



INCREASING THE ODDS OF SUCCESS

FIELD ORIENTATION EXPLAINED

Establishing thriving churches among the Indigenous peoples in Canada is a daunting task. The challenges are many. Those willing to invest their lives for this cause are few.

Ethnos Canada is now leveraging our more than 75 years of experience establishing thriving churches in remote and isolated communities — right here in Canada.

We have learned from firsthand experience how to increase the odds of success—an effective field orientation is part of the solution.

Without an effective field orientation, FirstStory workers and their families will struggle to survive and thrive. There is also a risk of unprepared families doing more harm than good.

But with the proper preparation, workers engaging in Northern Canada will not only survive, they will thrive. And the communities they bring the gospel to will have a better chance of seeing a thriving church established.

THRIVING DESPITE CULTURAL LANDMINES

Unfortunately, the reality is that the Indigenous peoples in Canada have a long, painful history that includes horrific abuse. As workers begin to minister in Indigenous communities, they have to tread carefully because of the mistrust and resentment that exists.

During each worker's field orientation, they will spend time learning directly from Indigenous people. This will help prepare FirstStory workers to navigate the cultural landmines and have a fruitful ministry.

THRIVING DESPITE EXTREME ISOLATION

One of the challenges that FirstStory workers must wrestle with is isolation. This extreme isolation comes in two forms.

5 KEY OBJECTIVES OF FIELD ORIENTATION

1. Shed light on the specific challenges to reaching Indigenous communities in Canada with the gospel.
2. Prepare new workers and their families to live in adverse northern contexts.
3. Welcome new workers and their families into the larger FirstStory team.
4. Give new families the opportunity to get to know each other.
5. Provide a context for team formation and allocation decisions.

FirstStory is looking for believers that have a heart for the Indigenous people in Canada—believers willing to walk with Him into challenging circumstances with the gospel.

Learn more at: firststoryministries.ca/join

 **firstStory**
ministries.ca

The first is that the communities we desire to serve are physically isolated from the rest of Canada. It can be overwhelming for new workers to deal with the extreme loneliness found when living far from everything familiar.

Orientation provides an opportunity for FirstStory workers to acquaint themselves with this reality.

The second form of isolation comes with the fact that most FirstStory workers are outsiders coming in. They aren't from "around here". This can create a difficult living situation and increase the feelings of isolation.

These dual realities of isolation can be difficult for new workers to overcome. But in order to have a fruitful ministry, FirstStory workers must take the time to prepare for these challenges.

THRIVING DESPITE CHALLENGING TEAM DYNAMICS

FirstStory believes in teamwork. We serve a God who is eternally involved and united in teamwork, the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. From eternity past to eternity future, God has given us the ultimate example of what it means to serve through teamwork.

Even within teams of believers, challenges can arise.

Different approaches to parenting can cause friction on a team. Or in a context where no one is "punching a clock," different approaches to time management can be a source of strife.

Field orientation provides new workers the opportunity to begin forming strong teams. It is a safe environment where FirstStory workers and their families—children included—can wrestle with the challenges they will face as they prepare for establishing thriving churches in Canada.

We want to see our workers thriving in life and in ministry—but often both get lost in the hustle of the daily grind.

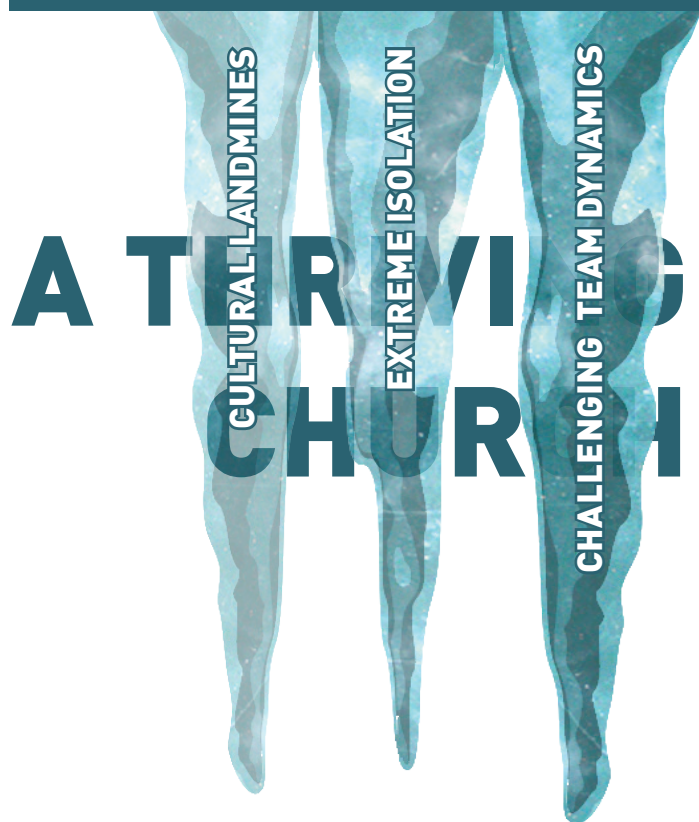
In the decades that Ethnos Canada has been engaged in cross-cultural church development, we have learned that the odds of success can be increased through an effective field orientation.

If workers engage in ministry without preparation, they risk not lasting and more significantly, they might negatively impact the community they are trying to reach with the gospel.

We covet your prayers. Pray for the men and women who are pouring out their lives as a drink offering to God (Philippians 2:17). Pray for all the communities to which we will be sending teams—ask God to open doors and soften hearts.

Just as each additional layer of ice can increase the difficulty of seeing through a window, each additional layer of challenge increases the need for an effective field orientation.

If we are going to see a thriving church established for each Indigenous community in Canada, workers need to be properly prepared.



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a ministry of
Ethnos Canada
and works in
cooperation with
Northern Canada
Evangelical Mission.