

# EVALUATION

*"Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the design, implementation or results of an initiative for the purposes of learning or decision-making."*

Canadian Evaluation Society

Evaluation (also called program evaluation) is a tool for learning, understanding, and improvement. It can be used to determine how well an initiative is working, and track progress towards goals. Ideally, evaluation should be done iteratively (throughout a project), but is sometimes undertaken at the end of a project.

### A FEW EVALUATION APPROACHES

- ✦ **Developmental evaluation:** an approach designed to support ongoing learning and adaptation, through iterative, embedded evaluation.
- ✦ **Outcome evaluation:** an approach to assess the mid-to-long-term results of a program, which is undertaken at specified times (e.g. after 3 and 5 years of operation).

Evaluation can inform continuous quality improvement, and understanding whether objectives are being met. Many funders, governments, and workplaces incorporate evaluation into their projects/programs. Evaluations can be conducted in-house, by external evaluators, or a blend of both.

### INDIGENOUS EVALUATION

Indigenous evaluation is a distinct method of evaluation, separate from traditional "Euro-Western" approaches. Sovereignty is key: Indigenous evaluation is led by Indigenous people, for Indigenous communities. If not Indigenous-led, at a minimum an evaluation should be "culturally responsive".

An Indigenous evaluation approach should include: **1)** Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing **2)** involvement of Elders, knowledge keepers, community, and **3)** understanding the impacts of historical trauma and colonization.

*"An Indigenous approach is one of relationality; relationships with the land, culture, community, people, ancestors and spirituality."*

Larry Bremner, 2020

To be useful and meaningful, an evaluation must reflect the perspectives and contexts of the people and communities involved. Indigenous evaluation is one way to share knowledge, bridge gaps, and decolonize research.

Hotii ts'eeda is proud to build capacity & support northerners' learning in Indigenous evaluation.

#### References

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4. [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2021/jus/32-495-2020-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/jus/32-495-2020-eng.pdf)
5. <https://www.indigenousphi.org/tribal-opioid-use-disorders-prevention/indigenous-evaluation-toolkit>



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