



National Learning Community (NLC) Frequently Asked Questions

What does community mean?

That is totally up to you to define! While a community may be a physical place (a rural town, a reservation, or a part of a city), community can also be a group of people locally or across territories that are held together by a web of relationships. It is up to you to tell us!

What is the time commitment?

At 4Rs we are forever learning about what reciprocity can look like in the work of reconciliation - specifically, what is the reciprocity we can offer to each other and to our communities that sustains our work? For the NLC this means **actively building relationships with others in the cohort and committing to being present** for all meetings (of course, with compassion for our real lives and all the challenges and realities they present). These meetings include:

- A virtual **weekend** opening in July 2022
- A **four-day** in-person learning/planning retreat in August 2022
- A **four-day** in-person closing retreat in May 2023
- “All Teams Meetings” where all teams from this cohort will be asked to meet online for **two and a half hours once every two months.**
- Check-in conversations to support your team along the way. The frequency of this depends on what kind of gathering or project we hope to do, your team needs and community dynamics. **We suggest you plan for one to two of these a month.**
- The time you need to plan and implement your project or gathering. **We suggest you plan to meet at least twice a month.**

A detailed program description will be shared with those who are invited to join the 2022-23 NLC and will provide further information on time commitment.

What if some/all of our group members fall outside of the age range of 18-30?

If you are a group that is made up of, or includes, people under 18 but is a good fit for the NLC, we will definitely accept your application. If your group includes young people between the ages of 18-30, we will still accept your application **as long as the majority of young people in your group are within the 18-30 range.**

What kind of “reconciliation-based” gatherings are you looking for?

We are looking for gatherings that matter to you as young people. Something that you feel is **relevant to your community's journey together** that also adds to a larger dialogue to better center reconciliation around Indigenous voices and their needs.

What kind of support will we get?

Our goal is to help each of you best support your own community's needs. That means the 4Rs team will provide a wide array of supports. This will include:

- **Funding:** \$10,000 worth of funding for you to host your gathering/project,
- **Direct support from the 4Rs team:** That could look like **coaching through conflict** that may arise in this work, **helping you set the intention** for your gathering/projects (including **design, facilitation and evaluating your impact**), as well as planning supports such as **outreach, budgeting, travel & logistics.**
- **Knowledge Holders:** Connection to knowledge holders within our network (on Turtle Island and internationally).
- **Learning Conversations:** These will help activate our knowledge bundles this year. These conversations with elders, other youth groups and practitioners can offer complementary frameworks and worldviews that align with a multitude of Indigenous teachings, as well as an opportunity to learn about deep healing work that have their origins in disability, queer, Black and People of Colours movements.

Combined, these supports contribute to building a community that acts, reflects, integrates and mobilizes together.

What is the timeline?

While this is the ideal timeline, it may be subject to change based on the circumstances and realities we find ourselves in.

- **June to July 2022:** Online check-in with 4Rs homebase, learning about 4Rs and doing some team groundwork/visioning, and a weekend virtual opening retreat in July.
- **Early August 2022:** A four-day in-person learning/planning session, getting to know each other, and setting a foundation for our work!
- **August to end of September 2022:** Setting intentions, connecting with community, design and planning for your gathering/project.

- **October to April 2022:** Ongoing planning, connecting with other NLC, sharing skills, and implementing gatherings/projects!
- **April 2022:** Teams will take time to reflect on their learnings from the year together and move into future planning.
- **Early May 2022:** Four-day in-person closing retreat!

COVID and In-Person Gatherings

At 4Rs we want to prioritize the safety of you and your community while also making room for the possibility of in-person gatherings when we can. For in-person cohort gatherings (planning and learning session, the closing) we have a detailed COVID safety plan that we will follow. For gatherings you will host as a team, we will work with you to develop a safety plan that meets you and your community's needs. We will also work with you to make the necessary pivots in the event you need to switch your gathering from in-person to virtual (or vice-versa).