

Fostering Collaboration

Jan. 30-31: 77 participants **March 28-29:** 59 participants **May 16-17:** 55 participants

A group of community members working in recovery, joined by facilitators & guests from national organizations, convened to learn about the recovery process and initiate system change to work towards a sustainable long-term vision for the community. During the 2nd session, participants identified 9 ‘challenge areas’ that rose to prominence above all other areas of work. In the 3rd session, well-defined, practicable projects were developed to begin to affect change in these areas. Through a ‘dotmocracy’ process, the group selected 5 initial projects to pursue. These are highlighted in red below.

Top 5 Projects (title)	Total Votes	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Total Score
Leadership	21	9	7	4	45
Youth Symposium	23	7	6	10	43
Block Party	21	9	3	9	42
Psychosocial	14	4	7	3	29
We R More	14	4	6	4	28

The 5 “Challenge Areas” Behind the Top Projects:

1. **There is a lack of LEADERSHIP (all sectors) and strategic coordination of services/programs, failing to maximize the available resources in the community.**
2. **A lack of an environment that embraces, appreciates, values and acknowledges the energy, opinions, contributions and values of Youth.**
3. **We ALL have a fundamental need to participate, connect & have a sense of belonging to our community, in which we live, work & play.**
4. **We have a need to create an actionable psychosocial recovery plan with a shared vision that encourages us to work together.**
5. **There is a lack of understanding of the reality of the community of Fort McMurray. There is complex narrative that our community is caught up in.**

4 Other “Challenge Areas” to Keep in Mind:

6. There is a lack of collected, shared + evaluated data in or/and about RMWB/Fort McMurray/Services/Programs/Initiatives.
7. Lack of diversification of economic drivers, as: oil and gas/ agriculture/ recreation/ tourism/ manufacturing/ technology information/ research/ entrepreneurial/ social entrepreneurial/ forestry.
8. Need to increase financial literacy & other social and financial supports to reflect the cost of living in RMWB.
9. Lack of understanding terminology and a need to collectively define and simplify language.