



INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

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COMMUNITY WELL-BEING INDEX

- Based on UN Human Development Index
- Currently measures four indicators:
 - ? Education including literacy and high school graduates
 - ? Income levels
 - ? Labour Force Participation
 - ? Housing
- (Unable to measure mortality rates due to size of First Nation communities)

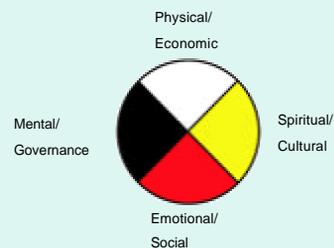
THEORETICAL CONTEXT

- Measurements of well-being or “quality of life” must be meaningful to the population being measured (Ermine et al, 2004; Stout, 1994)
- Terms such as well-being, wellness, and health are defined by our worldview (Adelson, 2000)
- Realizing one’s worldview within one’s daily activities is vital to healthy individuals and community well-being (Chandler & Lalonde, 1998; Mignone, 2003)

INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEW



INDIVIDUAL/COMMUNITY



Understanding the Strengths of Indigenous Communities (USIC)

Community's perception of well-being is affected by:

- Extent of cultural renewal/reclamation
- Vitality of social relations, including members' relationship with environment
- Autonomy and control over local decisions
- Community's wealth generation capacity (vs. individual income levels)

Implications for Measuring Community Well-Being

- Indices which measure collective well-being rather than individual health, with equal weighting to each aspects (balance)

For example:

- Education indices would need to reflect the opportunities for cultural knowledge to be developed and transmitted
- Economic indices would reflect the environmental and social impact of development