the ability to manage our own dollars and make own decisions for our region.”*

*“Less of a role for the CIF Board in making granting decisions - let the RIC granting committee make the decisions based on local priorities and clear criteria from the CIF Board.”*

**Awareness of the CIF:** Many respondents related the lack of awareness regarding the CIF and the possible need to develop centralized information storage and distribution. The three quotes below capture the sentiment of those respondents:

*“Increase the promotion and marketing of the program.”*

*“To build in a communication strategy to assist the RICs with development of a website to communicate various grants, deadlines, best practices, community success stories.”*

*“More advertising and marketing at the provincial level to increase awareness of the program.”*