

Dawson Makerspace Survey Analysis

Public consultation took the form of an online survey, a public meeting and through social media. The online survey results will help direct decisions on a pilot makerspace project, and into the longer term. The online survey results of 87 submissions yielded the following responses:

Q1 If a makerspace was started in Dawson City, in what ways do you think you might get involved (please check any that apply)? Answered: 87

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Using the space and the equipment in it to 'make stuff' independently	83.91%	73
As a parent of a user of the space and the equipment in it	13.79%	12
Instructing workshops	28.74%	25
Taking workshops	89.66%	78
Attending presentations or demonstrations	80.46%	70
Attending occasional social events with a 'maker' focus	75.86%	66
Lending or donating tools or other supplies	31.03%	27
Not at all: I am not interested or in need of a makerspace	1.15%	1
Other (please specify)	5.75%	5

Other preferences included serving as a board member and volunteer, and a desire for a home economics space.

Taking workshops and attending presentations or demonstrations both rated highly. With those figures it may be surprising to note that independent use of a space was as equally in demand. This may indicate a desire to learn or enhance skills prior to utilizing them independently in the workspace. The high score for events with a social focus reflects the community aspects of many makerspaces. A quarter of respondents are willing to instruct and a similar amount willing to lend or donate tools; this will serve the makerspace well and reduce the reliance on purchases or hiring from outside of the community.

Q2 What types of spaces would be most important to you? (Pick all that apply). Answered: 85

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
3D Printing and prototyping.	28.24%	24
Carpentry and wood working.	72.94%	62
Culinary arts.	37.65%	32
Digital and analogue photography.	29.41%	25
Electronics and repair.	38.82%	33
Engine repairs and maintenance.	36.47%	31
Metal work and shop.	42.35%	36
Screenprinting.	36.47%	31
Sculpting and ceramics.	49.41%	42
Shared computer lab/office space.	32.94%	28
Shared studio space.	24.71%	21
Sound recording.	28.24%	24
Textiles and handcrafts.	62.35%	53
Other (please specify)	14.12%	12

Other common preferences included bicycle repairs and blacksmithing. Spaces for costume design and performance art were also mentioned.

Carpentry and woodworking, along with textiles and handcrafts were the most popular options. The others were all consistently within the 30-50% range which indicates strong preferences over a broad range of activities. Metal work is likely to primarily include welding. Shared studio space registered perhaps lower than expected, although this category could potentially fit within some of the other options (textiles, printing and digital) and may encompass other table-top activities.

Q3 Please list the specific machines, tools, and equipment that would be most vital to your work in the maker space. Answered: 65 The 10 most popular responses are listed.

SUGGESTIONS	RESPONSES	
Wood working tools; Woodworking equipment; Fine/finishing woodworking tools	18.46%	12
Band saw	16.92%	11
Kiln	15.38%	10
Sewing machines	15.38%	10
Pottery wheel; Potter's wheel; Ceramic throwing wheel	13.85%	9
Industrial sewing machines	10.77%	7
Large table; Big table for hand-built pieces	10.77%	7
Table saw	10.77%	7
Planer	7.69%	5
Printer; Colour printer; Printer for photos	7.69%	5

The high level of responses for woodworking tools (both power and hand tools) reflects the potential demand for carpentry and woodworking indicated in Question 2. Ceramics is especially popular when preferences for wheels and a kiln are combined. Similarly, sewing scored highly, particularly when industrial and 'domestic' values are combined.

Q4 When would you expect to access a Dawson Makerspace? Pick all that apply. Answered: 85

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Weekdays (Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm)	43.53%	37
Weekday Evenings (Monday to Friday from 5pm - 11pm)	90.59%	77
Weeknights Overnight (Monday to Friday from 11pm - 9am)	28.24%	24
Weekends (Saturday & Sunday)	88.24%	75

The responses are as anticipated, as most users would be expected to prefer access out of normal office hours. It is not envisaged that the space would be used by professionals, particularly in the initial stages. The overnight access score is significant.

Q5 How often would you anticipate using a Makerspace membership? Answered: 86

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	1.16%	1
A few times a week	38.37%	33
Once a week	32.56%	28
Once a month	27.91%	24

Although the three chief responses are of the same magnitude, it is encouraging the most popular option is to aim to use the facilities a couple of times per week. Weekly, or better, use contributes to almost two-thirds of the total expected usage.

Q6 How much would you pay per month for a membership granting you access to: 1- tools, 2- space, 3- a community of fun, smart people, 4- discounts on workshops and 5- safety training and orientation? (Makerspaces in Canada charge from \$50 - \$150 per month for memberships, depending on hours of access and tools provided). Answered: 85

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$40.	12.94%	11
\$40 - 60.	44.71%	38
\$60 - 100.	20.00%	17
More than \$100.	2.35%	2
I'm interested in a day pass or occasional use.	18.82%	16
I'm interested in group use for my business/organization.	1.18%	1

Other comments noted the fees must relate to the facilities available, and without that knowledge it is difficult to provide an accurate answer.

The most popular option (\$40-60) falls in line with the fee structure available through other makerspaces. That almost one quarter of respondents indicated potential to pay up to \$100 per month may be surprising. However, if a space and facilities are in demand and sought after, and will be frequently used, the rate per hour is very reasonable in comparison to purchasing equipment outright. The day use option scored higher than perhaps expected.

Q7 Would you pay extra for 24 hour access? Answered: 86

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes.	47.67%	41
No.	52.33%	45

The almost 50% split indicates a higher than expected demand for 24 hour access, although the potential was apparent in Question 4 concerning access.

Q8 Being as specific as you can, is there anything you would like to learn how to do in a makerspace environment? Answered: 60 The 11 most popular responses are listed.

SUGGESTIONS	RESPONSES	
Wood working	18.33%	11
Ceramics and pottery; Wheels and kiln	10.00%	6
Electronics; Electronics repair	8.33%	5
Welding	8.33%	5
Carpentry	6.67%	4
Small engine maintenance; Repairs	6.67%	4
Cabinetry	5.00%	3
Furniture making; Design; Repair	5.00%	3
Photography; Photographic equipment; Food photography	5.00%	3
Quilting	5.00%	3
Sewing, basic seamstress work	5.00%	3

The combined figures for learning to work with wood (around 35%) indicates about half those intending to use the facilities for woodworking would be interested in training or skills development. The small demand for sewing instruction is in contrast to the much higher need (25%) for sewing machines.

Q9 If lessons or training sessions were provided for activities, which would you prefer? Answered: 84

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Informal orientation	48.81%	41
Formal classes	79.76%	67
One-on-one instruction	40.48%	34

Formal classes again rated highly, in line with responses to Question 1. This response shows a marked preference over informal orientation. The demand for individual instruction was perhaps higher than anticipated.

Q10 Being as specific as you can, is there anything you would be willing to instruct or teach on a paid basis? Answered: 59

The following skills have been offered, the majority with a basic level specified:

Arts related activities	Leatherworking
Banjo playing	Machine sewing
Beading	Mechanics
Bicycle maintenance	Metal work (welding.milling.turning...)
Blacksmithing	Mushroom growing
Book binding.	Oil painting
Candle making	Photography
Carpentry	Quilting
Carving	Rebuild cell-phones and laptop
Casting	Sculpture
Ceramics, wheel-thrown/hand-built	Sewing
Computer and cellphone repairs	Silkscreening
Cooking techniques	Silversmithing
Crochet	Small engines
Culinary skills	Sound and video editing
DJ-ing	Sourdough bread baking
European cuisine	Stop motion animation
Fermenting and preserving	Taxidermy
Food safe	Textiles
Gardening	Toyhacking...
IT	Videography (camera operation, video editing)
Knitting	Welding
Leather carving	Woodworking
Leather footwear	Yarn dyeing

The range of potential skills instruction is more than ample, even at a basic ability level. The high demand activities like woodworking, ceramics and sewing are well represented. The results will enhance potential for hosts to have free access to facilities in return for supervision and instruction roles.

Q11 Being as specific as you can, is there anything you would be willing to teach on a volunteer basis?

Answered: 52

The following skills have been offered, the majority with a basic level specified:

Banjo lessons	Knitting
Bike mechanics/ maintenance	Leatherworking
Book binding	Machine sewing
Carpentry and shop theory	Metalworking
Cell-phone repair	Sewing
Cooking	Silkscreen printmaking
Creativity for younger children	Silversmithing
Crochet	Small engines
Embroidery	Welding
European cuisine	Wood working skills for women and girls
Forging	Woodworking
Informal help	Yarn dyeing

While not as widespread as the skills on offer as paid instruction, the list for volunteer instruction is still impressive. The popular activities such as woodworking and sewing are again represented. Utilizing volunteers will help reduce costs, particularly in training and supervision.

Q12 Would you be interested in becoming an active member of a Dawson Makerspace organization?

Perhaps as a board or committee member, volunteer, etc.? Answered: 84

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes.	39.29%	33
No.	17.86%	15
Maybe	42.86	36

That almost 40% of respondents (33 potential members) indicated a willingness to be active members in a society is heartening, especially when there are already so many volunteer demands on residents.

Q13 Do you have any tools, equipment, computers, furniture or instructional books you would lend or donate to Dawson Makerspace? If so, what exactly? Answered: 53

Carpentry equipment.	Mechanic hand tools
Carpentry tools	Mechanical hand tools
Clay tools	Musical instruments
Computer	Old laptops (in need of some repair)
Cutting torch.	Patterns
Electronics ie ipad, lap top	Photography books
Forging tools	Quilting books
Frames and scrap fabric	Sewing machines.
Furniture	Silkscreen screens
Hand tools	space available
Industrial serger	Spanish language course book with workbooks
Industrial sewing machine	Textile instructional books and patterns
Knitting supplies (needles, yarn).	Tools
Leather working books	Woodburning kits
Leather working tools	Woodworking tools
Materials to build with	

The range of equipment that may be available is impressive and could help fulfill need at minimal costs. Tools and equipment in the high demand categories are represented. A key task will be to match demand with equipment.

Q14 Do you have any other comments, questions or suggestions regarding a makerspace in Dawson City? Answered: 50

- Thanks for trying to get this off the ground!
- I apologize for missing the meeting this week. Will there be follow up somewhere to this survey?
- I think a makerspace would be great for the community, especially with the number of creative folks in town and the diy spirit that is evident everywhere. I also think the space doubling as a repair cafe would be great, there are so many things at the freestore that need minor fixes that could be diverted from landfills...Conservation Klondike should be involved!!
- When does it open!!
- THE BEST IDEA!
- If Whitehorse can get millions to run their makerspace, we should get some help too!
- This would be the single most beneficial thing I can think of for the winter. It would be so nice to have a place to have a cup of tea and create something!
- Try to get the Klondike Sun and CFYT keyed in so they can share space and equipment and admin.
- Good idea if it can happen - people don't understand the word
- Makerspace it happen!
- I would like to see something that allows us to reuse some of the material at the recycling center if possible. Glass, cans, and plastic material specifically
- Sorry I don't have much to add to this survey, I haven't ever given much thought to how I would interact with a makerspace.
- Yay!
- This is a great idea
- Good place may be the former location of the Han Construction tool area at First and Albert
- Lets do it!
- I love this idea and really want it to happen. Shared office space is not a very exciting option and may not be a priority for many, but having attempted to work (writing/research work) both at home and in almost every public venue in Dawson, I can say there is a real need for quiet, public office space with flexible hours. And it may be one of the easiest options to fulfill - just a room + desk + chair + maybe a printer.
- Would love to see the creation. A large complex to house many different activities including school age where parents and children can go but still do their own thing.
- When will there be meetings and how can I get involved?
- I think it should be taken into consideration, that maybe 1 building would not be plausible to make this work. So perhaps there can be different factions/building with different trades in them. (especially for safety & health)
- I really hope it happens! Big thank you to all that have instigated the organizing!!!
- Good luck! Sustainable initiatives such as these concepts not only bring community together but it also reduces our dependence on STUFF. Less tools needed cause of the sharing and the debt for individuals who want to create. I'm sure this would encourage a more vibrant, interesting and happy community
- Great idea!

- I realize a makerspace doesn't generally include dance studio space...but we are in dire need for more theatre/dance/exercise space that has some storage for productions, mirrors and a bar, especially if FOTPG continues to grow.
- As cheap as possible. Or at least accessible to the ones that do not have money. Creativity is a good way to be active, get out of the house, meet other people. I do know folks that would love to start a hobby, but cannot afford it.
- Please make this happen!!!
- Let's make it happen! Thank you
- I think this is a great idea. Obviously, there are going to be a lot of ideas about what this space should be, and it can't be everything at the same time, but a multi-disciplinary space in Dawson is an awesome thing!
- I think it is a good idea.
- This is a really exciting development in Dawson so I really hope it materializes. A maker space is something this community could really use!
- Can't wait!
- Space should be easily converted into a multi-use space. With LOTS of storage. I find storage is always inadequate! With all the grants and projects that happen in town, I'm sure a lot of items and supplies would find themselves at a makerspace.
- Great idea!
- A space like this in Dawson would be fantastic. Especially during winter months! This would be an incredible benefit to our community.
- Great idea, hope it happens
- Would like the space to be available for small scale commercial use - market products for example.
- Would be willing to pay more for a "business" membership
- Try not to compete with other Non profits doing similar things (ie. KIAC offers screen printing and other arts related things)

Many of the comments reiterate those heard during the public meeting and in conversations with community residents and organisations. The enthusiasm for a Dawson Makerspace comes through well.