



MVAEC Potlatch Economy Backgrounder: Bridging Indigenous Collective Impact with the Indigenous Psychology of Poverty

Issue & Background

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) consists of twenty-five urban Aboriginal organizations spread out across six self-defined non-profit areas of service deliveryⁱ. To strengthen the policy and practice performance of the urban Aboriginal non-profit sector, MVAEC has sought to implement the MVAEC Indigenous Collective Impact (ICI) Framework and the MVAEC Indigenous Psychology of Poverty (PoP) Framework. ICI address the collective effort of administration and advocacy. PoP addresses how to maximize the benefits of policy to individuals and families of the urban Aboriginal population. The problem when Indigenousizing the two concepts to reflect local Aboriginal contexts, was what criteria to use to reflect the worldview of the urban Aboriginal population?

Current Status

In order for policy, program, and service delivery to reflect the worldview of the urban Aboriginal population, MVAEC turned to oral history theory in published sources related to oral history narratives, and the potlatch economy. Sources contain a wealth of information, processes, and frameworks of criteria for human development applicable to organizational administration and individual development. Barriers to designing processes include time, money, and people.

Discussion & Analysis

MVAEC has not had the adequate time to discuss the design with stakeholders. More discussions are needed to determine the best methods for research and design, as well as implementation across the MVAEC Board of Directors, interested council members, and partnerships.

Recommendations

1. Review of MVAEC's shared best practices for policy, program, and service delivery to build on strengths, limitations, and areas for improvement.
2. Within the review, determine how collective effort has resulted in the enhancement of the quality of life for the urban Aboriginal population?
3. What has been the best practice for engagement when municipal, provincial, and federal governments go through regime changes, and accompanying political shifts for public funding?

ⁱ (1) Arts, Language, and Culture, (2) Children, Youth, and Families, (3) Education, Training, and Employment, (4) Health & Wellness, (5) Housing & Homelessness, and (6) Justice.