

Indigenous Culture and Wellness Centre - E-Scan Highlights

Overview:

The E-Scan is the first deliverable in the “Strategy” phase of the ICWC project and in part will inform the next deliverable - development of the Business Case. This document demonstrates how information found in the E-Scan directly links with key areas within in a Business Case template.

Background:

In 2016, Edmonton City Council approved funding for three phases of an Indigenous Culture and Wellness Centre (ICWC). Funding approval for the initial phases demonstrated Edmonton City Council support for support for this project as referenced in both the EndPovertyEdmonton (EPE) Strategy and its 5 year Implementation Road Map (p. 16 - 17).

Business Case Links: Contributes to Opportunity / Problem, Current Situation and Initiative Description sections as well as a part of the Strategic Alignment section.

Engagement Results:

A total of 1,614 participants contributed individual perspectives to inform the E-Scan findings (p. 42):

- 1,071 attended Community Conversations
- 533 completed Surveys (71% of respondents identified as Indigenous)
- 10 attended Specialized Sessions

A finding between the community conversations and the surveys was that responses were very similar. Although the survey questions were comparable, they were not exactly the same as those discussed during community conversations. Responses varied only marginally between the two engagement methods (p. 57).

Business Case Links: Contributes to Initiative Description (Urgency of Need) section.

Community Priorities – Programs and Services:

The survey findings (p. 56) indicated that respondents felt the primary purpose of the ICWC should be:

- #1 - Ceremonial and cultural spaces as the primary purpose for the ICWC (83%)
- #2 - Meeting and Gathering Place (64%)
- #3 - Resource Centre (61%)

The top three activities preferred were:

- #1 - Indigenous Teachings - e.g. Language, Culture, Dance (76%)
- #2 - Ceremonial - e.g. Powwows, Wakes, Weddings, Round Dances (69%)
- #3 – Arts and Culture (60%)

The top three services that respondents would use were:

- #1 - Healing and Wellness (86%)
- #2 - Social and Recreational (70%)
- #3 – Information/Referrals/Support (50%)

The E-Scan final report recommends determining what programs could be located in the ICWC or at other locations.

Business Case Links: Contributes to Initiative Description section (Anticipated Outcomes, Scope) and to development of the Functional Program.

Type of Setting / Location:

The survey findings indicated preferences for the ICWC to be:

- #1 – Welcoming and Safe (67%)
- #2 – Near water, gardens, trees, green space, etc. (64%)
- #3 – Near public transportation (55%)
- #4 – Central location (46%)

The E-Scan final report also recommends that the space reflects indoor and outdoor elements, be on a sizeable piece of land that is centrally-located and near water. The ICWC building is envisioned as a very significant site and an iconic building (p. 67).

Business Case Links: Contributes to the Initiative Description and Alternatives sections.

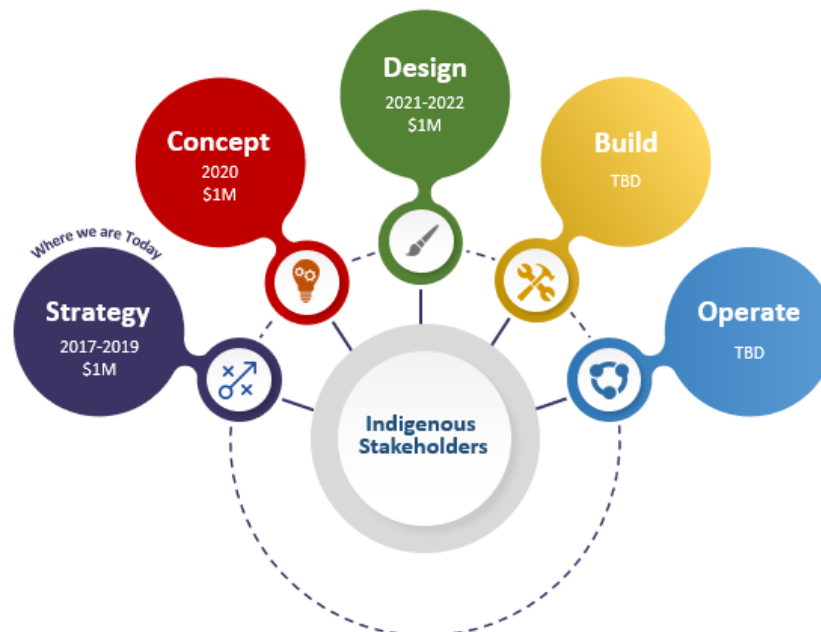
Note: Some of the statistical information noted above was obtained from an earlier draft of the E-Scan Final Report as this information was not included in the December, 2018 final report/compendium.

Indigenous Led:

The E-Scan report notes that research suggests ‘Indigenous-led’ refers to the degree to which Indigenous Peoples are involved in the development, leadership, operation, and delivery of programs and services to Indigenous Peoples, and the degree to which Indigenous culture and worldviews are incorporated into their work (p.61). Key points related to the ICWC around this are outlined below:

- The primary request of Community Conversation participants was that the ICWC must be Indigenous-led with community members involved throughout the entire project process.
- There is a need to remember, rebuild, relearn, and reconstitute Indigenous governance systems.
- The building should be designed by an Indigenous architect who recognizes Edmonton’s urban Indigenous community’s diversity.

Business Case Links: Contributes to the Project Responsibility and Accountability sections.

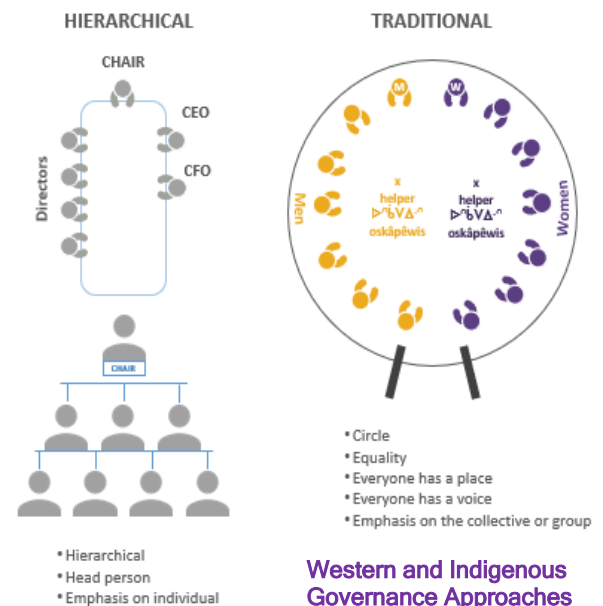


Next Steps:

1. Establish a Governance Model

- For the ICWC project, a governance body needs to be established to effectively address critical decisions in the Business Case phase.
- The E-Scan recommends that the following be considered:
 - a unique governance approach combining Indigenous and Western traditions be established for the ICWC. This model would be created using the wisdom of local Indigenous leaders, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, expert advisors and experienced governors of Indigenous organizations. (p. 68)
 - involve members with specific subject matter expertise as required (p. 67).
 - the draft Vision and Mission statements be finalized (p. 67).

Business Case Links: Contributes to the Background (Current Situation) and the Project Responsibility and Accountability sections.



Western and Indigenous Governance Approaches

2. Explore Potential Partnerships, Collaborations and Resource Sharing Opportunities

- The E-Scan recommends:
 - engaging in partnership discussions with other organizations that have initiated projects that are similar in scope to the proposed ICWC such as the Canadian Native Friendship Centre and Kihciy Askiy (p. 69)
 - connecting with others to explore resource sharing, learnings and collaborations (p. 69)
 - identifying Allies interested in seeing the ICWC developed (p. 67).
 - determining what programs could be located in the ICWC or at other locations (p. 69)

Business Case Links: Contributes to Context Analysis, Alternatives, Organizational Change Impact, Cost Benefits, Resourcing, and Key Risk(s)/Mitigating Strategy sections.

3. Explore Alternatives and Options

- The E-Scan provides information on “Comparable Models” (p. 24 – 30) and “Similar Initiatives” (p. 33 – 35) as well as mapping out a variety of program and service providers (p. 52 – 53 and Compendium p. 17 – 38). These findings can serve as a reference point for future discussions and analysis when outlining potential options that address the need for an ICWC and how best to achieve that goal.

Business Case Links: Contributes to Context Analysis, Alternatives, Organizational Change Impact, Cost Benefits, Resourcing, and Key Risk(s)/Mitigating Strategy sections.