DATA GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Conceptual Well-being Framework Tool

SGIGs Community Well-being Tools Project

The Community Well-being Tools Project is an initiative of the Data Steering Committee (DSC). The DSC is comprised of Self-Governing Indigenous Government (SGIG) representatives and was formed to support SGIGs in building their data governance and management capacity. Since 2018, the DSC has overseen data capacity-building initiatives for the SGIGs, including an online toolkit

The DSC is building upon this previous work by developing a suite of tools to support SGIGs in understanding and reporting on community well-being:

Tool	Description
DATA CAPACITY ASSESSMENT	Support SGIGs navigating the toolkit by highlighting relevant components of those tools to an assessment of an SGIGs' readiness, capacity, and objectives
DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK	Overarching framework describing and providing guidance with respect to the component parts of a data governance program
CONCEPTUAL WELL-BEING FRAMEWORK	Starting point Well-being Framework with guidance on specific customization options
FACILITATION TOOL	Guided steps for an optional process to create a customized Conceptual Well-being Framework
INDICATOR GUIDE & RECOMMENDED INDICATORS	A list of well-being indicators aligned within the Conceptual Well-being Framework with guidance about indicator selection and customization
DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS	Options and recommendations for data collection and for creating and reporting statistics
DATA VISUALIZATION DASHBOARD	Interactive platform for reporting indicator-affiliated statistics organized around the customized Well-being Framework
WORKPLAN AND COSTING GUIDANCE	Milestones and budget guidelines for implementing these tools

The Conceptual Well-being Framework presents a starting point framework and steps for customizing the framework for each SGIG. The Facilitation Tool can be used to customize the starting point presented in this document.

About this tool

A well-being framework describes a conceptualization of well-being held by a particular People, grounded in their worldview. A well-being framework can create a shared understanding by expressing a broad view of well-being through interconnected domains (high-level dimensions of well-being) and showing the more detail-oriented subdomains that make up each domain. Using a structure that reaches from granular to wholistic allows governments to plan based on the measurement of specific subdomains without losing the broader vision. This in turn allows decision-makers to reflect on implications and interconnections across subdomains and to consider how short-term efforts may have long-term and transformational impacts.

SGIGs each have distinct conceptualizations of well-being that are shaped by their values and reflective of their unique worldview. Yet, many well-being-related commonalities exist among SGIGs, particularly at a higher conceptual level. For example, many Indigenous Peoples share aspects of worldview that emphasize interconnection, relationality, and balance, consider the health and wellness of people as inextricably tied to the environment, and value a multi-generational time horizon. We've designed the framework to reflect common themes across existing Indigenous well-being frameworks while designing a process that enables the unique expression of well-being inherent to each SGIG.

The goal of this tool is to provide a starting point for the development of well-being frameworks for SGIGs. The tool includes a range of options for customization, including a companion facilitation tool that supports an in-depth customization process for those SGIGs interested in engaging in a facilitated customization process.

How was this framework developed?

This Conceptual Well-being Framework tool uses a structure of domains and subdomains to express an overarching conceptualization of well-being composed of more granular ideas.

Organization structure of the Community Well-being Framework

Domain: Broader categories that encompass multiple subdomains that fit into a common theme. Domains serve to create a broader scope of what is considered to be a part of the Well-being Framework. For example: a domain of "Health".

Subdomain: The most granular level of detail in the Well-being Framework. Each subdomain is linked with an indicator or options for indicators for the purposes of measurement. For example: Subdomains of "Health services" and "Healthy behaviours and practices" are nested within the "Health" domain.

The starting point shared in this tool was developed collaboratively in a workshop with SGIG representatives that participate in the DSC.

First, multiple Indigenous well-being frameworks were reviewed to collect and analyze the many concepts that form the basic building blocks of these frameworks. The concepts from these frameworks were summarized in 45 subdomains with accompanying definitions.

The following guidelines were used in constructing these 45 subdomains:

- Include subdomains even if they only arise in a few frameworks
- Subdomains should be defined at the most detailed level without losing relevance
- Use language that will be recognizable, intuitive, and culturally appropriate for as many SGIGs as possible
- Avoid expressing abstract ideas through subdomains (ex. "Way of Doing" would be too abstract for this generalized starting point)
- Recognize that the domains will be greater than the sum of their subdomains (domains can contain more complex conceptualizations of well-being than a set of subdomains). As such, subdomains do not need to encompass everything.

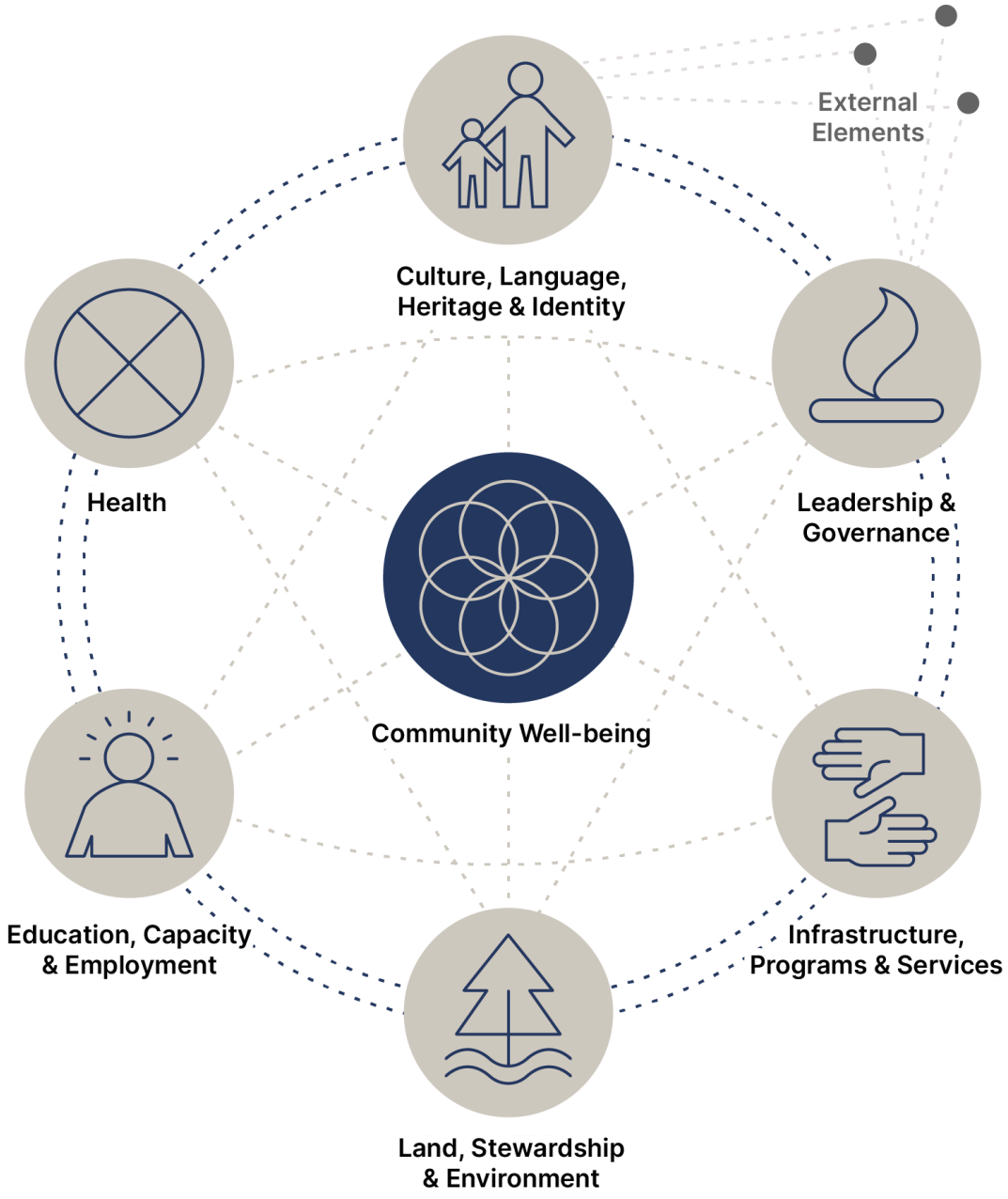
Using this set of 45 subdomains, members of the DSC underwent a 3 part exercise to develop the subdomains into a domain structure. Participants started in small groups, then built consensus collectively about the domains, their definitions, and the distribution of subdomains across domains. Because domains of well-being are interconnected, many subdomains are categorized under multiple domains.

The structure agreed upon by the DSC was then formalized through a visualization and domain definitions, using information from each step of the workshop. This structure is presented below.

Well-being framework

Well-being domains

In this framework, specific sub-domains of well-being form the foundation of seven overarching domains, which collectively comprise the starting point conceptualization of well-being. The use of high-level domains manages complexity by enabling easy comprehension and intuitiveness, while the nested sub-domains capture the nuance and enable tangible measurement. This section describes each domain and the appendix provides a detailed definition of the subdomains.



Domain definitions

Community Well-being

The many determinants and outcomes of well-being are interconnected. This domain, which sits at the center of the framework, can contain a number of subdomains that intersect with all domains of well-being. The way in which this domain is represented, and the subdomains it contains, will differ significantly across SGIGs as in some ways this domain is representative of the core of a People's unique worldview. It may therefore contain the concept of values or teachings that guide a People. Some subdomains which are frequently identified as being in this central domain of well-being are community, sustainability, identity, and equity. By identifying these central elements of community well-being, each SGIG can represent the ways in which well-being comes from the balance and interdependence of many factors and/or the core values, teachings, and components of worldview that guide and interface with all other domains.

Culture, Language, Heritage, and Identity

This subdomain refers to the maintenance and cultivation of a People's culture including the traditions, language, spiritual practices, and connection with the environment that has been passed down through generations. Culture plays a central role in identity and contributes to improved health, a sense of belonging, and the resilience of individuals and the community.

Subdomains in culture, language, heritage, and identity:

- Access and connection to the land
- Belonging
- Ceremony

- Community
- Community involvement
- Elders
- Healing
- Identity
- Language
- Medicines
- Sharing
- Songs
- Spirituality
- Storytelling
- Tradition and cultural transmission
- Traditional food

Leadership and Governance

This domain focuses on an SGIG's internal governance and leadership practices. Self-determination and rights are central to this domain because they empower Indigenous leaders to make governance decisions for their people and territory. This domain also emphasizes good governance, including the transparency and accountability of those in leadership positions. Good governance supports the cultivation of equity within the community and the promotion of a healthy local economy.

Subdomains in leadership and governance:

- Community
- Community involvement
- Emergency and crisis preparation
- Equity
- Good governance

- Healthy local economy
- Self-determination and rights

Infrastructure, Programs, and Services

This domain refers to the quality and availability of public services and infrastructure which support well-being. This domain includes adequate affordable housing, clean water and sanitation, transportation, emergency preparedness, food security, and community services which support community members with different needs.

Subdomains in infrastructure, programs and services:

- Community services
- Emergency and crisis preparation
- Food security
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Substance use

Land, Stewardship, and Environment

This domain refers to the role of the environment in promoting well-being. It encompasses access, connection, sustainability, and stewardship of the land. It also includes the state of natural resources such as air, water, and land, and their impact on traditional food availability and overall food security.

Subdomains in land, stewardship, and environment:

- Access and connection to the land
- Air
- Food security
- Healthy local economy

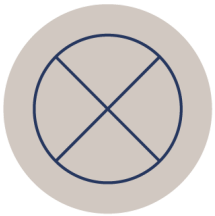
- Land
- Sustainability
- Traditional food
- Water

Education, Capacity, and Employment

This domain encompasses individuals' ability to meet their material needs, overcome challenges, and achieve financial stability. Education, personal capacity, and employment are interrelated. Education enhances individuals' capacity, essential skills, and employment opportunities, resulting in higher income and more fulfilling work. Ultimately, improvements in education, personal capacity, and employment positively impact individuals, families, and communities by increasing personal freedom and financial stability, and reducing stress.

Subdomains in education, capacity and employment:

- Early childhood education
- Educational attainment
- Employment
- Essential skills
- Family and children
- Income and financial security



Health

This domain refers to health outcomes and factors that promote health and well-being. Health encompasses mental, emotional and physical health. The determinants of health include health services, food security, housing, and belonging.

Subdomains in health and well-being:

- Belonging
- Disability
- Food security
- Healing
- Healthy behaviours and practices
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Health services
- Health status
- Housing
- Medicines
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Traditional food

External Elements

There are some subdomains which contribute to well-being but are external to the government and community. These external elements impact the other domains of well-being but fall outside of the direct control of SGIGs.

These subdomains include:

- Cultural safety
- Racism and discrimination
- External partners

Adapting this framework

This Well-being Framework tool provides a starting point that can be used and customized by each SGIG to reflect their unique worldview, understanding of well-being, context, and measurement needs. Below are some examples of ways that this framework could be adapted.

Using the framework as-is

An SGIG may decide to use this framework as-is with the existing visualization, domain names, and definitions.

Using a subset of domains

For some SGIGs, there may only be an interest in considering one or several domains at any given time. For example, a government may need to develop indicators specific to Health in order to meet certain goals or funding requirements and may use or adapt that domain and associated subdomain(s) to meet this purpose.

Customizing the domain names

SGIGs may choose to customize the names of each domain including the central community well-being domain. This renaming could incorporate concepts of well-being that already exist in an SGIG's culture. The domain definitions and structure of subdomains can be used to customize the domain name based on each SGIGs contact, teachings and worldview.

Choosing specific subdomains

For some SGIGs, certain subdomains may be more relevant than others. Each SGIG can determine which subdomains are most relevant and remove subdomains from the

framework. It's also an option to highlight certain subdomains as central to well-being by including them in the core "community well-being" domain.

Revisualization using the domains

Well-being frameworks have been presented using a wide range of visual approaches that reflect the worldview of the community they are used by. Changing the visualization of a well-being framework can make it more relevant to the context of each SGIG and can be an opportunity to incorporate cultural symbols and metaphors. Some alternatives to the visual approach used in this tool are concentric circles (Figure 1) and tree metaphors (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Concentric Circles

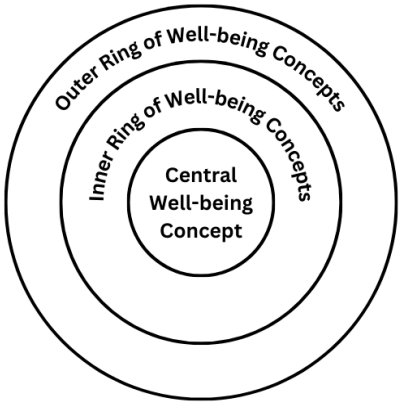


Figure 2: Tree Metaphor

Facilitation tool

Some SGIGs may choose to significantly adapt the well-being framework by articulating different domains entirely. The facilitation tool included in this toolkit guides SGIGs through a process of constructing subdomains of well-being into domains which collectively comprise a customized framework. The facilitation tool is intended for use by a group of participants and requires that someone facilitate the process, which takes approximately half a day.

Appendix: Subdomain definitions

SUBDOMAIN	DEFINITION
Access and connection to the land	This subdomain refers to being able to access land, and the relationship (including respect, identity, and responsibility) that individuals and communities have with the land. **Key concepts: access, connection, responsibility**
Air	This subdomain refers to the health and quality of the air. **Key concepts: pollution, clean air**
Belonging	This subdomain refers to an individual's feeling of affinity, inclusion and acceptance within one's place and community. **Key concepts: community, acceptance, inclusion**
Ceremony	This subdomain refers to the importance of participation in gatherings, ceremonies and events in creating and maintaining culture. **Key concepts: gatherings, events, practices**
Community	This subdomain refers to the existence of a strong community and the interconnection of community well-being and personal well-being. Community includes not only connections that exist through close proximity but also those that stand through cultural and historical ties. **Key concepts: strong communities, healthy relationships**
Community involvement	This subdomain refers to an individual's engagement with their community through volunteering, knowledge of goings-on, participation in community events or groups, and their work/contribution to the community. **Key concepts: participation, volunteering, clubs, community responsibilities**
Community services	This subdomain refers to the broad range of services that support the well-being of community members. **Key concepts: programs, social services, community workers**

Cultural safety	This subdomain refers to having safe, trusting, respectful encounters with service providers, institutions, employment etc. where one's Indigenous identity is respected and welcomed. **Key concepts: lack of barriers, positive experiences with health care, education, employment**
Disability	This subdomain refers to the limitations caused by a broad range of disabilities and the importance of minimizing the effect of those limitations. **Key concepts: medical limitations**
Early childhood education	This subdomain refers to the availability and enrolment rates of early childhood education programs. **Key concepts: a good start**
Educational attainment	This subdomain refers to both the completion of formal schooling as well as lifelong learning. **Key concepts: education levels, lifelong learning**
Elders	This subdomain refers to the role of elders in a community and the well-being of elders.
Emergency & crisis preparation	This subdomain refers to the Indigenous Government's work to prepare for emergencies and crises including managing risk and change. **Key concepts: crisis response, change and risk management**
Employment	This subdomain refers to work and employment including rates of employment. **Key concepts: employment rates**
Equity	This subdomain refers to equality and balance between groups within the nation including two-spirited equality, the credibility of women, etc. **Key concepts: women's equality, two-spirited equality, right to fair pay**
Essential skills	This subdomain refers to the development of skills outside of a designation or degree. It includes essential skills, employment skills

	such as financial literacy and business acumen, and the ongoing development of new skills. **Key concepts: essential, employment, financial skills**
External partners	This subdomain refers to the quality of relationships between the SGIG and external partners such as regional entities, provincial and territorial governments, and NGOs. **Key concepts: other governments, NGOs, regional entities**
Family and children	This subdomain refers to the importance of family and children in the community. It includes the well-being of family and children, as well as respect for the family and freedom to enact different family systems. **Key concepts: family systems, kinship, family composition**
Food security	This subdomain refers to the availability, access, utilization, and affordability of nutritious food for all individuals and families. It is closely related to the traditional food subdomain but can include non-traditional food sources. **Key concepts: food access, affordability**
Good governance	This subdomain refers broadly to good governance by Nation leadership. It encompasses transparency and accountability, data governance, and leadership that effectively manages and measures funding, justice, and other government responsibilities. **Key concepts: effective legislation, transparency, data sharing, research**
Healing	This subdomain refers to the process of healing from colonialism, residential school impacts and intergenerational trauma. **Key concepts: healing from colonization, intergenerational impacts**
Health behaviours and practices	This subdomain refers to individuals' health practices including physical activity, nutrition, sleep, and an overall balanced lifestyle. **Key concepts: physical activity, nutrition, sleep, balance**
Health promotion and disease prevention	This subdomain refers to rates of preventative care including immunizations, screenings and other measures. **Key concepts: screenings, early identification**

Health services	This subdomain refers to the access and quality of health care services for community members. This is closely related to the positive encounters subdomain which references a lack of racism when interacting with the healthcare system. **Key concepts: access, quality, availability**
Health status	This subdomain refers to measures of physical health including rates of illness, injuries, life expectancy, etc. **Key concepts: illness, injuries, conditions**
Healthy local economy	This subdomain refers to the effect of the health of the local economy on the community and individuals. It includes economic activity, social and economic investments, and ongoing economic development. **Key concepts: economic development, social and economic investments**
Housing	This subdomain refers to the importance of being able to access and retain affordable, adequate and suitable housing within one's community. **Key concepts: acceptable, sustainable housing for everyone**
Identity	This subdomain refers to individuals having a positive cultural identity and identification with their culture. It includes self-esteem, honouring one's self, and personal respect. **Key concepts: identification with culture, self-esteem, resilience**
Income & financial security	This subdomain refers to income levels, wealth and poverty, and financial security. **Key concepts: savings, socioeconomic status**
Infrastructure	This subdomain refers to community infrastructure quality including water, transportation, roads, etc. **Key concepts: water quality, transportation, public infrastructure**
Land	This subdomain refers to the health and quality of the land **Key concepts: nature, physical environment**

Language	This subdomain refers to the importance of one's Indigenous language to cultural well-being **Key concepts: language use, education**
Medicines	This subdomain refers to knowledge and use of traditional medicine. **Key concepts: traditional medicine**
Mental health	This subdomain refers to mental health and emotional well-being. Mental health is closely related to healing, identity, and a number of other subdomains. **Key concepts: emotional health, balance**
Racism and discrimination	This subdomain refers to freedom from racism and discrimination in all parts of life. **Key concepts: stereotypes, stigma, access**
Self-determination and rights	This subdomain refers to having the freedom to choose their own forms of governance and exercise their rights. **Key concepts: development, capacity building**
Sharing	This subdomain refers to a feeling of togetherness within a community including a sense of safety, responsibility, sharing and inclusion. **Key concepts: togetherness, one heart one mind**
Songs	This subdomain refers to the importance of songs in supporting well-being.
Spirituality	This subdomain refers to spirituality and its importance to cultural well-being. **Key concepts: belief, knowledge, stories, teachings**
Storytelling	This subdomain refers to the importance of storytelling in supporting well-being.
Substance use	This subdomain refers to the use of commercial tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. **Key concepts: smoking, drugs, alcohol**
Sustainability	This subdomain refers to a balanced, sustainable approach to managing resources and maintaining a healthy environment.

	Key concepts: sustainable use, stewardship, balance
Tradition and cultural transmission	This subdomain refers to the process of passing Indigenous knowledge and tradition from generation to generation. **Key concepts: heritage, where we come from, knowledge, values**
Traditional food	This subdomain refers to access to traditional food including hunting, fishing and gathering. **Key concepts: hunting, fishing, gathering**
Water	This subdomain refers to the health and quality of the water **Key concepts: ocean, freshwater**