

## Storms Never Last: Family Drop in Center

Little Saskatchewan First Nation

(Presentation 1)

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*Thank you for sharing your vision for a positive place in your community that supports families! It was a pleasure to hear your idea and it is obviously a very positive and worthwhile community effort.*

*This document shares some suggestions and feedback on the presentation you gave at the workshop. We wish you the best of luck as you move your project forward.*

*If you would like a set of eyes to read over any proposals you write for Storms Never Last, please feel free to contact Julie Price or Katie Daman at [julie.price@tidescanada.org](mailto:julie.price@tidescanada.org) or [kdaman@cfmanitoba.ca](mailto:kdaman@cfmanitoba.ca).*

### **Main strengths of the presentation:**

1. Your passion and commitment to the project were evident. I could tell that you care about this project and that it is important to your community.
2. It was good to recognize that 'one size fits all' for this project may not work for your community, and that you would need to incorporate both traditional and religious options for healing. Knowing what is best for your community, because it is by and for you, is a major strength.
3. You had a very strong list of ideas /project activities related to how you're going to support community and individual wellbeing.
4. It was good to mention that you would allow for individuals or families from other communities to access your facility. Funders like to see partnerships and projects that benefit more than one community.
5. Your group of women seems powerful and committed, I loved that.

### **Suggestions to strengthen the presentation:**

- Take some time to share the history of this idea and any planning that has already happened? This helps the funder understand if it is a brand new idea or if there is a long history in turning the dream into a reality.
  - o What has already happened in the community? Are there any small versions of this program running?
  - o Has there been planning meetings? Other kinds of planning? Meeting and dreaming together?
  - o Are there people who have already committed to volunteer and support the vision?
- What local supports are there for this project? It would be great to get a sense of the local support for the project. This makes funders feel like they are getting on board with something that the community is already invested in and ready to support into a reality.
  - o Is the Health Center supportive? Chief and Council? Other important groups?
  - o Do the elders support it? Do the kids and families want it to happen?
- Talk a little bit more about the need for this project, and how the future will be better with the project.
  - o I understand that this project could be really important to the families and the community, but many funders will not understand your local needs, the current situation.
  - o Then take a moment to be clear about how this project will really make the future a much better place & how.

- The flooding is a huge piece of local history, many people will know nothing about the flooding. Consider if you want to mention it as it is a special circumstance for your community.
- Is there any research that needs to happen? Visiting other communities to see these programs in action?
  - What about training? Will your staff need training in areas such as non-violent crisis intervention? What about what to do in the case of drug overdose?
- While the list of project activities was very well done, you may want to consider breaking up the project into phases.
  - I have seen many great projects try to do everything at once, unfortunately leading to exhaustion and becoming overwhelmed. Sometimes, depending how many volunteers you have involved, it can be helpful to start small and grow slowly.
  - Tip: If you do decide to make the project into phases, you can do this by identifying your top 3-5 priorities for Phase I and then plan to work on accomplishing those first, with the other priorities to come down the road.
  - While opening it to other communities is a good idea, you may want to consider how much capacity you will have to help folks in this centre. How many people can be staying there at once? How will you prioritize who gets access? Will there be a waitlist? How long can people stay for?
- Budget.
  - Things always take longer than you think they will. Perhaps a bit more time for planning and setting up the project is needed, which will affect what your budget looks like.
  - The budget could use more notes and detail about each item. Be super clear on what you need and the detail about each item.
  - Quotes are always great if you can get them. For the building in particular you should get a quote.