Creating Pathways to Best Practice through

Virtual Communities of Learning

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Pathways to Best Practice Presentation Goals

- **Why develop a wound care course for First Nations?**
- **The aims of the course**
- **The challenges to delivering education in First Nation communities**
- **The pathway to education delivery**
- **The Course/learners/content/engagement strategies**
- **The results**
- **Developing leading practices…**

…Of an online Community of Learning for First Nations Nurses in Wound Management

Why develop a Wound Care Course for First Nations?

- **Home care is a recent phenomenon in First Nation communities**
- **Community wound management is complex**
- **Challenges in resource access in First Nation communities**

What nurses said they wanted:

" More education that will allow us as health care providers to actually have that capability to change the dressings as needed without sending our clients to the local hospitals as walk-ins or thru emerg."

The Aims of the Wound Management Course

- **To increase the knowledge of Best Practice Wound Management in First Nations communities**
- **"Implications for Practice"= Knowledge to Practice**
- **Practice to Prevention of adverse outcomes**
- **Increase in quality of life of First Nation peoples**

The Challenges to Delivering Education

- **100's of rural and remote First Nation communities**
- **Staffing challenges**
- **Vast Geography**
- **Frequent Isolation**
- **Costs of Travel to attend education**
- **Time away from home**

The Pathway to Education Delivery

- ***Saint Elizabeth Health Care @YourSide Colleague®***
  - Online professional development site
  - Various courses (Diabetes, Cancer Care etc)
  - National/International access (FNI, Trinidad/Tobago, SEHC)
- ***Synchronous/asynchronous study groups***
  - Increase engagement/comfort with independent study
  - Relate to subject matter within learning site

The Wound Management Course

- **7 live, interactive sessions of 1 hour each**
- **Web-based delivery**
- **Learner's choice session**
- **Subject matter expert delivery and available for clinical issues**
- **6 independent reflective practice modules on @YourSide Colleague® (asynchronous learning)**

The Learners

- **Community/Home Care Nurses**
- **Clinic Nurses**
- **Supervisors**
- **Managers**
- **Intake/case managers**
- **Nursing Coordinators**
- **RN/LPN/Master's prepared**

Creating Relevant Content

- **Use of case studies to promote story-telling and sharing of wisdom**
- **All material reviewed by aYSC First Nation team for cultural relevancy**
- **Respect for context of practice**

Some pre-course stats:
  - **61% of learners indicated a need to learn Best Practice WC**
  - **14% of learners could identify a critically colonized wound**
  - **21% of learners knew how to safely treat an arterial ulcer**
  - **70% primarily used a colleague for information**
  - **78% of learners conduct consults on difficult to heal wounds**

The Webcast Content

- **RNAO/CAWC Best Practice**
  - **Assess**
  - **Assess**
  - **Assess**
  - **Treat**

Including implications for practice

The Wound

The Client

The Cause
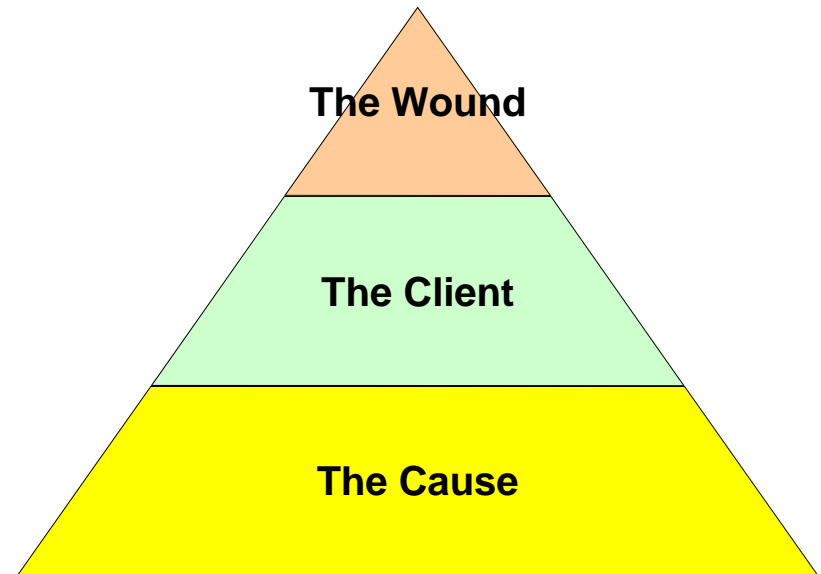
Online Engagement Strategies

- **Calling on learners by name**
- **Raising virtual hands to ask questions**
- **Chat pods**
- **Polling questions**
- **Case studies**
- **Photos sleuths…**

The Community of Learning

Independent study/reflective practice on:

- **Ethics in First Nation Community Wound Management**
- **Traditions and Technologies**
- **Barriers to Best Practice**
- **Pathways to Best Practice**
- **Exploring Resources Online**

Also: Discussion forums and a clinical corner

Snapshot: CoL

The Results

Able to assess/treat pts more accurately as a result of the course
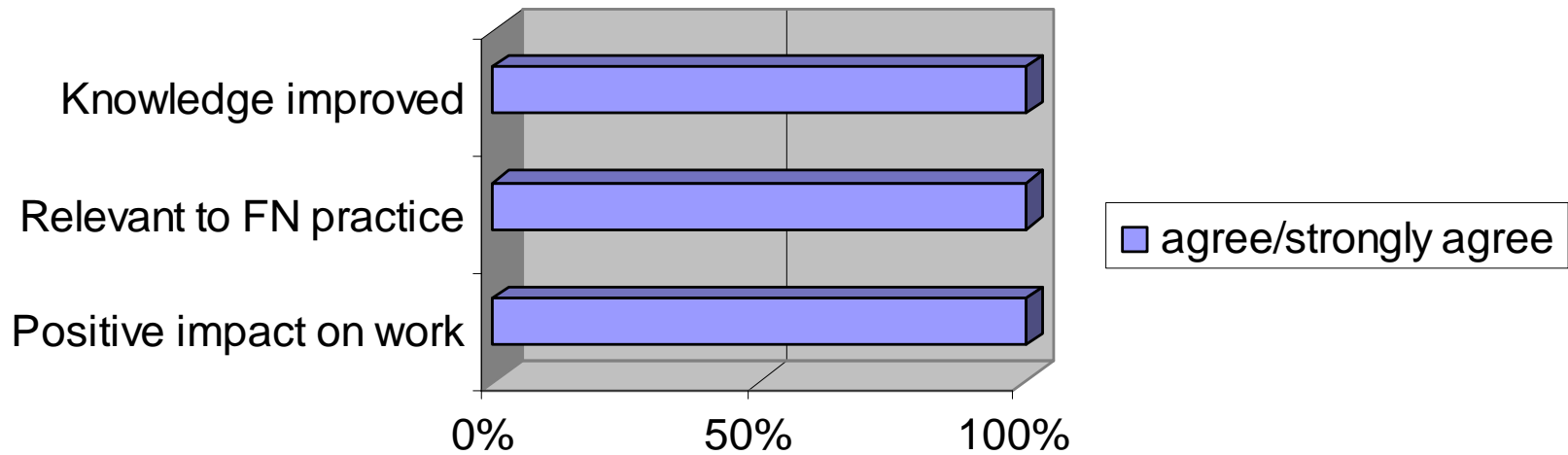
Strongly agree
25%
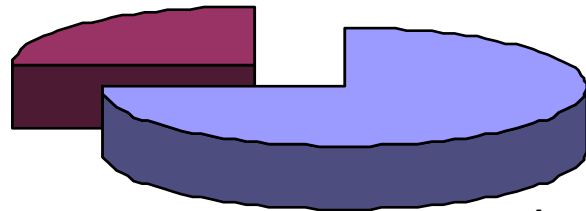
Agree
75%

Legend:
- Agree
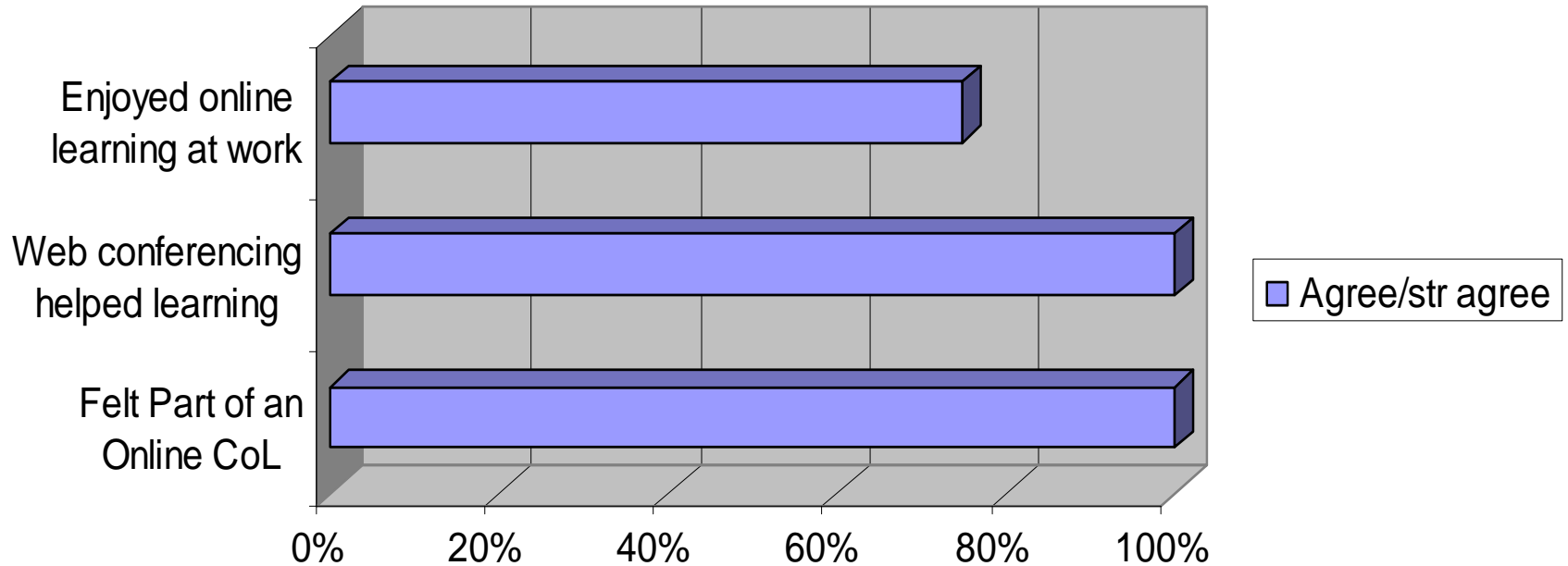- Strongly agree

Education Content Results

@YourSideColleague Wound Course Eval 2009

Education Delivery Results

@YourSideColleague Wound Course Eval 2009

Developing Leading Practices

What we have learned:

- Incorporate online learning hours on participation/completion certificate

- Early and targeted technical support

- Rapid response to questions/issues/concerns (technical and content-related)

- Foster community of learners to decrease isolation/build supports

- Foster a high level of trust through excellence and expertise

- On-going development of web-based engagement strategies

Questions?