

# Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship

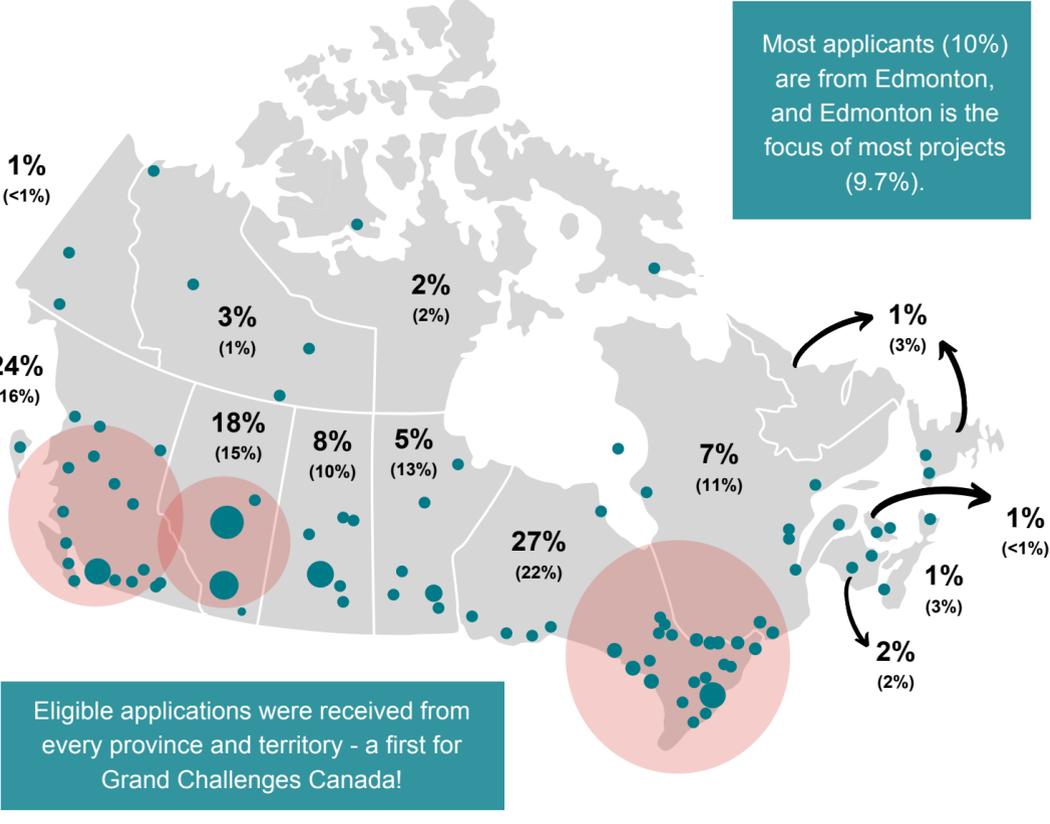
Round 1 Request for Proposals overview - August 2020

## Introduction:

Of the 246 applications that were received, 238 were eligible\* and came from 115 distinct communities across Canada. For 5 provinces and all territories, the percentage of applications received aligns to the distribution of Indigenous peoples in Canada in those regions - see map below for details.

## About the applicants and projects:

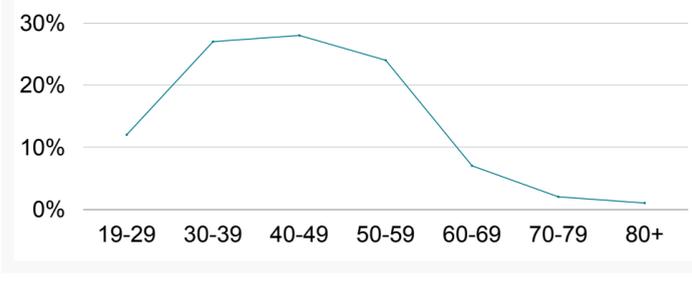
Most applicants (69%) are from Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta, and their projects are focused on at least 172 distinct communities, with some taking place at wider regional, provincial or national levels. Collectively, these projects support rural (40%), urban (35%) and remote (25%) communities, with the highest focus (66%) in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. See map below for details. Six (3%) applications were received in French.



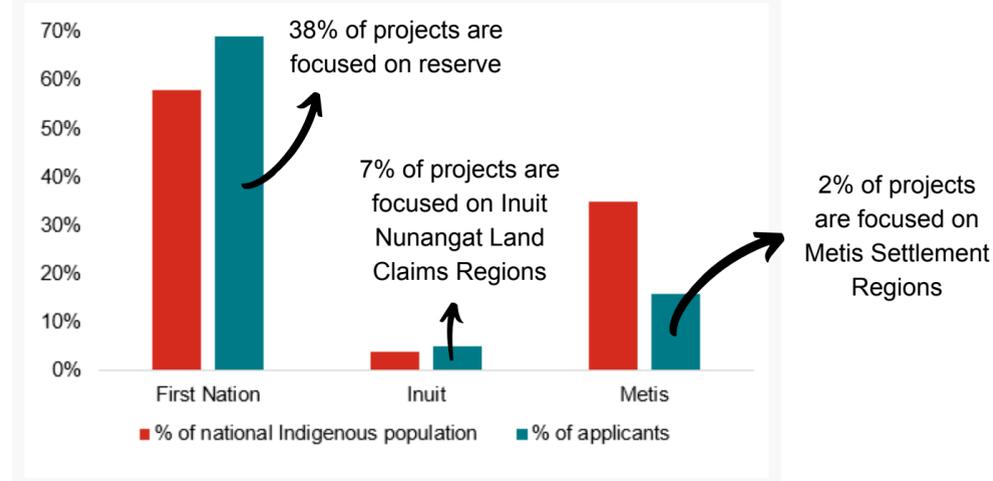
### Map legend

% of eligible submissions by province / (% of Canada's Indigenous population by province)  
 Blue circles: where applicants are from (bigger circle = higher number of applicants)  
 Red circles: where most projects are focused (bigger circle = higher number of projects)

The average age of applicants is 44, with a range from 19 to 81. See right for details.



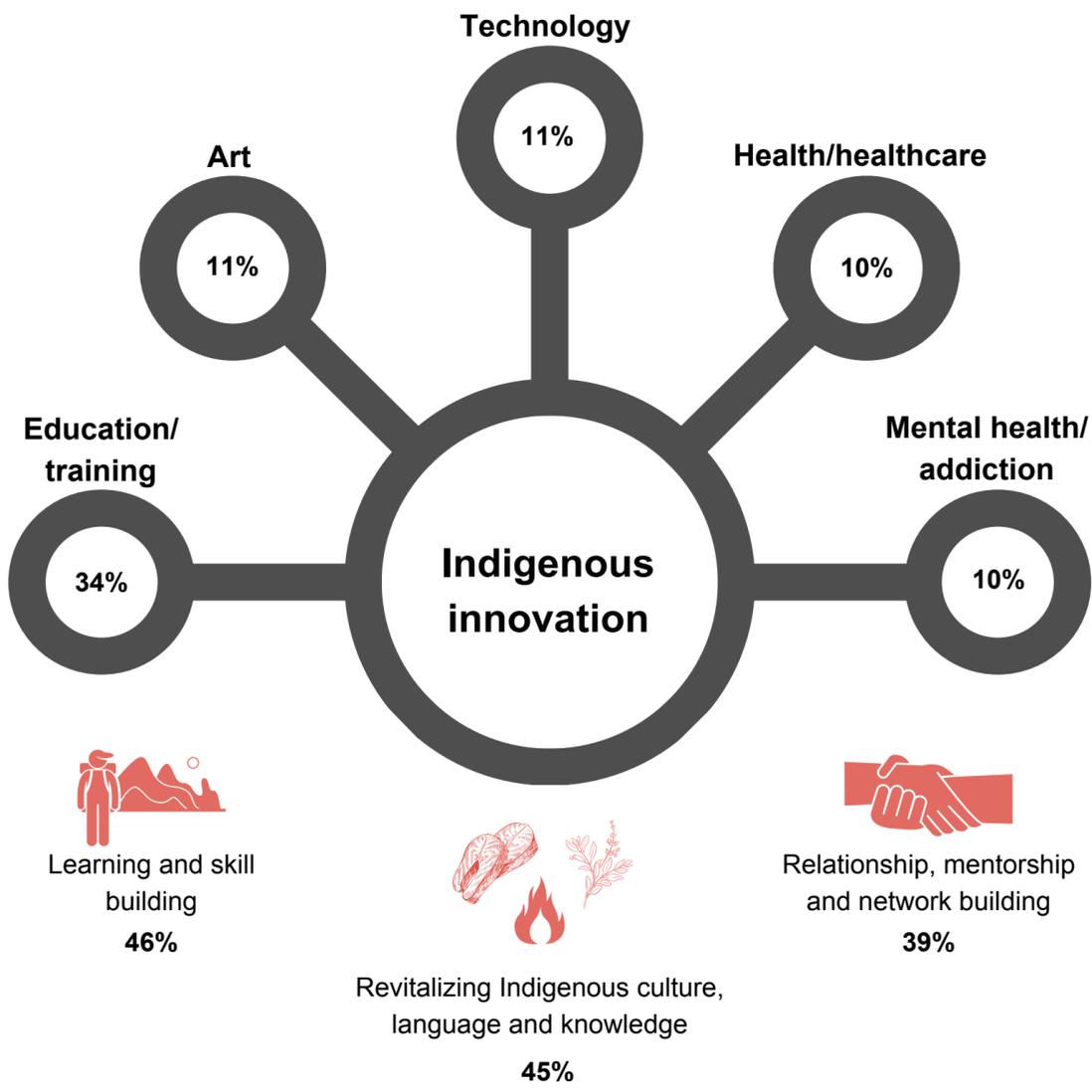
Most applicants (90%) identify as Indigenous, and the distribution of First Nation and Inuit applicants aligns to/exceeds the national population for these groups. This distribution is less well aligned for Metis peoples - see below for details.



The goal of the Gender Equality Program is to advance equality for Indigenous peoples by funding innovation and social entrepreneurship by and for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. This is generally supported by the distribution of applicants and the focus of projects - see below.



Projects are focused on 43 sectors and 41 areas of personal and/or community development, with almost every project intersecting multiple sectors and/or focus areas. See below for the most frequent ones.



## Program learnings:

Based on the above, when planning future calls for applicants, we will focus on increasing our reach within: regions where the percentage of applications is below the percentage of Indigenous peoples living in that province or territory, Metis communities and French speaking communities. Furthermore, based on feedback received from applicants and community reviewers, we are also planning the following program enhancements:

- A regional Champions initiative to improve outreach and support applicants during the application process (and later as grantees)
- Culturally relevant capacity supports for grantees that includes mentorship, networking and accelerator-type programming
- Innovation supports to spark the next generation of applicants in developing and articulating their ideas

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Indigenous Innovation Initiative (2020). Round 1 Request for Proposals overview. Toronto: Indigenous Innovation Initiative and Grand Challenges Canada.

\* 3 ineligible (i.e., were submitted from and focused on communities outside of Canada) and 5 duplicates