

# 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

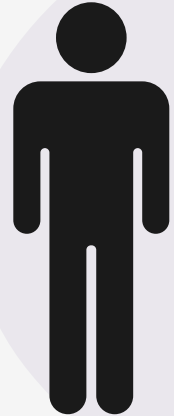
**64%** of community members had a change in job in the first year of COVID-19.

#### 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.”*

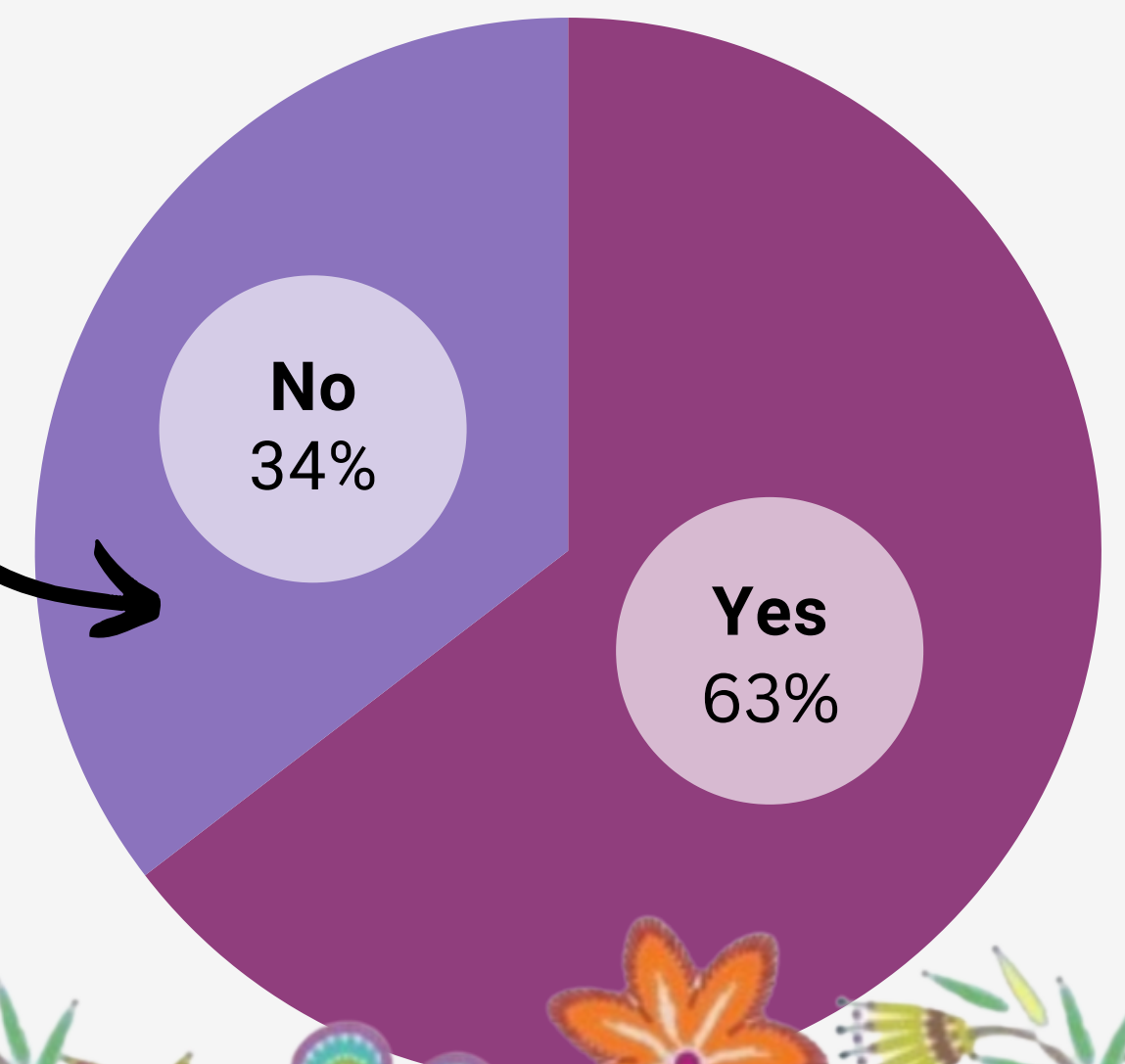
#### Community Members lost their jobs due to intersecting issues of:

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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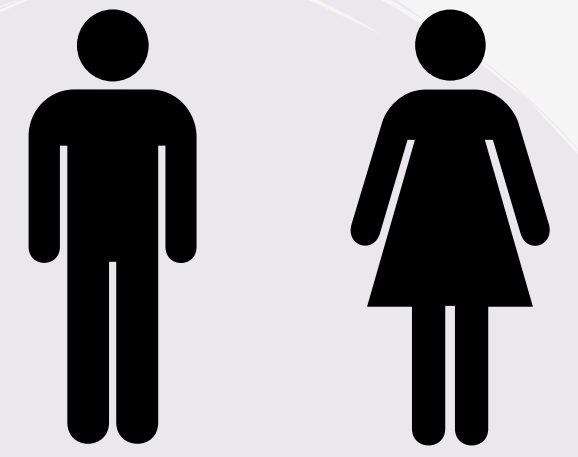


## Access to Income Supports Continued

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

“ [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. ”



**74% 55%**

Men had more access than women to income supports.

## Education



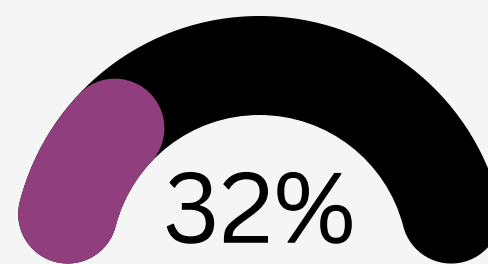
More support for post-secondary students – I live in the city but my family lives back home which would not have been feasible for me to move back to for COVID online university. ”



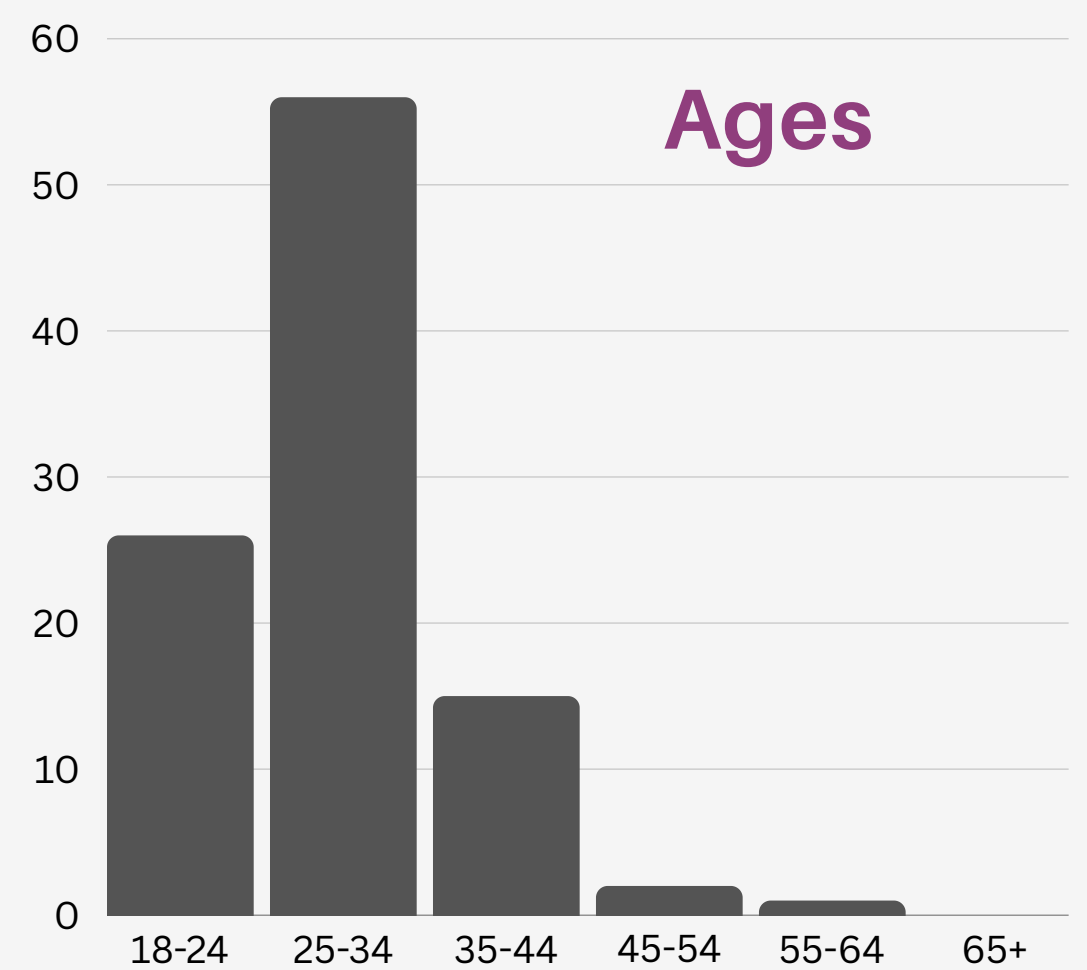
**1 in 3** people attended a school or education program.



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). ”

