



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



Archipel
Research & Consulting

Research on the Value of Public Funding for Indigenous Arts and Cultures



Archipel Research and Consulting Inc., in collaboration with the Canada Council for the Arts, conducted a national research study (Aug. 2020 – Sept. 2021) to understand the role and importance of arts and cultures to Indigenous communities across Canada, and the value of public funding for Indigenous arts and cultures.

We conducted



124 interviews;

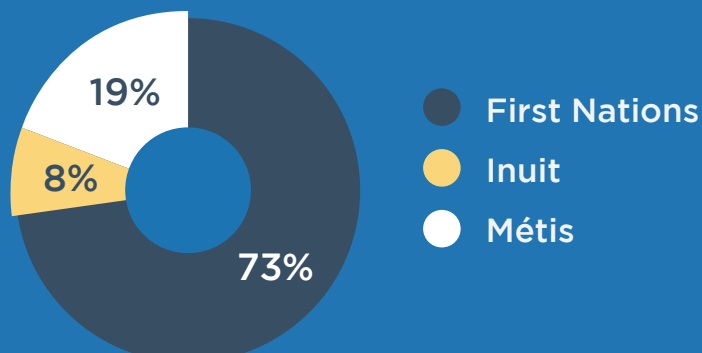


15 focus groups
with 112 participants;



and received 413
survey responses.

Participants included Indigenous artists, organizations, cultural carriers, and Elders. Of the people we engaged, roughly 73% were First Nations, 8% were Inuit, and 19% were Métis.



Through this research, we found that arts and cultural practices are integral to Indigenous ways of being. Indigenous arts and cultures provide essential functions for cultural continuity and revitalization.

“My work is guided by my ancestors... I don’t create work to please people. I create work because it is a reflection of my experience and how I need to do work to uplift and move and heal what I’m connected to.”

- Great Lakes Region Participant

“I don’t know how to do a 500 word essay on my project. I know I need four moosehide, I know I need canvas, I know I need 20 sets of beads, and thread and needles... But to explain the process of all of it and drag it into a 500 word essay? ... These applications are just another part of the colonization process.”

- Yukon Region Participant



Public funding is integral to the success of Indigenous artists, arts, and cultures. Funding through the Council has supported the meaningful work of Indigenous artists, that they might not have been able to do otherwise.

Indigenous artists and organizations continue to face barriers to access the support they need.

Based on the research findings, 26 recommendations for the Council and other arts funders to guide their path forward. They are summarized below:

- Nurture and expand collaboration, community connections, and ongoing relationship building.
- Prioritize and address challenges of the North.
- Advance and protect Indigenous languages and cultures.
- Improve funding mechanisms to better support the needs of Indigenous applicants.
- Improve accessibility and awareness of programs through outreach.
- Affirm Indigenous rights, reconciliation, and decolonization.

For more information, including the final report, resource guide, the Council’s response, and this document in other languages, please visit:

[Research on Public Funding for Indigenous Arts and Cultures | Canada Council for the Arts](#)



We would like to convey our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all the participants, as well as the Advisory Circle convened by the Council, for their contributions to this research.