

## Fact Sheet #13

### Grouping the Voices

Once you have “gathered” the voices of community people through your Kitchen Table Meetings, you must summarize all these voices together in a useful way. As you read over your flip chart notes, you will notice that you can organize responses logically according to the questions you have asked. However, when you gather participant’s responses from all your Kitchen Table Meetings, this will probably create quite a long list of responses to each of the questions you asked – information that will be hard to use if left in this format.

One way to make all this information more useful is to look for themes or patterns that emerge from participant’s input in each Kitchen Table Meeting. Let’s take a look at the example provided at the end of this fact sheet. In this example you can see that, for question one, we have taken all the responses recorded on the flip chart and moved them into the following categories: Physical Activities, Cultural Activities, Educational Activities and Health Activities. For each of the remaining Kitchen Table Meeting questions the same process will occur. In this way we are starting to organize the flip chart information into common categories – categories we can speak to in developing our final summary report

The same process will be repeated for any other Kitchen Table Meetings that occur, however we will begin by using the same categories identified in the first Kitchen Table Meeting and then add new categories as necessary. Responses *between* Kitchen Table Meetings will then be easier to compare. These common categories or patterns will become the organizers for the summary report you will create about the findings from *all* your Kitchen Table Meetings.

In the end, it is these patterns/categories that will be used to develop main messages between all the Kitchen Table Meetings. These main messages will illustrate what participants have in common, or can agree on. Ultimately, it is these main messages that will help your community make decisions about moving forward with action - working together for change.

#### Grouping The Voices Steps

##### **Patterns/Categories**

Group the information that the community gives into Categories



##### **Messages**

These are the categories that get repeated over and over again  
Help us see what people can agree on



##### **Decisions**

Made by looking at the repeated messages  
This is where you will move forward on actions that the community truly supports

Read through your flip chart notes and look for different categories or ways to group participant’s responses. Start to place participant’s responses into each category. Are there some categories that are too similar and really belong together? Are there some categories that are too broad and need to be broken down further? Are there a few unrelated responses that need a new category or that should be placed under “other”? Ideally, do this exercise with more than one person. Once you have categorized all your information, we will look at how to summarize this information into a report.

## **EXAMPLE: CARS Kitchen Table Meeting Summary**

Date: January 26,2008      Time: 6-8pm      Number in Attendance: 8

Facilitators: Tracy and Mary

Description of Group: Community moms from the preschool

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Question #1 **What good things are happening now to support you in raising your children?**

### **Flip Chart Notes:**

School, arena, physical activities, gym, preschool, cultural programs, country food, CAP site, Sunday school, annual games, day care, radio shows, elders, Inuktitut language, Brighter Future, youth on the land, well baby clinic, immunizations, CPNP, square dancing lessons, spring time camping, machine racing all ages, grandparent support, road safety(RCMP), mom and dad

### **Categories Created:**

#### **Physical Activities**

- arena, gym
- annual games
- square dancing
- machine racing

#### **Cultural Activities**

- cultural programs
- country food
- language
- spring time camping
- radio shows
- youth on the land program
- CPNP
- Grandparent support

#### **Educational Activities**

- Sunday school
- mom and dad
- schools
- preschool
- CAP site
- day care
- Brighter Futures
- road Safety
- CPNP

#### **Health Activities**

- well baby clinics
- CPNP

Complete this activity for each of the remaining Kitchen Table Meeting questions.

