**Cultural Adaptation: First Steps**

The first step in the process of cultural adaptation is to create an advisory committee. This committee will meet regularly to integrate cultural content into the program materials.

**What will the committee do?**Explore the Listening to One Another program and determine which aspects of local knowledge and culture they would like to impart to program participants. Then, decide on the most appropriate way to integrate that knowledge into the program.

**Who will be on the committee?**Knowledgeable, experienced, and respected community members, including but not limited to Elders, community role models, parents, knowledge keepers.

**What will the coordinator do?**

* + Determine the committee members
	+ Organize the committee meetings
	+ Document the committee meetings (recording or minutes)
	+ Send a progress report to the program coordinator in Montreal

**Compensation**
The coordinator will be paid an hourly rate and committee members will receive a meal and an honorarium at each meeting. The coordinator should consider organizing transportation for committee members as well as and childcare for those with small children.

**Committee Objectives**

* Integrating knowledge on **traditional ways of living, stories, teachings** and **values**: a strong sense of cultural identity can help provide families with a solid foundation to build upon
* Incorporate the locally-relevant skills that committee members would like to impart to youth. For instance, culturally-sensitive components of maintaining trust, problem solving or dealing with risky behaviour
* Address practical concerns: Which Elders from the community are good program candidates to teach participants aspects of traditional knowledge and stories? What symbolic material would committee members like to see in the program, and why? Which cultural practices should appear in the program? For instance, to open the sessions, and to celebrate participants at the final, graduation ceremony?

**Next step:** Integrate the content proposed at the committee meetings into the 14 sessions of the Listening to One Another program.