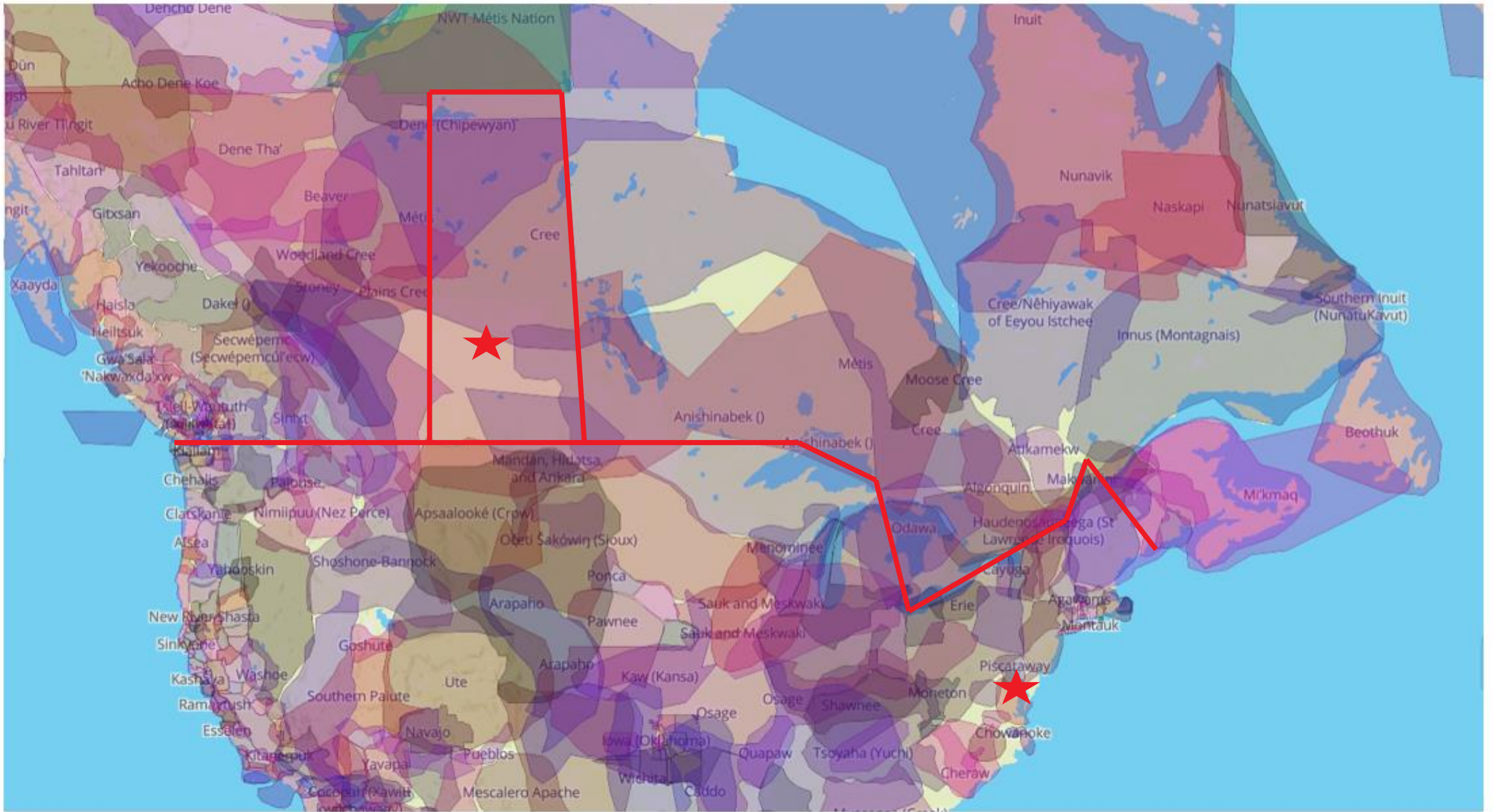


Promoting and Evaluating Joint Action for Reconciliation Between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan, Canada

Peacebuilding M&E Solutions Forum

October 23rd 2018

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Saskatchewan



Inequity for Indigenous People in Canada

- Health
- Education
- Income
- Justice
- Per-Capita Government Spending

Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan

- “Aboriginal peoples” in Canadian Constitution:
 - Indians (First Nations)
 - Inuit
 - Métis
- 175,015 in 2016 (16.3% of population)
- 22% growth from 2006
- 24.3 median age (40.6 for non-Indigenous)
- Seven Indigenous linguistic groups:
 - Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota, Saulteaux, Michif



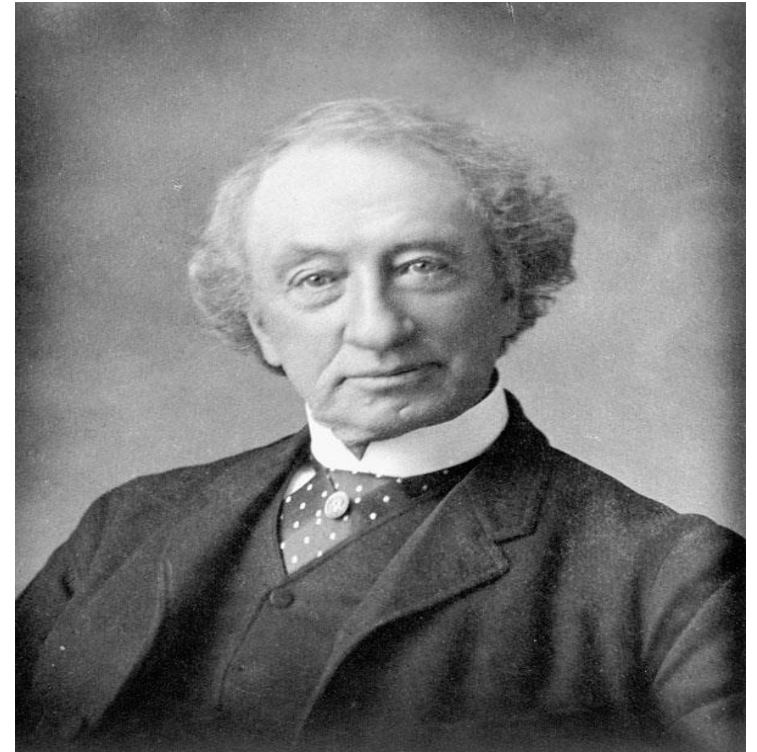
The Numbered Treaties

- Historical Context – transition
Access to Land for Treaty Rights
 - Annuities
 - Medicine Chest
 - School house
 - Agricultural supplies
 - Hunting, fishing, trapping
 - Shelter



What Happened? The Indian Act - 1876

- Complete government control - Indian Agent
 - Citizenship
 - Cultural and spiritual practices
 - Governance systems
 - Penalties and permits for trade
 - Pass system – 1885 to 1930
 - No legal council until 1950
 - Indian Act changed but still in place today



Current Saskatchewan Context

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Duty to Consult and Accommodate
- Strengthened civil society
- Ongoing tensions, racism
- Growing movement for change



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada



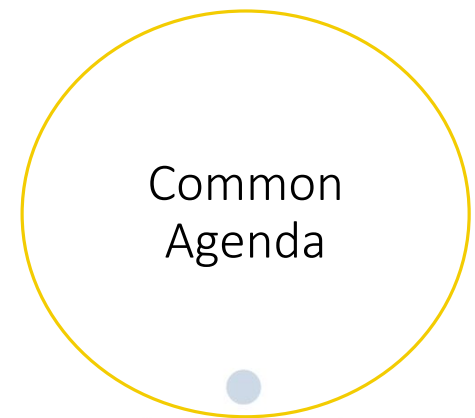
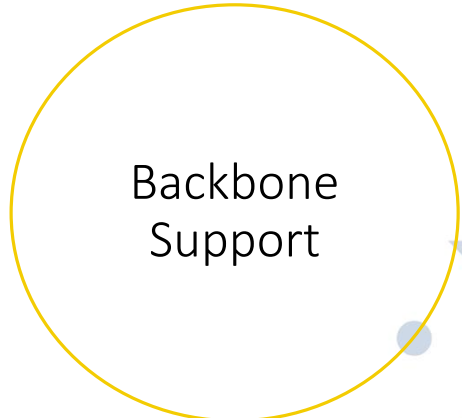
Foreign Diplomacy
→
SK Reconciliation



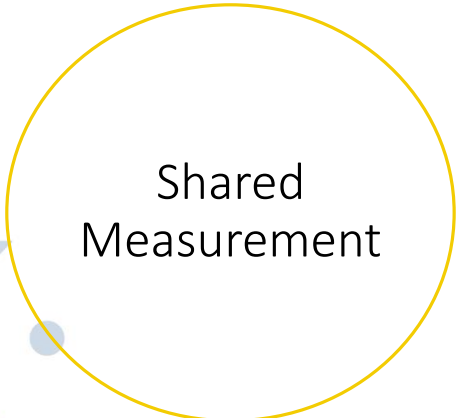
Collective Impact



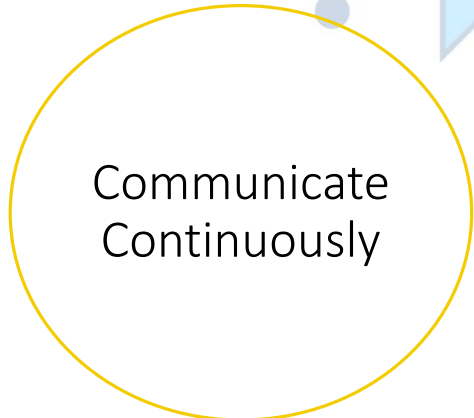
- Separate organization(s) with staff
- Resources and skills convene and coordinate participating organizations



- Common understanding
- Shared vision for change



- Collecting data and measuring results
- Focus on performance management
- Shared accountability



- Consistent and open communication
- Focus on building trust



- Differentiated approaches
- Coordination through joint plan of action



Reconciliation Saskatchewan

- Began in April 2014
- OTC as neutral facilitator
- Three Strategies:
 - Create coalitions of diverse “champions”
 - Mobilize around a common vision
 - Stories of success – inspire action and learning



The Process

- April 2014 – 18 diverse champions
 - What kind of relationships do we need among Treaty partners to enhance the quality of life of all Saskatchewan residents - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike?
 - How do we influence movement in that direction?
- Dec. 2014 – Concept Note. Three priorities:
 - Municipality/First Nation cooperation
 - Communication and Education
 - Economic Livelihood

The Process

- March 2015
 - Challenged group to act. Not taken up.
 - Right people at the table? Too early?
- May 2015
 - Support from Treaty Table
 - Legitimacy for OTC role from Federation of Saskatchewan Indigenous Nations and Government of Canada
 - Proposed 30 leaders in 3 meetings creating vision, evaluation

The Process

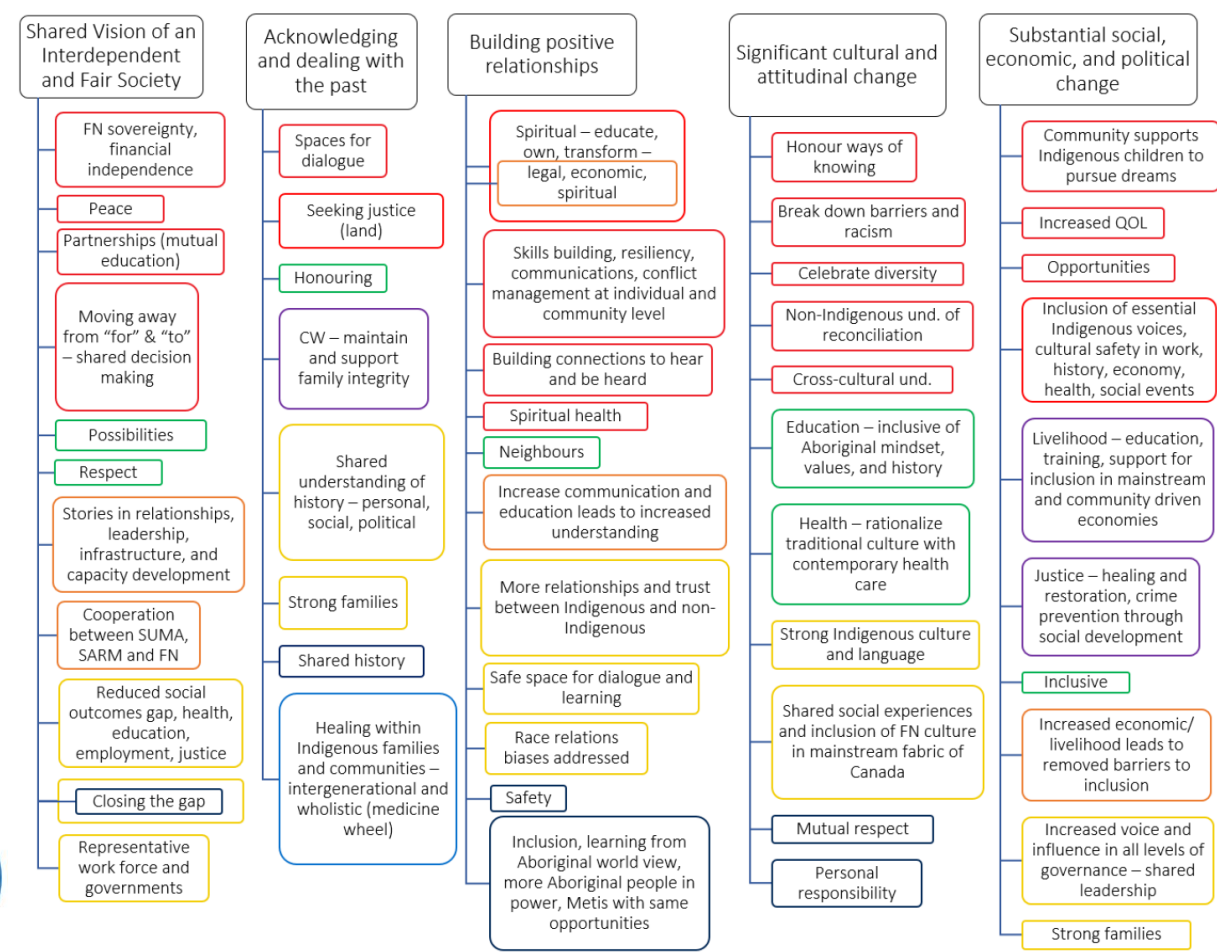
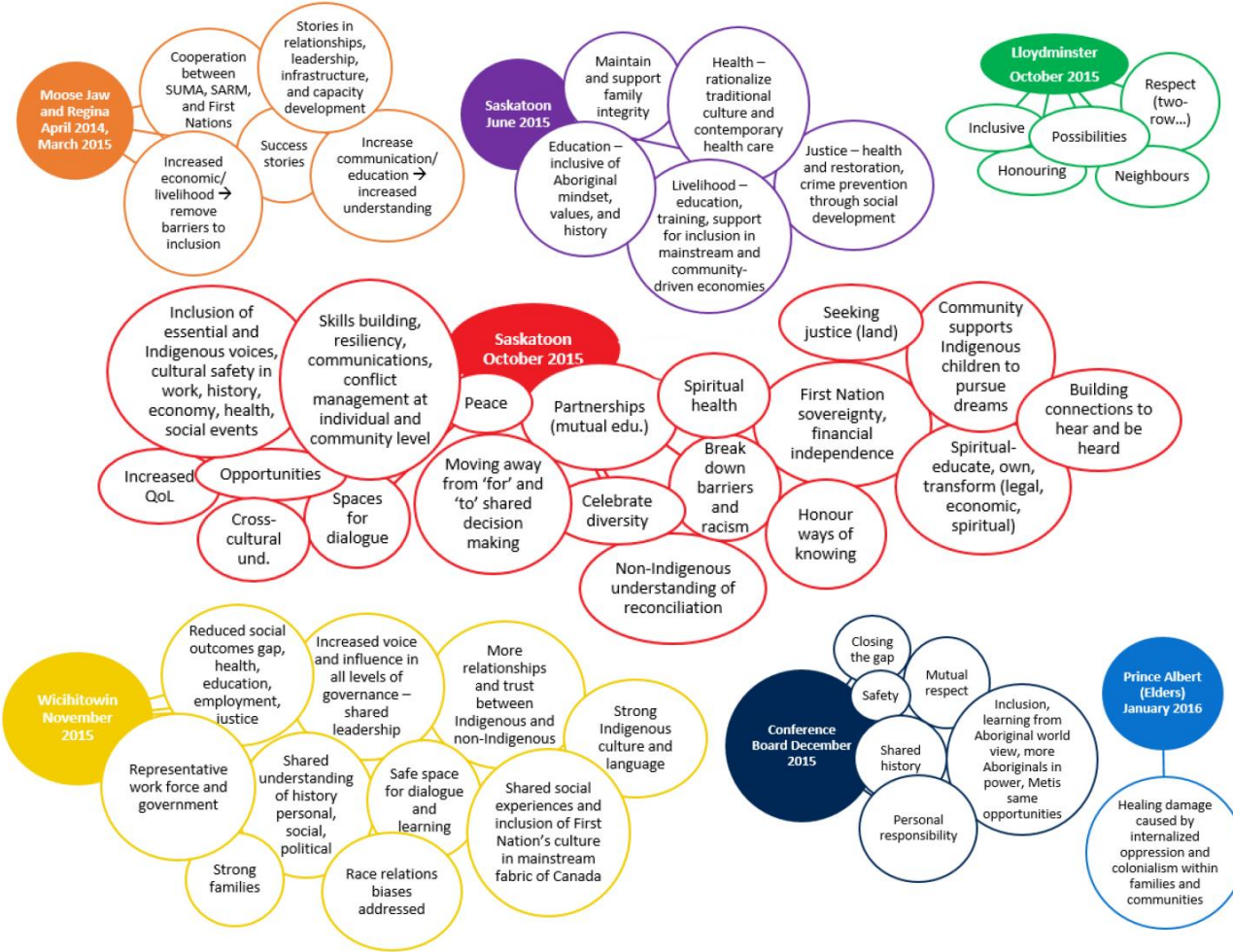
- June 2015
 - Top 100 Leaders Exercise
 - Define reconciliation for health, justice, economic development, education, child welfare
 - What are the questions we need to ask leaders:
 - What is our vision for reconciliation? Where do we want to go?
 - Are you on board? Are you prepared to work toward reconciliation?
 - How would you benefit from reconciliation?
 - How do we get there?
 - How will you/your organisation contribute?
 - How do we measure success?

Creating a Vision for Reconciliation

- Asked these questions to 380 leaders from over 70 organizations
- 8 different gatherings in five communities
- Grainne Kelly and Brandon Hamber (2004)

Reconciliation after conflict is necessary, but must be voluntary. Reconciliation has 5 interwoven ideas:

- "Developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past
- Building positive relationships
- Significant cultural and attitudinal change
- Substantial social, economic and political change"



Reconciliation in Saskatchewan is..

each citizen of the province taking personal responsibility to do what they can to create an interdependent and fair society where:

- Indigenous cultures, languages, ways of knowing and governance structures are strong and sovereign, while also included in and contributing to the overall fabric of Saskatchewan life;
- We share a common understanding of Saskatchewan's history, and our personal place within it;
- Justice for past wrongs has been achieved, and families and communities are strong and healing;
- Safe spaces exist and skills are developed for mutual learning, communication across cultures, trust building, partnerships, and shared social experiences;
- We all enjoy a high quality of life, and full participation in the economy;
- Governance at all levels, including institutions of education, health, justice, economy and social services, represent and benefit from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership, values, history and ways of knowing.

Coalitions of Champions

- July 2015 – Saskatoon City Council declares a “Year of Reconciliation”
 - 8 partners became over 30 in 3 months
 - Logo
 - Flag Raising
 - Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation
- Common Project → Trust, laughter
- Meet Monthly – co-chaired by City, OTC
 - Over 90 partners in circle today



Coalitions of Champions

- Groups now in 8 regions
 - 12 urban municipalities
 - 5 First Nations
 - Numerous Métis organizations
 - 4 rural municipalities
 - 3 Tribal Councils
 - Elders and Residential School survivors
 - Business, faith groups, community orgs, schools

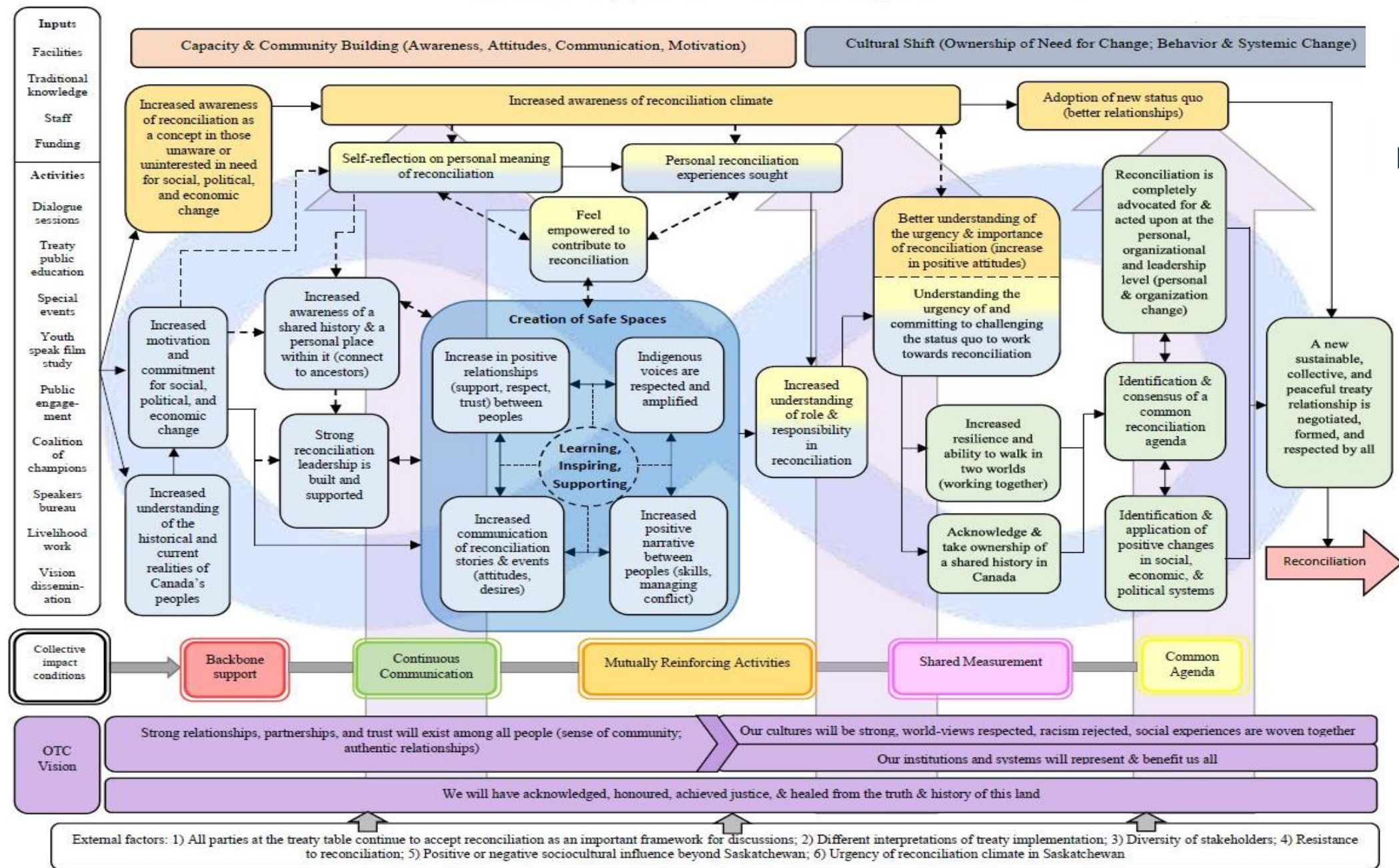


Measurement

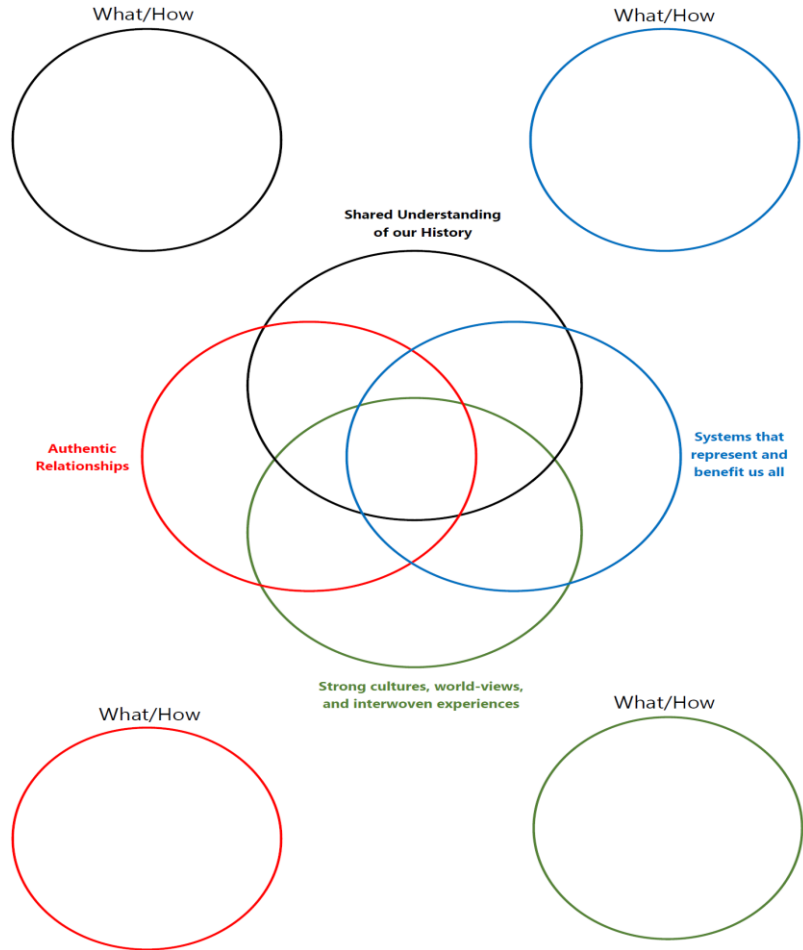
- Hired intern
- Contracted with University of Saskatchewan
- Logic model and evaluation matrix
- Conscious selection of tools

Reconciliation Saskatchewan is...

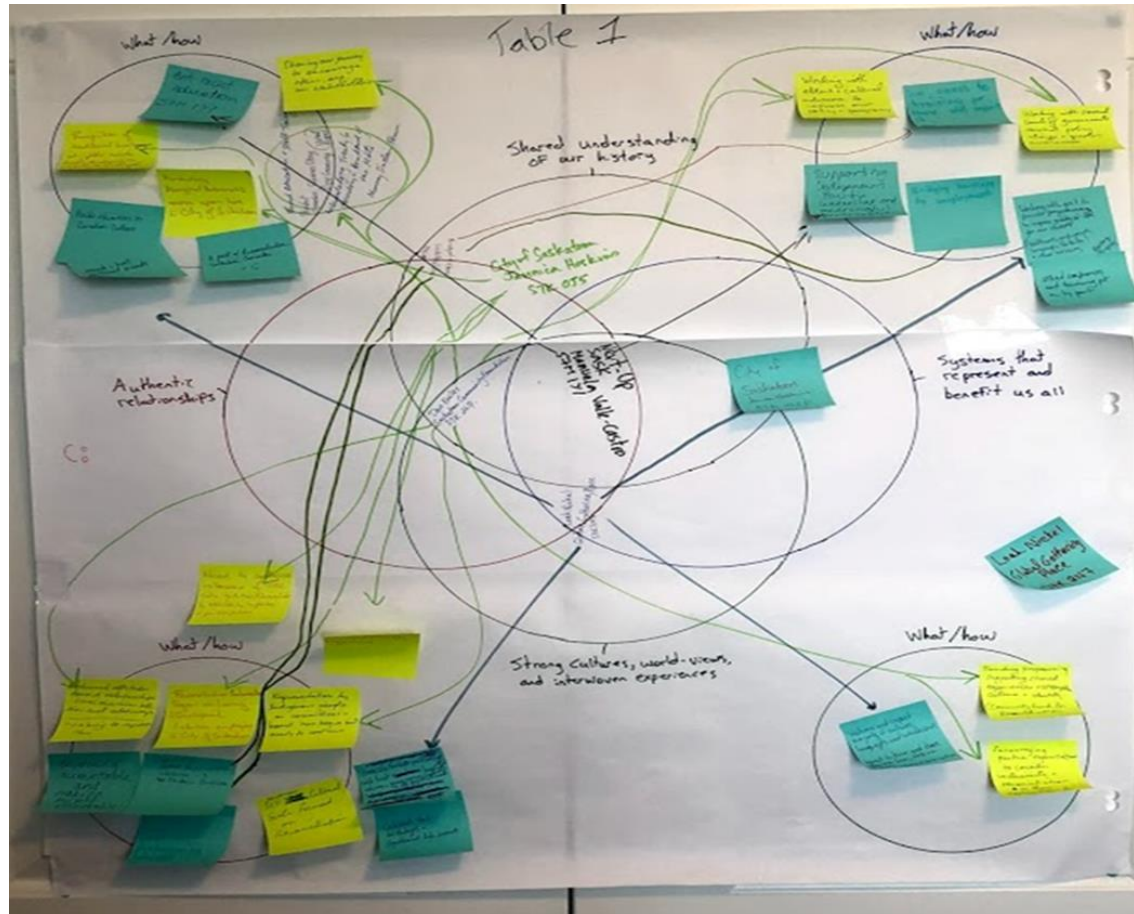
- **A shared understanding of our history:**
 - We will understand and honour the truth and history of this land, including past and present wrongs
 - We will have respectful relationships to our ancestors and to the land
 - Individuals, families, communities and nations will be strong and healing
- **Authentic Relationships:**
 - Strong relationships, partnerships and trust will exist among all people
 - Safe spaces will exist for shared cultural learning
 - We will have greater skills for communication and managing conflict
- **Strong Cultures, World Views and Interwoven Experiences:**
 - Our cultures and languages will be strong, world views respected
 - Diversity will be celebrated, racism rejected
 - Our social experiences will be woven together; we share and learn from each other
- **Political, Economic and Social Systems that Represent and Benefit Us All:**
 - We will have quality of life for all
 - Representative leadership, workforce
 - We will implement the Treaties and achieve Indigenous sovereignty



Who's doing what? Creating a map



Who's doing what? Creating a map



Indicators for Success

- Taking each of the four pillars of the reconciliation vision
 - What would be an indicator of success in your organization?
 - What information are you collecting?
 - What information would you like to collect?

Next steps

- Collect input in other regions
- Provincial survey on attitudes to reconciliation
- Consulting Knowledge Keepers and Survivors
- Take to ceremony
- Tool development - May or June 2019
- Looking for more resources to expand model, build evaluation capacity

Lesson: Indigenous Ways of Knowing

- Relationships building
 - Stories, oral traditions
 - Bringing vision to ceremony
 - Local context
 - Culturally responsive evaluation
- **A Shared Understanding of Our History:** We will have acknowledged, honoured, achieved justice, and healed from the truth and history of this land;
 - **Authentic Relationships:** Strong relationships, partnerships and trust will exist among all people;
 - **Strong Cultures and Interwoven World Views:** Our cultures will be strong, world views respected and our social experiences will have been woven together;
 - **Social, Economic and Political Change:** Our institutions and systems will represent and benefit us all.

Lessons: Evaluation Tools

- Importance of Residential School Survivors
- Community Driven – process as important as product
- Takes time and patience
- Reconciliation about combining world views – changing the way we do things
- Think outside the box - LISTEN
- Evaluation as a tool for accountability, coordination and learning

Thank you

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