



The Nelson Project  
*Supporting At-Risk Men*



BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP - NOT A PROGRAM

# LAUNCH & LEARN REPORT

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FALL/WINTER 2021-2022



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over 6 days of discussion, 51 participants shared their views on the current support system and how they would like it to change for the better.

The consensus was that the current system does not provide adequate services to at-risk men because it provides short-term support that is not integrated and does not recognize individuals - especially Indigenous individuals - needs.

**Men who are  
undervalued**

The themes that emerged about the current system were

- There are no services for men - except the Whitehorse Correctional Centre
- Existing programming is limited in scope, not integrated and at the wrong time of year
- Support is program-based and always ends
- Counselling is not up to the job
- Men face significant barriers to benefit from mainstream services
- Support is 'cookie-cutter' rather than individual
- A network of integrated support
- Health & Wellness sometimes don't help
- 'At-risk men' is a label applied by others
- Confidentiality is missing and erodes trust
- Men feel undervalued

Many at-risk men are keen to move forward but do not know how, have difficulties accessing the help available and need long-term support that is effective and culturally sensitive. They are eager to help others in their community so that no-one gets left behind.

- Participants' ideas for reshaping support to make it successful at sustaining their positive journeys were:
- Men (who've been through it themselves) supporting other men
- A place to talk, sometimes to vent
- Long-term, not program-based
- Tailored, not cookie cutter
- Connected to traditional ways and teachings
- Confidential, non-judgemental
- Practical help with life and the system
- Support for men and their employers
- A network of integrated support



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