

I4DM

Definitional Matrix

The Definitional Matrix (DM) was born out of the *Measuring the Circle* reports (2009-2014). In the first *Measuring the Circle* it was evident that the data capture from the Canada Revenue Agency about where philanthropic dollars were granted - didn't provide an accurate analysis of whether funds that had been tagged to Aboriginal, First Nation, Metis or Inuit went to organizations led by individuals of those specific communities. For *Measuring the Circle 2.0* an Indigenous Advisory based out of Winnipeg was engaged in the sense making of the data. During that time, the advisory provided further guidance to develop the definitional matrix (DM) so that funders might better understand the unique value and differences between Indigenous-led, Indigenous informed and Indigenous Benefiting charities.

Since 2018, The Circle has been asking ourselves and our community, "How can this be of added value to Indigenous communities, organizations, and nations? How can this be a framework for changed practice and policy in Settler Philanthropic grant making and partnership brokering?" And, "How do we mobilize this as a tool for the benefit of reciprocity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, organizations and partnerships?"

Through dialogue and in the spirit of ongoing learning, we see added value in an update to the original DM - not only for funders as they work harder to make stronger granting and partnership decisions - but also for Indigenous peoples, organizations and communities to advocate on behalf of their initiatives and innovations. There is also a growing understanding that the best way to enable Indigenous success is to ensure Indigenous-led work, collaborations, movements and nations are funded directly in the pursuit of upholding Indigenous sovereignty.

The Circle is excited to present the revised DM (2022) that encompasses 4 broad categories which we will identify as the **I4DM** - Indigenous Benefiting, Indigenous informed, Indigenous Partnerships and Indigenous-led Definitional Matrix.

The I4DM is meant to be a guidepost for conversation, for consideration and for sense making both by Indigenous and non-Indigenous actors in the philanthropic space. We envision this as a living document that will continue to shift and adapt as it's used by Circle members and more broadly by other folks in related sectors.

We'd like to thank previous *Measuring the Circle* research staff, volunteers and community members for their vision. We'd like to acknowledge the variety of community partners who helped fund, create and produce the *Measuring the Circle* reports for use in the Settler Philanthropic sector - and importantly we'd like to thank current members and community partners who helped us think through, develop and revise the I4DM.

This living document is going to become an increasingly important tool for The Circle as we seek more transparency from Settler Philanthropic members about who they fund. We also anticipate that this will be a helpful tool for Indigenous members as they work alongside others from a **relationship of power** - to ensure increased ownership and accountability for work in their own communities that further enable and uphold Indigenous teachings, laws and relationships.

We invite people to use the accompanying I4DM and the **questions to explore** (pg 3) as a starting place for orienting where they currently exist in relation to others - and where they may like to go.

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	INDIGENOUS BENEFITING	INDIGENOUS INFORMED	INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS	INDIGENOUS-LED
LEADERSHIP	No Indigenous leadership at the board or staff levels	Holds Indigenous leadership at some levels and a commitment to Indigenous recruitment	Partnerships where Indigenous decision makers sit equal and share leadership with non-Indigenous partners	Indigenous leadership at all levels of decision making within the organization
VALUES + PROTOCOL	Interest or mandate to serve Indigenous communities but no ongoing connection with Indigenous-led organizations and/or communities	Culturally informed programming with demonstrated ongoing connection with Indigenous peoples, communities, organizations	Protocol driven by Indigenous peoples with Indigenous ways of knowing that inform the work and values	Culture, knowledge, language guide the organization and deliverables
PROGRAM + TEAM	Supports Indigenous causes within organization's existing mandate or vision	Culturally aware staff deliver programming and maintain relationships to Indigenous peoples and communities	Indigenous peoples, worldviews, and wisdom are prioritized in the work with non-Indigenous partners	Indigenous peoples own, lead and deliver programs in relationship and response to their communities
ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITY	Some awareness of Indigenous needs and culture but little to no collaboration	Often collaborates with Indigenous knowledge holders or organizations	Full Indigenous-settler partnership in learning, sharing and reporting	Sustains a reciprocal relationship with Indigenous community (local and or direct)
RECIPROCITY	No consistent or meaningful practice of reciprocity	Demonstrating a desire to show reciprocity	Clarity and action towards reciprocity	Reciprocity is deeply embedded through values, policy, practice and behaviours

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QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

Do you have Indigenous staff and board members? How does the organization support them and uplift their voices?

How do you engage with Indigenous communities and ensure accountability?

What are the ways in which you and your organization understand cultural safety?

Do Indigenous peoples help design and deliver your programs?

What Indigenous values are activated within your organization and how were they identified?

How are you accountable to the Indigenous peoples and communities you serve?

What is the origin of the partnership?

How do you assess and shift the partnership when and where needed?

How do you share your “success story” to inspire others?

What has been your experience sharing power between partners?