

COVID-19 Indigenous Business Survey Phase II

Canadian Council for
**ABORIGINAL
BUSINESS**



The National Indigenous
Economic Development Board

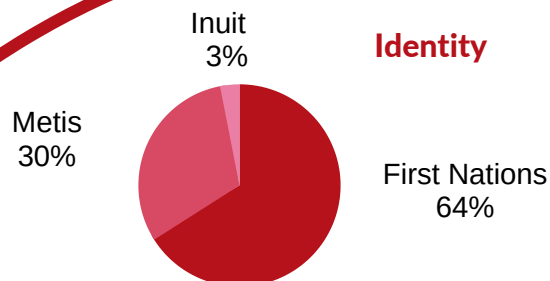
To build on our understanding of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing economic environment, CCAB, the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA), and the National Indigenous Economic Development Board (NIEDB) undertook a second phase of the COVID-19 Indigenous Business Survey in December 2020.

The Indigenous Business Survey Phase II was available between December 18, 2020, and February 1, 2021, collecting a total of 825 responses in both French and English.

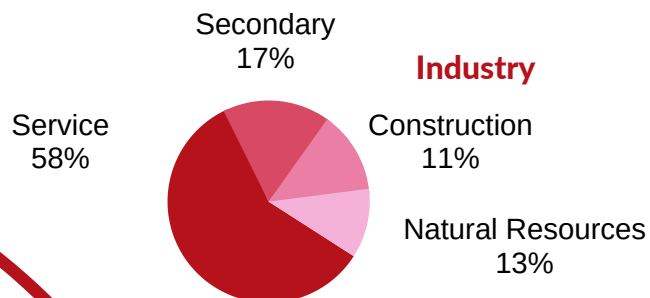
Respondent Characteristics

Most businesses surveyed were privately owned (87%), for-profit (91%), and incorporated (56%). Nearly three quarters had employees (72%), and 28% had no employees, and three quarters (75%) had revenue below \$1 million.

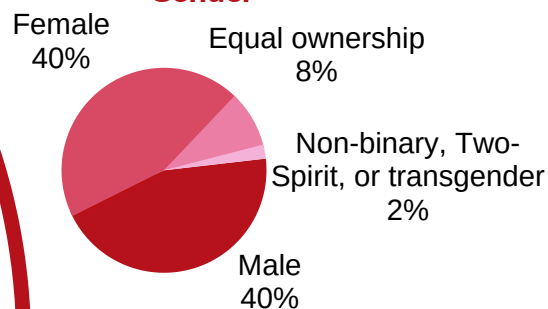
Identity



Industry



Gender



Top Impacts



39% of Indigenous businesses permanently (2%) or temporarily (37%) closed due to the pandemic

51% of businesses experienced a decrease in revenues

44% say they cannot operate beyond 6 months without further support

48% permanently (15%) or temporarily (33%) let go of staff due to the pandemic



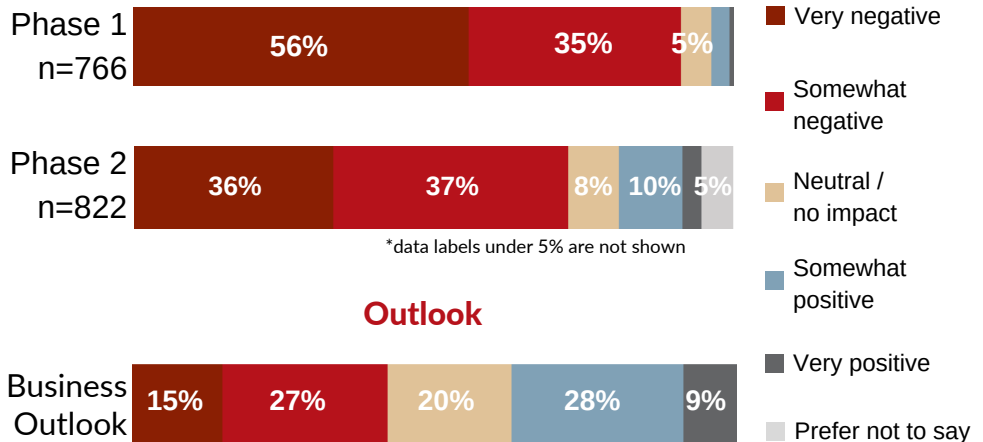
48%

of businesses are located inside of Indigenous communities (Inuit Nunangat, Métis settlements, and First Nations reserves).

Impacts of COVID-19 on Indigenous Businesses in Canada

73% of Indigenous businesses experienced a negative impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, fewer business owners reported adverse impacts, down 18% since May 2020. A higher proportion described the impact as positive compared to the first survey (13% vs. 4%).

Economic Impacts*



37%

of businesses have a positive outlook for the coming months.

Business needs

Skills and training needed



Indigenous businesses continued to cite a return to normal as their primary concern during the pandemic (49%). This is followed by financial support (28%).

However, many businesses specified that they are unable to take on further debt.

“Financial support not in the form of a loan causing more debt and pressure on the struggling business. Desperately need events back as this is a HUGE part of our daily business.”



Calls to action

Develop and implement policies, programming, and other supports to address the additional barriers for Indigenous businesses throughout the pandemic and expected recovery phase.

Provide additional funding to Indigenous businesses, particularly in forms other than loans.

Encourage innovation & adaptation.

Increase knowledge and accessibility of government supports.

Conduct further research to understand the impacts and needs of Indigenous businesses as they continue to evolve throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and into the recovery period.

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