



# Learning From the Sharing Circles

Métis Community Services Society of BC



This document summarizes insights from the Sharing Circles conducted for Métis Community Services Society of BC's Program 5, held in the Fall of 2025. The purpose of the Sharing Circle was to gather the wisdom of youth and young adults who participated in the programs.

The summary highlights the main themes (recurring ideas throughout the Sharing Circle discussions), sub-themes (specific ideas, experiences, and insights within each theme), and select quotes that directly reflect the voices of the youth and young adults, organized according to the research questions.

## What did you like best about the program?

### Connection to Culture and Traditions Through Learning

- Learning how to make ribbon skirts
- Learning traditional skills to share with family and friends
  - Learning about protocols

*"I think gathering together was meaningful."*



### Gathering Together

- Being Together in Community
- Learning from each other and being able to make mistakes together
- Commitment and coming together on a regular basis



### Accessibility

- Having options that are open and inclusive of diverse personalities and gender identities
- Removing barriers to learning about culture and connecting with Elders



*"It was nice to learn new things. Like, how to make a ribbon skirt and the difference between modern ribbon skirts versus what's more traditional and what the different protocols are."*



*"I think connecting youth with elders that hold the knowledge to pass on was really special... Also, the tobacco tie teachings and Elder S\*\*\*\* showing us how to make the skirts. That's not something that would be accessible to us otherwise necessarily. That's important."*

## What would you change or add for the next program?

### Supporting New Learners

- More sewing helpers
- Learning the basics

### Changing the Age Limit

*"That the youth isn't cut off at 29 or 30... I heard 35 is just the next new youth."*

*"An instruction manual would maybe be easier.. but it is valuable to work and learn together."*

### Supporting Different Ways of Learning

- Step-by-step instructions
- Learning from and Helping each other

*"Having a little sewing basics lesson beforehand would've been helpful."*



## Anything else you want to share?

### Cultural Representation and Visibility

- The addition of language
- Empowering Indigenous Identity by Making Culture Visible in Daily Life
  - Opportunities to practice culture openly



*"I saw a girl wearing a ribbon skirt last weekend and it was instantly recognizable and gave me so much joy to see someone wearing their clothing out in public... it was a nice reminder of, like, the fact that, like, we're still here, we're still around, there's all of us everywhere."*

### Coming Together Over Food

*"That's what makes it so nice to, like, share a meal together too, to do something as cool as that."*

### Developing Cultural Connection and Cultural Identity

- Growing skills and knowledge that support cultural representation
- Recognizing and remembering that we're still here, we're still around, there's all of us everywhere
- Overcoming anxiety and feeling comfortable and accepted in Indigenous spaces
- Feeling grateful to connect to culture through learning and relationship-building



### Welcoming Spaces

- Feeling comfortable and excited to return
- Feeling safe to come as I am
- Feeling safe to make mistakes



*"I'm just so appreciative to be here and build relationships and learn the teachings because that's something that was not really passed down in my family and they felt like they had to practice their culture in private."*