

Community Forum

Reducing Violence and Crime in Mistissini





What was the Community Forum?

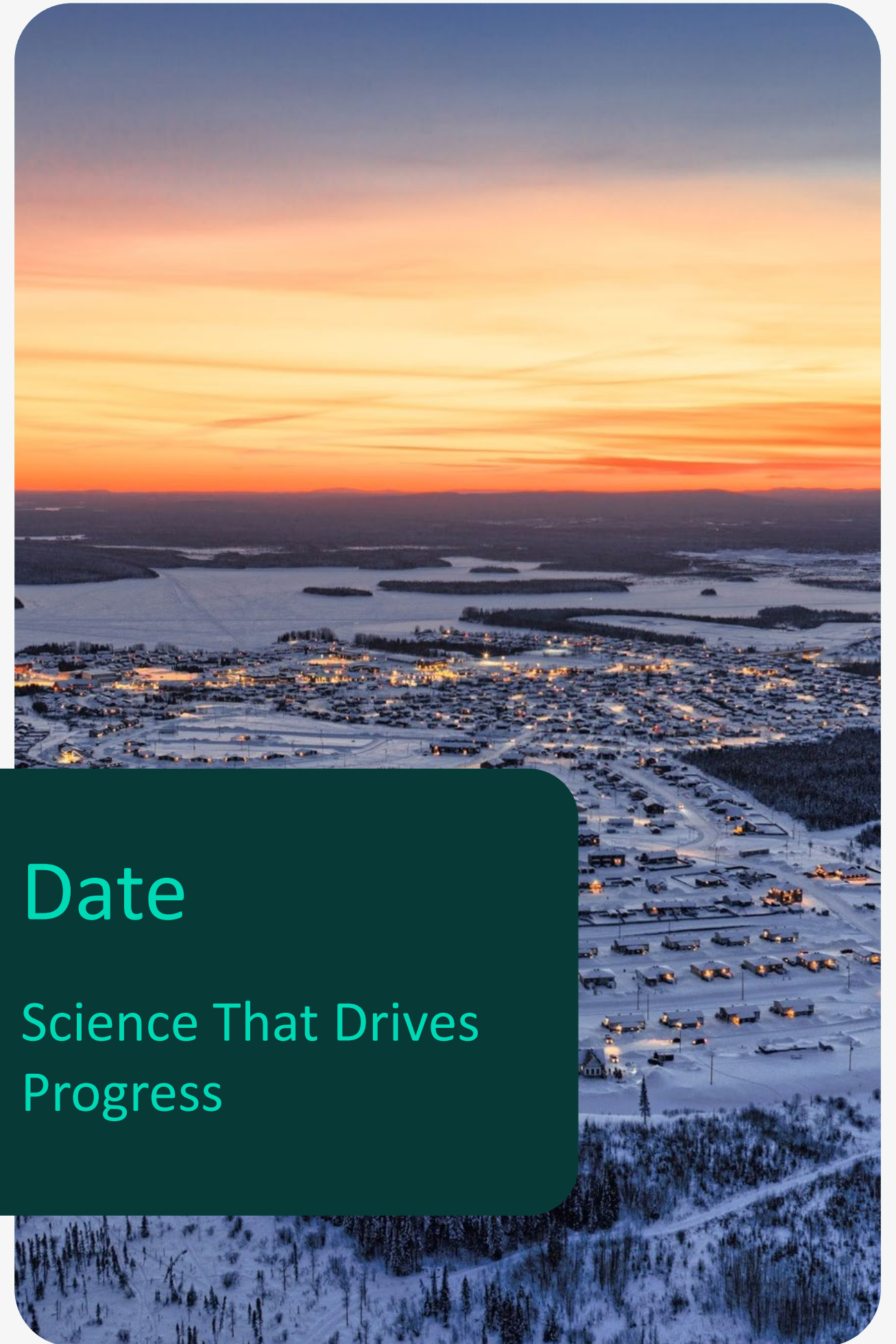
- Held following the tragic deaths of two young community members
- Violence, drugs, and bootlegging raised urgent community concern
- Leadership launched **Step Up For Change initiative**

Goal

To hear directly from the community about solutions to violence and safety.

Date

Science That Drives Progress





Consultation Approach

Action Items were grouped by short (1-2 yrs), mid (3-4 yrs), long (5-10 yrs) and each table was given votes to prioritize which of the action items should be considered a community priority.

Between 150-200 participants attended the event

Large-scale roundtable consultation

32 discussion tables

4–8 participants per table



Forum by Numbers

The event was hosted at the Neosweskau Complex from 12PM-5PM

Providing:

1. Information Sessions from EEPF
2. Lunch and notetakers

415 Actions

Shared by nearly 200 participants

13

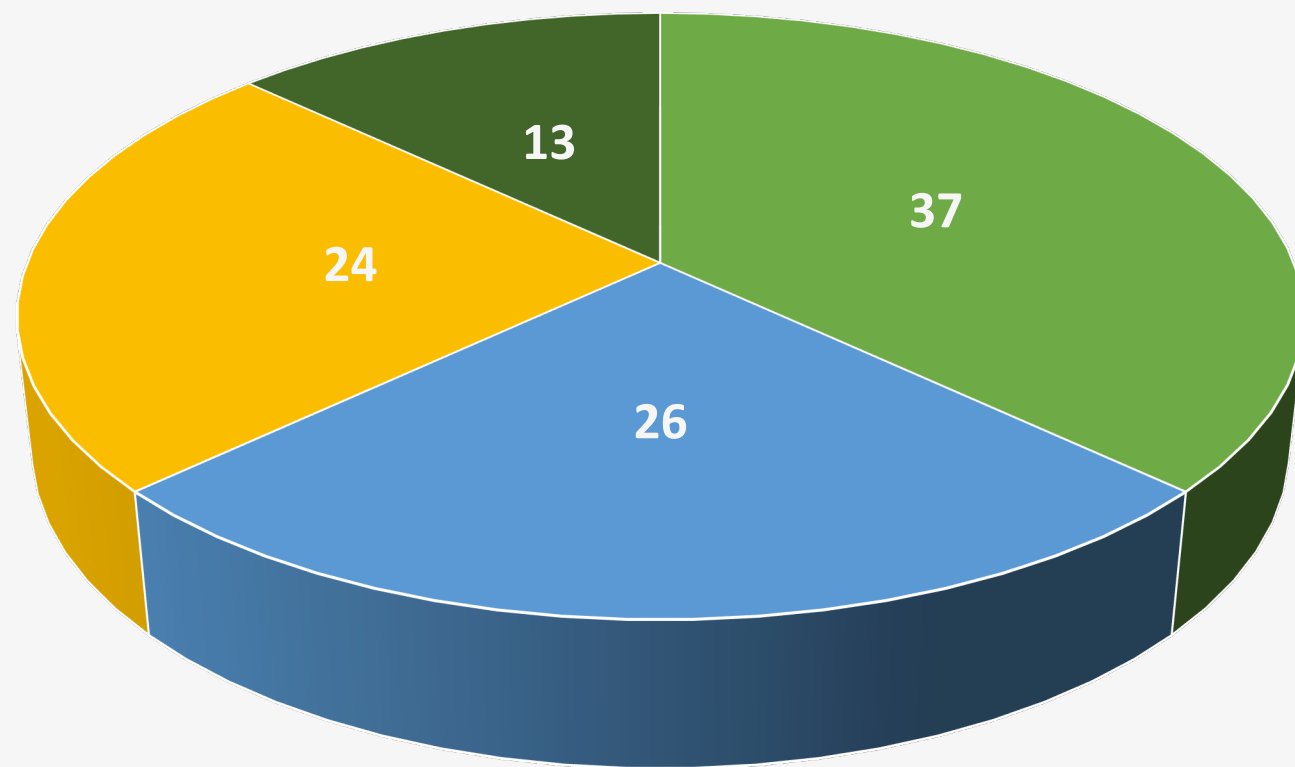
Themes Identified For Priorities





Priority Distribution over time

Key takeaway: The strongest signal from the forum was the need for visible action now.



■ Short-term ■ Mid-term ■ Long-term ■ Not-specified

Majority of Priorities Identified were for short-term (37%)

Over 60% were tasks to be completed in the next 1-2 years

13% of actions did not identify a timeline for completion

Priority Areas: What heard most often

01. Security and Surveillance

Creating better systems to monitor public spaces and access to the community

02. Youth Engagement and Protection

The community sees youth as both most vulnerable and most important to the future.

03. Bush Programs and Land-Based Activities

The community sees youth as both most vulnerable and most important to the future.

04. School Campaigns and Awareness

Creating early access to youth and children through after school and community education programs

05. Healing and Treatment Centers

Creating in community resources for substance abuse issues and treatment for our members

06. Justice and Accountability

Creating systems that hold dealers, bootleggers and offenders accountable through reporting and exclusion



Part 2: Priority Areas





Immediate Safety and Security for our Community

01

Gates and Controlled Entry Points

Similar to the pandemic, having tools to monitor entry and travel out of the community and to create check-points to search vehicles coming into the community.

02

Street and Public-Building Cameras

A central camera system that can monitor public spaces and streets as part of local dispatch and security

03

Neighborhood Watch

Utilize existing funds and resources to train and implement a neighborhood watch program

04

Curfew Enforcement

Bring back the enforcement of the 9PM curfew for youth under the age of 13.

Top Priority Raised by the Community



Ban traffickers, bootleggers and sexual offenders

- Evict non-resident dealers
- Build reporting systems
- Use formal exclusion or banishment processes similar to other First Nations



Identified 28 times by different community members as a priority



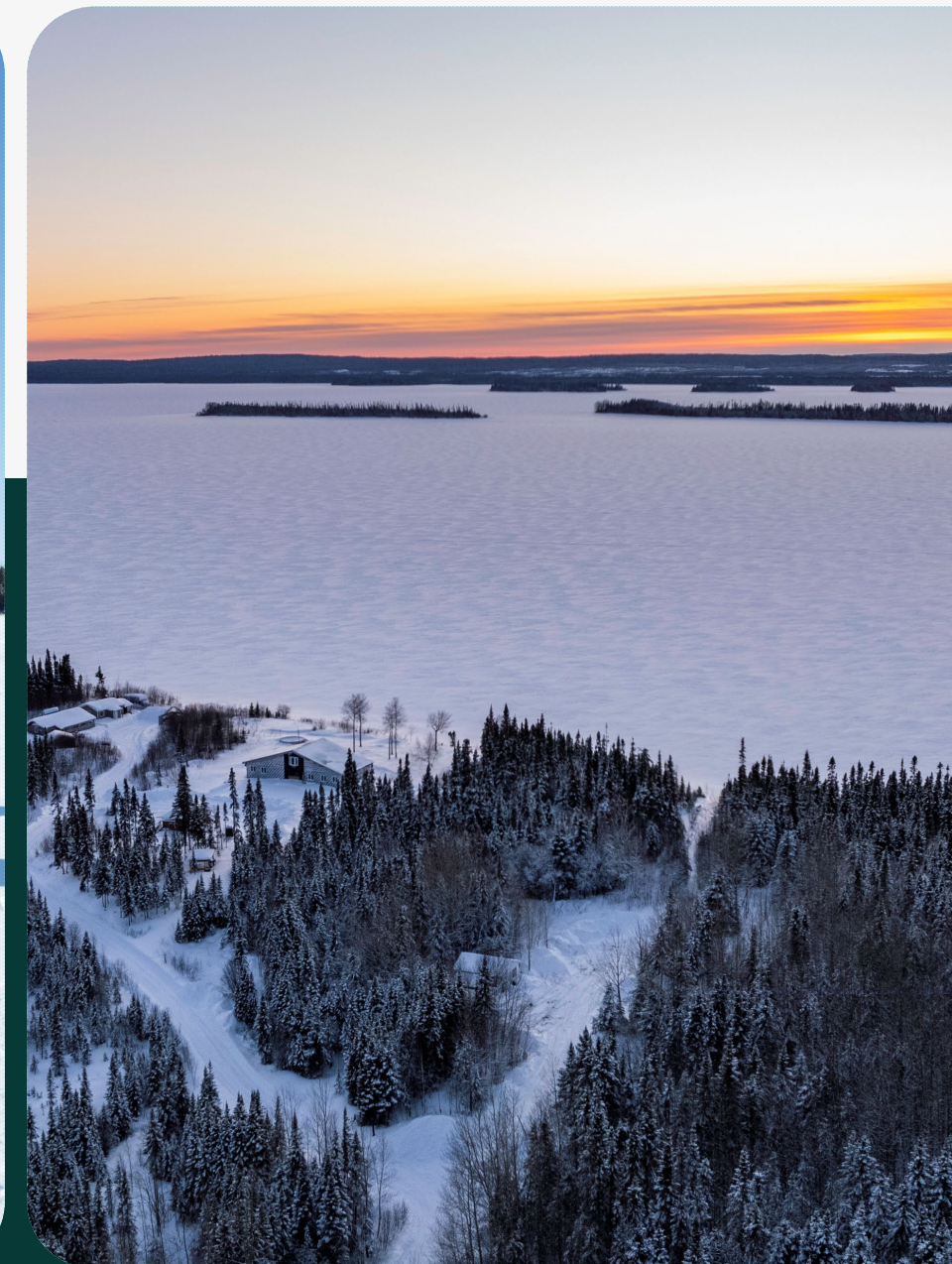


Healing and Treatment Infrastructure

“Land based healing and treatment.
We need a permanent site”

The forum emphasized the need for:

- Land-based healing lodge
- Detox and treatment services
- Trauma-informed support
- Mental health programming for youth, adults, and families





Land Based Healing and Bush Programs

The land is a place for healing and identity that has guided us since time immemorial



Bush camps for youth



Elder Mentorship



Reintegration to the community

Youth Engagement

“ We need to hear from the youth too. They have the answers.”



01

More evening and weekend programs

02

Sports and Recreation access

03

Youth employment and skills training

04

Youth healing gatherings

05

Youth only spaces to speak openly



School and Curriculum

Participants called for schools to play a stronger prevention role:

- After-school programming
- Wellness and emotional regulation
- Trauma education
- Life skills
- Elder visits
- Better mental health support in schools





Safety Starts At Home

Major needs raised:

- Women's shelter
- Men's shelter
- Emergency housing
- Safe homes
- Parenting workshops
- Family support services



Key Message

Violence was not seen only as a policing issue, but also a housing and family support issue.



Cree Values as Protection

Seeing community issues as an erosion of our values and identity that must be restored:



Cree Language and Identity



Laws Rooted in Community Values



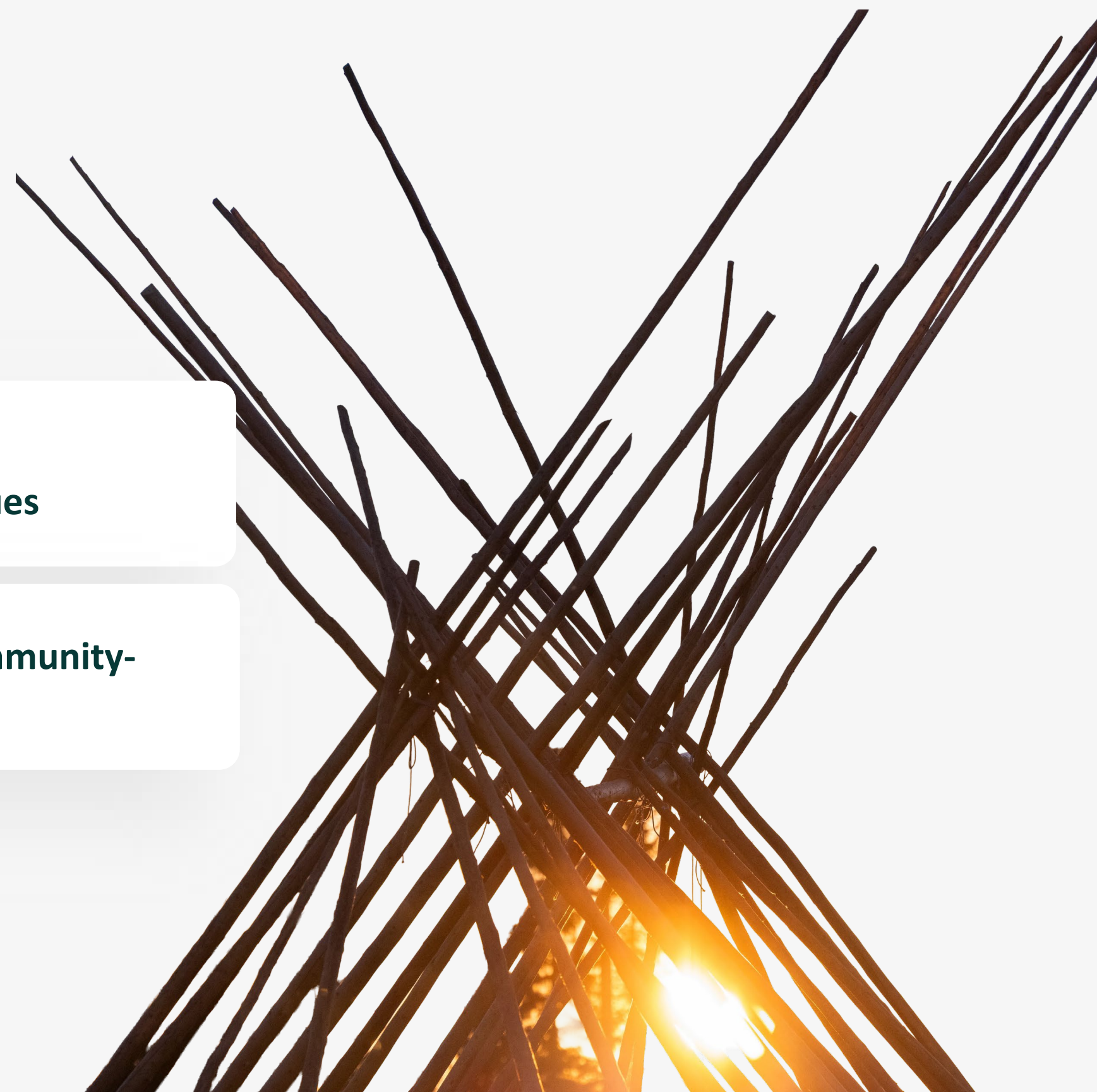
Elder Involvement



Restorative Community-Led Justice



Cultural Teachings and Skills





Building on Existing Strengths

Community members identified strengths already present that should be utilized to guide the actions and priorities:

Community spirit and resilience

Church and spiritual community

Youth outreach and support services

Cultural Programs and Facilities that already exist



Opportunities for Mistissini

Permanent Healing Lodge on the Land

Designating an existing site or building a new area as a healing site for traditional land-based therapy

Coordinated Youth Strategy

Working with all youth stakeholders to build a shared approach to core youth issues, support and services

Community Media as a Prevention Tool

Leveraging community radio, media and communications as tools to educate, inform and engage members on issues of crime and violence prevention

Restorative Justice and Community Law

Building a community-led approach to justice, accountability and restorative justice that is enforced

Churches and Spiritual Leaders

Ensuring that core support and wellness resources are connected to the spiritual organizations in our community

Next Steps for the Community Forum on Crime and Violence Prevention

01

Establish an Action Register

That indexes and preserves the actions shared by our members as an long-range planning tool

02

Funding and Resource Identification

Establish existing resources, and opportunities for funding to support various areas of need and priority

03

Reporting and Timelines

Creating a report over the next 90 days that further explores the themes and opportunities shared by the members into a formal report and timeline.

Working Together: A Partnership Framework

Community Forum: Reducing Violence and Crime

What our members said:

Communities don't have all the resources to address this problem, we need to work collaboratively.

EEPF

Drug awareness programs
School information sessions
Community funding resources
Crime Stoppers and Tipline

Justice

Restorative justice panels
Community justice committees
Offender accountability systems
Youth diversion programs



Schools

Sports team coordination & travel
Attendance & dropout data
After-school programming
Wellness curriculum

Cree Health

Land Based Healing
Mental Health/Trauma Support
Detox & Treatment Resources
Community Wellness Workers

*“ We need to build a plan together.
And then we need to follow through.
Our community is counting on us. ”*

Meegwetch

