

OTTAWA INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS' FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCES DURING COVID-19



Section 3: Employment, Income, and Education




Results are from the 2021 COVID-19 research survey of 1077 Indigenous community members in Ottawa that described their experience of COVID-19 from March 2020 to June 2021.





TRANSITIONS AND CHANGES

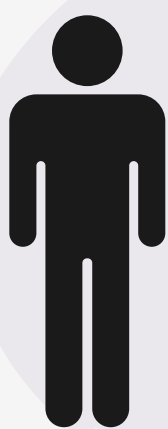
64% of community members had a change in job in the first year of COVID-19.

Employment

-  **36%** Stayed Employed
-  **31%** Could Not Work From Home
-  **19%** Reduced Hours

-  **14%** Lost their job
-  **8%** Got their Job Back

**of the total community members*

 **52.1%** of men experienced job changes including loss of hours, losing their job, and/or getting their job back.




“Job scarcity. I lost my job right before the pandemic due to mental health reasons. The pandemic amplified those reasons.”

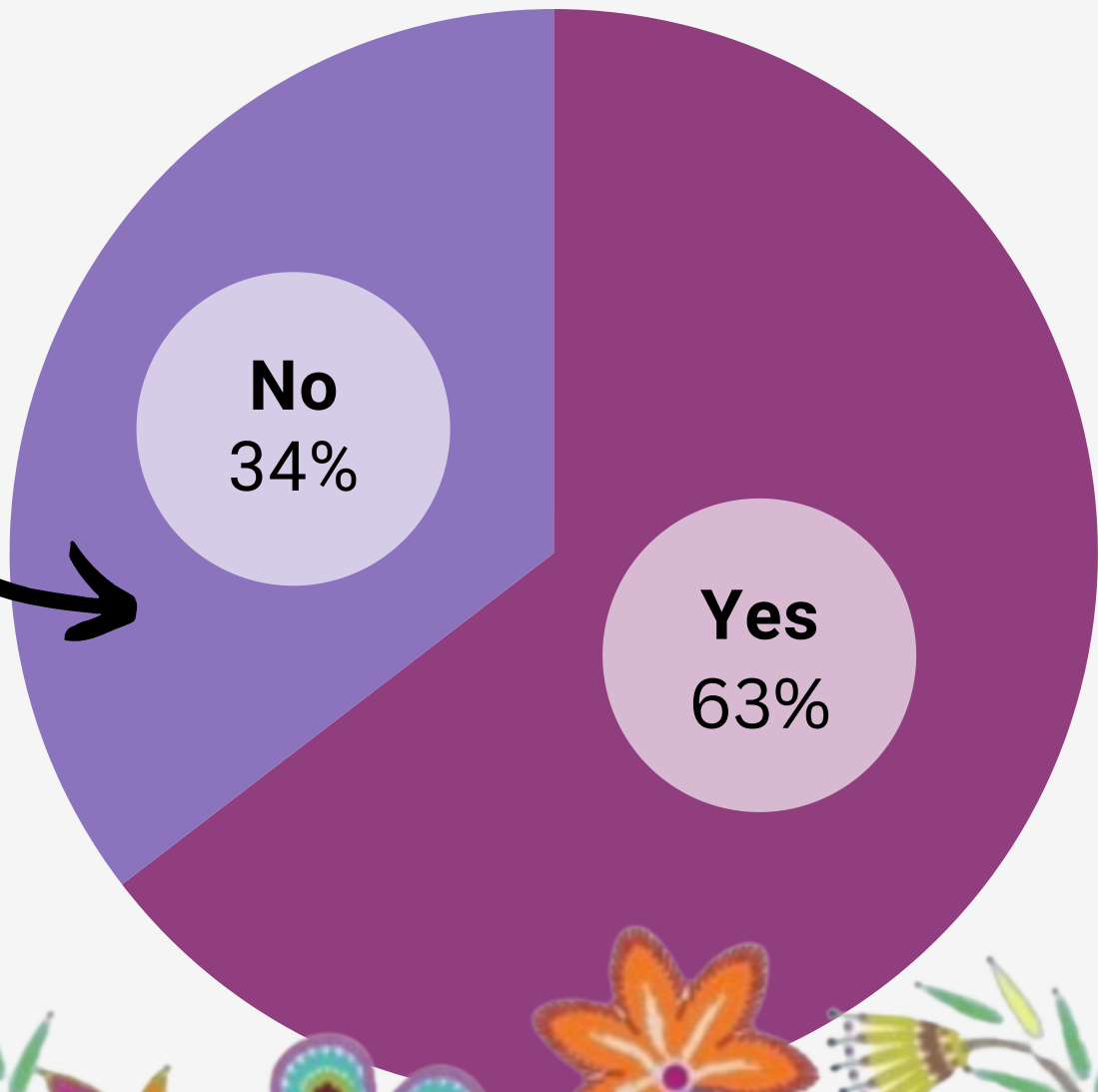
Community Members lost their jobs due to intersecting issues of:

- Physical Health (eg. Cancer, Stroke)
- Higher Rates of Layoffs and Lower Hiring Rates
- Negative Mental Health/Stress
- Continuing Education with Limited Job Opportunities

Access to Income Supports

The following Indigenous groups indicated they had access to income supports;

-  **62%** First Nation
-  **78%** Metis
-  **55%** Inuit



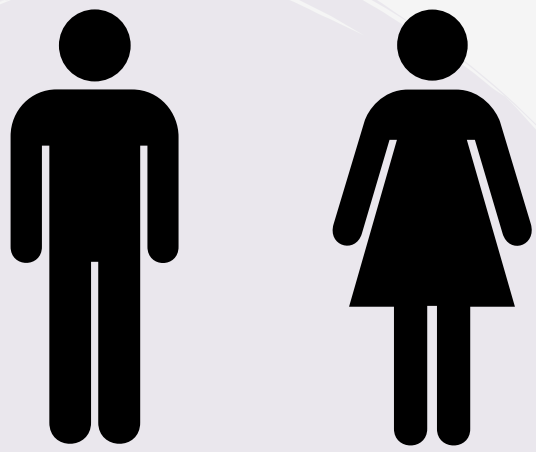
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Access to Income Supports Continued

People were more likely to be able to access income support if they:

- HAVE CHILDREN
- HAD A JOB AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC
- BETWEEN 34–64 YEARS OLD



74% 55%

Men had more access than women to income supports.

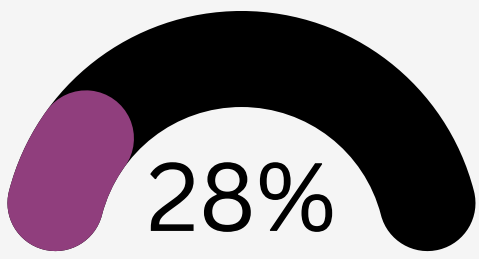
“*[I needed help with] income support because I did not have \$5000 income in 2019 as I only started back to work in December of 2019 after being off work due to mental illness.*”

Education

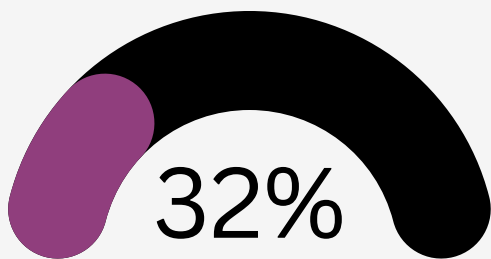
“*More support for post-secondary students – I live in the city but my family lives back home which would not have been feasible for me to move back to for COVID online university.*”



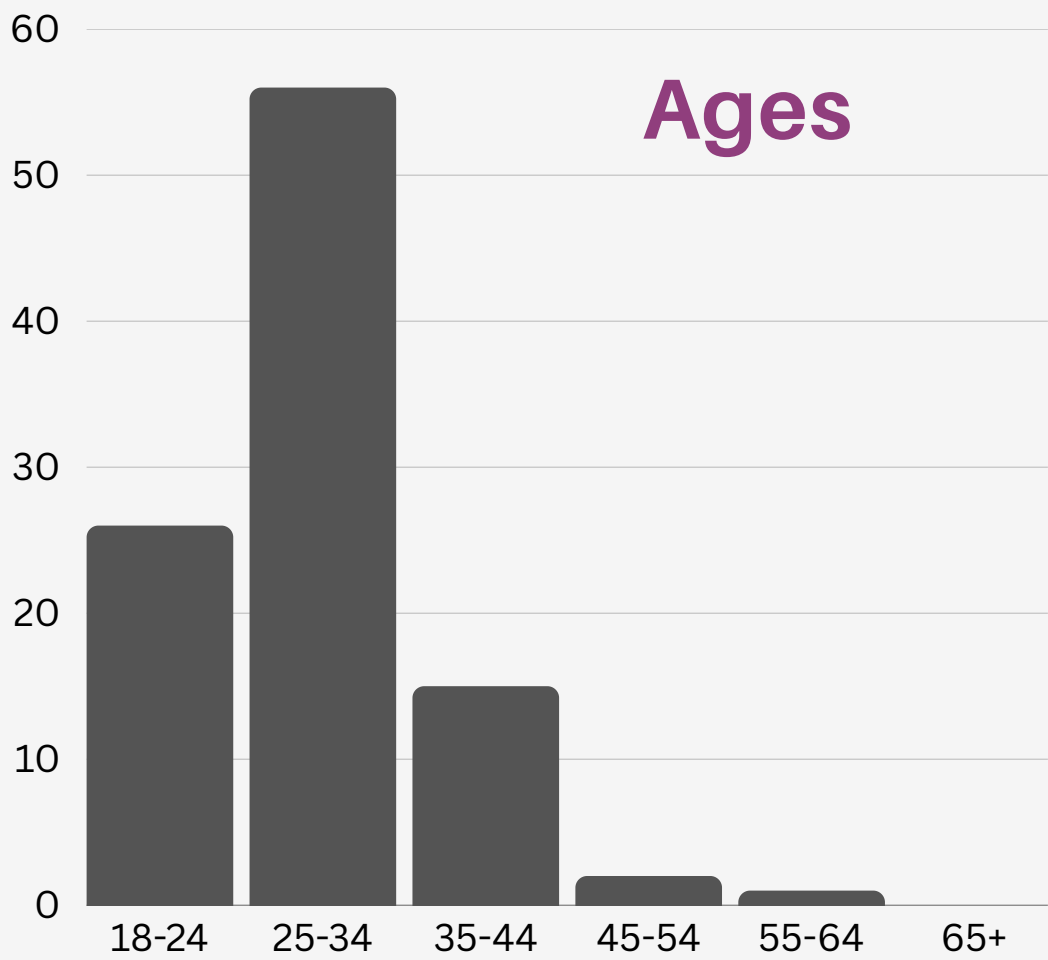
1 in 3 people attended a school or education program.



Eventually Left School



Switched to Part-Time



28% of Women and **39% of Men** were in a school or education program.

“*I took a semester off due to increasing family demands (virtual schooling for my kids) and work requirements (increased hours).*”

