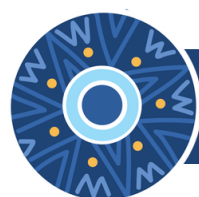


Working with external evaluators: Community reflection guide



This tool is designed to support groups document how they want to work with external evaluators. It can be used in workshops, meetings or other planning sessions.

- Work through the questions as a group (e.g., in a workshop or yarning/talking circle).
- Record key decisions and agreements.
- Use the responses to guide conversations with potential evaluators and inform contracts or terms of reference.
- Revisit and update throughout the evaluation process.



Evaluator background

Questions:

- Does the evaluator have knowledge of our community, culture, history and context?
- Where are they from? Do they speak our language? Do they understand our ways of working?
- Do they have an understanding of our program or activities?
- Do they have any existing relationships with our group or community?

Notes/Decision:



Relationships and ways of working

Questions:

- How do we want the evaluator to build relationships and trust with the community?
- What does respectful and collaborative engagement look like to us?
- Who in the community should the evaluator connect with (e.g., Elders, leaders, youth)?

Notes/Decision:



Community decision-making

Questions:

- How do we want the evaluator to build relationships and trust with the community?
- What does respectful and collaborative engagement look like to us?
- Who in the community should the evaluator connect with (e.g., Elders, leaders, youth)?

Notes/Decision:



Knowledge and methods

Questions:

- What Indigenous knowledge, values and principles do we want to shape the evaluation? How will we share these with the evaluator?
- Does the evaluator come with preconceived ideas of what the evaluation should look like? How much input do we get?
- Which culturally relevant methods do we want the evaluator to use (e.g., storytelling, talking circles, art, observation)?
- Are there any cultural protocols or sensitivities the evaluator must be aware of?

Notes/Decision:



Data ownership and ethics

Questions:

- Who owns the data and knowledge collected through the evaluation?
- How do we want data to be stored?
- What information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private?
- Who will have access to data during the evaluation and after completion?

Notes/Decision:



Sharing findings

Questions:

- How do we want findings to be communicated (e.g., stories, reports, art, presentations)? Is the evaluator on board with these?
- How will the evaluator ensure findings are meaningful and useful for our community?
- Who else should be involved in interpreting and sharing the findings?

Notes/Decision:



Balancing external requirements

Questions:

- What external requirements (e.g., funders) do we need to consider?
- How can we balance these requirements with our community priorities and values?
- Does the evaluator have their own requirements?

Notes/Decision:



Final reflections

- Are we comfortable with how external evaluators will work with us?
- Does this approach reflect our values and priorities?
- What do we need to clarify before moving forward?