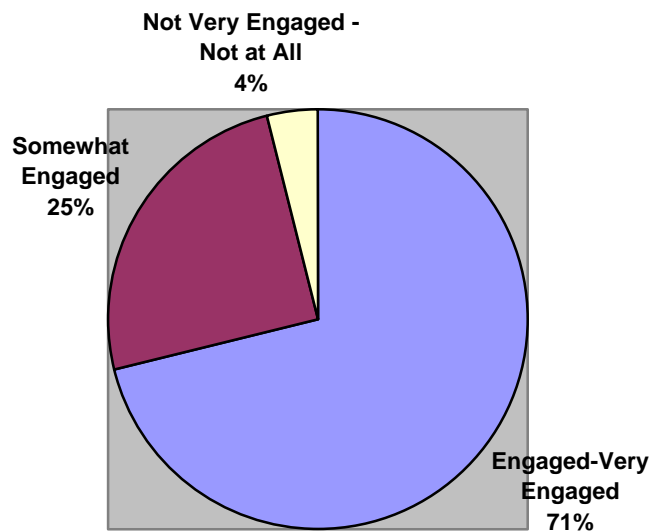




National Children's Alliance  
Alliance nationale pour les enfants

"Towards Working Together for Aboriginal Children in Canada"  
October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Workshop Evaluation

Q 1. How engaged or connected did you feel with this workshop?



71% of respondents felt engaged or very engaged at the National Children's Alliance workshop, while 25% felt somewhat engaged and only 4% responded that they did not feel very connected with the workshop. Overall, participants voiced the opinion that the workshop was a friendly, open process and a good opportunity to learn and connect. Some suggestions for improving engagement included holding an icebreaker the evening prior, to allow for more networking opportunities and connect the participants to each other before the event.

Other comments from participants:

- It's very important to voice reality
- Important topic and opportunity that did not reach its potential
- "I felt engaged - I am new to the NCA"

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Total Respondents: 24

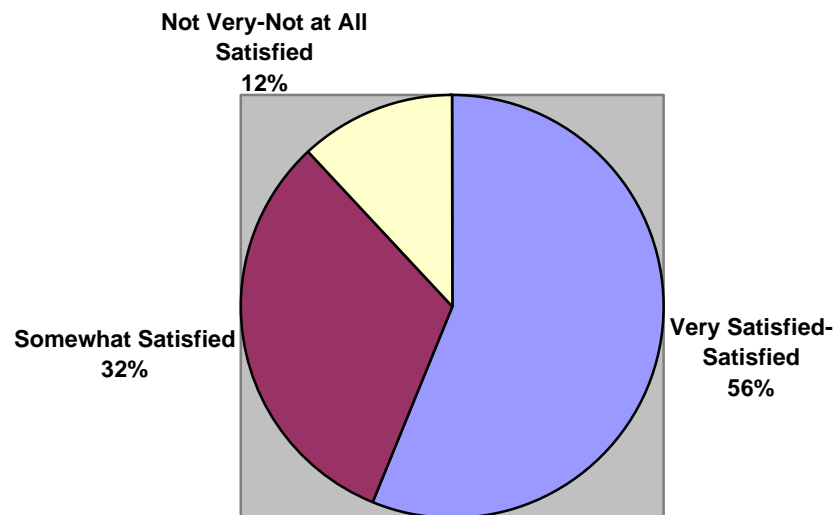
1 (not at all): 0      2: 1      3: 6      4: 12      5 (very): 5

Engaged-Very Engaged: 17/24 = 71%

Somewhat Engaged: 6/24 = 25%

Not Very Engaged-Not At All: 1/24 = 4%

Q 2. How satisfied are you with the progress made at this workshop?



Over half of all questionnaire respondents – 56% - were very satisfied to satisfied with the progress made at this workshop. 32% were somewhat satisfied, while 12% were dissatisfied with the progress made during the day. Participants emphasized that this is the beginning of a process, an important first step that needed to happen. There is much more progress needed on this issue but the workshop was, in one participant's words, "an excellent initiative that opened the door, or rather, acknowledged that the door is open".

Other comments from participants:

- Represents a good start for co-operation and support in addressing the needs of Aboriginal children
- Limited dialogue opportunities, some networking opportunities
- "I feel energized"

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Total Respondents: 24

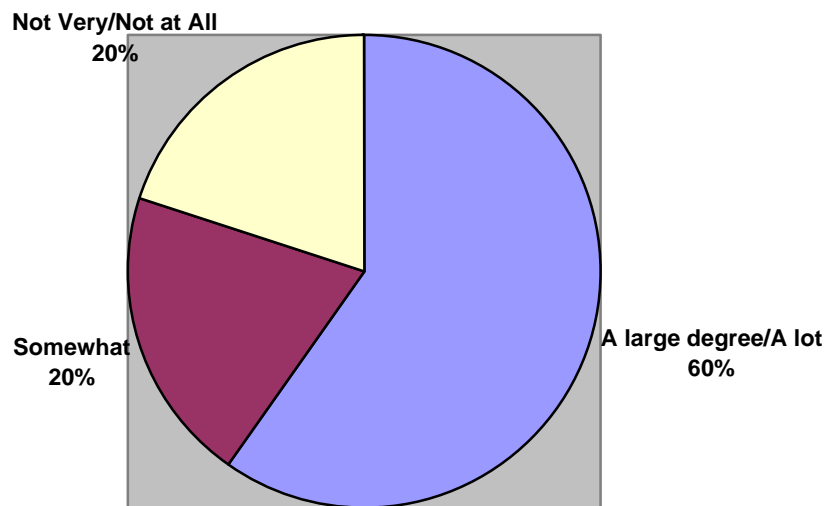
1 (not at all): 0      2: 3      3: 8      4: 8      5 (very): 6

Satisfied/Very Satisfied: 14/24 = 58%

Somewhat Satisfied: 8/24 = 33%

Not Very Satisfied/Not At All: 3/24 = 12.5%

**Q 3.** To what degree did this workshop further your knowledge related to how national voluntary organizations and Aboriginal organizations can work together to better the situation for Canada's Aboriginal children?



60% of respondents felt that this workshop furthered their knowledge related to how national voluntary organizations and Aboriginal organizations can work together to better the situation for Canada's Aboriginal children. 20% felt that their knowledge was furthered somewhat, and an additional 20% did not feel their knowledge was furthered in this respect at all. In their own words, "I'm not sure if we covered opportunities so much as barriers - we need more time if we are able to move forward regarding the identification of strategies or models", and "it furthered my knowledge of the issue but did not provide real cues on ways to handle partnerships".

Other comments from participants:

- Lots of information and ideas
- "I am excited to access this source of resources"
- "I wasn't very knowledgeable about NVO's when the day began"

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Total Respondents: 24

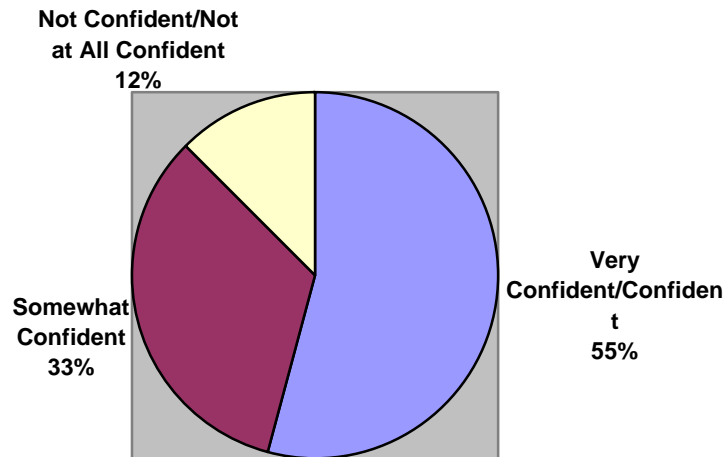
1 (not at all): 0      2: 5      3: 5      4: 10      5 (very): 5

A large degree/A lot:  $15/24 = 62.5\%$

Somewhat:  $5/24 = 21\%$

Not Very/Not At All:  $5/24 = 21\%$

**Q 4.** How confident are you that the ideas developed in this workshop are realistic and achievable?



Participants seemed to feel that the ideas developed in the workshop are realistic and achievable goals, with 55% reporting feeling confident to very confident in them. 33% thought the ideas were somewhat realistic and achievable, and 12% were not very confident in the ideas developed in the workshop. The idea of commitment to the issues as being a key factor resonated with participants, who stated, "it's about commitment", and "if we are committed to follow through, the ideas are very realistic".

Other comments from participants:

- "There have been many broken promises, and I'm always skeptical, but always hopeful"
- Follow up meetings/reports are key; i.e. 'lessons learned' and 'opportunities'
- "I became more confident after hearing suggestions of next steps "
- More time needed to discuss, prioritize and develop the next steps adequately
- Lots of work ahead
- "I'm not sure concrete ideas were developed"

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Total Respondents: 23

1 (not at all): 0      2: 3      3: 8      4: 9      5 (very): 4

Confident/Very Confident: 13/23 = 57%

Somewhat Confident: 8/23 = 35%

Not Very Confident/Not At All

**Q 5.** What factors, in your view, are critical to the success of the ideas worked out in this workshop?

**“Commitment, respect, communication, open door policies and open hearts.”**

Overall, participants felt that follow-up activities and continuing commitment to the issue are absolutely essential to the success of the ideas worked out in this workshop. This follow-up includes sharing all information from the workshop with participants, ongoing dialogue and workshops, and a resolve to follow through on suggestions and recommendations.

**“In their words...”**

Other comments from participants on factors critical to success:

- “This is a first step – we need continuing dialogue, opportunities to share, a good mix of people”
- Education and history of colonization and continued communication and sharing
- Sincerity and recognition that success will depend on respecting each others’ views
- Using the contacts made
- Overcome the problem of Aboriginal children’s issues being fragmented and isolated, no networking among Aboriginal organizations
- Need more opportunities to meet, discuss, get to know each other
- Need more real time to discuss ideas
- Clear identification of goals
- Send out national invitation list to maintain contacts
- Commitment, dedication, hard work and leadership – these are the first steps
- Being active and not letting time pass by
- Dealing with power differentials, building collaboration and win-win projects
- Engagement and support of national Aboriginal leaders

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 21

**Q 6.** What issues or common interests remain unfinished or neglected in your view, and still need attention?

**“This is the beginning, let’s have more!”**

There was consensus among the participants that this workshop was a first step – albeit an important one – in the beginning of a long –term process of commitment, follow-through, dialogue and action. In this respect, “everything has just begun – through the dialogue it may become possible to focus on several specific components”. For now, there is still much unfinished business that needs attention in the near future, including how to get started for the national organizations, and what are the next steps. In addition, some respondents felt that throughout the day, as the focus grew on partnerships and working together, the question of what can be done for children – for example, what are the specific needs to improve the health and well being of children, and how we can act together - was neglected. Here, some participants felt that the workshop lost sight of its fundamental goal – to work together to improve the situation for all of Canada’s children.

**“In their words...”**

Other comments from participants on issues left unfinished:

- Who is the voluntary sector and how can they provide assistance to Aboriginal children, families and communities
- The role of the NCA
- Power differentials within the NGO sector, and implications for negotiations of partnerships
- Purpose, terms of reference, off-reserve focus or content
- Aboriginal children with disabilities
- Children in care/permanency options
- “Focus on child welfare issues versus child development: would have preferred more balance in this type of representation from the Aboriginal community. Most efforts for Aboriginal ECD is being done regionally/locally, no national Aboriginal ECD organization although there is some linkage, although minimal, with these organizations”
- Funding issues and opportunities
- “They were all well addressed”
- “Almost everything”
- Presentations should be framed as ‘generic’ so other provinces could use the information; how did the structures work, advice on how to get organized
- Why first nations adoptions/apprehension is so high, stats, etc..

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 20

**Q 7.** What features of the workshop did you particularly appreciate?

**“Sharing stories and experiences, and learning that we all care for ALL children.”**

The participants all agreed that the networking opportunities – a first step in relationship building – were one of the most valuable aspects of the workshop. Participants particularly appreciated the sharing of resources, stories and information exchange, all a result of the creation of these networking opportunities. The roundtable discussions in small groups, the ‘excellent’, diverse representation from organizations, and the assortment of viewpoints from aboriginal and non-aboriginal organizations at each table were other aspects participants identified as contributing positively to the day. This overall participant mix and table mix permitted one delegate to realize, “we seem to be coming from the same place, i.e., the recognition of the need to do more.

**“In their words...”**

Other comments from participants on what was most appreciated:

- Rooting the discussion in history of colonization and issue of reconciliation
- Afternoon presentations
- All features, all speakers
- Carolyn Peacock’s piece and all other information
- The sharing of stories, the elder
- Dialogue and exchange, in a respectful manner
- The company
- The tables were organized very well

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 23

**Q 8.** What aspects do you think should have been done differently?

**“A balance between presenting, learning and sharing”**

While participants identified the networking opportunities and relationship-building that took place as the aspects they appreciated most, a number of participants identified the presentation segment of the workshop as being worthy of change. Some felt that the presentations were too focused on child welfare and needed to concentrate on other important issues as well, i.e., Aboriginal child development. Other participants thought that a ‘Question and Answer’ period with the presenters would have added to its value. Some participants just asked for more relevant presentations with more concrete content – for example, presentations on partnership building with specific information regarding challenges and strategies to address these challenges. In the view of one participant, “the content of the sessions needed to be better matched to the topics – they seemed to have little resonance with participants”.

**“In their words...”**

Other comments from participants on what would have made the day even more interesting and effective:

- Descriptions of NCA at the beginning; an outline of the goal of this meeting identified; needs of children discussed; more focus on children
- Allow a balance of the presentations so the voluntary sector can share ideas and ask questions
- Aboriginal children working group members inform grassroots organizations of their work
- More Elder involvement
- Perhaps mix up the tables for the different discussions
- Bigger room to move in; chairs hard to sit in
- More time allocated for the video presentation that we missed
- “I was disappointed that quite a few people from local organizations left early. Did they not think this was important?”
- More interaction among delegates on themes

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 15

Q 9. Any other comments?

**Thank you for the opportunity!**

**We need to keep focusing on successes and positives.**

**Thank-you!**

**Group work could be done in separate rooms; it was too noisy to hear participants.**

**Participant list larger print please! Maybe email the list out to participants.**

**Well organized!**

**The child welfare information from the West was not relevant.**

**Continue to develop relationships, for example, match aboriginal initiatives with potential sponsors.**

**Time to roll up the sleeves and do some real work!**

**Great! Perhaps an Aboriginal presentation could have been organized - to familiarize teachings for national voluntary organizations on Aboriginal issues.**

**It was great!**

**Would like to have seen more non-aboriginal participants.**

**Difficult work, but a good start.**

**French translation would have been appreciated.**

**Thanks!**