

# Defining the Collaborative Model

The collaborative governance model works best in contexts where multiple organizations serve the same constituency. This model incorporates permission-granting collaborating processes, clear reporting relationships, a system of internal controls, and defined decision-making parameters.

In order to fully function as intended, the collaborative governance model requires four underlying components:

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## 1. Common Mission and Agenda

For multiple organizations to collaborate effectively, an understanding of common direction needs to be present. Therefore, the articulation of an overall mission that encompasses the interests of all the organizations in the Collaborative Model is necessary. Further to the articulation of a mission, it is imperative that organizations operate with a clear common agenda. This agenda will indicate the areas that organizations will collaborate on and what areas fall outside of the collaboration process. This component is of the utmost importance when a collaborative budget is to be implemented.

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## 2. Common Measuring Systems

Since different organizations have different methods of measuring results, it is important to arrive at a common measuring system when relating to one another. This measuring system needs to be understood clearly by all participants and should incorporate qualitative and quantitative elements. The principal organization needs to be the one to keep records, track progress, and measure results. Adequate information needs to flow to all participating organizations.

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## 3. Clear Relational Structures

As organizations agree to participate in the Collaborative Model, they also agree to a system of reporting and accountability. Clear authority and reporting relationships need to be established and agreed upon by all. The reporting system applies only to the items related to the common mission and agenda defined under the Collaborative Model.

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## 4. Principal Organization

The Collaborative Model requires that all participants agree that one principal organization will exercise the role of coordinator. This principal organization will be the one responsible for maintaining information flow, managing resources, and relational upkeep. The principal organization will be the holder of any significant structural and systemic framework related to the Collaborative Model.

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This particular Collaborative Model will have the following partners: Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches as the principal organization, six provincial conferences (Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia), the Maritime region, Multiply, and MB Seminary. The model will be anchored by the new Strategic Ministry Framework.