

• F O U N D R Y •

Indigenous Wellness and Evaluation

How do we weave Indigenous perspectives into evaluation practices?



Two-Eyed Seeing

Two-Eyed Seeing is a set of principles or concepts that intentionally and respectfully brings together Indigenous and western perspectives with the goal of using both to maximize and benefit from their respective strengths. As Foundry aims to incorporate a two-eyed seeing approach across more evaluation activities, one successful strategy has been using storytelling to understand the experience of individuals. We initially trialed this approach in the OAT project evaluation and saw numerous benefits, notably, participants described feeling inspired and empowered to share their stories as part of the evaluation work.



We started by looking at our evaluation practices, and several questions emerged for us such as:

How can we better capture the holistic impacts of Foundry's work?

And how can we provide more reciprocal and relation experiences for folks who participate in evaluation activities?

We have been aiming to incorporate a Two-Eyed Seeing approach across more evaluation activities.



For the next phase of this work, we plan to incorporate similar strategies in the Wellness Program evaluation. This includes the use of witnessing and sharing circles methodologies.

Witnessing

Witnessing is a practice across many different Indigenous nations, communities and cultures. It is rooted in memory and knowledge creation and is facilitated by asking community members to observe and remember what they see occur.



This collaboration between the Indigenous Wellness and Evaluation teams is ongoing and we are excited by the opportunities to continue exploring and embedding Indigenous perspectives in evaluation. Through making space for storytelling and honouring the voices of each person involved, we adopt a two-eyed seeing approach which ultimately strengthens our ways of knowing and learning. We hope that our work may inspire others across the Foundry network to embrace and embed Indigenous perspectives in their work. We look forward to continued opportunities to share our learnings and support future initiatives with embedding two-eyed seeing approaches and Indigenous perspectives.

Sharing Circles

Sharing Circles are also a common practice in many Indigenous cultures. They are intentionally created spaces for individuals to come together to share their experiences, knowledge and truths in a group setting. By combining methods of sharing that are rooted in community and relationship, embedding witnessing in sharing circles may provide more nuance and uncover new information in ways Westernized evaluation approaches cannot necessarily achieve.



If you are interested in learning more about our collaboration feel free to email [Erica McLean](#) or [Emily Booker](#).