

Student Handout #2: Interview Guide

Community of _____

The following questions will guide your discussion with the seniors or Elders of the community. Jot your notes on this page or in a notebook. Be sure to offer a small gift if that is appropriate and thank the interviewee when you are through.

Quantitative Changes

1. State three or four examples to show how the community has grown in size.

2. Explain how the population has changed over the years.

3. Which buildings have been demolished and which have been built over the years?

4. Have methods of transportation changed? If so, in what ways?

5. What kinds of jobs have disappeared and what new types of jobs have replaced them? What caused that change?

6. How has the style and size of houses changed?

Qualitative Changes

1. In your opinion what things have changed for the better and what for the worse?

2. What did people once do for entertainment that is not so common today?

3. How have services changed in this community over time (hospitals, schools, parks)?

4. Do you speak more than one language? Have you noticed any change in languages spoken in the community over the years? If so, what is the effect of the change?

5. How has your occupation changed from the first time you were involved in it up until today? Is your occupation still around today or has technology phased it out? (Note: Being a homemaker is an important occupation to include.)

6. How much were wages in your field of work when you first started? Did wages change rapidly or slowly during your career?

General Questions

1. When did you first own a vehicle? How much did you pay for it? What makes, styles and colours were available at that time? Do you own a vehicle today? If so, how is it different from your first vehicle?

2. What fashion trends have come and gone? Which style did you like the most and why?

3. What major world events affected you and your family over the years? Your community?

4. What is your vision of the future? Why do you hold that opinion?
