

FACTORS HELPING AND HINDERING
AGENCY DEVELOPMENT: THE PEOPLE SPEAK

A Gzaa -Gaah-Naa-Nig Planning Paper

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INTRODUCTION

This document provides information from question #12 of the Family Needs Assessment Study. That question asked community members to speculate on the kinds of factors and issues that might affect the successful development of a new agency. The specific question was worded as follows:

"What would help or stand in the way of the development of a successful child and family services agency?"

Interviewers were trained to probe for as many factors as possible.

Despite an initial concern that grass-roots community members may not be capable of anticipating such issues, the information is rich and detailed. Moreover, as we shall see, across all eight First Nations, there are clear patterns in their answers.

This kind of information can be used for planning purposes, particularly planning for the development or implementation of the agency. Also, as we shall see, the information identifies a number of issues that should assist in agency policy development. For immediate purposes, though, the various concerns raised by community members should be enormously helpful in preparing for Phase II of the project, the development phase.

RESULTS

Tables 1 and 2 summarize the answers to the above question. From the community household interviews, the answers cluster around eight significant factors. Thus, people thought that the development of a new agency would be affected by the following:

- . community support
- . funding
- . the support of Chief and Council
- . community awareness of the agency
- . appropriateness of staffing
- . working relationships with other agencies
- . community attitudes and behaviour
- . appropriateness of location
- . other factors

