



# ***PATH Process***

## ***Personalized Assistance To Housing***

***National Indigenous Homelessness Council  
& Wabano Center for Aboriginal Health***

***November 8, 2023***

***Presented by:***

***Irene Gonneau, National Indigenous Homelessness Systems Pathfinder***

***Shane Pelletier, National Indigenous Homelessness Coordinator***



## **Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the many unceded traditional Indigenous territories, including Métis Nation homeland, from coast-to-coast-to-coast. We thank and honour the past and present ancestors and guardians of the lands, winds, waterways and skies, whose footsteps have marked these paths for generations.

# Presentation Eagle Eye View

➤ **Where We Started:**

- NIHC
- PATH Process Origins

➤ **Our Journey:**

Phase 1 Project Activities

➤ **Where Are We Today:**

Wrapping-up Phase 1

➤ **Where Are We Going:**

Phase 2

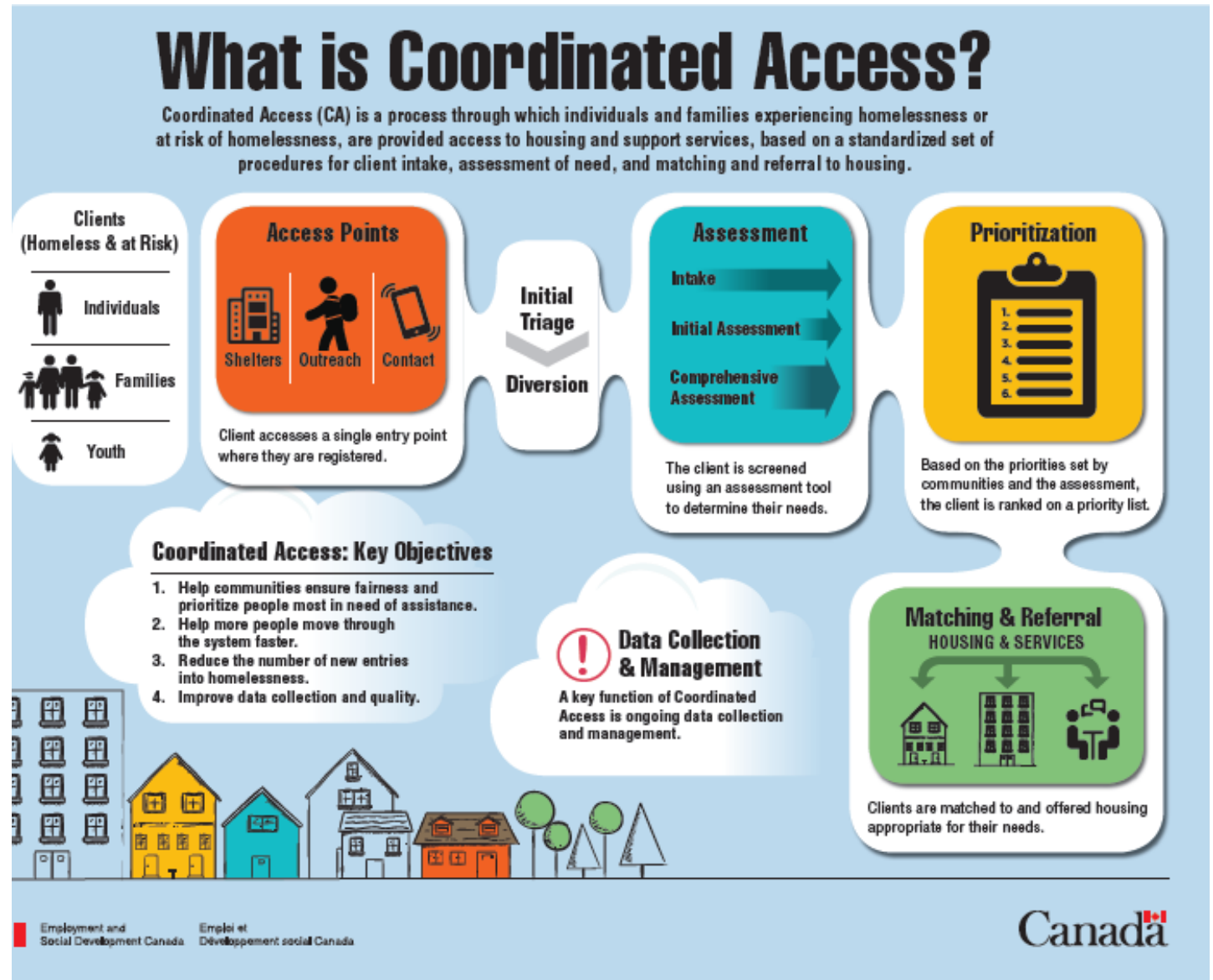






National Indigenous  
Homelessness Council

# Where We Started: PATH Process Origins





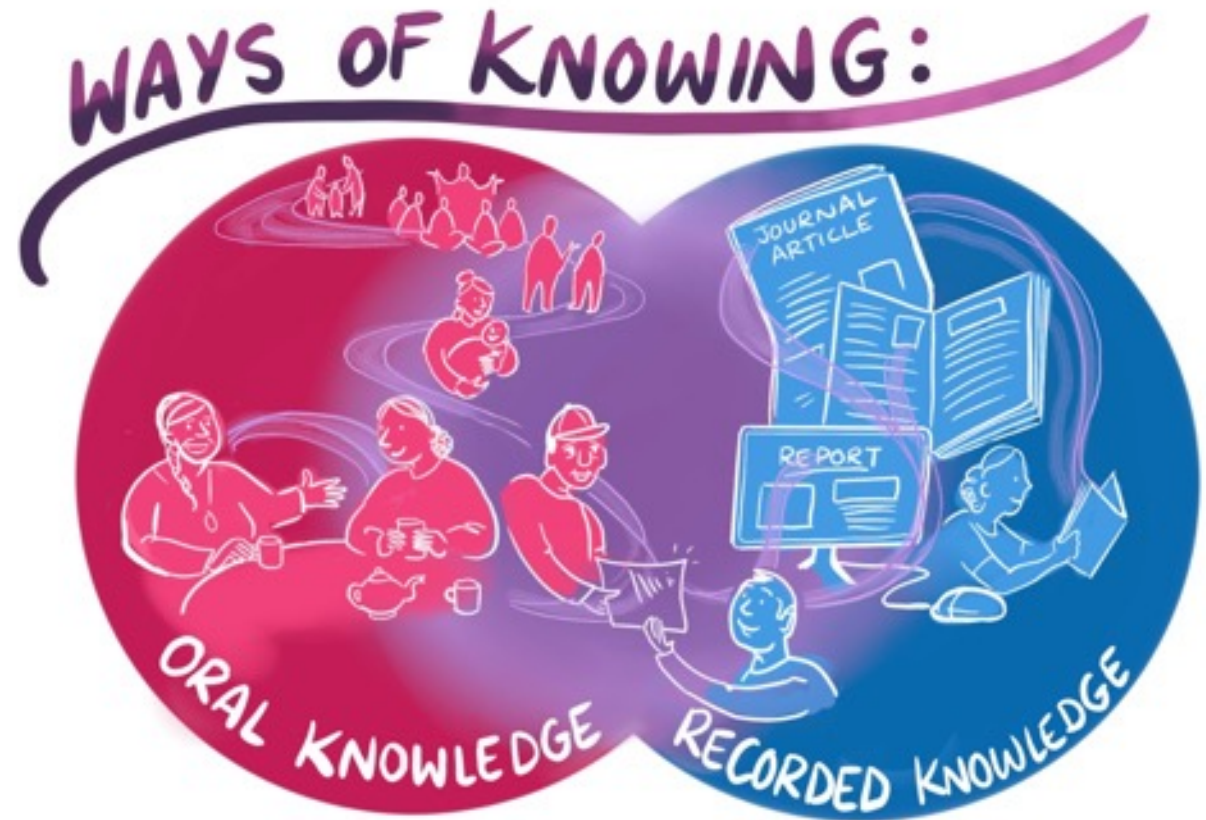
# Where We Started: PATH Process Origins

*“Let's get right to the point and see who's going to benefit from all of this. Hopefully, it's the people **but it has to be done in the right way.**”*

*Community Gathering Participant*



Our Journey:  
Virtual Coffee  
Chats  
&  
PATH Working  
Group



Our Journey:  
PATH Process  
Framework

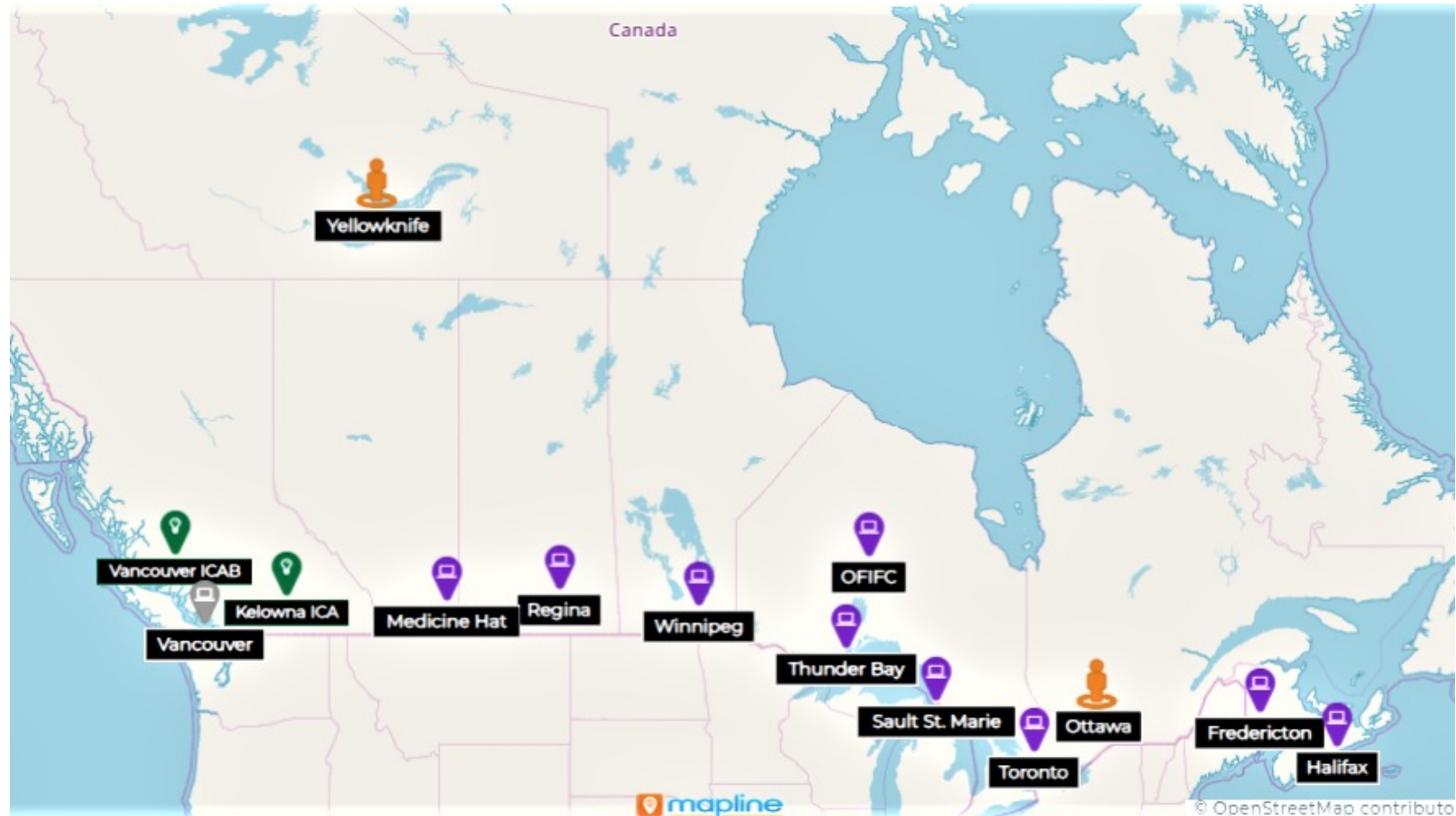




## Our Journey:

## Indigenous Community Gatherings

- ✓ 12 Professional Gatherings
- ✓ 5 Lived/ing Experience Gatherings
- ✓ 4 Informational Gatherings
- ✓ 60 Hours Knowledge Sharing Circles



Our Journey:

Literature  
Review

## WAYS OF KNOWING:



# PATH Working Group

Self-identify as Indigenous, plus one of the following:

- ✓ Works for an Indigenous-led organization OR, in the case of the territorial stream/province of Quebec, is supported by their local Indigenous Community to attend
- ✓ Identifies as an Elder
- ✓ Identifies as having Lived Experience

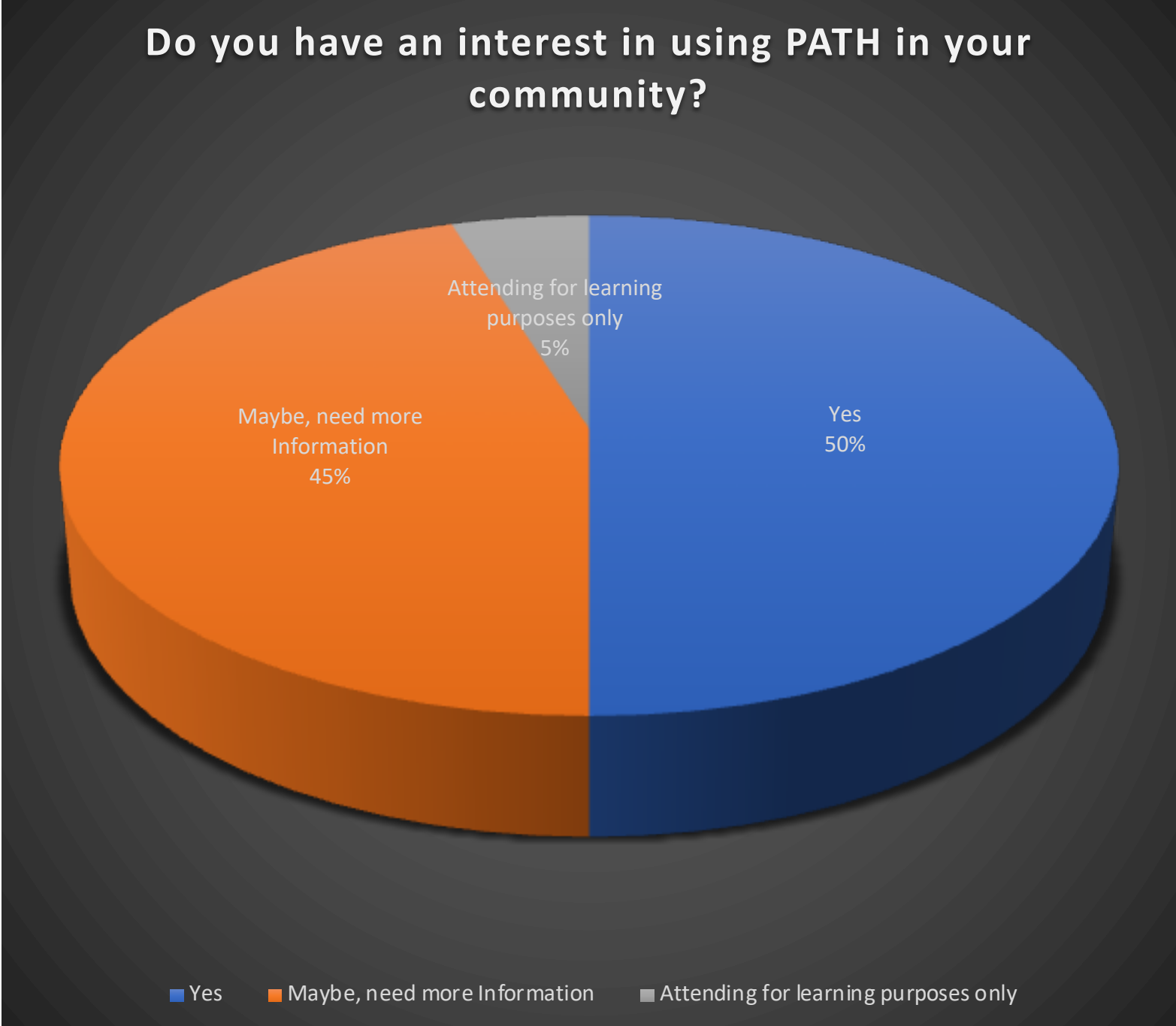
Commitment:

- ✓ Approximately x4 meetings quarterly
- ✓ 1-2 hours/meeting
- ✓ Review documents outside of meetings to provide feedback





Our Journey:  
Indigenous Report  
Back to Community  
Virtual Event  
Oct 24, 2023



# Where Are We Today: PATH Process







## Term: PATH Walker

*Refers to BOTH Worker & Person  
With Living Experience*



# PATH Process: Purpose



- PATH Process identifies the person's **housing vision, resiliencies, needs,** and **system-level barriers and obstacles** to accessing and retaining housing
- Throughout the process, **relational, strength-based, trauma-informed** and **empowerment** practices are foundational elements that connect the person with **matched housing** opportunities and an **interim bridge** of services and resources
- Optional Indigenous-led **prioritization** component



# PATH Process: Protocol

The Worker completes the PATH Process with a person, which may be brief (**single meeting**) or occur over **several meetings**.

The Path Walker (living experience) shares their story **conversationally** BUT at their **pace**. Further, telling their story is a '**living**' & therefore, a continual process.



## **Relational Approach**

“One Elder shared ... that change happens after many cups of tea, and I think that highlights the Indigenous ways of connecting and is that relational piece. It's so important because it helps build empowerment with the client; you're not choosing and you're not the expert when we're helping. And it really builds that safety in supporting those individuals, validating them, that they matter. Their story matters. They're not just a number. They're not just a checklist that we have to get through”.

Community Gathering Participant



# PATH Process: Sections



## **Registration:**

Path Walker [worker] Profile

## **Initial Session:**

1. Checklist
2. Path Walker [living experience] Profile
3. Community Connections

## **Initial and/or Subsequent Sessions:**

4. Housing Vision & Resiliencies
5. Barriers & Obstacles to Accessing Housing

## **End of Each Session:**

6. Meetings Information (current status)

# Worker Profile

**Instructions:** Users must register in the system to complete their profile.

Information	Why is this question included in the process?
<b>Name*</b>	Identification
<b>Pronouns</b>	
<b>Organization*</b>	
<b>Contact Information</b>	
<b>Type of Worker</b>	
<b>Work Setting</b>	Wise Practice – Accessibility
<b>Does the Path Walker (Worker) have access to the communities' Coordinated Access shared database? *</b>	Wise Practice – Community-wide Circles of Care
<b>Self-identify as Indigenous or a part of a Racialized/visible minority community</b>  <b>Note: This information will not be visible to ALL users</b>	Wise Practice – Understanding & acknowledging the percentage of workers who are Indigenous or Racialized person/visible minority, and have lived experience
<b>Self-identify as having lived experience of homelessness?</b>  <b>Note: This information will not be visible to ALL users</b>	

# PATH Process: Sections



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# Checklist – Responsibilities & Expectations

- **Program**
- **Worker**
- **Person**

## **Ask:**

1. Do you have any questions?
2. Would you like to move forward with the PATH Process after hearing the responsibilities and expectations?
3. Preference for drop-in or booked appointments?
4. During our meetings, do you have any accessibility needs?

Path Walker  
[living  
experience]  
Profile  
Identity

Information	Why is this component included?
<b>Name*</b>	Identification
<b>Gender*</b>	
<b>Pronouns</b>	
<b>Contact Information*</b>	
<b>Date of Birth*</b>	Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix
<b>Self-identify as Indigenous *</b>	Wise Practice – Acknowledging and addressing the disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness who are Indigenous
<b>Self-Identify: 2SLGBTQQIA+ Community*</b>	Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix
<b>Self-Identify: Equity Deserving Groups*</b>	Wise Practice – Acknowledging and addressing the disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness who are from an equity-deserving group

Path Walker  
 [living  
 experience]  
 Profile  
 Identity  
 Continued

Information	Why is this component included?
<b>Home/Affiliated Community</b>	Wise Practice – Understanding and addressing relocation as a barrier to accessing housing
<b>Relocation</b>  Location traveled from _____  Specify the reason for relocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medical travel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mainstream Child and Family Services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.). Specify: _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Crisis or safety concern Specify _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Immigration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Refugee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Access resources/services unavailable in the community. Specify _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>	



Path Walker  
[living  
experience]  
Profile  
Health Status

Information	Why is this component included?
<p><b>Does the person have a severe _____, which is defined as affecting their ability to access housing?*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mental illness</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical illness</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Addiction</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Disability</li></ul>	<p>Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix</p>

Path Walker  
 [living  
 experience]  
 Profile  
 Household  
 Composition

Information	Why is this component included?
<p><b>Household Members &amp; Dependents*</b></p> <p>*Include ALL family (including chosen family)</p> <p>For each household member, indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Age</li> <li>- Relationship to the primary applicant</li> <li>- Identify as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, Métis)</li> <li>- Member of 2SLGBTQQIA+ community</li> <li>- Equity-seeking group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Prioritization – Intersectionality            Decision Making Matrix</p>
<p><b>Child &amp; Family Services Involvement*</b></p> <p>For each household dependent under the age of [18], indicate:            Is Child and Family Services Involved?</p> <p><u>If yes</u> - Is the dependent in Child and Family Services Care?            Anticipated date of return MM/DD/YYYY</p> <p><u>If no</u> - Is there a risk of Child and Family Services becoming involved due to homelessness?</p>	

Path Walker  
 [living  
 experience]  
 Profile  
 Housing &  
 Homelessness

Information	Why is this component included?
<b>Total amount of time spent homeless over the past 4 years?*</b>	Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix
<b>Current situation*</b> Note: Options based on the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee’s (2019) Indigenous Homelessness Definition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alternating between shelter and unsheltered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Living on the street</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Couch surfing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Using emergency shelters</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Living in unaffordable, inadequate, substandard, and/or unsafe accommodations. Specify [optional] _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Living without the security of tenure [i.e., landlord can end tenancy at any time].</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Released from a facility (Indicate type: hospitals, mental health and addiction treatment centers, prisons, transition houses). Specify [optional]</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fleeing an unsafe home as a result of abuse (in all its definitions)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth transitioning from care (all forms)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>	Prioritization – Circle Guide

# Community Connections

Information	Why is this component included?
<b>Workers, programs, or organizations connected to the Path Walker [living experience]</b>	Wise Practice – Community-wide Circles of Care



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## **Meeting Status**

6. Meetings Status

# Housing Vision

Information	Why is this component included?
<b>Preferred Housing Location*</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not exclude based on preference, open to all locations	Wise Practice – Empowerment Approach & Prioritization – Circle Guide
<b>Preferred Housing Type(s)*</b>	
<b>Housing Requirements &amp; Preferences*</b>	

# Housing Resiliencies

Topic Area	Information	Why is this component included?
<b>Resiliencies</b>	Strengths*	Wise Practice – Strength-based Approach & Prioritization – Circle Guide
	Hobbies*	

# Barriers & Obstacles: Housing

<b>Unable to afford housing costs</b>	Due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Upfront lump sum payment for house insurance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Damage deposit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> First &amp; last month rent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly rental rate exceeds budget</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Need co-signer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Requires address for rental funding</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for rent subsidy (long period of time) or late payments</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>
<b>Not Eligible for Housing Program(s)</b>	Due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Couch surfing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not meeting acuity level for housing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Size of household [i.e., family with many members requiring a large home]</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Income exceeds eligibility criteria</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Requires support worker</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>
<b>Mismatched Housing –</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed on housing option</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Loss of housing retention</b>	Due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe housing. Specify (such as, substance use/violence): _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Location (Add specify: _____ For example, transit, near basic amenities (grocery store), disconnected from home community, fear of neighbourhood)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Housing policies/programs. Specify (such as, visitors, pets, smoking access): _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Housing size does not accommodate their dependents. Specify (such as, children in care, extended family, chosen family/significant others) _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Requires housing specific to age (such as, seniors or youth housing). Specify _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Requires higher level of housing supports. Specify (such as, mental health including subclinical, addictions, nursing, meals etc.): _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Requires transitional housing (i.e., hybrid between shelter and housing)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Requires low-barrier supportive housing. Specify _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based housing option not a good fit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dwindling post-housing supports. Specify: _____</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lease (i.e., required to sign year lease vs. preference is month-to-month)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>



Barriers &  
Obstacles:

Document  
Ready

**Difficulty obtaining documents required to  
access housing**

Indicate the required document:

- Notice of assessment
- Identification. Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- References
- Confirmation of finances (budget) letter
- Rental form
- Bank account
- Credit score
- Notice of eviction OR landlord tenant board summons
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Due to:

- Missing documents due to 60's scoop
- Non-registered birth
- Ministry of Child and Family Services Involvement
- Relocation
- Cost of obtaining documents
- No fixed address
- Require ID to obtain the required document
- Excessive amounts of paperwork to complete
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Barriers &  
Obstacles:

Stereotypes,  
Discrimination,  
& Racism

**Housing application refused or de-prioritized due to stereotypes, discrimination, and/or racism**

Due to:

- Self-identification as Indigenous
- Self-identification as a racialized person
- Name provided on the application
- Source of income
- Recipient of rental subsidy
- Assumed perception of risk by landlord (such as, addictions/solvent use, mental illness, sex worker, history of chronic homelessness, etc.)
- Rental history (such as previous arrears, eviction etc.)
- Internal organizational hierarchy for housing placements
- Exclusion from accessing program/service due to past concerns
- Housing option opted out of serving the homeless population
- Identified as transitioning from a correctional facility
- Physical appearance (including clothing, etc.)
- Support Worker present during the rental process
- Large family size
- Pets
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

# Barriers & Obstacles:

# Supports

<b>Requires housing supports to obtain and retain housing</b>	Specify required supports/resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Supports</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Trauma Specific Supports. Specify if intergenerational Yes ___ No ___ Unknown ___</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Substance Use/Addictions Supports</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Grief Supports</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Disability Supports</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Home Care Supports</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li></ul>
<b>Unable to connect with a needed service/resource required for accessing or retaining housing</b>  Specify needed service/resource: _____	Due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Does not meet eligibility criteria</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Worker refused support assuming access to on-reserve resources/service</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Worker unaware of the availability of service/resource in the community</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Service/resource is unavailable in the community</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Path Walker [living experience] needs support to complete the required paperwork to obtain resource</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Service/resource has a long waitlist</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation not available to access resource</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li></ul>

# Barriers & Obstacles: Meetings

**Feels uncomfortable accessing an organization, which is required to navigate for successfully accessing and retaining housing**

Due to:

- Lack of trust
- Lack of warm transfer
- High frequency of changeover between staff
- Not feeling welcome
- Organizational environment triggering (such as locked doors)
- Fear of child apprehension
- Not wanting to disclose their personal story, including trauma history
- Not given time to share their personal story, including difficult experiences
- Non-Indigenous staff or organization
- Staff lack lived experience
- Not offered cultural support/resources
- Lack of cultural awareness (such as cultural norms or intergenerational trauma)
- Lack of confidential space
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Unable to successfully attend required appointments for accessing housing**

Due to:

- Not having consistent access to a phone
- Not having consistent access to transportation
- Missed appointments due to time disorientation
- Language barrier
- Low retention of information when dysregulated (fight/flight mode)
- Zero tolerance policies for attending appointments when using substances
- Unable to navigate multiple service providers to access housing



# Barriers & Obstacles:

## Travel

### Relocation, displacement, & migration from

- Outside Canada
- Inside Canada Specify from:
- Northern community
- Home/Affiliated Community
- Remote Community
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Due to:

- Medical travel
- Education
- Mainstream Child and Family Services
- Natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.). Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Crisis or safety concern. Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Access resources/services unavailable in the community.  
Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Refugee
- Immigration
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Experiencing:

- Culture shock
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

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## **End of Each Session:**

6. Meeting Status



<b>Meeting Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Date &amp; Time (allotted and actual)</li> <li>▪ Before the meeting, were Coordinated Access shared database or other database files reviewed?</li> </ul>
<b>Has an urgent safety need been identified in the meeting or previously identified?*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Violence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Abuse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exploitation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rough sleeping negatively impacting physical/mental health issues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Severe health issues due to current living standards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul> <p>If yes, was a safety plan co-developed in the session?</p> <p>If yes, did the worker provide immediate safe housing?</p>
<b>What interim resources/services were provided during the meeting?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Phone access</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Printer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Open bank account</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete application</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gift card</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Health kit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Backpack/clothing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor gear</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Packed food/beverages,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial support</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide message service</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Laundry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shower</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Baby supplies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Snacks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (e.g., bus pass/taxi voucher etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Service/support. Specify _____</li> </ul>

Meeting  
Information

Priority Actions

**Immediate Needs**

**Top 3 needs (i.e., action items) required for accessing  
housing and retaining housing**



PATH  
Digitalized  
Process



# PATH

## Prioritization Framework

- The first half of prioritization:
  - Method:** Automated process
  - Tool:** **Intersectionality Decision-Making Matrix**
  - Outcome:** Housing List
- The second half of prioritization:
  - Method:** Non-automated process
  - Tool:** **Circle Guide** [reflective questions]
  - Outcome:** Choose a candidate from the Housing List to receive the housing opportunity



# Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

Level of Priority	Considerations	1 <sup>st</sup> Layer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Layer	3 <sup>rd</sup> Layer	4 <sup>th</sup> Layer	Housing List
Immediate Priority	Urgent Safety Concerns  AND/OR  Dependents involved OR youth transitioning from care	1. Urgent safety concern(s) AND children/youth involved 2. Dependents involved AND current OR risk of CFS involvement 3. Urgent safety concern(s) 4. Dependents involved OR Youth transitioning from care 5. Expecting a child [next 3 months]	1. Primary applicant is an Elder/senior, youth, and/or 2SLGBTQQIA+ PLUS, severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing (ordered by # of conditions) 2. Primary applicant is an adult PLUS, severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing. (ordered by # of conditions) 3. Primary applicant OR a member of the household is an Elder/senior, youth, or 2SLGBTQQIA+ 4. Primary applicant and household members are adults  Note:  Severe Conditions include mental illness, physical illness, addiction, and/or disability	Number of barriers/obstacles	1. Length of time of homeless (number of days in past 4 years) 2. Date of intake	Pick top [4] eligible candidates based on: Housing criteria Equity targets  Circle Guide assists in choosing a selected candidate for housing opportunity.
High Priority	Populations: Elder/Senior, Youth, and/or 2SLGBTQQIA+	Skip to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Layer				
Priority	Population: Adult					



# Circle Guide

**Objective:** Increase housing retention through a thoughtful strength-based matching process.

## Reflective Questions:

- 1) How does the housing vacancy **MATCH** the primary applicant's **vision/chosen housing options** (i.e., location, type, & preferences/requirements)?
- 2) Does the primary applicant (or household members) **MATCH** the **community-equity targets**?
- 3) Reflect & discuss **strengths/hobbies** & how they will be fostered within the housing opportunity
- 4) Reflect & discuss current **barriers or obstacles** & identify if the housing opportunity will positively or negatively impact them





## Where We Are Going: Phase 2

Anticipated Start Date

Jan 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

- x4 pilot locations from coast-to-coast-coast
- Pilot Community Application - Jan 2023
- Choose Pilot Communities - March 2024
- Launch PATH in Pilot Communities:
  - Digitalize a tailored version of PATH on existing platforms
  - Implementation & Evaluation Plan
  - Training and Technical Plan
- Phase 3 (complete pilot)







Marcee  
Miigwetch  
Merci  
Thankyou

**Contact:**

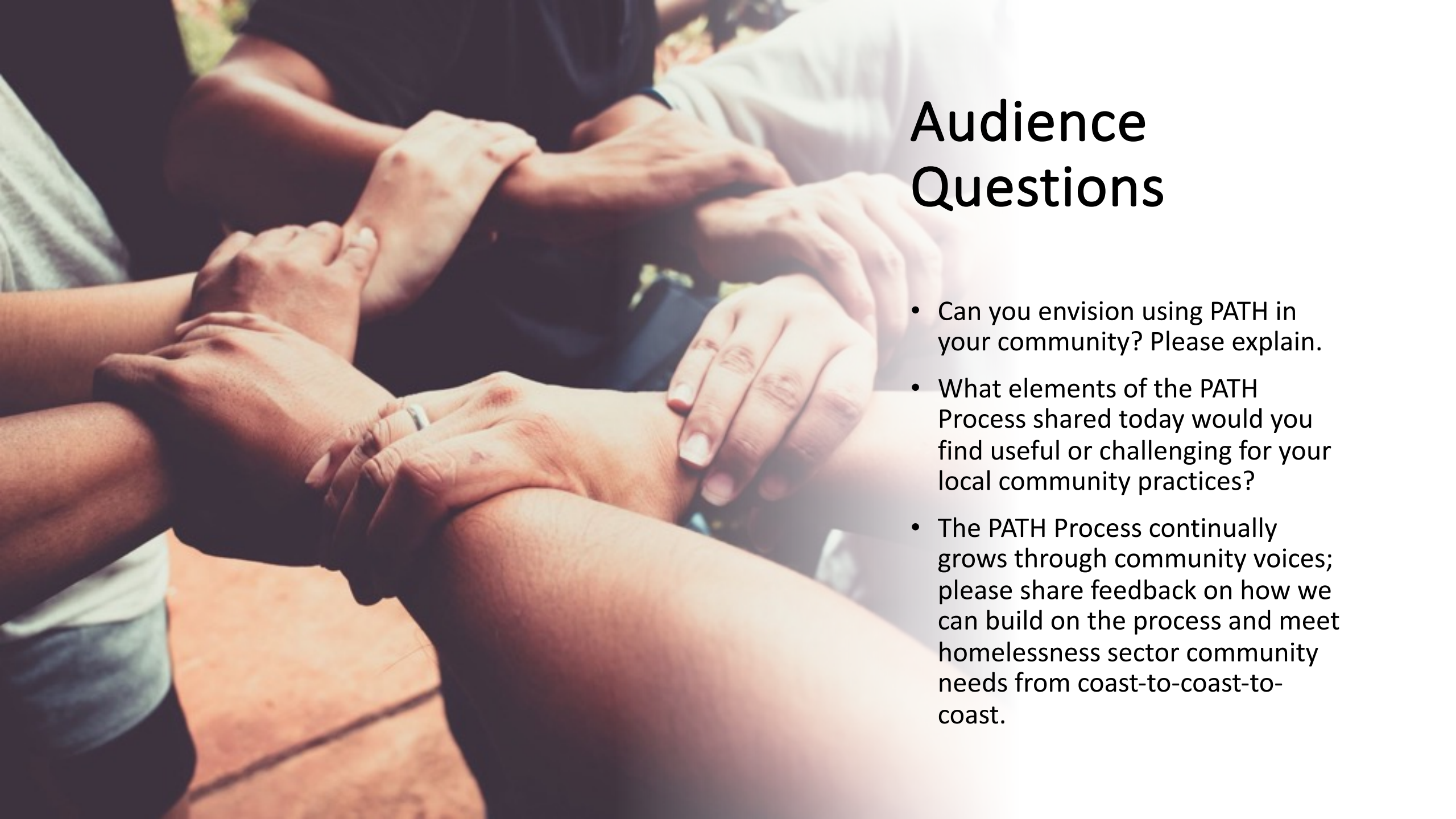
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*Funded by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home Program*



# Audience Questions

- Can you envision using PATH in your community? Please explain.
- What elements of the PATH Process shared today would you find useful or challenging for your local community practices?
- The PATH Process continually grows through community voices; please share feedback on how we can build on the process and meet homelessness sector community needs from coast-to-coast-to-coast.