

Key lessons learned to improve knowledge sharing network activities

During the first half of 2021, the Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN) convened a Council of Indigenous Scientists and Educators to inform a knowledge sharing network design, focused on climate education centering Indigenous Knowledge systems. The process included catalyzing support for Indigenous community and grassroots-initiated and -led educational projects. In the second half of 2021, after much discussion, input, and recommendations from the Council, the work was transformed into three key deliverables, with the hope that future Indigenous-serving climate education organizations may be better informed in the development of educational work through these publicly available open-access tools, accessible through the website, buildingafire.org

There were several key lessons learned in the process. A project evaluation was conducted that detailed the successes and gaps, outcomes and impacts, and to provide recommendations for future knowledge sharing network projects. The purpose of sharing these recommendations is to support other organizations with lessons learned and considerations to improve future projects and knowledge sharing network activities.

Recommendations:

- ☀ Develop a robust process and criteria for vetting potential funders that looks at philanthropic organization boards, as well as program officers, to ensure a funder's principles, values, and ethics are aligned with the grantee organization.
- ☀ Secure up-front written agreement(s) between funder, grantee organization, and partners that clearly set the terms/language, expectations, power relationships, and boundaries of the work.
- ☀ Strengthen grantee organization's role as line of defense against breaches of trust and safety.
- ☀ Provide professional facilitators for group processes or train staff to play this role.
- ☀ Ensure that whatever on-line platform or process for digital sharing with partners and frontline communities is used is compatible with the technical capabilities and equally accessible to all partners and communities, and training is provided if necessary.
- ☀ Indigenous-led knowledge sharing networks on climate education must place Relationality, Sovereignty, and Responsibility at the center of all planning, funding decisions, implementation plans, and outcomes.