Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Community-Driven and Evidence-Based Approach to Developing Mental Wellness Strategies in First Nations: A Program Protocol

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Thank you very much for the feedback asking us to be more explicit about the ways community members were involved/central to in the design, delivery and dissemination of the study AND identify if any of the co-authors of this protocol are from the communities involved in this study.
The funding proposal for this study included people from 2 of the 5 communities involved. The remaining 3 communities decided to join the project after the funding was approved. Key members/representatives from 3 communities are co-authors on this paper (the 3 communities that have already completed Phase 1 - the remaining 2 communities are still establishing their Community Advisory Circles at the present time). Information was added to the background section, description of the CAC role in each community, dissemination section, and in the Authors’ contributions section.

We hope that these edits will adequately convey and how community members were involved in the conception of the project, are involved in determining how each phase is customized for each First Nations community, and that several of the co-authors are members of participating communities.