

Making it Count - October 8, 2021

**Summary of next steps identified by
the Chiefs, Mayors and Reeves of the
Collaborative Leadership Initiative**



CLI Manitoba
Collaborative Leadership Initiative

Overview: Collaborative Leadership Initiative: Making it Count

On Friday, October 8, 2021, elected Chiefs, Mayors and Reeves of the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI) gathered at Pineridge Hollow for the 9th meeting - Making it Count. At this meeting the leaders reflected on their work together since 2017 and reviewed their progress toward key shared priorities: protection of freshwater resources, waste management and economic development and good jobs for all.

Using the medicine wheel, leaders brainstormed opportunities to expand the circle to include councils, administration and their broader communities. This document captures the thoughts and ideas generated by the CLI leaders during this exercise.

The Medicine Wheel Explained

The Medicine Wheel is a teaching tool that is useful in many fields of work. For Making it Count, the Medicine Wheel was used to assist the leaders as they continue to move forward on the path to understanding and relationship building.

The Medicine Wheel is recognizable by the four directions (East, South, West and North) and four colours (Yellow, Red, Black and White). For the East – understanding, South – Shared Vision, Transparency – Accountability, West – Inclusion, Honesty and Wisdom and North – Balance and Respect.

Guiding questions were placed at the centre to help with the dialogue and actions were put alongside to correlate with the questions posed. Participants moved through questions and developed actions in each area as follows:



East – Personal Relationships: Strengthen the personal relationships among the leaders;



South – Governance: Strengthen the governing structures amongst the leaders;



West – Community: Translate a strengthened governance structure into stronger communities; and,



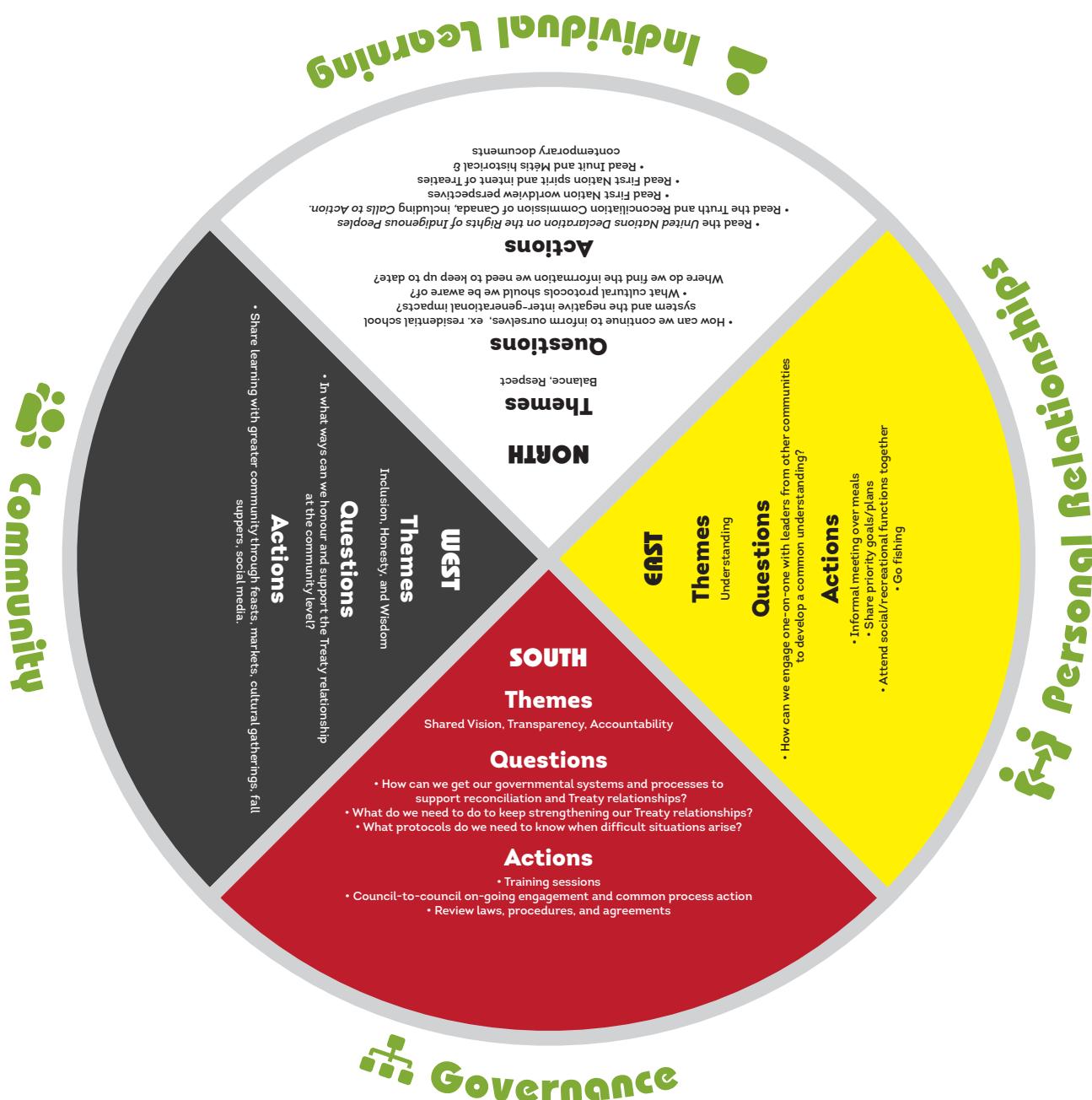
North – Individual Learning: Have individuals learn a little more about each other, governments, and communities.

Structure of this document

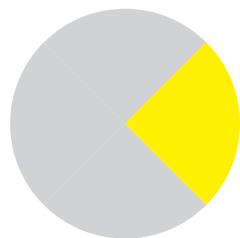
This document presents a summary of what was heard during the Medicine Wheel exercise.

Internet resources are also provided to guide further learning. To use the QR codes, open your phone's built-in camera application and point it at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your phone and follow the instructions on the screen to finish signing in.

The Medicine Wheel



Direction: East, Personal Relationships



Encourage openness between community leaders

- Work towards the goal of having a neighbourly relationship;
- Host and attend barbecues, quarterly meetings, fishing events, sporting events and other social gatherings together;
- Spend time together on the land, such as in a park or by a lake;
- Invite other leaders to tour your community; and,
- Initiate new events to celebrate with other leaders, such as a Treaty Day ceremony.

Engage in more formal events to discuss important issues

- Invite other leaders to participate in initiatives, celebrations and Annual General Meetings;
- Invite councils to meet one on one and discuss recent news in their community; and,
- Develop a seasonal schedule for regional interactions.

Tips for developing a common understanding

- Engage in discussions over common issues, such as the renaming of a road, fresh water resources, waste management and economic development; and,
- Share more information with one another, such as annual reports, community visions, long-term plans, challenges and successes .

Further Reading

Learn more about Treaty Day

- Treaty Day is a holiday meant to commemorate the date certain treaties were signed by the Government of Canada and Indigenous people while also raising awareness about Indigenous culture and history. To learn more, visit <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/treaty-day> How To Plan A Virtual Social Gathering (freeconference.com)ff



Tips for virtual meetings

- Hosting virtual meetings provides an opportunity to develop new relationships. To learn more about virtual social gatherings, visit [How To Plan A Virtual Social Gathering \(freeconference.com\)](http://HowToPlanAVirtualSocialGathering(freeconference.com).com)

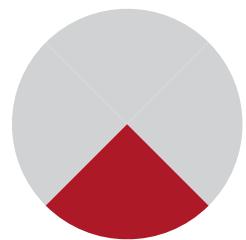


Hosting roundtable meetings

- Roundtable meetings provide an excellent opportunity for multiple people to interact around a common issue or question. To learn more about planning a roundtable meeting, visit [Tips for Hosting Successful Online Roundtable Discussions | MeetingPulse](http://TipsforHostingSuccessfulOnlineRoundtableDiscussionsMeetingPulse.com)



Direction: South, Governance



Lobby for shared goals

- Work to incorporate treaty education into the school system by attending school board meetings together;
- Exchange cultural values between communities to develop a sustainability vision together; and,
- Apply together for federal, provincial and other sources of funding.

Develop fluid working relationships

- Work towards the goal building relationships and mutual trust;
- Build knowledge of each other's systems and responsibilities;
- Share information and explore various perspectives;
- Include First Nations Governments in the Association of Manitoba Municipalities;
- Invite other leaders and their councils to meet; and,
- Develop and put a co-working protocol in place to encourage ongoing communication and collaboration.

Build capacity together

- Initiate treaty awareness workshops for staff and leaders;
- Have land acknowledgments and flags at all events;
- Create a reconciliation table that includes all levels of government to focus on economic, environmental, and infrastructure issues;
- Better communicate investments and opportunities;
- Co-invest more – pursue shared services in infrastructure and services; and,
- Work towards the goal of better understanding each other's services and inventories and developing a collaborative regional approach.

Further Reading

Learn more about the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative



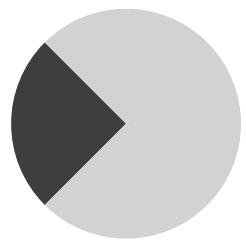
- The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) team provides various types of expertise to identify, value and account for natural assets. To learn more, visit [MNAI | Municipal Natural Assets Initiative – Making Nature Count](#)

How to plan workshops



- Workshops can help teach a group or a participant a new skill, technique or idea. To learn more, visit [Chapter 12. Providing Training and Technical Assistance | Section 4. Conducting a Workshop | Main Section | Community Tool Box \(ku.edu\)](#)

Direction: West, Community



Strengthen our regional community

- Attend each other's cultural gatherings, such as festivals, ceremonies and sporting events;
- Organize and host events together, such as community feasts to commemorate Treaties;
- Offer and take part in tours of each other's community;
- Include content about each other's communities in newsletters and communication with residents; and,
- Invite each other whenever possible – make this a protocol!

Education on our shared history

- Incorporate land acknowledgments and flags into all events;
- Lobby school boards to provide an education on treaty relationships at the community level; and,
- Create public spaces that have an educational element, such as medicine gardens, healing spaces, heritage parks and powwow grounds.

Partner together to solve problems

- Problem-solve together by creating a shared problem solve table;
- Collaboratively dedicate land for conservation;
- Work collaboratively on joint learning projects and other learning materials using social media; and,
- Initiate cross-cultural exchanges with schools throughout the region.

Further Reading

Learn more about land acknowledgments

- Land acknowledgments are formal statements that recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land. This is an important expression of gratitude and way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. To learn more, visit [UM Commons – Territory acknowledgment | University of Manitoba \(umanitoba.ca\)](https://umanitoba.ca/territory-acknowledgment)



Learn more about medicine gardens

- Medicine Gardens can also serve as healing places for those impacted by the criminal justice system, and to celebrate and reclaim important aspects of Indigenous culture. To learn more, visit <http://www.trca.on.ca/dotAsset/149974.pdf>



Direction: North, Individual Learning



Find information to advance your knowledge

- Read and support Indigenous writers, podcasters and filmmakers;
- Read and become familiar with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action;
- Read and become familiar with the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Initiate group events to share history and culture

- Host a 10-week Circles for Reconciliation group; and,
- Sponsor book, sports and arts clubs.

Incorporate Indigenous history into the education system

- Lobby school boards for greater amount of Indigenous history to be taught in schools;
- Rename the land and water to reflect Indigenous history; and,
- Bring Indigenous speakers into school to present their personal perspectives.

Learn from community members and leaders

- Connect elders from each community;
- Ensure elders are invited to all community events;
- Continue having meaningful council-to-council meetings; and,
- Use storytellers at community events.

Further Reading

Learn more about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action



- The purpose of the Calls to Action is to advance the process of reconciliation with Canada. To learn more, visit <https://www.irss.ca/downloads/trc-calls-to-action.pdf>

Learn more about the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)



- The UNDRIP is the most comprehensive international tool on the rights of Indigenous peoples, establishing a universal framework for the standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples around the world. To learn more, visit https://www.un.org/development/desa indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf.

ABOUT THE CLI

Agreeing that the status quo is not good enough, Chiefs from the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) and mayors and reeves from the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) first came together in 2017 to find a better way to work together.

Over the past four years, guided through a facilitated process by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), elected leaders participating in the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI) have continued their work on matters of mutual interest.

Through this process of collaboration and reconciliation, CLI Leaders have built strong and meaningful relationships and challenged the status quo—advancing shared priorities by taking collaborative action.

For more information, go to [https://www.
collaborativeleaders.ca/](https://www.collaborativeleaders.ca/)

