



National Action Plan

***2022 Progress Report on
the Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women, Girls,
and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People
National Action Plan***

May 23, 2022

Note to Reader

The Progress Report for the National Action Plan honours, and is inclusive of, all Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) people who are unique and distinct in identities, ancestries, histories, and traditions.

The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG or the “National Inquiry”) relied on shared understandings of specific terms and definitions related to missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. These terms and their definitions are also used in the Progress Report of the National Action Plan, both for consistency and to respect the collective efforts by all parties involved in the National Inquiry.¹

Indigenous

The MMIWG Final Report stated that “In the context of the National Inquiry, the term ‘Indigenous’ can be understood as a collective noun for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people in Canada...Throughout the report, we use the term ‘Indigenous’ to identify experiences that may be held in common by First Nations, Métis and Inuit”...” (p. 59).

First Nations

As the MMIWG Final Report noted, “While the term ‘First Nations’ is relatively new, the original Nations of this land existed before colonial contact and continue to exist today, despite the Canadian government’s intentional assimilation policies (particularly through the Indian Act) that fractured and displaced them.” (p. 88). The Report refers to Status and Non-Status First Nation Peoples in its definition (p. 249).

Inuit

As the MMIWG Final Report stated, “Inuit are an Indigenous circumpolar people found across the North. Most Inuit live in Inuit Nunangat – the land, water, and ice that make up the Canadian Inuit homeland. This homeland is made up of four regions: Inuvialuit, in the western Arctic; the territory of Nunavut; Nunavik, in northern Quebec; and Nunatsiavut, in northern Labrador.” (p. 88)..

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all terms and definitions are taken from MMIWG Final Report, https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf.

Métis

The Métis emerged as a distinct Indigenous people and nation in the historic Northwest during the late 18th century. The historic Métis Nation Homeland encompasses the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and extends into contiguous parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and the northern United States. In 1870 the Métis Provisional Government of Louis Riel negotiated the entry of the Red River Settlement into Confederation as the Province of Manitoba.² The Métis Nation defines “Métis” as a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.”³

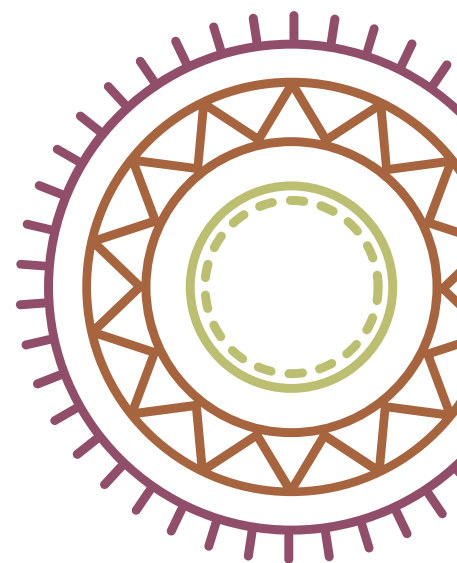
Distinctions-Based

The MMIWG Final Report noted the “very challenging task of engaging in a legal inquiry process, while incorporating distinctive First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultures, languages, spirituality, and creating opportunities for healing.” (p. 3). It also acknowledged the “challenges facing specific groups, institutions, geographical, or other circumstances, within a distinctions-based approach.” (p. 83). In addition, the MMIWG Final Report recognized that there are “distinctive bases of discrimination, depending on which Indigenous Nation or group’s experience is in play. In other words, Inuit, Métis, and First Nations women do not always face the same kind of discrimination or threat, even though all are Indigenous.” (p. 104).

Urban Realities

Identity is complex and Urban Indigenous communities honour, respect and celebrate this complexity. One may identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis, but some may feel that they do not fit into these categories and may more readily identify with the term Indigenous, which is inclusive of complex identities. However, we also recognize that some are not comfortable being identified as Indigenous. Therefore, we use and understand the terms Indigenous and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to always mean “regardless of residency,” “regardless of relationship to the Crown,” and inclusive of the full complexity of our identities.

The Urban Sub Working Group defined urban as: First Nation, Inuit and Métis people living in small, medium, and large communities, including rural, isolated, and remote communities, which are: off-reserve; outside of their home community, community of origin or settlement; or outside of Inuit Nunangat (Inuit Homelands).



² Métis National Council (2021). *About*. Available at: <https://www2.metisnation.ca/about/>.

³ Métis National Council (2021). *Citizenship*. Available at: <https://www2.metisnation.ca/about/citizenship/>.

Off Reserve Status and Non-status Indigenous Peoples

Off reserve status and non-status Indigenous Peoples are amongst the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups in Canadian society, an unfortunate reality deeply rooted in colonialism and its impacts. As the MMIWG Final Report noted, it was a struggle to provide culturally safe wellness services to “all those affected by the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, whether they be Status First Nations, non-Status First Nations, Inuit or Métis” (p. 70).

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) represents off-reserve status and non-status Indians, Métis and Southern Inuit Indigenous Peoples. As identified in the MMIWG Final Report, the development and implementation of a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people is a partnership that calls for programs and services that “must be no-barrier and must apply regardless of Status or location” (p. 176).

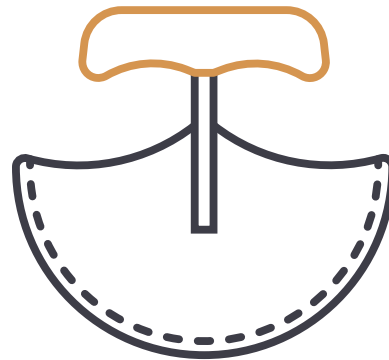
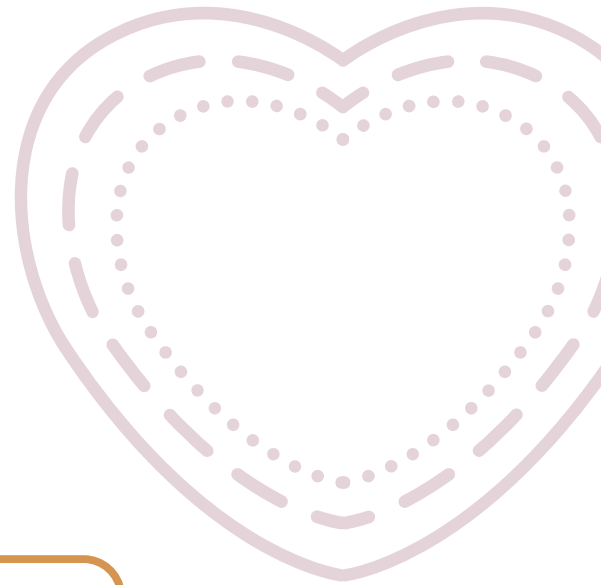
Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA People

The MMIWG Final Report noted that “we have chosen to use the phrase ‘Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people,’ both to include non-binary people and people with diverse sexualities, and as an explicit reminder that gender-diverse people’s needs must equally be taken into account.” (p. 59).

2SLGBTQQIA+ People

The “+” at the end of “2SLGBTQQIA+” is a way of being inclusive, honouring and celebrating how our languages are expanding and offering choices for our sexual and gender diverse relatives to identify.

By relying on and employing the above-noted terms and their definitions, the Progress Report of the National Action Plan honours, and is inclusive of, all Indigenous Peoples affected by this ongoing tragedy, including but not limited to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.





Dedication

For families and survivors of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQQA+) people, matriarchs, leaders, grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, cousins, and friends. Thank you for your resiliency and tireless commitment for holding all governments and all Canadians to account for action on the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO's) Calls for Miskotahâ (Michif word for change) and for addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. You continue to teach through your lived experience and perspectives what is needed to be done and the urgency that goes with it. For Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people who have gone missing or have been murdered – the urgency is heard – more needs to be done now.

To grassroots organizations and communities, your continued support and action, working alongside family members and survivors, your dedication to creating safe spaces, and your on-the-ground everyday commitment is valued and treasured. Your support is unwavering and necessary in the drive towards safety and transformational change.

For advocates and allies, your ongoing efforts to push forward and ensure that missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people are at the forefront of government decision making is much appreciated.

To all Governments – reaffirming your commitment and continuing to act on, and implement, the National Action Plan and continuing to act upon your responsibilities and accountabilities in partnership with families and survivors, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people is essential.

All Canadians have a role to play in this transformational change, it is everyone's responsibility.

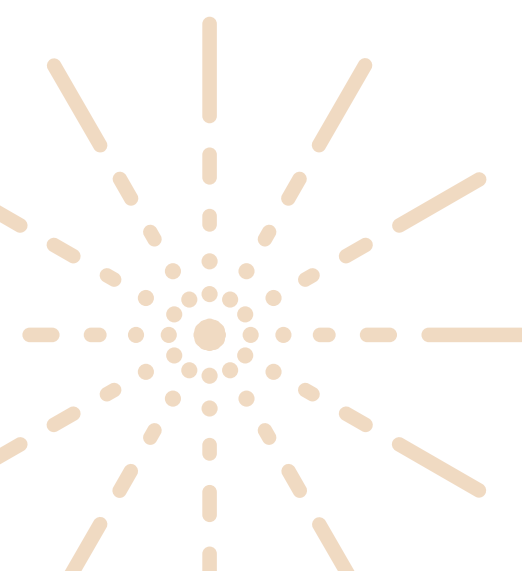




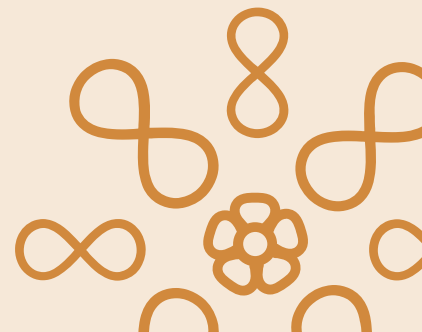
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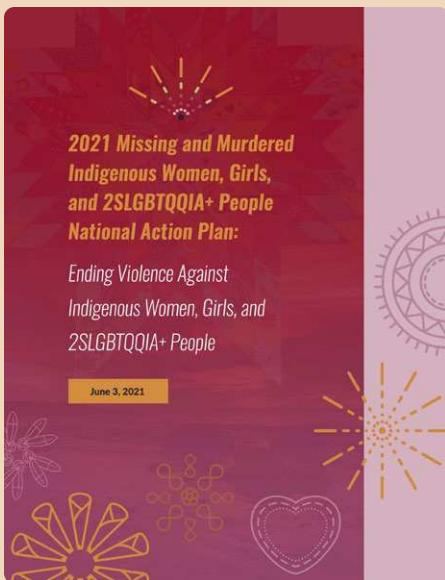


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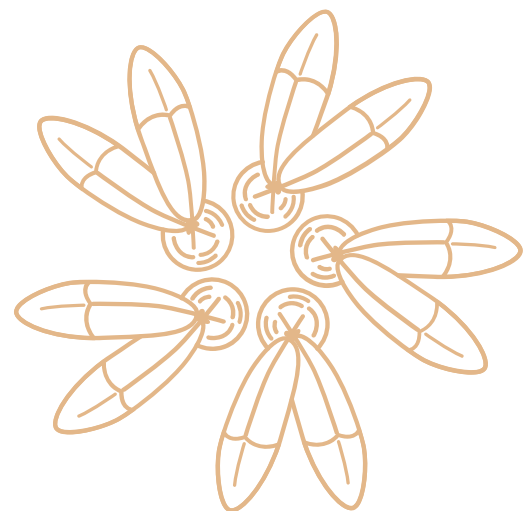




Envisioning a Transformed Canada



A year ago, on June 3, 2021, the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People was released. Families and survivors, Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ leaders, and government partners came together to create the National Action Plan to address the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG or “National Inquiry”) and the Calls for Miskotahâ (Michif word for change) from Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) Report Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People.



Guided by the lived experience, insight, and perspectives of survivors and family members, the strength of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ leaders, the guiding principles, and looking towards a safe future for Indigenous girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, the vision of the National Action Plan is:

“We envision a transformed Canada where Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, wherever they are,⁴ live free from violence, and are celebrated, honoured, respected, valued, treated equitably, safe, and secure”

This Progress Report identifies the actions undertaken over the last year since the release of the National Action Plan, providing insight on what has been achieved and what next steps are needed. It describes actions, initiatives, and commitments undertaken by governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), Indigenous representative organizations, Indigenous service organizations, and other partners. We recognize that municipal governments were not provided the opportunity to participate to date, however they will be included moving forward.

The report starts with a brief description of the National Inquiry and LFMO report, the National Action Plan, and the current crisis regarding missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ women in Canada. It also describes how information for this Progress Report was gathered. It then provides an overview of initiatives, activities, and programs put in place since the release of the National Action Plan, specifically focusing on the common short-term priorities and immediate next steps identified in the National Action Plan, and the gaps in achieving the goals of the National Action Plan. In addition, the National Family and Survivors Circle, contributing partners, the federal government and provinces/territories have included a description of work they have undertaken over the year. Finally, the Progress Report identifies the next steps to continue the urgent work needed on the National Action Plan.

Appendix A provides a list of acronyms and Appendix B defines key terms used throughout the Plan.

⁴ The term “wherever they are” is meant to be inclusive of wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people may live, reside, or may be.





Decades of Advocacy

After decades of advocacy from families, survivors of violence, and grassroots organizations, including numerous calls for a national inquiry into the alarming number of disappearances and murders of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada,⁵ the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was launched in 2016. The National Inquiry's final report, Reclaiming Power and Place, was released in 2019 and, in the same month, LFMO released their report entitled Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People.

The 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People was released as a national-level response to the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice and the LFMO's Calls for Miskotahâ. A national-level response is important because the National Inquiry identifies Calls for Justice for all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), industry, institutions, services, Partnerships, and all Canadians.

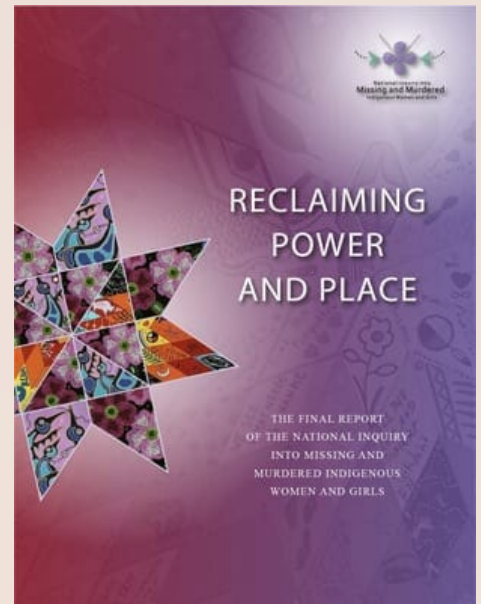


The Highway of Tears has become a symbol for unchecked violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada

⁵ For example, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Sisters in Spirit campaign.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

In 2016 the federal government and the 13 provincial and territorial governments launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The National Inquiry's mandate was to examine the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada, including the underlying root causes of violence and particular vulnerabilities. The National Inquiry broadened the term "all forms of violence" to include issues such as family violence, institutional racism in health care, child welfare, policing and the justice system, and other forms of violence that stem from the same structures of colonization, such as those who died from negligence, accidents, or suicide, or those whose cause of death is unknown or disputed. The Inquiry also examined institutional policies and practices in place to respond to violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.⁶



The steps to end and redress this genocide must be no less monumental than the combination of systems and actions that has worked to maintain colonial violence for generations. A permanent commitment to ending the genocide requires addressing the four pathways explored within this report, namely:

- historical, multigenerational, and intergenerational trauma;
- social and economic marginalization;
- maintaining the status quo and institutional lack of will; and
- ignoring the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

(MMIWG Inquiry, Volume B)

⁶ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). *Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a*. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf.

For over two years, the National Inquiry gathered evidence including testimonies and truth from families and survivors of violence, Indigenous leaders, knowledge keepers, communities, experts, and institutions. On June 3, 2019, the Final Report of the National Inquiry, entitled “Reclaiming Power and Place”, was released. Based on the results of the Truth-Gathering Process, the National Inquiry concluded that violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people amounts to genocide.⁷ The National Inquiry identified 231 Calls for Justice under the following themes: culture, health and wellness, human security, and justice; as well as some Calls for Justice under the area of “human and Indigenous rights and governmental obligations”. The report also includes specific Calls for Justice directed at confronting violence against Métis, Inuit and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, and a supplementary report with 21 additional Calls for Justice focusing on specific issues facing Indigenous women and girls in Québec.

Call for Justice 1.1 of the National Inquiry calls upon federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments, in partnership with Indigenous people, to develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Further, the Inquiry said that reports of ongoing actions and developments should be made available annually.⁸

The Calls for Justice were directed at all levels of government, including federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous; institutions; service providers, such as health care, child welfare, education, justice services, transportation; industries, such as hospitality, resource extraction and development; the media; and all Canadians.

⁷ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). *A legal analysis of Genocide. Supplementary Report*. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Supplementary-Report_Genocide.pdf.

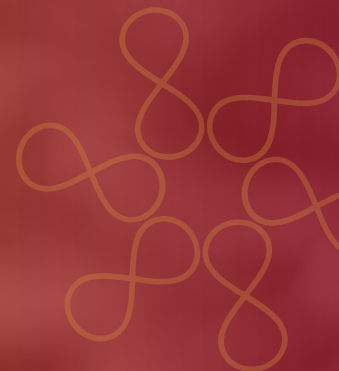
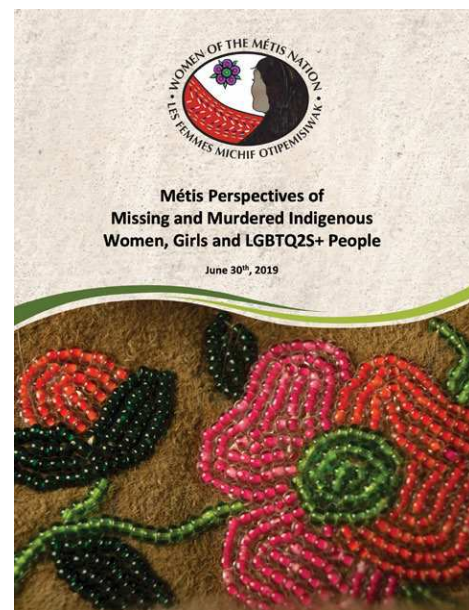
⁸ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). *Reclaiming power and place: Executive summary of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls*. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive_Summary.pdf.

Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People

In 2019, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) prepared a report entitled Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People specifically focusing on the issues facing Métis women, girls and gender diverse people and reflecting their unique histories and realities. The report identified 62 Calls for Miskotahâ (the Michif word for change) which focus on the lack of data specific to Métis women and girls, intergovernmental affairs, engagement, services, child welfare, jurisdiction, criminal justice, health, prevention, and awareness.

LFMO Call for Miskotahâ 46 speaks to the need to develop an implementation committee to review the Calls for Miskotahâ, as well as the Métis Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry and Calls for Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).⁹

⁹ LFMO (2019). *Métis perspectives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2S+ people*. Available at: <https://metiswomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/LFMO-MMIWG-Report.pdf>.





National Action Plan: Steps to Create Change



Photo Credit: Adam Scotti (Prime Minister's Office)

At the closing ceremony of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on June 3, 2019, the Prime Minister was presented and entrusted with a sacred bundle and committed to developing a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and turning the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice into real and meaningful Indigenous-led action. Provincial/territorial and Indigenous governments, as well as Indigenous organizations and leaders, responded to the findings from the National Inquiry's report, highlighting the importance of including Indigenous organizations, survivors of violence, and family members in the response to the Calls for Justice.



To respond to Call for Justice 1.1(i) and the commitment from the Prime Minister to develop a National Action Plan, a Core Working Group, which included the National Family and Survivors Circle, Contributing Partners (First Nations, Inuit, the Métis Nation, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Urban, 2SLGBTQQIA+, data group, federal government), and provincial/territorial representatives, was created to respond to the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry and the 62 Calls to Miskotahâ from the Métis Perspectives report. The Core Working Group created a National Action Plan, which was meant to be an overarching plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. To ensure Indigenous families, survivors of violence, women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people's voices, perspectives, worldviews, and lived experiences were at the centre of this work, over 100 Indigenous women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and others contributed to the development of the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People.

Rooted in the unique needs, experiences, and cultural contexts of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, the overarching National Action Plan identifies the common short-term priorities and immediate next steps that must be taken by governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), organizations, industries, institutions, and communities across the country to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The National Action Plan also indicates that a comprehensive and complementary implementation plan will be developed with expected outcomes, activities, and timelines. While the provinces/territories did not commit to the common short-term priorities, in their Joint Statement they indicated that they may establish shared goals and priorities with the federal government and clarify areas of shared jurisdictional priority.

The National Action Plan also includes a set of distinct plans or strategies from each of the National Family and Survivors Circle, Contributing Partners, the federal government and provinces and territories.

The National Action Plan responds to decades of advocacy from families, survivors of violence, and grassroots organizations, including numerous calls for a national inquiry into the alarming number of disappearances and murders of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada. It is meant to honour and respect Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples' values, philosophies, and knowledge systems through the prioritization of Indigenous-led solutions and services, developed in partnership and sustained through the adequate resourcing of this work. The National Action Plan is not meant to be frozen in time; it is evergreen, recognizing the urgency for immediate action, but also the importance of creating transformative change.

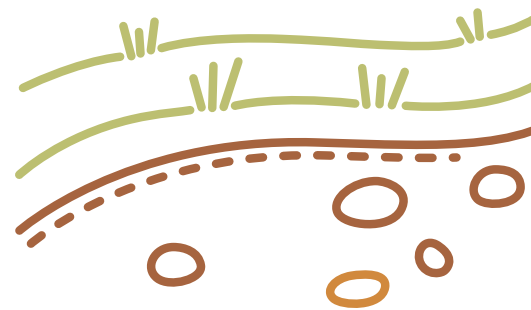




Vision and Guiding Principles

As noted earlier, the vision of the National Action Plan is: *we envision a transformed Canada where Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people, wherever they are,¹⁰ live free from violence, and are celebrated, honoured, respected, valued, treated equitably, safe, and secure.*

The Guiding Principles of the National Action Plan were developed by the core working group and adapted from the Principles of Change in the Calls for Justice. The Guiding Principles support the creation of meaningful, immediate, lasting, and sustainable transformative change in the lives and situations of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. They take into account human rights instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which affirms and upholds the inherent rights and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

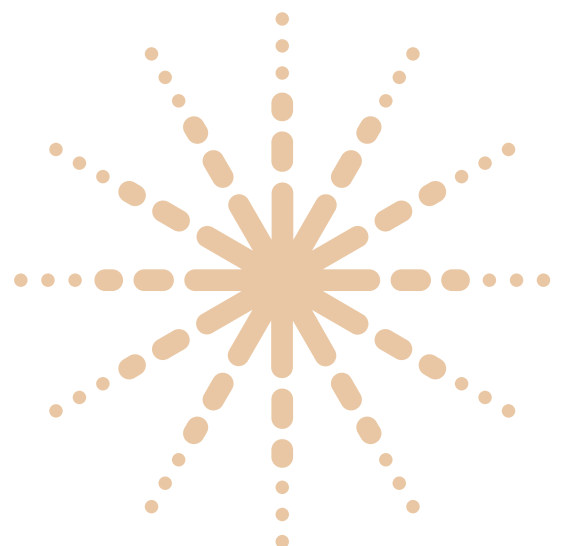
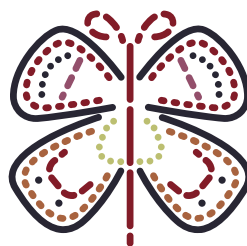


¹⁰ The term “wherever they are” is meant to be inclusive of wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people may live, reside, or may be.

The Guiding Principles were the foundation for the development of the National Action Plan and will guide its implementation. They are as follows:

1. Honour the strength of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and support them in reclaiming their sacred roles and responsibilities
2. Include families and survivors throughout the implementation of the National Action Plan
3. Focus on substantive equality and Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights, and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples
4. Support a distinctions-based approach to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of First Nations, Métis and Inuit are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented
5. Respect intersectional and diverse perspectives, and be inclusive of all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people no matter where they are
6. Base the National Action Plan on the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination
7. Utilize a decolonizing approach, including being culturally informed and culturally safe
8. Co-develop, co-implement, and co-manage the National Action Plan
9. Build on evidence, and ensure the National Action Plan is sustainable and evergreen

Appendix C provides descriptions of the guiding principles.



Goals and Common Short-Term Priorities

Contributing partners identified goals and common short-term priorities to achieve the vision of the National Action Plan. Some communities, regions, Indigenous organizations, and/or governments may prioritize activities differently in their unique plans. These common short-term priorities were intended to be, at a minimum, started within one to three years; however, it was recognized that some will take longer to fully implement. Appendix D provides information on the linkages of the goals and priorities to the Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahā.



Table 1: Goals and Common Short-Term Priorities

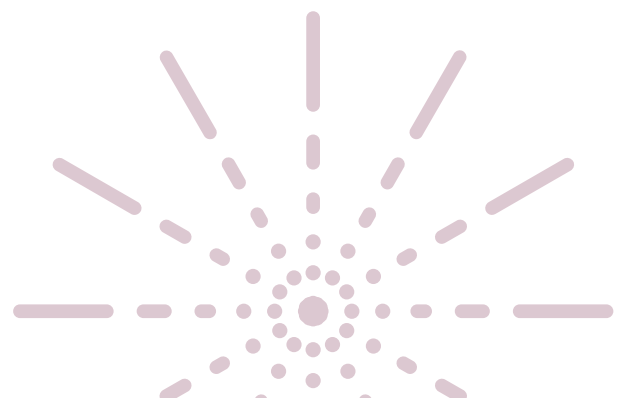
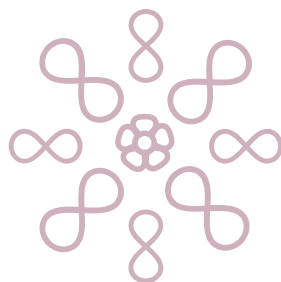
| Goal | Short-Term Priority |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Achieve transformative changes in attitudes, behaviours, and knowledge within the broader society to prevent and end the root causes of systemic racism, inequality, injustice, and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada</p> | <p>a. Public education/awareness campaigns on the issues Indigenous people experience and to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence</p> <p>b. Trauma-informed training for those who work with Indigenous people on topics such as history, culture, issues, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, anti-transphobia,¹¹ etc.</p> |
| <p>2. Keep families and survivors at the centre of the process and provide concrete support to survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people</p> | <p>a. Continuous and accessible community-led healing programs and support for children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and family members</p> <p>b. Comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons, such as victim services, family information liaison units, legal services, access to coroner/hospital reports, media, etc.</p> <p>c. Nationwide emergency number</p> |

¹¹ Although the term “anti-transgender” is used in the National Action Plan, a decision was made at all Partners meeting to change the term to “anti-transphobia”.

| Goal | Short-Term Priority |
|--|---|
| <p>3. Support the delivery of programs and services by Indigenous organizations, including at the grassroots level, to address all forms of gender- and race-based violence</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Indigenous-led prevention and healing programs, education, and awareness campaigns for Indigenous families and communities related to violence prevention and lateral violence b. Creation of shelters and second stage/transitional housing |
| <p>4. Address the broader root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement initial steps to ensure stable and sustainable housing and close the housing gap between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous Canadians b. Immediate action to implement infrastructure to ensure access to high-speed Internet c. Guaranteed annual livable income d. Support Indigenous-led initiatives for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities to access cultural knowledge and 2SLGBTQQIA+ programs and services e. 24-hour in-person support system for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, such as wraparound mental health services, trauma, addictions, etc. f. Governments recognize Indigenous self-determination and inherent jurisdiction over child welfare, and support enhancements for child and family services |



| Goal | Short-Term Priority |
|--|---|
| <p>5. Develop a national Indigenous human rights accountability mechanism focused on Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights. This mechanism will create shared accountability for upholding the human rights of Indigenous Peoples regarding gender-based violence</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Oversight bodies, such as Indigenous Ombudsperson, Human Rights Tribunal, or civilian police oversight bodies to represent the interests of families, survivors, and communities by investigating and addressing complaints of mal-administration or violation of rights b. National task force which reviews and re-investigates unresolved files of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; and police services to provide unresolved cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to the task force c. Make the National Inquiry’s public record accessible and report annually to Parliament on the Calls for Justice; implement LFMO Calls for Miskotahâ |
| <p>6. Support a paradigm shift in policies and systems across Canada which defines transformative change in justice, health and wellness, human security, culture, and Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Justice Reform Committee to review legislation regarding gender-based violence, including missing persons legislation b. Acknowledge, recognize, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages as inherent rights c. Implement Gladue principles that contribute to addressing systemic barriers, increase the involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations in rehabilitating offenders, and reduce the risk of future harm d. Create a Deputy Commissioner for Indigenous Corrections and address issues for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ offenders, such as prohibiting transfer of women prisoners to male treatment centres; and increased opportunities for education/training in prison |



| Goal | Short-Term Priority |
|---|--|
| <p>7. Establish a culturally appropriate Indigenous data infrastructure reflective of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, based on Indigenous data sovereignty and culturally rooted and distinctions-based indicators</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Address issues related to the accurate tracking of data on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people b. Collect disaggregated data (Inuit, Métis, and First Nations) to report on violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and on progress and the effectiveness of laws, policies, and services c. Collect distinctions-based and intersectional data about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in the criminal justice system |

Immediate Next Steps

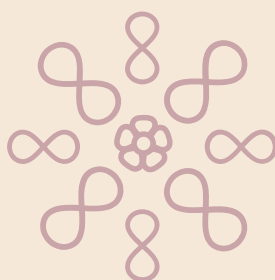
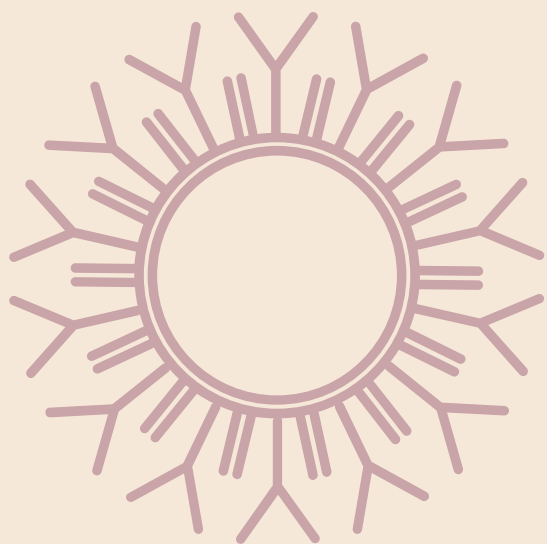
The following immediate next steps were identified for governments and representative Indigenous organizations to focus on during the first year of implementation of the National Action Plan. Some of these directly reflect specific short-term priorities which needed to be started within the first year, while others are instrumental in ensuring the National Action Plan is implemented and continues to move forward.



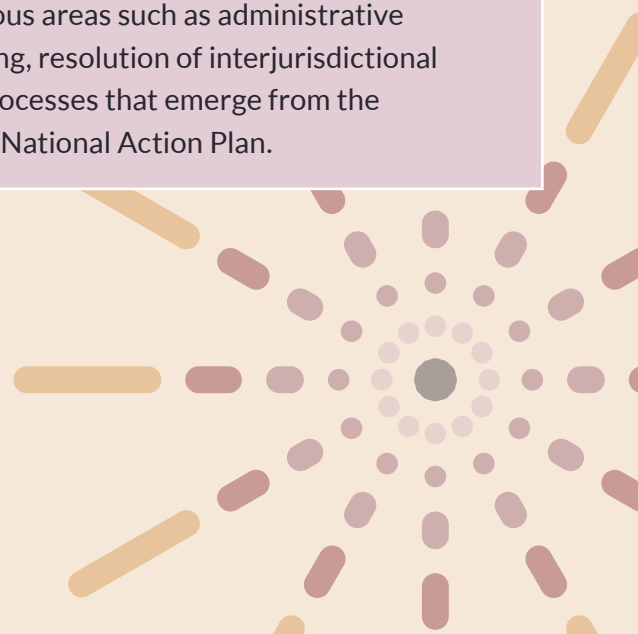
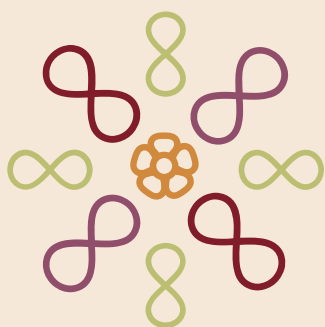
Table 2: Immediate Next Steps

| Next Steps | Description |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Immediate support services for survivors and family members</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide funding to establish accessible healing and support services for survivors and family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people wherever they are. ○ Develop a comprehensive approach for providing support to Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ survivors and families/friends of Indigenous missing or murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people |

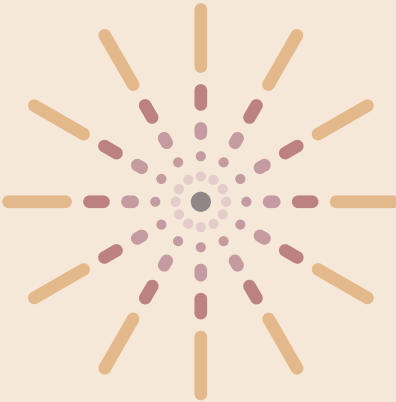
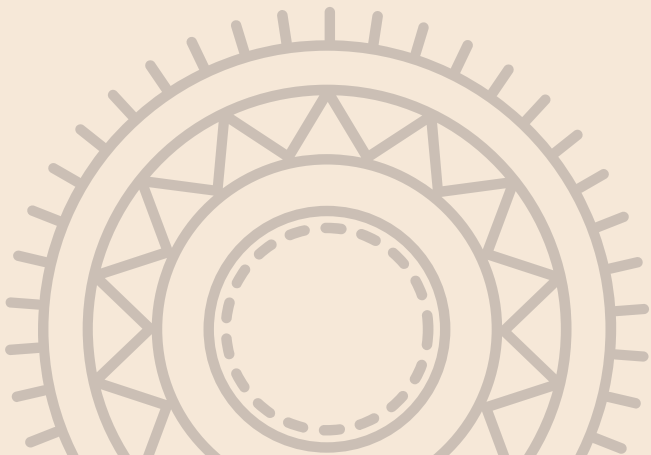
| Next Steps | Description |
|---|---|
| <p>2. Continued involvement of survivors and family members in the implementation of the National Action Plan</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With adequate funding, the National Family and Survivors Circle will develop and implement an engagement strategy that provides further opportunity for families and survivors to provide insight and input into the National Action Plan's next steps. ○ The Contributing Partners will continue to complete their Action and Implementation Plans built upon their engagement with survivors and family members. |
| <p>3. Create an oversight body</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation of an oversight body which represents the interests of families, survivors, and Indigenous communities by investigating and addressing complaints of mal-administration or a violation of right. |
| <p>4. Public awareness and training</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Begin immediate work on the development of a public education/awareness campaign on the issues Indigenous people experience and to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. ○ Implement trauma-informed training for those who work with Indigenous people, on topics such as history, culture, issues, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, anti-transphobia, etc. |



| Next Steps | Description |
|--|---|
| <p>5. Immediate development of an implementation plan</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop an Implementation Plan for the National Action Plan that includes the short-term priorities identified in the National Action Plan, as well as medium- and long-term priorities that will lead to real systemic change. ○ Each priority will include specific actions, expected outcomes, timelines, and resources. ○ Determine mechanisms and processes for national independent oversight and coordination of the National Action Plan, that includes Contributing Partners and governments with financial support. ○ Continuance of Contributing Partners to continue to develop their implementation plans. ○ Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous) and Indigenous organizations to implement the 231 Calls for Justice and 62 Calls for Miskotah. ○ Develop an accountability/results structure for the National Action Plan. ○ An Indigenous and gender-based analysis plus (GBA Plus) lens will be applied to the implementation plan. |
| <p>6. Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls federal-provincial/territorial table</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Federal-Provincial/Territorial Table to provide a specific forum to consider and coordinate intergovernmental collaboration and discussion on various areas such as administrative issues, policy, resourcing, resolution of interjurisdictional responsibilities, and processes that emerge from the implementation of the National Action Plan. |



| Next Steps | Description |
|--|---|
| <p>7. Create accountability mechanisms for the reporting on the 231 Calls for Justice and the 62 Calls for Miskotahâ</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create broad accountability mechanisms rooted in Indigenous data sovereignty focused on truth-telling to ensure the National Inquiry’s 231 Calls for Justice and LFMO’s 62 Calls for Miskotahâ are implemented by all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous) and organizations, and their outcomes are measured for effectiveness in creating transformative change and achieving decolonization. This could be part of the responsibilities of the independent committee or working group. ○ Create data accountability mechanisms rooted in Indigenous Data Sovereignty. ○ Create an independent web portal to post annual reports which track the progress on responding to the Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ. ○ By June 2022, publish the first annual report on progress in responding to the Calls for Justice and the Calls for Miskotahâ |





Much Remains to be Done

It has been three years since the release of the National Inquiry's and LFMO's reports, and a year since release of the National Action Plan, and there are many outstanding actions that need to be taken to end the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. More action is needed to address the colonial structures, institutions, agencies, legislation, services, policies, and programs, that continue to cause harms and loss of life, such as institutional and structural racism in health care, child welfare, policing, and the justice system.

According to a report published in 2022, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are still experiencing alarming rates of violence and are over-represented as victims of crime. More than six in ten (63%) Indigenous women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime (compared to 45% of non-Indigenous women).¹² The homicide rate is over five times higher for Indigenous women as compared to non-Indigenous women.¹³ Further, it has been found that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are 12 times more likely to be missing or murdered than non-Indigenous women, although the exact number is unknown as thousands of these deaths or disappearances have been unreported or mis-reported.¹⁴

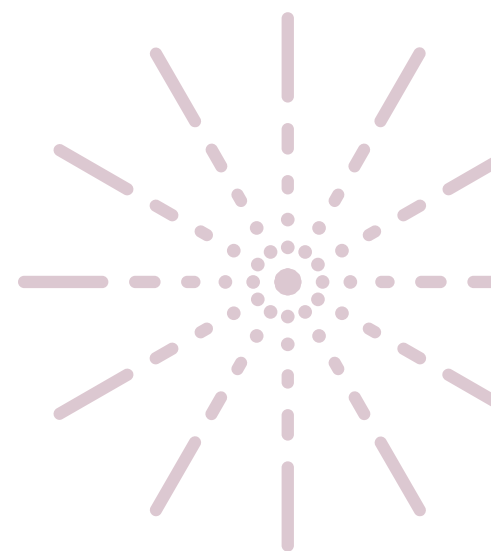
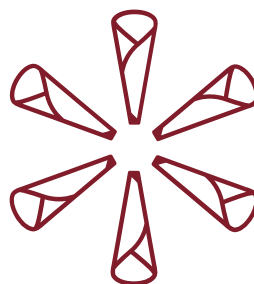
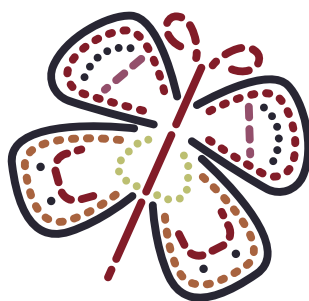
12 Heidinger, L. (2022). "Violent victimization and perceptions of safety: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada." *Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X*. Available at <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00004-eng.htm>.

13 Armstrong, A., & Jaffray, B. (2021). *Homicide in Canada, 2020*. *Juristat. Statistics Canada*. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00017-eng.pdf?st=-uVWy1q>.

14 *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a*. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf.

A November 2021 [United Nations report](#) found that violence against women and girls has intensified since the outbreak of COVID-19 and referred to this situation as a “shadow pandemic”. Although this report does not focus on Indigenous women, others have noted that the COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home orders resulted in increased violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and had a negative impact on the services available.¹⁵ In one study, Indigenous women reported more violence during the time of sheltering in place, with 17% reporting that they had experienced physical or psychological violence over a period of three months in 2020, compared to 10% reporting violence from their spouse over a five-year period prior to the pandemic.¹⁶

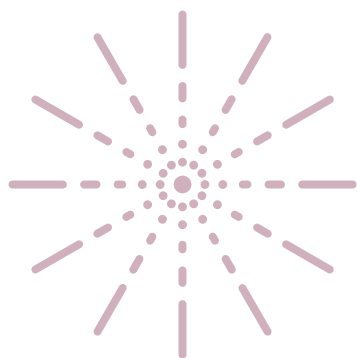
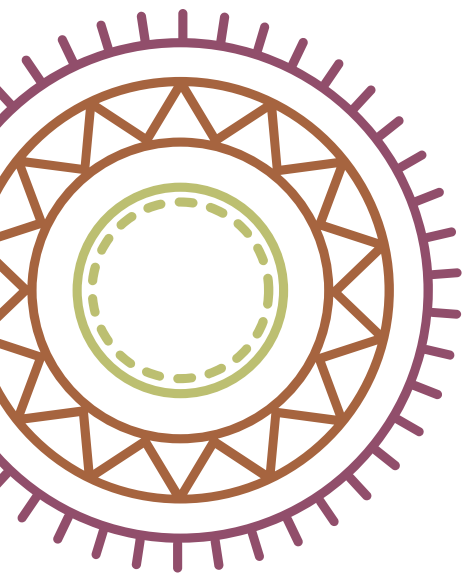
Certain groups of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are at even higher risk of victimization. 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are often additionally targeted because of gender identity and/or sexual orientation, referred to as a “triple jeopardy” for various forms of interpersonal and institutional violence.¹⁷ In one study, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people reported higher rates of physical (73%) and sexual assaults (65%) than non-Indigenous LGBTQIA+ people (45% and 37%, respectively).¹⁸ Another report found that Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in the north experience higher rates of victimization than those in the south.¹⁹ Further, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people with disabilities face significantly greater risks of violent victimization than non-Indigenous people.²⁰



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- 15** Baxter, D. (2021). *Violence against women a ‘shadow pandemic,’ MKO conference told*. Available at: <https://www.thompsoncitizen.net/local-news/violence-against-women-a-shadow-pandemic-mko-conference-told-4784045>.
- 16** Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) (2020). *The Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous peoples*. Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/SR/COVID-19/IndigenousCSOs/Canada_Native_Women_Association_of_Canada.pdf.
- 17** National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). *Reclaiming power and place*. Volume 1a.
- 18** Jaffray, B. (2020). *Experiences of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours among gay, lesbian, bisexual and other sexual minority people, and the transgender population, in Canada, 2018*. Juristat, Catalogue no. 85-002-X, ISSN 1209-6393. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00009-eng.pdf?st=3OIJL5ck>.
- 19** NWAC (2020). *The Native Women’s Association fact sheet: Violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people in Canada*.
- 20** Cotter, A. (2018). *Violent victimization of women with disabilities, 2014*. Juristat, Catalogue no. 85-002-X, ISSN 1209-6393. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54910-eng.pdf?st=qDgD1tNy>.

The root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are complex and long-standing. These stem from the intergenerational trauma Indigenous people experience due to the impacts of colonization (including Indian Residential schools), marginalization, lack of institutional will, and failure to recognize the expertise and capacity of Indigenous women which have caused, and will continue to cause, violence.²¹

Ending violence towards Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people requires transformative change, including efforts by all governments, Indigenous representative organizations, and all Canadians. Through the lived experience and critical insight, perspectives, and solutions provided by families and survivors, they remain at the heart of this change. Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people need to be at the centre of the National Action Plan, guided by their strength and focus to end all forms of violence.



²¹ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). *Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a*. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf.



Methodology

Purpose

As the first Progress Report on the National Action Plan, the original intent of this report was to determine what progress had been made on each of the goals of the National Action Plan, by examining whether each of the common short-term priorities and immediate next steps have been implemented (or work has started) since the release of the National Action Plan in June 2021 and any impact these have had on the goals. However, it soon became evident that it was not possible to measure progress against the goals, nor the impact of initiatives or activities, for a few reasons.

First, an implementation plan (including short-, medium- and long-term priorities with specific actions, expected outcomes, timelines, and resources) and accountability/ results structure was not prepared for the National Action Plan. Without these in place, there were no specific outcomes or timelines to measure progress.

Second, one year was a short amount of time to see results for the identified common priority areas because many of the initiatives take time to put in place and see measurable change. For instance, it was not possible to implement many programs or initiatives because funding was not received until late in the year or had not yet been received. Further, in general it is very difficult to measure the impact of a program over a period of a few months.

Finally, there was not a great deal of information and/ or consistent data which could be used to measure progress on the priorities or the impact they are having on ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Due to the issues in measuring progress, the purpose of this Progress Report has been limited to providing information on some of the commitments and initiatives that have been put in place over the year, rather than assessing the extent of progress or the impacts that these have had. As will be discussed later in the report, it will be critical for next year's report that an implementation plan be put in place immediately with clear timelines and expected outcomes, and an accountability mechanism to measure the impact funding and various initiatives or programs are having on ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



Approach

Since there is no implementation plan in place, nor a mechanism to coordinate and monitor actions to implement the National Action Plan, the National Family and Survivors Circle, contributing partners, the federal government and provinces/territories have focused on developing and implementing their own strategies or plans. Therefore, it was necessary to gather information from a variety of sources because there has been no coordinated approach to addressing/reporting on the common short-term priorities and immediate next steps.

To see what initiatives have been put in place over the last year to address the common priorities identified in the National Action Plan, it was important to understand what various governments, Indigenous organizations, and communities have been working on. As a starting point, various government announcements relating to missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people were reviewed, including those from the federal government, provincial/territorial governments, and Indigenous governments.

In addition, discussions were held with representatives from the National Family and Survivors Circle, contributing partners, and provinces/territories to hear about initiatives they were working on and to identify relevant reports/documents (see Appendix E for list). They were also asked to provide contacts for Indigenous community-level organizations for information gathering. Although not meant to be all-inclusive, about 300 Indigenous communities and community-level organizations across Canada were asked if they wanted to provide their input or stories of initiatives, programs, or activities. Given the time constraints, about 20% provided input, and further discussion occurred with a number of these organizations for more in-depth information.

Documents identified through discussions were gathered and further research was conducted, including an extensive online scan of departmental and organizational websites and media announcements to identify initiatives relating to the common short-term priorities or immediate next steps in the National Action Plan. Information gathered included funding announcements, as well as initiatives, programs, services, and activities that have been put in place, including those funded by government and those that organizations developed on their own. When information was included in the report, it was validated by the entity responsible for it.

Information from all sources was analyzed to ensure the activities chosen for inclusion in the report were directly linked to the Calls for Justice and/or Calls for Miskotahâ associated with the common short-term priorities or immediate next steps. The analysis also identified where potential gaps exist.

A series of meetings were held with the National Family and Survivors Circle, contributing partners, the federal government and provinces/territories to discuss the Progress Report and identify other initiatives or activities. In addition, each prepared a document describing their progress over the last year.

Although grassroots organizations and all governments have been working for years to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; it was important that this Progress Report focus on activities that commenced over the last 12 months. However, reference is sometimes made to activities or programs already in place to provide context or if the initiative was enhanced over the year. Further, this report focused on the common short-term priorities and the immediate next steps identified in the National Action Plan and tried to make clear linkages to the Calls for Justice and/or Calls for Miskotahâ.



Findings: Overview of Actions to Date

This section provides an overview of initiatives undertaken during the last year towards achieving the goals identified in the National Action Plan. It also identifies gaps, as well as barriers that are impeding on forward progress. However, since it has only been one year since the release of the National Action Plan, and because an implementation plan (with activities and timelines) has not been developed, it is challenging to measure progress. Therefore, commitments, initiatives, projects, programs, and/or activities that align with the common short-term priorities and immediate next steps are described.

Providing insight on commitments, initiatives, programs, and activities undertaken by governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), Indigenous representative organizations and other partners highlights what has, and has not, been accomplished across the country in the last year on the common short-term priorities and immediate next steps in the National Action Plan. Although just the beginning, this provides family and survivors with an indication that some work is underway to respond to the Calls for Justice and the Calls for Miskotahâ in the National Action Plan.

Over the last year there have been numerous unique challenges that have impacted on the extent to which the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people has been able to stay in the forefront. This has included the need for all governments and Indigenous communities to focus on responding to the pandemic and ensuring the health of their people. Further, various elections throughout the year, including the federal election, have impacted the ability of some governments to maintain forward progress on the Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ. There are many continued impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples coming to the forefront such as the identification of children's graves at Indian Residential Schools across Canada. This has raised awareness amongst Canadians of the devastating effects of colonialism on Indigenous Peoples and the interconnection with ending violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. All of these tragedies are important and there is a need to ensure that they remain a priority. There is also a need to ensure that the matter of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people remains a priority.

Although these are realities and barriers that have had to be faced over the year, strong support and advocacy continues from families and survivors, grassroots organizations, and Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ leaders.



Steps Towards Achieving the Goals

As illustrated with examples in the next sections, it is clear that some activities are underway to respond to the goals identified in the National Action Plan. For instance, over the last year, there have been a number of funding commitments meant to directly support initiatives to help survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people or to address the root causes of race- and gender-based violence. These include funding relating to shelters/transitional houses, violence prevention programs, and direct support for survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and Indigenous victims of gender-based violence.

There have also been specific on-the-ground activities, such as public awareness campaigns and commemorations, and some trauma-informed training for individuals who work with Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Some new and expanded healing and support programs have recently been put in place for families and survivors of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Further, some new and expanded Indigenous-designed and led gender-based violence programs have been initiated. Other initiatives focus on addressing the broader root causes of violence, such as access to adequate housing, improved child and family services for Indigenous children and youth, access to cultural knowledge, and improved internet services in rural and remote Indigenous communities. These are promising first steps.

The following sections describe some of the work that has been done relating to the common short-term priorities and immediate next steps identified in the National Action Plan over the last year. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. It is meant to depict some community, regional, grassroots, provincial, territorial and national level work towards ending violence against Indigenous women, girls. We encourage everyone to look within their own area at what is happening and to become involved.²²

²² Note: the activities identified are based on the goals and common short-term priorities identified in the National Action Plan, some of which are not necessarily specific to missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, but address broader root causes as per various Calls for Justice.



“Finding Peace” Memorial in Yukon to raise the ongoing issue of MMIWG in Yukon and northern British Columbia and honour the victims and their families

(Photo Provided by Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council - Credit: Emilie Dory)



Part of the work of the “Looking Out For Each Other” (LOFEO) project is to work with media professionals to create culturally competent training and guidelines for journalists and media broadcasting outlets, as well as curriculum for journalism students.

Wolastoq artist Susan Sacobie was commissioned to create a piece of art to represent the LOFEO project. She says “This painting is for the missing and murdered Wolastoqiyik and Mi’kmaq women that were almost forgotten. The five women... represent knowledge, faith, wisdom, justice, and peace.” See <https://nbapc.org/lakehead-university-talk/> for a full description.

Work on the Common Short-Term Priorities

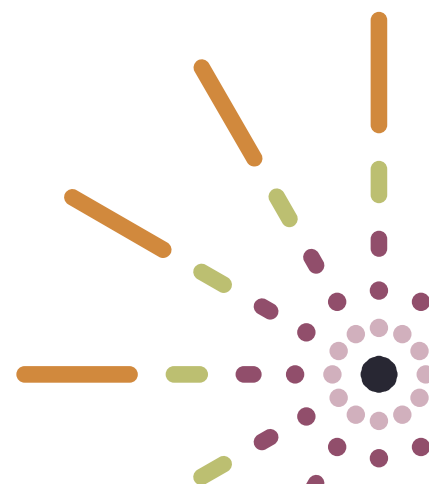
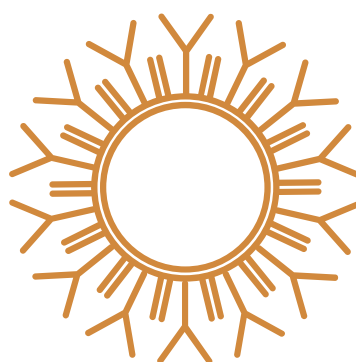
Goal 1: Transformative Changes in Attitudes, Behaviours, and Knowledge within the Broader Society

As first steps towards achieving transformative changes in attitudes, behaviours, and knowledge within the broader society to prevent and end the root causes of systemic racism, inequality, injustice, and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada, two short-term priority areas were identified: public education and awareness; and trauma-informed training of those who work with Indigenous people.

a. Public education/awareness campaigns on the issues Indigenous people experience and to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence

A number of Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ focus on the need for public awareness and education on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, gender-based violence, and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit culture and historical trauma they have experienced.

For many years public education and awareness campaigns have occurred with a focus on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Over the last year, several of these activities were held across the country by Indigenous communities or organizations, or partners. Specific events were organized to mark the June 3rd anniversary of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Day of Action on October 4th, 2021, the 31st anniversary of the Stolen Sisters Memorial March on February 14th, 2022, the Red Dress Day on May 5th, 2022, and other activities throughout the year to honour specific Indigenous women who are missing or have been murdered.



Examples include public service announcements, posters, and grassroots documentaries which raise public awareness about violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. It also includes gatherings, vigils, walks, and marches, all with the goal of remembering, honouring, and standing in solidarity with matriarchs, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, aunties, and nieces. Further, statues and other memorials were created to commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

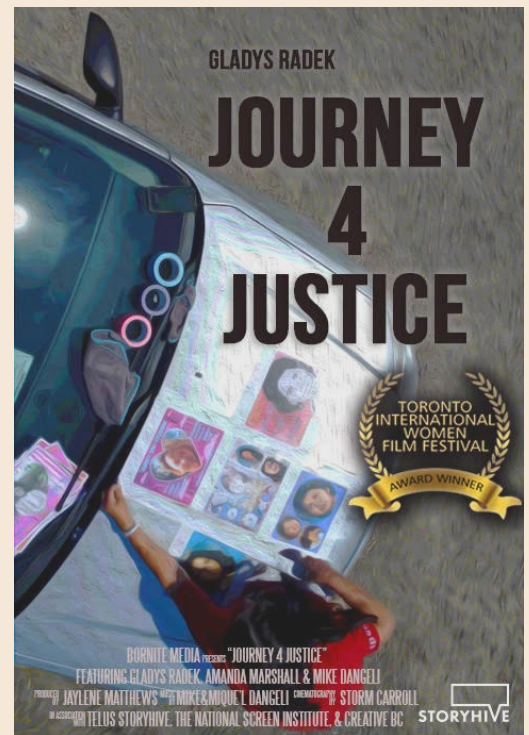
Hundreds showed up, lighting candles and chanting to the beat of ancestral drums, at the February 14, 2022 annual memorial march in honour of the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people organized by the Native Women's Shelter in partnership with the Quebec Native Women and the Iskweu Project.



Krista Fox (left) embraces Elder Lorna Standingready as her cross-Canada walk passes through Saskatchewan. MMIWG family members, Diane Morin and Lindsey Bishop (right), are walking across Canada with Krista to help raise awareness.

Some activities focused on educating the younger generation (e.g., students at school), the public (e.g., public campaigns), or those who work with Indigenous people. Some events were meant to raise awareness, but also focused on honouring loved ones who are missing, have been murdered or who have survived all forms of violence (e.g., walks across the country). In February 2022, the Manitoba government announced a partnership with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to provide \$130,000 in funding to support the co-development of a provincial implementation plan to raise awareness and end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Manitoba.

A northern BC film "Journey 4 Justice" profiles MMIWG activist Gladys Radek's walk across Canada for the cause.



Various statues, healing totems, murals, and pieces of art have been created to remind people about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. These initiatives and events honour the lives of missing and murdered community members by utilizing Indigenous ways of healing and by sharing stories of resilience, healing, compassion, togetherness, solidarity, and community care.



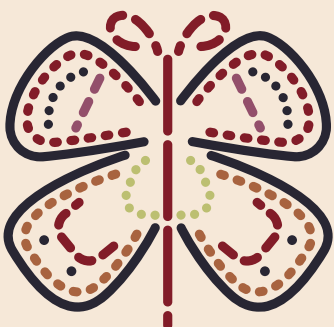
Released in December 2021, [Everything is Connected](#) is a documentary by the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan and Iskwewuk-E-wichiwitochik. The project highlights how intergenerational trauma and the separation of Indigenous children from their families are connected to the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Photo Credit: Doug Cuthand



Saskatchewan Conference, hosted in partnership between North Saskatchewan Victim Services and the RCMP, to bring awareness to the prevalence of [human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada](#) and the over-representation of Indigenous persons and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people

Although there are numerous awareness and education activities, no information was found on activities which specifically focused on raising awareness or visibility of 2SLGBTQQIA+ issues or on anti-homophobia and anti-transphobia. Further, there is little information as to whether these activities are reaching the intended audience, nor if they are making a difference in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours within the broader society.



[Butterflies in Spirit](#), through dance and song, [raises awareness](#) of violence against Indigenous women and girls and the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada.

- a. Trauma-informed training for those who work with Indigenous people on topics such as history, culture, issues, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, anti-transphobia, etc.

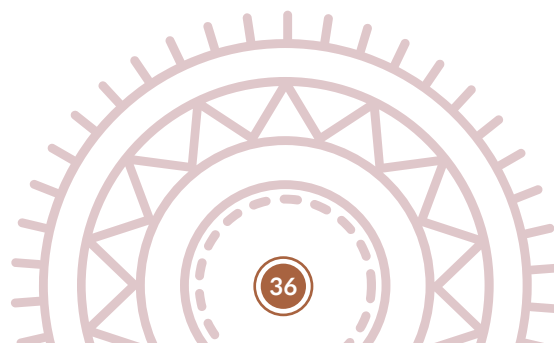
The term “trauma-informed” is used throughout the National Inquiry and LFMO reports, as well as in numerous strategies and action plans developed by provinces/territories, the federal government and contributing partners. Through Indigenous writing and storytelling by knowledge keepers in the community, including Elders and those in healing roles, Indigenous-led trauma-informed training helps those who work with Indigenous people understand the causes, evolution, and outcomes of historic trauma on Indigenous Peoples, including the full impacts of colonialism, residential schools, and discrimination. It should also focus on the unique experiences of victimization that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people face.



Using a two-eyed seeing approach constructed around the Seven Grandfather teachings, Caring Hearts is creating a toolkit to educate non-Indigenous agencies on how to effectively support Indigenous Peoples. It includes topics such as support to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and their families, colonization, and decolonization, and how to apply two-eyed seeing in the workplace.

A trauma-informed approach, which incorporates knowledge of trauma into all policies, procedures, and practices, is crucial for the implementation of the Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ. Further, a trauma-informed perspective ensures those who work with Indigenous people are knowledgeable of historic and intergenerational trauma and provide services in a way which minimizes the potential for harm and re-traumatization, and enhances safety, control, and resilience for Indigenous Peoples.

Designed by Indigenous women, the Enwaaying Training Initiatives program began in 2022 with the aim of creating systemic change and a shift in attitudes and beliefs of front-line government employees, elected officials, and decision makers. Through federal funding, the Trent University First Peoples House of Learning offers a series of workshops which focus on teaching valuable truths about historical policies and practices. Elders help built relationships and resources to sustain long-term commitment for governments in eliminating biases and implementing change.



There are Indigenous-led trauma-informed training programs in place, such as the [Master of Social Work in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency](#) created by the OFIFC, the Middleton-Moz Institute, and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. Similarly, the [Nicola Valley Institute of Technology](#) and the [Justice Institute of British Columbia](#) have courses on trauma-informed practice towards Indigenous violence developed with Indigenous experts.

The Government of PEI is providing compulsory cultural training for the provincial public service to enhance education and understanding of Indigenous history in Canada and the impacts of colonialism and intergenerational trauma

A few initiatives were identified which focus on trauma-informed training. For instance, Justice Canada has announced funding to expand support for the [Indigenous Justice Program](#), in part to help ensure that community justice workers are trained to support victims of violence through a trauma-informed lens. Similarly, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has identified funding for the Intercultural Learning Strategy to develop employee competencies toward diverse populations. Further, some provincial/territorial representatives mentioned training for staff who work with Indigenous people, and others have noted that they have identified training of public servants who work with Indigenous people as a priority, including trauma-informed and cultural training. For instance, launched in 2021, the [“Living Well Together: Indigenous Cultural Awareness”](#), is a mandatory course for all Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) employees and is available to the public at no cost.

The Government of Manitoba, in collaboration with Red River College, is incorporating crisis shelter worker training and cultural safety training for staff

Although some cultural awareness training is being undertaken, trauma-informed training for those who work with Indigenous people is still in the early stages, with a need for expanded training for front-line staff and throughout the public service. Some noted that there is a need to identify what the training should look like and who should provide the training. Further, the training needs to be Indigenous designed and led.



Goal 2: Families and Survivors at Centre of the Process

Three short-term priorities were identified to help ensure that survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people wherever they may live are provided with concrete support: community-led healing programs/support for children and family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; comprehensive approaches to support Indigenous survivors and family members; and a nationwide emergency number.

a. Continuous and accessible community-led healing programs and support for children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and family members

Children and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people need access to healing and supports that are community-led. It is also important that these programs ensure that, when providing services to “family”, this does not just mean the nuclear family, but is inclusive of all forms of familial kinship, such as biological families, chosen families, and families of the heart.

Various community-led healing programs have been developed and led by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, and Indigenous urban and grassroots organizations over the last year. These programs are holistic and provide cultural-based supports to children and family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people on their healing journeys. Some programs are provided in the community or on the land and are holistic, supporting physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of children and family members. These programs often provide support through cultural teachings, using traditional medicines and ceremonies, bringing people together to share, support, and heal.



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Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.
"those who lead"

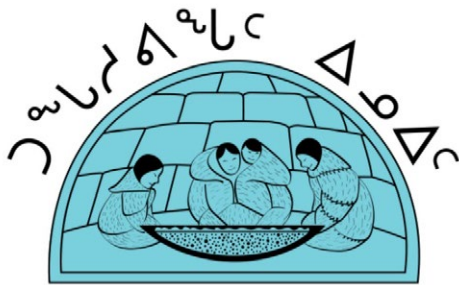
Through Ka Ni Kanichihk, Medicine Bear Counselling, Support and Elder Services provide families of murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls, and 2S community the opportunity to heal from complicated grief and trauma within a culturally safe and supported environment

Across communities this past year, Indigenous women have prioritized their healing, and have taken action to create spaces where they have come together, supporting one and another, building on their strengths, and reclaiming power and place. Healing gatherings have also been organized, bringing families and survivors together, creating a culturally safe environment to share and support each other. Communities have also brought people together to grieve the loss of loved ones, and to start to heal through sharing and ceremony.



The All Nations Hope project in Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan, the Healing and Strengthening Indigenous Sisters and 2 Spirits Program, funded through Budget 2021, will provide group healing circles led by counsellors, Indigenous Healers, and knowledge weavers, along with one-to-one counselling services.

In the fall of 2021, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) launched the “Support for the Wellbeing of Families and Survivors of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people” contribution funding program. In April 2022, it was announced that \$2.5 million had been invested to support 20 projects across Canada in each of 2021-22 and 2022-23. While not a large number, these projects will deliver various initiatives and services, including culturally relevant and trauma informed services that support healing journeys of families and survivors, assistance in navigating systems and resources to access supports, hold memorial feasts, and healing gatherings.



Tungasuvvingat Inuit

Tungasuvvingat Inuit’s Najakulugit (Beautiful Sisters) project aims to improve the healing and well-being of families and friends of missing and murdered Inuit women, girls, and 2LGBTQQIA+ living in Ontario. It will provide increased access to peer and social support; reduced sense of isolation and loneliness; increased access to culturally based healing activities; and increased ability to navigate and access the resources and services available to them.

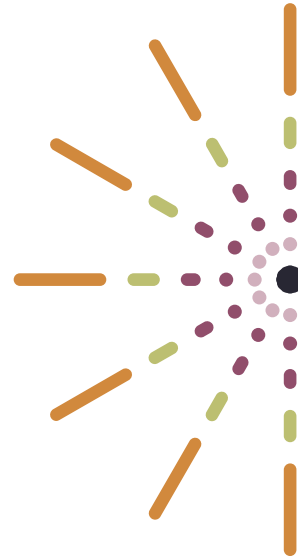
Even with some services in place, grassroots organizations and communities who deliver services are saying they are still falling through the cracks and are unable to access sufficient funds to start or continue services for families. Various community-level services are not being engaged in the development of programs and initiatives and it has been noted that rural and remote communities have little services or programs for Indigenous women and girls. There are even fewer programs and services for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The need for ongoing funding is essential as programs that are supporting families and children need the capacity to continue the support for more than a year at a time. There continues to be an urgency to ensure children and family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can access community-led support services and that these programs continue to be provided in the community and by community, on the land, or led by Indigenous organizations in urban, rural, and remote areas.

Métis Nation Ontario’s Healing Journey Program is a new program that will provide specialized supports, including trauma-informed health providers with specializations working with Métis families and victims of violence, including Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

b. Comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons, such as victim services, family information liaison units, legal services, access to coroner/hospital reports, media, etc.

There are numerous Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ for a comprehensive approach to support victims of crime and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons.

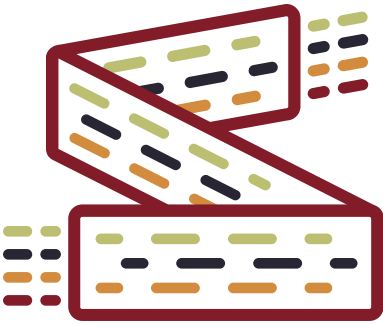
With the launch of the National Inquiry, provinces and territories received funding to establish Family Information Liaison Units (FILUs) until March 31, 2023. Provinces and territories have the option to set up FILUs according to their own needs. For instance, PEI's FILU provides a centralized, coordinated mechanism for family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls to access requested information related to the loss of their loved one.



The Saskatchewan FILU raised awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. These women, who are members of the FILU team, want people to understand the important and emotional work they do with families of MMIWG2S+.

Some services are being led by Indigenous governments and organizations, such as the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council "Looking Out For Each Other" (LOFEO) project, which develops Indigenous-led supports and services for families and communities when an Indigenous person goes missing, including working with legal clinics and law firms to provide services to people who are seeking legal supports, police services to ensure that risk assessment protocols and tools are responsive to the needs of Indigenous missing persons and their loved ones, and with media professionals to develop best practices and principles for improved reporting on missing Indigenous persons, as well as establishing provincial helplines in partnership with Indigenous organizations across Eastern Canada.





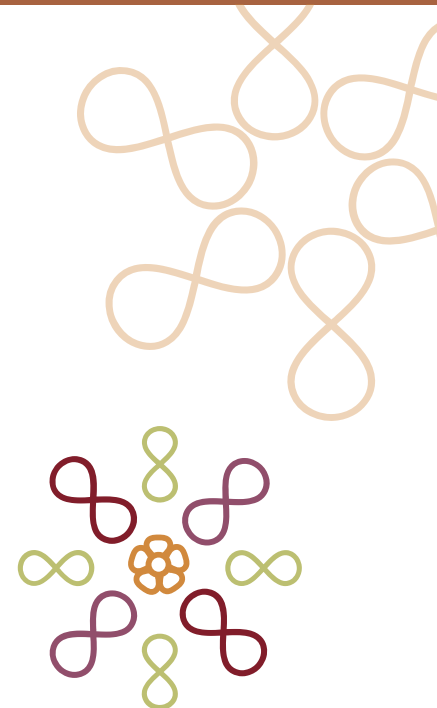
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) has Métis-specific services for families of missing and/or murdered Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. MN-S supports individuals and families in their efforts to access information regarding their loved one from government agencies such as police, victim services and other agencies to seek justice for their loved one. “Working through a healing process that addresses all past traumas our Métis MMIWG families have endured.”

At the municipal level, the Winnipeg Police Service has created a support and resource advocate to helping families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls navigate the legal process. In 2021, through the Indigenous Justice Program, Justice Canada provided \$6.7 million over three years to expand the Indigenous Courtworker Program which helps Indigenous families navigate the justice system.

The Winnipeg Police Service hired a Family Support and Resource Advocate to work directly with families of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse (MMIWG2S+) people to answer questions about the investigation and/or the court process, connect them with appropriate agencies and services, and ensure they are supported with culturally-safe and trauma-informed resources in their communities

Connecting survivors and families/friends to agencies and resources, these programs offer a variety of supports services. Some are focusing on supporting community safety planning that is Indigenous led, while others offer services and support in the areas of resource/service referrals, navigating the various systems and getting information from hospitals, coroners’ offices, and police forces, etc.

Although some progress has been made on the provision of comprehensive support services, these services are not readily or consistently available to all, and a number of these services are not distinctions-based. Also, funding for the FILU programs is only available until 2023; therefore, it remains to be seen if the services will be sustainable.



c. Nationwide emergency number

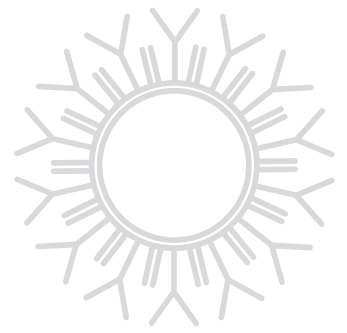
Call for Justice 9.5vii calls for a nationwide emergency number to be put in place, to help ensure police services across provinces and territories have consistent protocols and policies in place. These would help ensure there are thorough investigations of all cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.



The “[Looking Out For Each Other](#)” project led by the New Brunswick Aboriginal People’s Council, launched a 24/7 provincial helpline pilot project in New Brunswick (1-833-MMI-FIND) that assists families that have a loved one who is missing by providing information, navigation and referrals for a variety of services

Although not nation-wide, there are several initiatives that provide 24/7 access to crisis and/or support services through phone, video call, and on-line live chat options. Some existing services have been updated to include newer technology, and some services are offered in Indigenous languages. An example is the updated crisis line in Manitoba that will include a live chat feature.

One year after the release of the National Action Plan there is no nationwide emergency number in place.



Goal 3: Delivery of Programs/Services by Indigenous Organizations

Two short-term priorities were identified to move towards the goal of supporting the delivery of programs and services by Indigenous organizations, including at the grassroots level, to address all forms of gender- and race-based violence: the use of Indigenous-led violence-prevention programs and services; and the creation of shelters and second stage/transitional housing.

a. Indigenous-led prevention and healing programs, education, and awareness campaigns for Indigenous families and communities related to violence prevention and lateral violence

The National Inquiry highlighted the underlying systemic causes of ongoing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and identified the need for Indigenous-led violence prevention programs, education, and awareness campaigns. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for victims seeking help and the frontline organizations that support them.



In 2021, the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) received funding from WAGE to develop a public awareness campaign to debunk myths about domestic violence and let survivors know that help was available. The messages aired on radio stations across Saskatchewan in Cree, Dene, and Michif.

Over the last year, additional funding for gender-based violence prevention programs was identified from federal and provincial/territorial governments. This includes \$55 million announced in Budget 2021, and a call for proposals launched in January 2022 by Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) to bolster the capacity of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations to provide gender-based violence prevention programming aimed at addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities Initiative announced \$103.8 million over five years to assist First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and partners, both on and off-reserve, to implement Indigenous-designed projects to improve community safety and well-being, including needs relating to the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



In July 2021, Willow Place received a \$50,000 stabilization grant through the Winnipeg Foundation. These funds are helping with earlier intervention strategies and expanded support for diverse family violence prevention needs in the community.

A number of provincial/territorial representatives also indicated funding for Indigenous organizations to implement initiatives to address violence and discrimination against Indigenous women and girls (e.g., Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia).

Beginning in 2022-23, funding is being provided to a Saskatchewan Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Community Response Fund to support community initiatives that address the Calls for Justice. The province will co-develop the criteria, application process and evaluations tools for the fund with community representatives from the northern, central, and southern regions of the province. This approach aligns with CFJ 15.6 and will enable applicants to generate self-determined solutions and increase safety within their communities.

A few Indigenous-led community-based violence prevention programs were identified, including sexual assault counselling and enhanced family violence services. For instance, in April 2022, the construction of the Ka Ni Kanichihk Cultural and Wellness Centre was announced supported by investments from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, and private donors. The expansion will double the number of people who can access services and will create unique spaces and opportunities for Indigenous people to heal, learn, and train for jobs, all centred in culture. This includes the Heart Medicine Lodge program, which provides culturally based support and advocacy services for Indigenous women and those who identify as women who have experienced sexual assault and sexual violence.



Ka Ni Kanichihk (those who lead in Ininew-Cree) is an Indigenous-led organization in downtown Winnipeg that provides prevention and intervention programs that help children, youth, women, men, and families heal, succeed, and become leaders. Ka Ni Kanichihk provides cultural and social leadership development for Indigenous girls and Two-Spirit youth, job-skills training, and support for women and families. We walk with people on their path of recovery from trauma.

Through federal funding, the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia is developing and implementing an Indigenous-led approach in preventing and eradicating human trafficking in Indigenous communities in British Columbia. The project will focus on solutions that are rooted in community, whereby members become empowered, engaged and deeply connected to their culture and community, increasing their protective factors to be resilient against human trafficking.

A joint initiative between the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and TELUS, focuses on improving safety by providing cell phones to Indigenous women at risk of violence or living in high risk human trafficking areas. Further, in December 2021, through support from the Government of Canada and British Columbia's Connecting British Columbia program, Rogers Communications began work on the first of 16 cellular towers along the Highway of Tears in British Columbia. Continuous coverage along Highway 16 and surrounding areas will help create a safer environment for travel and passage to the North.



Construction on the first of 16 cellular towers Rogers Communications will be building to help create a safe corridor on Highway 16. This responds to one of the 33 recommendations from the 2006 Highway of Tears Symposium report.

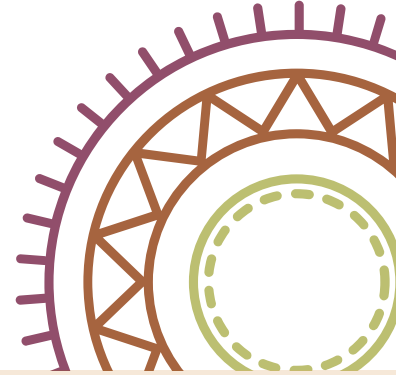
Photo: Rogers Communications

One program through Ka Ni Kanichihk is UMatter, which is an Indigenous embedded skill-based learning curriculum aimed at preventing teen/youth dating violence within high-risk Indigenous youth populations, including 2SLGBTQIA+ youth aged 12-24 years old.

Over the last year, both federal and provincial/territorial funding has been announced for healing programs for Indigenous families and communities related to violence prevention, education, and awareness. Further, some new programs and services are beginning. However, recipients are just starting to receive the funding and there is still a clear need for additional resources and services in this area. It is not yet possible to determine the impact that these programs are having on ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

b. Creation of shelters and second stage/transitional housing

The National Inquiry found that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people leaving violence face a significant disadvantage in access to Indigenous-specific transitional houses and shelters, which often forces them to live in unsafe conditions. This situation is even worse for those living in northern and remote areas.



With funding from the Ontario government aimed at training women in carpentry and other trades, four Mohawk women built two new tiny homes for Red Cedars Shelter, which will be used as transitional housing for women after leaving the safe house on Tyendingaga Mohawk Territory

In June of 2021, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and ISC announced funding support for the construction and operation of 12 new Indigenous-led shelters across Canada. Following this, the Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative was launched in November 2021, as part of \$724.1 million in funding that included expanding shelter and transitional housing supports for Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people experiencing gender-based violence including on reserve, in the North, and in urban areas. Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada announced a process to build a minimum of five Inuit-specific shelters, one in each of the four regions of Inuit Nunangat and one in Ottawa.

Further, the CMHC's National Housing Co-Investment Fund is providing funding through 2022-23 for the construction and repair of transitional housing units and shelters for women and their children experiencing gender-based violence. Although not Indigenous-specific funding, eligibility includes Indigenous governments and organizations.

A number of provinces/territories (e.g. Manitoba, Ontario) have announced funding to increase or enhance family violence shelters. Often the funding is part of broader gender-based violence initiatives, but with some funding targeted for Indigenous Peoples.

The Government of Ontario announced over \$2 million to stabilize funding for the Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario and support expanded healing lodges that provide holistic services using Indigenous healing and western therapeutic techniques. These programs will help reduce the impacts of trauma arising from sexual assault, physical, mental and emotional abuse, and family violence

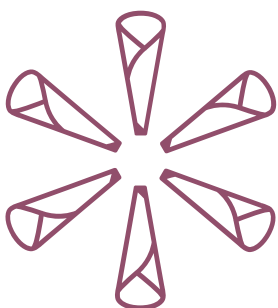
Over the last year, there have been some positive first steps, including funding announcements to support the creation of shelters/transitional houses for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, some housing strategies have begun to be implemented, and some new shelters and transitional housing have been created. However, there is a long way to go to ensure Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people escaping violence have a safe place to stay.

Goal 4: Address Broader Root Causes of Violence

The goal of addressing the broader root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people recognizes that addressing violence must take into account the long-term, multi-faceted ways that Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are denied security throughout their lives. Six short-term priorities were identified to address the goal, focusing on improvements to housing, high-speed internet access; income; cultural knowledge and 2SLGBTQQIA+ programs and services; support systems; and, child and family services.

a. Implement initial steps to ensure stable and sustainable housing and close the housing gap between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous Canadians

The social and economic conditions of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can impact on their safety. More specifically, the lack of stable and affordable housing, and other conditions such as food insecurity, can be a contributing factor to their lack of security. Housing insecurity is one of the most pressing issues impacting Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and finding ways to provide access to safe, secure, and affordable housing is essential.



In the [Delivering for Canadians Now](#) announcement in March 2022, the Government of Canada made a commitment to work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to determine how housing investments would be designed and delivered. In the [2022 Federal Budget](#), the Government of Canada announced that it would build upon the \$2.7 billion already committed since 2015 by adding \$4 billion over 7 years starting in 2022-23 to accelerate work in closing the Indigenous housing gaps. This funding is targeted towards housing on First Nations reserves; in First Nations Self-Governing and Modern Treaty Holders communities; in Inuit communities; and in Métis communities. In addition, the Government of Canada announced \$300 million over five years to co-develop and launch an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. Further, \$2 billion of funding provided for long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program was allocated to meet the needs of First Nations children.

Funding from the [2021 Federal Budget](#) allocated for the [National Housing Strategy](#) through CMHC began to flow during 2021. For instance, during 2021-22, Phase 2 of the Rapid Housing Initiative committed funding for over 2,400 units for Indigenous Peoples. Further, the [National Housing Co-Investment Fund](#) provides funding for construction, repair and support of affordable housing units; the Canada Housing Benefit provides financial assistance through provinces and territories for people in low-income situations to help with rent payments delivered; and the [Federal Community Housing Initiative](#) supports community housing providers that deliver long-term housing to many of the most vulnerable. Although, the National Housing Strategy is designed for all Canadians, one of the priorities is Indigenous projects.

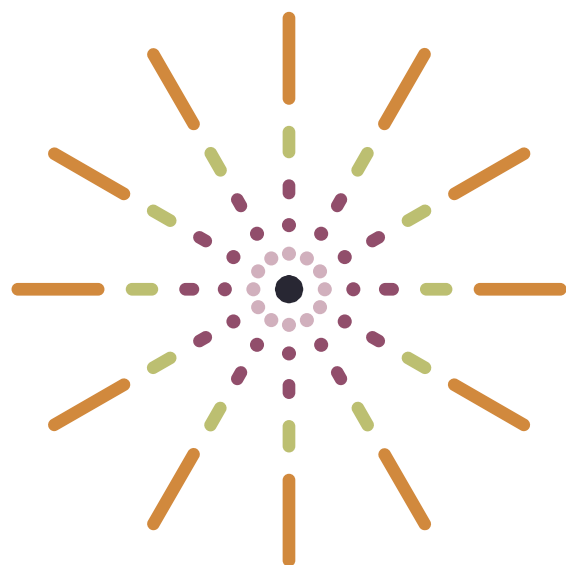
Some provinces and territories and Indigenous organizations are prioritizing housing, such as funding earmarked in PEI specifically for Indigenous housing under the [Affordable Housing Development Program](#). Further, building on funding through CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative, the Government of Yukon is investing \$1 million from its [Housing Initiatives Fund](#) to refresh and renovate the [High Country Inn in Whitehorse](#). This will create 55 new supportive housing units, 50% of which will be allocated to women and 75% to Indigenous people.

The PEI [Affordable Housing Development Program](#) is committed to adding new affordable units to the housing market. A percentage of the funds have been earmarked for Indigenous housing.

In July 2021, under the [Reaching Home Program](#), Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada began a [homelessness needs assessment](#) research project in urban centres outside of Inuit Nunangat. A final report with recommendations, including how to support the unique needs of Inuit women experiencing homelessness, will be published in the Spring of 2022.

The [Northern Pathways to Housing Program](#) provides funding to community organizations and Indigenous governments in the Northwest Territories. The funding supports emergency housing for residents who are unable to access social housing programs or where there is limited availability of suitable housing.

There has been money invested or committed to date for Indigenous housing, and the need to further co-develop strategies with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and Indigenous organizations has been noted. However, it has been mentioned by some community organizations that there is a lack of housing and funding for urban, rural and remote communities. Also, at this time more information is needed to measure how many houses have been built and the extent to which the funding is having an impact on closing the housing gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. It is likely too early to determine whether these initiatives are having a measurable impact and what changes housing programs have made towards ending violence.



b. Immediate action to implement infrastructure to ensure access to high-speed Internet

Access to the internet and social media is essential for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who are victims of violence, as well as families and friends of those who are missing or have been murdered. It allows access to important information and investigation tools and can provide needed support systems. Challenges exist in Northern and remote Indigenous communities when access to high-speed internet is not reliable or potentially not even available.

By 2023, the [Connect to Innovate](#) program, a \$585 million dollar investment through Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada, aims to improve connectivity in 975 rural or remote areas, including 190 Indigenous communities. Public Safety Canada committed \$108 million in 2021 through the [First Nations and Inuit Policing Facilities Program](#), aimed at working with First Nations and Inuit police facilities by providing financial assistance to plan, repair, construct and/or acquire new police facilities. Working with provinces and territories, First Nations/Inuit policing organizations (e.g., First Nations Chiefs of Police Association, First Nations and Inuit Policing Program Stakeholder Panel, RCMP), selected infrastructure projects will be implemented over the next five years.

In April 2022, the Government of British Columbia announced [access to high-speed internet services](#) to more than 1,200 homes in seven First Nations communities along Highway 3 in the Similkameen. The \$5.8 million project was funded through the Connecting British Columbia program and through Telus Communications Inc. As part of its investments (since 2019) to bring high-speed internet to First Nations communities across the province, in April 2022 Ontario and the federal government jointly announced funding for three additional First Nations communities.

In November 2021, the Manitoba government signed a deal with Xplornet Communications Inc. to provide reliable internet services to nearly 30 First Nations

Governments have announced some funding and some work is underway to improve access to high-speed internet in Indigenous communities. However, this work is still in the early stages, and it is too soon to determine what impact, if any, this will have on reducing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

c. Guaranteed annual livable income

A guaranteed annual livable income is direct income support which is accessible unconditionally to those with incomes below a certain level as a means of addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. According to a quote from Qajaq Robinson, a former Commissioner of the National Inquiry “*We have to recognize that the creation of poverty... is part of the state violence. It’s not accidental.*”

Shortly after the release of the National Action Plan, at the June 8, 2021 sitting of the Senate of Canada, Senator Kim Pate asked what was being done to implement a guaranteed annual livable income, and what collaboration was happening with provinces and territories on this initiative. At that time, it was noted that work was under way in various jurisdictions, and the Government of Canada was open to listening to requests and to discussions on this matter.

Most recently at the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples when asked about this priority, Marion Buller, Former Chief Commissioner indicated that a paradigm shift was needed and to “accept the fact that we have to move Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people out of the margins of society and into mainstream Canadian society... Guaranteed annual income that’s livable, that’s geographically specific and that makes sense”.²³

²³ The Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples (44th Parliament, 1st Session) (April, 4 2022). Evidence. Available at: <https://sencanada.ca/en/Content/Sen/Committee/441/APPA/55451-E>.

d. Support Indigenous-led initiatives for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities to access cultural knowledge and 2SLGBTQQIA+ programs and services

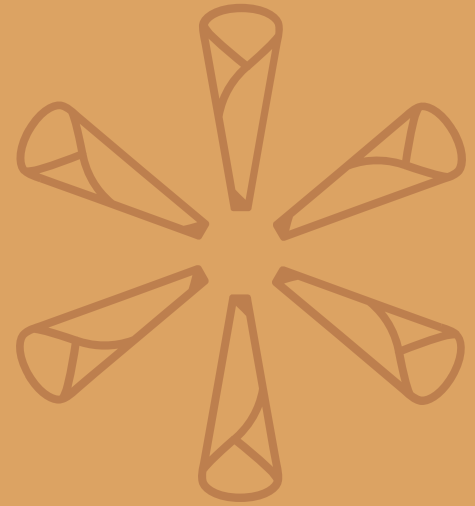
Indigenous knowledge reflects the unique culture, languages, traditional governance systems, and histories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. Knowledge Keepers and Elders are the connection to the past, they care for the knowledge that has been taught to them by other Knowledge Keepers and Elders and are taught when to teach others about this knowledge. Prior to colonialization, Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people were Knowledge Keepers and Elders. Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people have experienced historical, multi-generational and intergenerational trauma, and colonial systems and actions continue to add to this trauma. Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, through resiliency and agency, are reclaiming their role as Knowledge Keepers, and guiding and supporting Indigenous girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth.

Budget 2021 announced \$108.8 million over two years for the Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Program. Launched in 2021, this program supports Indigenous communities in re-establishing and revitalizing cultural spaces and offers opportunities for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals to access culture and language, and strengthen identities. Amongst the early investments, three projects have been announced so far:

- Northern Secwepemc Cultural Society (British Columbia): to create a cultural centre and museum that will serve the four Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw Nations and the Esk'etemc First Nation. This will create a safe space where community can come together to share traditions and culture and partake in programs that will be offered, including a Secwepemc language revitalization program.
- Skeetchestn Indian Band (British Columbia): to build a traditional pit home and museum facility with celebration and teachings about the Skeetchestn Indian Band traditions and cultures, and the role of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in the community.
- Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke: new cultural centre which will serve as a safe space for community members to share traditional knowledge and culture through a variety of programs, including language revitalization, where Mohawk language speakers will mentor new learners.

With funding from the Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Program, Tungasuvvingat Inuit has been able to expand their cultural education programs which bring the urban Inuit community together through Elders teas, community feasts, seasonal outings, and annual gatherings. Inuktitut language classes and workshops on traditional skills such as sewing and drum making are also held.

During 2021-22, through the Canadian Heritage Indigenous Languages Component, more than 410 projects from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, as well as organizations serving urban and multiple Indigenous populations, were funded. The Indigenous Languages Component supports the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of Indigenous languages. This includes a broad range of activities, such as language nests, immersion, mentor-apprentice programs, cultural and language instruction and camps, the production of recordings on Indigenous activities, books on storytelling, digitalization, and traditional cookbooks. The Canada-Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Accord Indigenous Language Table supports and informs this initiative, amongst other areas such as policy and programs.



Implemented in 2021 Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With is an Indigenous education policy framework which outlines guiding principles, strategies, and actions for achieving the intended learning outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, and for all students in Manitoba.




In consultation with Elders, four new cultural lodges have been built within correctional facilities in Saskatchewan since 2021. These new sacred spaces were created to provide an opportunity for healing in a culturally appropriate environment.

A few initiatives have been identified which focus specifically on 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. For instance, the Promoting Safety and Success for Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ Youth initiative in Ontario provides support in the areas of mentorship, leadership, and education. It also provides competency training and resources for parents, caregivers and foster parents regarding 2SLGBTQQIA+ identities with a particular focus on the barriers to safety for these Indigenous youth. In December 2021, the AFN passed a resolution which will establish a 2SLGBTQ Council with a role similar to Elder's, women's and youth councils in the organization's governance structure.



The building of cultural lodges within Saskatchewan correctional facilities will enable opportunities for year-round sweat lodge ceremonies to clients and space to facilitate other cultural programming



Gender Symposium

Mobilizing Indigenous Two-Spirit (2SLGBTQQIA+) History

CAP hosted the first “[Gender Symposium Mobilizing Indigenous Two-Spirit History](#)”, an interdisciplinary discussion to foster partnerships, community engagement, and networking opportunities. The symposium aimed to mobilize knowledge sharing on the history of Two-Spirit and non-binary individuals to increase awareness and understanding of 2SLGBTQQIA+ history and enhance public awareness about Two-Spirit identity and how crucial Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer leaders are to the movements of change.

There have been recent funding announcements for cultural and language programming, which is resulting in the creation of some programs and activities. Further, there are a few initiatives for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, although this does not begin to address the needs of these individuals. Although some funding is available, most is through a proposal process where barriers often exist for grassroots organizations to access for on-the ground programs. In addition, it has been noted that there is often an absence of meaningful engagement with community and grassroots organizations on how these funds could be used to support Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of
Indigenous Friendship Centres

In April 2022, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) held a 2SLGBTQQIA+ gathering for local, regional, provincial, and national 2SLGBTQQIA+ groups on legislation, policy, programs, and funding opportunities.

- e. **24-hour in-person support system for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, such as wraparound mental health services, trauma, addictions, etc.**

Wraparound services provide individuals with the support and care they require from a diverse team of professionals that work together to provide cross-sector services such as mental health services, primary health care, trauma-informed care, addictions, substance use, Elder supports, etc.

Throughout the last year, the OFIFC [Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound \(UIHB\) Program](#) has provided extensive wraparound supports to over 100 mothers and 200 children. Educational upgrading, post-secondary education, housing supports, Indigenous-led childcare, mental health services, and employment readiness continued to be provided throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and without dedicated or sustained funding from any level of government. The UIHB program continues to see success and has supported a number of mothers who have graduated from post-secondary this year and entered careers within the social services, healthcare and early childcare education sectors.

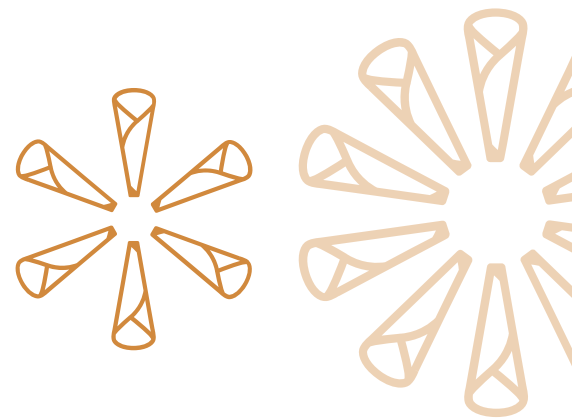
The OFIFC Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound (UIHB) Program is an employment and training program that provides extensive wraparound supports to mothers and children.

No information was found on the implementation of a 24-hour in-person support system for First Nations, Inuit and Métis families, women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people over the last year.

f. Governments recognize Indigenous self-determination and inherent jurisdiction over child welfare, and support enhancements for child and family services

Child welfare systems and services across Canada have caused detrimental harm to Indigenous children for centuries. These systems are where First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and youth are taken away from their families, removed from communities, and denied their culture and identity. They have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the trauma and intergenerational trauma and abuse in these colonial systems. Through resiliency and strength, Knowledge Keepers and Elders continue to teach traditional practices of nurturing, connecting to culture and language, songs and stories, oral histories, and skills to surviving on the land.

In line with traditional ways, in 2020, An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families came into force as a way of addressing disparities in the child and family services system. This Act affirms the jurisdiction of Indigenous Peoples over child and family services, including principles such as the best interests of the child, cultural continuity and substantive equality. Under this Act, in 2021 the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan became the first community to sign a Coordination Agreement, that sees them reclaiming jurisdiction over their child welfare/healing system and the right to make decisions about what is best for their children and families. In Budget 2022, \$340.8 million was announced over ten years to continue to support the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations' Coordination Agreement and their communities to exercise jurisdiction for their children and families.



Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge was launched in 2021 as part of the enactment of the Miyo Pimatisowin Act. No children have come into care of Cowessess First Nation reserve lands since that time.

Budget 2022 also identified \$87.3 million to support and enable Indigenous communities to develop and implement Indigenous child welfare laws, through collaborative work with federal, provincial, and territorial governments. In April 2022, the Simpcw First Nation signed the first co-created child welfare agreement in British Columbia history, which integrates its unique practices, customs, laws, language, and traditions into the agreement. The agreement recognizes elements of the federal Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, and outlines how the Simpcw and the ministry will work together on assessments, investigations, plans of independence and plans of care, including placement decisions, to support the well-being of Simpcw families.



Simpcw First Nation Child Welfare Agreement

“This interim measure marks a significant milestone on our pathway toward implementing our inherent jurisdiction. I am especially pleased that our laws, customs and traditions are enshrined in this legally binding agreement through the meaningful inclusion of our Secwepemctsin (Shuswap language).” Kúkpi7 (Chief) Shelly Loring.

Recently, many provinces and territories have taken important steps to begin reforming their own child and family services systems to align with the intent and the objectives of the federal Act. In March 2022, Fewer Fees, Better Services Act in Ontario was passed, which includes amendments to the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017. These amendments provide a framework to distinguish customary care from residential care in specified circumstances, implement holistic and wraparound supports for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families in the form of circles of supportive persons, and define the role of prevention-focused Indigenous service providers within Ontario’s child and family services system.

In July 2021, Prince Edward Island released a Child Protection Act Review to enhance the delivery of child and family services to align with the National Inquiry. Recommendations included providing culturally appropriate services, training for workers on Indigenous concepts/protocols and historical cultural trauma, implementing an off-reserve Indigenous services team and enhancing the on-reserve Indigenous services team, and conducting the work jointly with the Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation, as well as other services that work with the off-reserve Indigenous population.

Yukon's Act to Amend the Child and Family Services received Royal Assent in March 2022. The Act, was created through a committee co-chaired by the Council of Yukon First Nations and with representation from Yukon First Nations, helps improve outcomes for children, youth and families involved with the child welfare system and address the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in care.

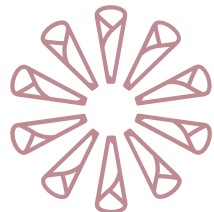
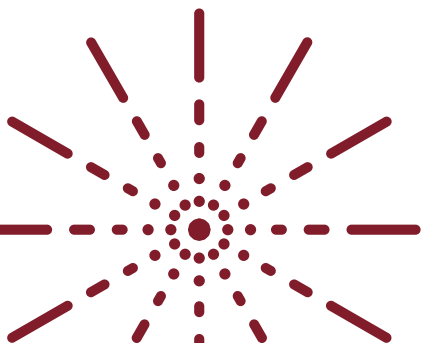
The Act to Amend the Child and Family Services was tabled by the Yukon Government in March 2022. The Act was based on work by a Steering Committee which focused on the over-representation of Yukon First Nations children in care and ways to better support the safety and wellbeing of Yukon First Nations and Indigenous children and families.

Over the next six years, as announced in Budget 2022, \$4 billion will go towards meeting the needs of First Nations children by honouring Jordan's Principle and ensuring that they receive the support they need. This is in addition to the Inuit Child First Initiative and the ISC mandate letter commitment to continue working with Métis Nation to fund the unique needs of Métis children.

Jordan's Principle is a legal requirement resulting from the Orders of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. It is a child-first principle that aims to eliminate service inequities and delays for First Nations children. Jordan's Principle is named in honour of Jordan River Anderson, a young First Nations boy from Norway House Cree Nation in northern Manitoba, who spent his entire life in hospital while caught in a jurisdictional dispute between the governments of Canada and Manitoba.

In April 2022, the Manitoba Government announced an annual subsidy of almost \$600,000 for Makoon Transition Inc. and S.A.M. (Properties) Holding Inc. to create 32 transitional housing units, eight of which will be designated for additional tenant supports for families who have been impacted by Child and Family Services. Makoon Transition Inc. was created to address the holistic needs of First Nations children and their families who have experienced the impacts of being involved in the child welfare system.

Although there has been a significant amount of funding allocated for legislative reform, only some progress has been made in achieving jurisdiction over child welfare. This lack of progress could be due to limitations under the current An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families, such as jurisdictional challenges. In addition, there are still significant gaps in child welfare services provided to Indigenous children and youth. For those services that do exist, it has been noted that there are few services for youth who age out of the system. They do not have accommodations, access to support, some lose connections to community and their families, and some end up homeless. This gap could make Indigenous youth and, in particular 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, more vulnerable to harm and violence.



Goal 5: National Indigenous Human Rights Accountability Mechanism

To begin to achieve the goal of developing a national Indigenous human rights accountability mechanism focused on Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights, three short-term priorities were identified: creation of an oversight body; a national task force to review and re-investigate unresolved files of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people; and ensuring the National Inquiry's public record is accessible and an annual report to Parliament on the Calls for Justice, and that the LFMO Calls for Miskotahâ are implemented.

a. Oversight bodies, such as Indigenous Ombudsperson, Human Rights Tribunal, or civilian police oversight bodies to represent the interests of families, survivors, and communities by investigating and addressing complaints of mal-administration or violation of rights

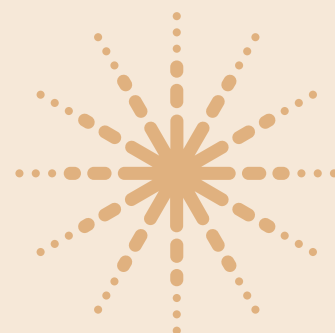
Call for Justice 1.7 calls for the establishment of an independent National Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudsperson and a National Indigenous and Human Rights Tribunal. It was noted that the Ombudsperson and Indigenous Human Rights Tribunal should have the authority to receive complaints from Indigenous individuals and communities in relation to Indigenous and human rights violations, and to conduct thorough and independent evaluations of government services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people and communities to determine compliance with human and Indigenous rights laws.



The concept of an independent national Indigenous and human rights ombudsperson, national Indigenous and human rights tribunal, or civilian police or oversight bodies has been discussed. For instance, in the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, presenters were asked about the need for this type of accountability. It was noted that this model could be used as a mechanism whereby a body with specialized expertise and buy-in from Indigenous Peoples could monitor the implementation of the calls for justice. Further, the ITK noted the need for a mechanism such as an arms-length ombudsperson that could ensure that families are being heard.

Some information was found which relates to an oversight body or ombudsperson, but not at a national level. The First Voice Urban Indigenous Coalition announced the creation of a community-led working group aimed at developing a framework to strengthen civilian-led oversight of police services in Newfoundland and Labrador. At this point in time, the provincial government has not yet made a commitment to implement this framework.

Bringing together Indigenous and women's organizations, community groups, academics, lawyers, and individuals with lived experience, this working group will develop a framework to strengthen civilian-led oversight of police services in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Also, in April 2022, the City of Edmonton announced that an Indigenous ombudsperson office will be created, to represent the interests of Indigenous families, survivors, and communities by investigating and addressing complaints of racism, discrimination, maladministration or violation of rights.

The creation of an independent national Indigenous oversight body was identified as an important immediate next step in the National Action Plan. The oversight body would represent the interests of families, survivors of violence, and Indigenous communities by investigating and addressing complaints of maladministration or a violation of a right. At this point in time, no action has been taken on the creation of an independent national Indigenous oversight body.

b. National task force which reviews and re-investigates unresolved files of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; and police services to provide unresolved cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to the task force

Call for Justice 9.9 calls for the establishment of a national task force, comprised of an independent, highly qualified, and specialized team of investigators, to review and, if required, reinvestigate each case of all unresolved files of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people from across Canada. Call for Justice 9.10 calls upon all police services to voluntarily produce all unresolved cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to the national task force.

The only initiative found which focused on unsolved cases of missing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons over the last year was a social media campaign by the RCMP which highlighted a 11 unsolved cases and asked for the public's help in solving the cases. The campaign was held in October to coincide with the Sisters of Spirit Vigil each October 4th.



In October 2021, the RCMP highlighted 11 cases of missing Indigenous women and girls over a period of 11 weeks on social media to seek the help of the public in solving these outstanding cases.



No information was found on work relating to the creation of a national task force to examine unresolved cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

c. Make the National Inquiry's public record accessible and report annually to Parliament on the Calls for Justice; implement LFMO Calls for Miskotahâ

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and Girls report and materials is on a website currently maintained by the Government of Canada. Further, the website for the National Action Plan also contains a link to the National Inquiry website.

Although this progress report on the National Action Plan was prepared with partners in an ad hoc way, no independent mechanism to report on the implementation of the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice and Calls to Miskotahâ has been put in place to date.

Goal 6: Transformational Change in Laws, Policies, and Systems

To begin to achieve the goal of supporting transformational change in laws, policies, and systems across Canada in justice, health and wellness, human security, culture, and Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights, four short-term priorities were identified: creation of a justice reform committee to review legislation regarding gender-based violence; acknowledgement, recognition, and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages as inherent rights; implementation of Gladue principles; and creation of a Deputy Commissioner for Indigenous Corrections and addressing issues for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ offenders.

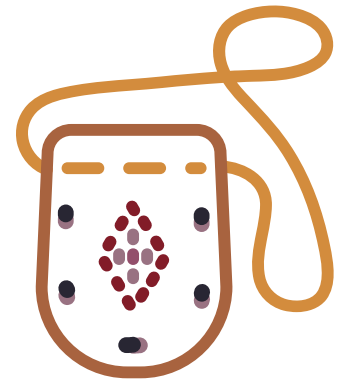
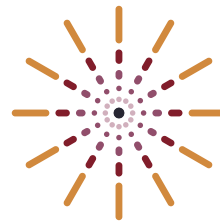
a. Justice Reform Committee to review legislation regarding gender-based violence, including missing persons legislation

To support transformational change in the justice system, a review by a committee using an Indigenous GBA plus lens needs to be applied to legislation to understand the systemic barriers and racism, discrimination, and structural issues in the current system that impact Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. A formal Justice Reform Committee has not been established to date; however, there have been some reviews of federal, provincial, and territorial legislation and various parts of the justice system as it relates to gender-based violence, including missing persons legislation.

Through discussions with various partners, it was noted that some work has commenced to review missing persons legislation. As the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples stated at the April 2022 [Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples](#), missing persons legislation across most Canadian jurisdictions focuses on estates, with no set standards for police or investigators to follow when searching for missing persons or ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who have gone missing are looked for and supported. For instance, Lakehead University in Ontario is partnering with the University of New Brunswick, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, and New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council to lead a project that examines ways to amend missing persons legislation to include components that focus on finding missing Indigenous women. This includes work with the RCMP, provincial justice and public safety departments and municipal policing agencies to examine the issues faced in finding missing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (e.g., lack of Indigenous identifiers in police reports, discretionary practices in determining if the person is Indigenous, homelessness, etc.), and determining if there are opportunities to revise the legislation to address the issues and establish standards for investigating missing persons.

A number of provinces/territories are enacting legislation to protect individuals from domestic violence (Clare's law). For instance, Alberta passed the Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence Act (Clare's Law) in 2021, which gives people who feel at risk of domestic violence a way to obtain information about their partners so they can make informed choices about their safety. Manitoba is examining protocols to put in place to address the concerns with the law in order to develop a made-in-Manitoba kind approach.

Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to enact [Clare's Law](#) in June 2020, and other jurisdictions are developing similar legislation.



Ontario's *Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy Act*, which received assent in June 2021, requires the province to maintain an Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy. The Act recognizes that Indigenous women and girls experience increased vulnerability of being targeted by traffickers and comprise a disproportionate number of persons trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.²⁴ The Act requires that the Strategy be reviewed and updated every five years in consultation with groups adversely impacted by human trafficking, including Indigenous communities and organizations. To guide the five-year review, the Act also sets out specific principles, including cultural responsiveness and recognition of Indigenous traditional knowledge as a form of evidence, critical to informing Ontario's response to human trafficking.

Although there are various reviews, amendments, and new legislation about domestic violence and missing persons, this does not amount to a coordinated review by a committee on gender-based violence or missing persons legislation. It is also not clear if an Indigenous GBA plus lens has been applied to this work. Therefore, much more remains to be done.

b. Acknowledge, recognize, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages as inherent rights

Indigenous Peoples have their own identities and cultures that are unique and distinct. Culture cannot be seen or defined as a set of traditions or activities. Culture is the whole of these things, it is identity. Languages are more than just spoken words - they are woven with traditional knowledge and are shared through stories and teachings. Languages are a foundational part of culture, and to identity. By honouring the strength of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and recognizing their inherent rights to their culture and languages, Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are the leaders of today, reclaiming place and power, and mentoring and guiding the future leaders - Indigenous girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth.

Saskatchewan road signs feature a welcome in the Indigenous languages of each Treaty area. Aligns with province's efforts to recognize, acknowledge, and revitalize Indigenous languages.

²⁴ Government of Ontario (2022). *Ontario's 2021-22 pathways to safety progress report*. Available at: <https://files.ontario.ca/mccss-ontarios-2021-22-pathways-to-safety-progress-report-march-2022-en-2022-03-31.pdf>.

On June 21, 2021, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act came into force in Canada. This Act provides a framework to uphold Indigenous rights, both now and in the future, and emphasizes the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples including those originated from cultures, traditions, and histories. In December 2021, Justice Canada launched a call for proposals from Indigenous Peoples, governments, and organizations to lead consultations on an action plan and measures and share views and priorities for the implementation of the Act for federal laws. As a part of this process, engagement with Indigenous women, youth, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people, as well as urban and other Indigenous organizations and groups will be included.

Following the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act passed by the Government of British Columbia in 2019 which established the United Nations Declaration as the Province's framework for reconciliation, the government prepared the 2022–2027 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan. The action plan provides a province-wide, whole-of-government approach to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration over time and includes four themes: self-determination and inherent right of self-government; title and rights of Indigenous Peoples; ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination; and social, cultural and economic well-being.

The British Columbia Declaration Act Action Plan was developed through two years of intensive engagement to ensure it aligned with the priorities of Indigenous Peoples in BC. It includes goals, outcomes, and tangible actions needed for meaningful progress in reconciliation.

On June 14, 2021, under the Indigenous Language Act, the first appointees were announced for the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (OCIL). These appointees are representative of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and were selected for their knowledge and expertise. The OCIL is an independent entity from the Government of Canada and will support Indigenous Peoples in self-determination efforts to maintain and strengthen, reclaim, and revitalize Indigenous languages, an inherent right. They will also undertake research on funding provisions, will review complaints and provide alternate dispute resolutions that are culturally appropriate.

Some provinces and territories are also working with Indigenous partners on language initiatives. As an example, the Mi'kmaw Language Act received Royal Assent on April 22, 2022 and recognizes Mi'kmaq as Nova Scotia's first language.

The Mi'kmaw Language Act aligns with the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice by ensuring meaningful access to language, culture, and identity as a foundation for resilience and safety. The legislation was developed side by side with the Mi'kmaw and commits the province to work in partnership to create a language revitalization strategy.

Although a number of Acts and initiatives have been put in place, there still remain many challenges, gaps, and barriers to achieving the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages.

- c. **Implement Gladue principles that contribute to addressing systemic barriers, increase the involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations in rehabilitating offenders, and reduce the risk of future harm**

There are several Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ that speak to the need to implement Gladue Principles in all areas of the justice system, including at bail, sentencing, and parole hearings.

In the 1999 Gladue case, the Supreme Court of Canada said that colonialism creates challenges for many Indigenous people, and they are more likely to be sent to jail. The criminal justice system failed Indigenous people. Gladue principles try to address these failures and make sure judges don't repeat the same mistakes that add to discrimination.

Judges must consider Gladue factors when they make decisions and must consider options other than jail to help address the challenges Indigenous people face.

Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC

In June 2021, the Government of Canada confirmed \$10 million in funding to support implementation of Gladue principles in the criminal justice system through Justice Canada's Indigenous Justice Program. These Indigenous-led projects use Gladue principles as a lens to address systemic issues in policies, practices, processes, and institutions. Projects may also focus on training criminal justice system officials on the importance, and use, of Gladue factors in decision-making.

As a part of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, the 90-minute webinar, Why Are Gladue Reports so Important? was made available in 2021 for judges, court employees, and lawyers and provided information on why Gladue reports are used and how they are used. The Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto was a partner in delivering this training.

Indigenous organizations are also providing workshops and training on Gladue report writing. As an example, in April 2022, the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network (NAWN) brought together 10 people from across Newfoundland and Labrador for a training session on Gladue report writing. Also, Grand Council Treaty #3 Kaakewasseye Justice Services, that provides Gladue Report Writers and Gladue Aftercare Services, received funding through the Indigenous Justice Program and Legal Aid Ontario. Enhanced services over the next several years include making recommendations for alternative sentencing such as restorative justice, healing circles, culturally- appropriate treatment options, as well as assisting community members to follow through with Gladue Report recommendations. Communities will also benefit from Gladue Aftercare's assistance in implementing recommendations for alternative sentencing outlined in Gladue reports.

As a way of increasing the involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations in rehabilitating offenders, the Correctional Service Canada (CSC) EXCOM Sub-Committee on Indigenous Corrections is currently reviewing the Section 84 release planning process to streamline and increase the numbers of Indigenous offenders being released with a Section 84 release plan. This is important because Indigenous communities and organizations can help create culturally appropriate rehabilitation plans with offenders which supports safer communities and success for Indigenous offenders being supervised in the community.

A Section 84 release plan ensures that Indigenous communities and organizations are actively involved in supporting an offender in the community, providing services and interventions they need to be successful upon release.

Some recent funding for implementation of Gladue principles within the criminal justice system has been provided and services, such as Gladue Report writing, continue to be provided by organizations and in communities. Also, although a review of section 84 release planning has started, it is not clear what impact this will have on the involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations in the rehabilitation of offenders.

d. Create a Deputy Commissioner for Indigenous Corrections and address issues for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ offenders, such as prohibiting transfer of women prisoners to male treatment centres; and increased opportunities for education/training in prison

The National Inquiry included numerous Calls for Justice relating to the federal correctional system, including calls for the federal government to fully implement recommendations from various reports, inquiries, and commissions that have been made over the last 25 years, such as more Indigenous-run and culturally appropriate rehabilitation programs.

The over-representation of Indigenous women within the federal correctional system has increased

dramatically over the years. While Indigenous women account for approximately 3.4% of the overall adult female population of Canada,²⁵ as of May 2022, for the first time, they accounted for one-half of the women offender population in federal prisons in Canada.²⁶ This is a dramatic increase from what it was 10 years ago (34%),²⁷ and illustrates the critical need for action to address the underlying causes of incarceration of Indigenous women.

Although the current structure includes a Director General of the Indigenous Initiatives Directorate who reports to the Senior Deputy Commissioner, on May 27, 2022, the Correctional Service of Canada announced its commitment, through the mandate letter of the Commissioner of CSC, to create a new position of Deputy Commissioner for Indigenous Corrections.

²⁵ Statistics Canada (2016). 2016 Census of population. Custom Tabulation.

²⁶ White, P. (2022). *Shocking and shameful: For the first time, Indigenous women make up half the female population in Canada's federal prisons*. Available at: https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-half-of-all-women-inmates-are-indigenous/?utm_source=Shared+Article+Sent+to+User&utm_medium=E-mail:+Newsletters+/-E-Blasts+/-etc.&utm_campaign=Shared+Web+Article+Links.

²⁷ Office of the Correctional Investigator (2021). *Proportion of Indigenous women in federal custody nears 50%: Correctional Investigator issues statement*. Available at: <https://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/comm/press/press20211217-eng.aspx>.

CSC does not have a policy that prohibits the transfer of federally incarcerated women in need of mental health care to all-male treatment centres. CSC's Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon has a separate dedicated unit for women offenders who have intermediate and acute mental health needs. CSC can also access a 15-bed intensive mental health unit for women via a partnership with l'Institut Philippe-Pinel de Montréal. Current CSC guidelines state that the placement of women in men's Regional Treatment Centres is only for emergency circumstances and for short-term stabilization.²⁸

CSC provides education and correctional programming for Indigenous women offenders. This includes adult basic education programming (i.e., grades 1 to 12 or its equivalent) for all offenders whose grade level is below grade 12. CSC offers separate Indigenous Women Offender Correctional Programs (IWOCP) to respond to Indigenous women's unique, culturally-related needs and provide a balance between a healing and a skills-based approach. In 2021-22, a collaboration between a non-profit organization and CORCAN adapted their Indigenous Entrepreneurship course for delivery to individuals under CSC supervision. This course is being offered in 2022-23 at Saskatchewan and Alberta CSC sites, including the two women offender sites in that region.²⁹

Goal 7: Culturally Appropriate Indigenous Data Infrastructure

To achieve the goal of establishing a culturally appropriate Indigenous data infrastructure reflective of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, based on Indigenous data sovereignty and distinctions-based indicators, three short-term priorities were identified: accurate tracking of data on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people; collection of disaggregated data to report on violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and laws, policies and services; and distinctions-based and intersectional data about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the criminal justice system.

There are longstanding gaps in data relating to Indigenous people in general, and more specifically relating to police-reported data, and data on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.³⁰ Working with families and survivors, there is a critical need to build a culturally appropriate data infrastructure to support better information, Indigenous data sovereignty, and Indigenous data governance principles, such as the principles of OCAP® (ownership, control, access, possession).

²⁸ CSC (2020). *Integrated mental health guidelines*. Document provided by CSC.

²⁹ CSC (2022). *Information provided by CSC on the Indigenous Entrepreneurship course*. Provided May 10, 2022.

³⁰ Department of Justice (2021). *Understanding Indigenous women and girls' experiences with victimization and violence*. State of the Criminal Justice System Dashboard. Available at: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/socjs-esjp/en/women-femmes/wgv-ffv?msclid=f2812794c2b911ec8c4da4c0864a2b1f>.

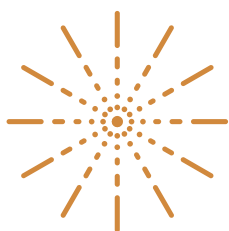
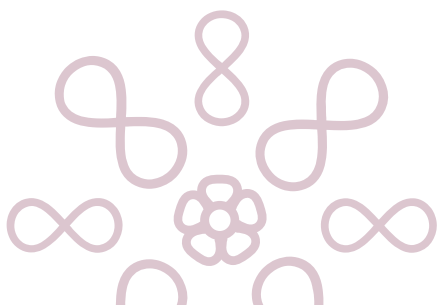
The federal government, through Statistics Canada and other federal departments and agencies, are working to improve data on Indigenous Peoples in general. Further, the [First Nations Information Governance Centre \(FNIGC\)](#) is working on implementation of the [First Nations Data Governance Strategy](#) which is a collective vision for the future as articulated by First Nations leadership, rights holders, and data sovereignty experts. It reflects priorities specific to establishing a network of fully functioning, interconnected data and statistical service centres, or Regional Information Governance Centres, and all of the capacities needed to best serve the data and statistical needs of First Nations. Similarly, provinces and territories have been looking to improve data and performance measurement on Indigenous Peoples. For instance, the Government of Ontario, with Indigenous partners, is commencing work on performance measurement and data under the [Pathways to Safety Strategy](#). The Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ recently held an Accountability Forum to share promising practices, foster relationship, and build momentum for the implementation of *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy*.

a. Address issues related to the accurate tracking of data on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people

Throughout the past year, there has been some work to get accurate data on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. For instance, Statistics Canada is engaging with Indigenous partners and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) to develop consistent reporting mechanisms of information on missing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This will help ensure consistency of the data and the ability to track it over time. Further, the MMIWG Secretariat has done some initial planning to create a National Indigenous Data Advisory Group on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including reaching out to various Indigenous partners, families, survivors, data specialists, provincial and territorial representatives, and Government of Canada departments over the past year.

Various initiatives are being funded through Budget 2021 and 2022. As part of CIRNAC's [Indigenous-led Data Research Projects Program](#), organizations can submit proposals for funding for innovative and Indigenous-centred methodologies until 2026-27. The intent is to support data projects designed to develop distinctions-based or identity-specific indicators or methodologies to increase knowledge around missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. For instance, through this funding, LFMO is developing partnerships with Statistics Canada and the RCMP to seek clarity on the data and gather counts to better document the number of missing and murdered Métis women and girls. There are challenges to getting the full picture as information is not always gathered which identifies whether the person is Métis.

During the winter of 2021-22, 19 innovative data research projects, led by Indigenous people, were approved as part of the [Indigenous-led Data Research Projects Program](#). These projects aim to support innovative Indigenous-led approaches to improving data methodologies specific to missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



b. Collect disaggregated data (Inuit, Métis, and First Nations) to report on violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and on progress and the effectiveness of laws, policies, and services

CIRNAC's Indigenous-led Data Research Projects Program, in addition to supporting data projects focusing on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, also supports data projects focusing on safety for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

In addition, Statistics Canada and the CACP are working together with other partners and communities to better understand and advance the collection of data on Indigenous identity of victims and accused through national police-reported crime statistics.³¹ This will support researchers, policy makers, service providers, and others as they work to develop informed responses to violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and related issues, including over-representation as victims and accused persons.

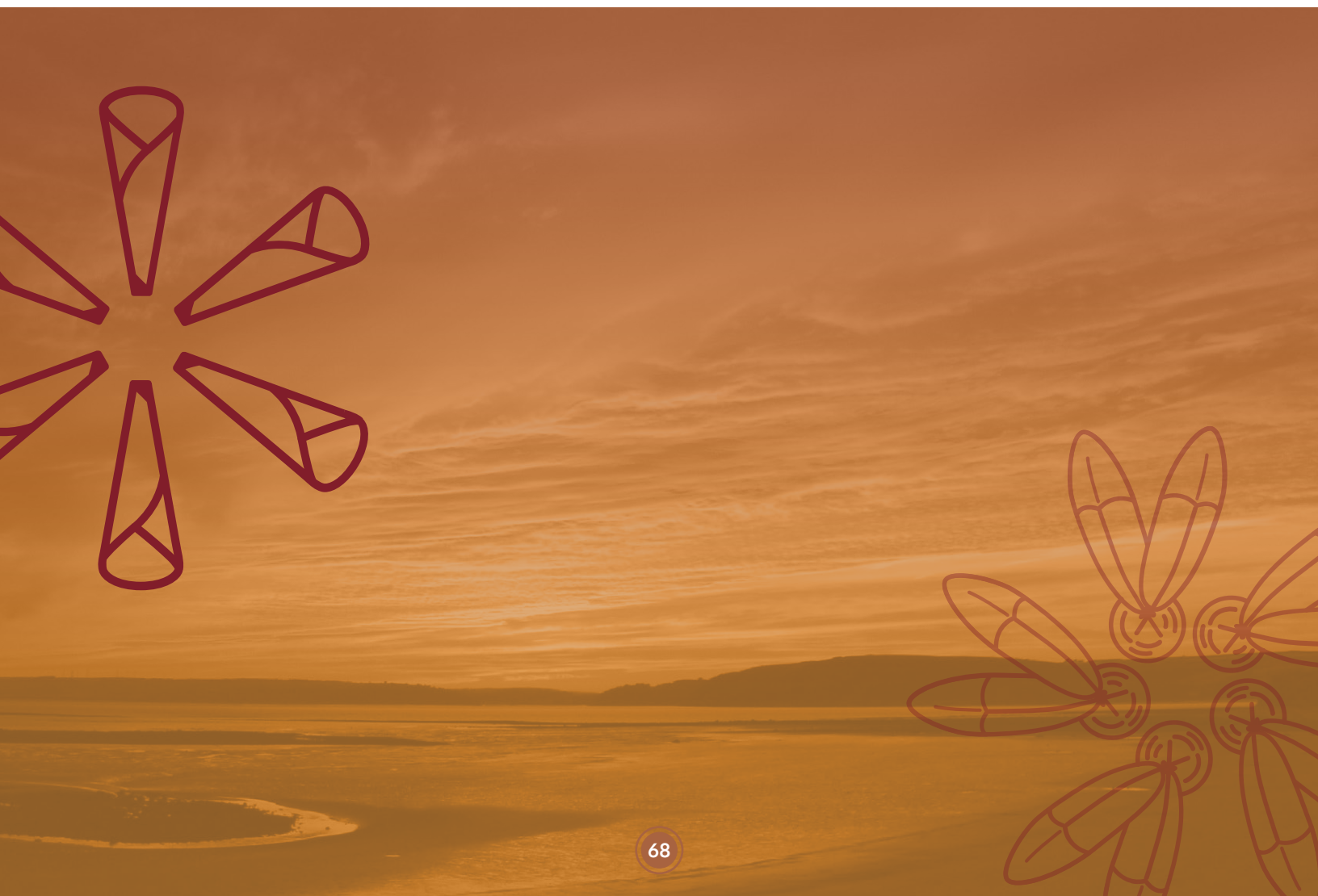
Under the federal Gender-based Violence Strategy, WAGE and Statistics Canada have collaborated to conduct research, collect data, and produce a number of analytical reports on gender-based violence, including experiences of Indigenous Peoples. Statistics Canada and WAGE have also developed a project plan for the second cycle of the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, which is a key means of collecting data on gender-based violence in Canada and will further increase the availability of disaggregated and intersectional data on violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Finally, in 2021, the FNIGC released a report entitled Social and Economic Well-Being: A First Nations Gender-Balanced Analysis. The report employs a First Nations Gender-Balanced Analysis (FNGBA) to better understand the conditions and experiences among First Nations male, female, and Two-Spirit populations living on reserves and in Northern communities across Canada as a step towards restoring the traditional gender balance. The report includes some analysis on community safety and violence.

³¹ Statistics Canada (2020). *Collection of data on Indigenous and ethnocultural groups in Canada's official police-reported crime statistics*. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200715/dq200715g-eng.pdf?st=05CrmzqT>.

c. Collect distinctions-based and intersectional data about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the criminal justice system

As a part of the efforts to collect distinctions-based and intersectional data, the Justice Data Modernization Initiative announced in Budget 2021 committed \$6.7 million over 5 years, and \$1.4 million of ongoing funding to Statistics Canada and Justice Canada to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data. The intent of this initiative is to ultimately reduce the over-representation of Indigenous and racialized people in the criminal justice system by providing data for informed decision-making about policies and programs. The Statistics Canada portion of the justice data modernization budget announcement will be invested in work to produce ongoing indicators of overrepresentation of Indigenous people with the criminal justice system, including interactions with police, criminal courts and correctional services, as well as measuring re-contact with the criminal justice system. Statistics Canada is also coordinating the establishment of a national framework on National Indicators of Overrepresentation in the Criminal Justice System. With the other half of the funding, policy makers at Justice Canada will look at the changes to policy and programs, as well as legislation, and the potential impacts these changes make on the over-representation of Indigenous and racialized groups. Research will leverage existing survey and program data, and Statistics Canada's component of the initiative and other disaggregated data initiatives.



Status of Actions to Have Been Implemented by June 2022

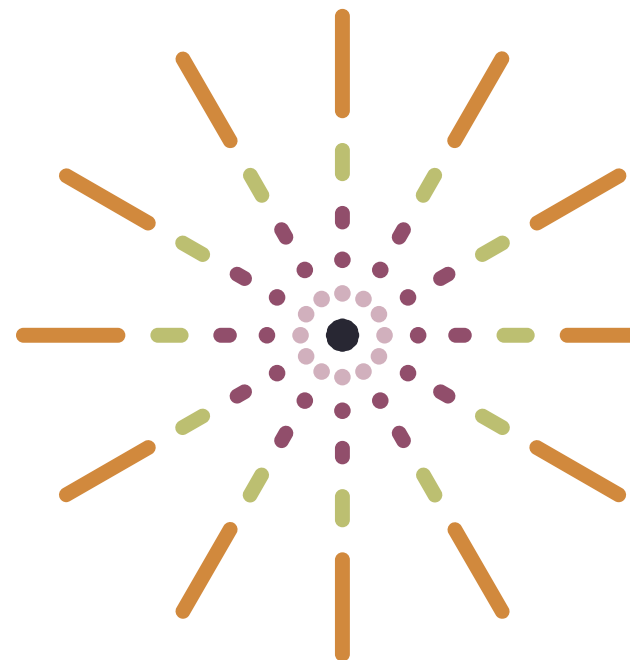
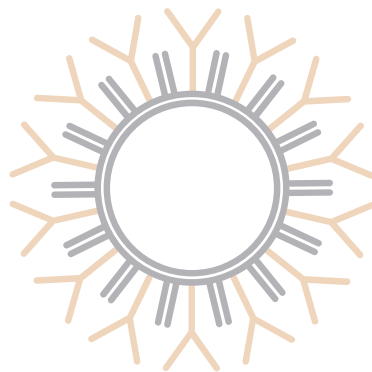
The National Action Plan identified seven immediate next steps that governments and representative Indigenous organizations would focus on over the first 12 months. Some were identified as critical for implementation of the National Action Plan, and others were felt to be important early steps in responding to the needs and rights of survivors, family members, and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Tracey Dunnigan prepares a smudge during the national Sisters in Spirit Vigil that takes place annually across Canada. Regina, Saskatchewan October 4, 2021.

Three of the seven immediate next steps were also common short-term priorities that urgently required work in the first 12 months following release of the National Action Plan. These included:

- The need for public awareness and training
- The provision of immediate support services for survivors and family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people
- The creation of an oversight body

The progress on these three priorities has been discussed under the section on common short-term priorities. The remaining four immediate next steps follow.



Immediate Development of an Implementation Plan

The National Inquiry Call for Justice 1.1(i) called for all governments to “*Table and implement a National Action Plan that is flexible and distinctions-based, and that includes regionally specific plans with devoted funding and timetables for implementation that are rooted in the local cultures and communities of diverse Indigenous identities, with measurable goals and necessary resources dedicated to capacity building, sustainability, and long-term solutions.*” Call for Justice 1.1(ii) called for all governments to “make publicly available on an annual basis reports of ongoing actions and developments in measurable goals related to the National Action Plan.”

Based on the Call for Justice, the National Action Plan called for:

- Development of an Implementation Plan that includes the short-term priorities identified in the National Action Plan, as well as medium- and long-term priorities that will lead to real systemic change.
- Each priority will include specific actions, expected outcomes, timelines, and resources.
- Determining mechanisms and processes for national independent oversight and coordination of the National Action Plan, that includes Contributing Partners and governments with financial support.
- Continuance of Contributing Partners to continue developing their implementation plans.
- Clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous) and Indigenous organizations to implement the 231 Calls for Justice and 62 Calls for Miskotahâ.
- Develop an accountability/results structure for the National Action Plan.
- An Indigenous and gender-based analysis plus (GBA Plus) lens will be applied to the implementation plan.

It was anticipated, as a high priority, that a full implementation plan would be immediately developed after the release of the National Action Plan, including who would be responsible for achieving each action. Further, as an evergreen document, it is recognized that the National Action Plan will continue to grow and change as priorities shift or change, or as new priorities are identified.

There has not been any progress over the last year on development of an implementation plan, nor an accountability/results structure, for the National Action Plan. During discussions, the National Family and Survivors Circle, Contributing Partners, the federal government and Provinces/Territories indicated that they have been working on their own strategies or action plans. This work includes analyzing the Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ, identifying those that fall within their responsibility and roles, and priority setting exercises. Furthermore, some resources were identified in the 2021 and 2022 Budgets to fund various activities and initiatives. However, an overall implementation plan for the National Action Plan with specific actions, outcomes, and timelines, has not been prepared.

Budget 2021 provided funding to make the MMIWG Secretariat within the federal department of CIRNAC permanent, effective August 2021. The role of the Secretariat is to coordinate and monitor the work in response to the National Inquiry to ensure progress continues. This includes the development of and annual reporting on the National Action Plan and the Federal Pathway. The Federal Pathway outlines initiatives across federal government focused on addressing the issues identified in the Calls for Justice. Additionally, the MMIWG Secretariat is responsible for bringing together partners, including families and survivors of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people's organizations, national and regional Indigenous organizations, municipalities, provinces and territories for work on the Federal Pathway and National Action Plan, and to support related implementation work on the issues. Due to outside factors (e.g. Core Working Group ending its work, elections), this convening role was challenging. In addition, within the past year, there have been some challenges on moving forward on implementation of the National Action Plan. A mechanism or process has not been determined for national independent oversight and coordination of the National Action Plan. It must be noted that the MMIWG Secretariat, is not, nor is it meant to be this independent oversight mechanism.

Given that work on the implementation plan for the National Action Plan did not start, an Indigenous and gender-based analysis plus (GBA Plus) lens could not be applied to it. Some contributing partners have applied an Indigenous and GBA Plus lens to work they have been doing. As an example, a Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada committee has applied an Inuit-specific GBA plus framework to the work they have been doing on MMIWG2S+ people. Further, at the February 2022 Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada Annual General Meeting, it was decided that the Inuit-specific GBA plus framework would be applied for all of their actions.



Continued Involvement of Families and Survivors in the Implementation of the National Action Plan

Another immediate next step was to ensure that survivors and families are involved in the implementation of the National Action Plan. This included ensuring:

- With adequate funding, the National Family and Survivors Circle would develop and implement an engagement strategy that provides further opportunity for families and survivors to provide insight and input into the National Action Plan's next steps.
- The Contributing Partners continuing to complete their Action and Implementation Plans built upon their engagement with families and survivors.

In September 2021, the National Family and Survivors Circle completed a work plan to advise on implementation of the Calls for Justice. The work plan includes four pillars: inclusion, interconnectedness, accountability, and impact, which provide guidance on how to work with families and survivors ethically and how to respect their expertise, lived experience, and agency.

Most of the contributing partners and provinces/territories have completed some work relating to the Calls for Justice and/or the Calls for Miskotahâ. This includes: consultation with Indigenous organizations; creation of Indigenous advisory committees to discuss next steps, analysis on activities underway and where gaps exist; creation of a strategy on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people; and/or development of action plans. Contributing partners have been engaging with families and survivors as the plans are being developed.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Federal-Provincial/ Territorial Table

To achieve transformative change, it is important to look at existing systems, policies, and processes, the impact that these are having, and the systemic changes that need to take place for long-lasting meaningful change. The creation of a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Federal-Provincial/Territorial Table was identified as an immediate next step to emphasize the need for a coordinated way to move forward on the National Action Plan, and to provide space for discussion and action across governments in the areas of administrative issues, policy, resourcing, resolution of interjurisdictional responsibilities, and processes that emerge from the implementation of the National Action Plan.

Since before the National Inquiry was set up, Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) working-level representatives have been meeting in an FPT Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. These meetings have continued since June 3, 2021 on a monthly basis. At these meetings, each participant has been able to share an overview of the priorities that their government has been, are, or will be, focusing on as it relates to missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

On March 22, 2022, the creation of a standing Federal-Provincial-Territorial table on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People was announced as a part of the [Delivering for Canadians Now](#). This Deputy/Ministerial level FPT table has not officially convened as of the release of this report, and it was announced that it would facilitate and coordinate the work on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

It is crucial that the senior official FPT table be created, and a mechanism found to involve Indigenous governments and representative Indigenous organizations, in order to move forward on the National Action Plan. Coupled with the opportunities for discussion on their distinct actions plans, strategies and/or approaches to responding to the Calls for Justice and the Calls for Miskotahâ, all governments and Indigenous representative organizations can work together to identify areas of co-implementation and co-management of these commitments.

Create Accountability Mechanisms for the Reporting on the 231 Calls for Justice and the 62 Calls for Miskotahâ

The final immediate next step identified in the National Action Plan was to create accountability mechanisms. This included:

- Creation of broad accountability mechanisms rooted in Indigenous data sovereignty focused on truth-telling to ensure the National Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice and LFMO's 62 Calls for Miskotahâ are implemented by all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous) and organizations, and their outcomes are measured for effectiveness in creating transformative change and achieving decolonization. This could be part of the responsibilities of the independent National Action Plan Committee.
- Creation of data accountability mechanisms rooted in Indigenous Data Sovereignty.
- Creation of an independent web portal to post annual reports which track the progress on responding to the Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ.
- By June 2022, publish the first annual report on progress in responding to the Calls for Justice and the Calls for Miskotahâ.

Although some provinces/territories and contributing partners have said they are beginning to develop accountability mechanisms relating to the Calls for Justice and/or the Calls for Miskotahâ, no work has been undertaken to create broad overall accountability mechanisms rooted in Indigenous data sovereignty for implementation by all governments and organizations. Further, no data accountabilities rooted in Indigenous Data Sovereignty have been created.

Although not necessarily independent, because it is managed through the federal government, the National Inquiry's website is still active and accessible. Further, a website has been created for the National Action Plan, where this first progress report will be made accessible to the public. Some provinces and territories are also creating websites for the Calls for Justice. For instance, the GNWT has launched a MMIWG webpage which provides an overview of the GNWT's participation in, and response to, the National Inquiry.

Gaps in Achieving the Goals of the National Action Plan

As demonstrated in the sections above on the common short-term priorities and actions to have been implemented by June 2022, it is evident that there are some major gaps towards achieving the goals of the National Action Plan. However, it is important to note that the common short-term priorities were meant to be started within one to three years, so it should not be expected that all of them would be implemented in the first year. Further, even though it may seem that no activities have occurred over the last year, it does not mean that there are no existing services or programs in place. This report focused on new or expanded initiatives or programs since June 2021.

One major gap is that a mechanism to ensure that the priorities of the National Action Plan are implemented was not put in place. A crucial immediate next step was supposed to be the creation of an independent national committee, made up of contributing partners and government, that could ensure coordination and progress on the National Action Plan. Also, an implementation plan was to be created immediately after release of the National Action Plan, including short-, medium- and long-term priorities, as well as specific actions, timelines, responsibilities, expected outcomes, and resources. Neither an independent national committee nor implementation plan have been created to date. Therefore, over the year, there has been a lack of coordination and information-sharing on the National Action Plan among governments, representative Indigenous organizations, and other partners; families and survivors have not had an opportunity to be involved in work on the National Action Plan; and, there has not been a structured approach to move forward on the priorities identified. Further, without an implementation plan, it is difficult to measure concrete progress on the National Action Plan.

There are numerous issues relating to funding. For instance, although a number of funding commitments were announced over the past year, some announcements include funding from previous years. Further, this year many funding processes were launched late, making it nearly impossible to see any impact of these funded initiatives. Access to contribution funding is also complex and burdensome, which means there are barriers for grassroots organizations to receive funding because they may be unaware of potential funding opportunities, unable to apply because they do not have the capacity to prepare proposals (i.e., time or resources), and because funding criteria is often narrow in scope. Further, funding may not meet the needs of organizations because it is one-time funding when there is a need for a long-term sustainable approach to funding for continued support for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Another noticeable gap relates to support services for survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Although a few additional support services have been put in place with resources to help families navigate the various systems, it is not clear that a comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims of crime and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons is readily or consistently available to all who need the support, and the services are often not specifically designed by and for Indigenous people. Importantly, there are little to no services specifically designed for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Further, a nationwide emergency number has not been put in place. The other major gap is that a national task force to review and re-investigate unresolved files of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people has not been created.

Although many programs indicate that the services include 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, other than a few new initiatives, there is little concrete action to demonstrate how 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are receiving services or programs that meet their needs.

The creation of an independent national Indigenous oversight body or Independent National Indigenous Human Rights Ombudsperson and/or Tribunal was identified as an important immediate next step in the National Action Plan. The oversight body would represent the interests of families, survivors, and Indigenous communities by investigating and addressing complaints of mal-administration or a violation of a right. There has been no advancement on this oversight body.

In relation to the broader root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, although there has been some work to develop 24-hour in-person support systems or wraparound services specifically for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, this is still a major need for these services across Canada. Further, although some reviews have been conducted and some provinces/territories have enacted legislation regarding gender-based violence, a Justice Reform Committee to review gender-based violence legislation has not been formed, nor has substantial work been done on missing persons legislation. Also, the call for a guaranteed annual livable income has not been implemented.

Finally, as noted earlier, although the federal government and some provinces/territories and contributing partners are beginning to develop accountability mechanisms relating to the Calls for Justice and/or the Calls for Miskotah², no work has been undertaken to create broad overall accountability mechanisms rooted in Indigenous data sovereignty for implementation by all governments and organizations. Furthermore, a major gap is the lack of data relating to Indigenous people in general, and specifically disaggregated data including distinctions-based information. In addition, there is a need for data specifically on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, as well as more comprehensive data on Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system including victims and offenders.

While it is clear that some action has been taken over the past year, this report also identifies the vast amount of work still needed to end the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and the importance of all governments, Indigenous representative organizations, and other partners working towards a common goal.



National Family and Survivors Circle

Key Highlights

In April 2021, the NFSC issued a news release recognizing the significance of the investment of the \$2.2 Billion towards the National Action Plan. Since the Budget was released, the NFSC advocated to ensure that federal funding be aimed at the continual race- and gender-based violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and addressing the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



The NFSC advocated for other governments and institutions to implement the Calls for Justice to end race- and gender-based violence.

NFSC members have worked to create pathways for MMIWG2S+ families and survivors of gender-based violence through regional initiatives and outreach including:

- Constant advocacy for families and survivors to be at tables
- Participating in regional planning committees, municipal roundtables, and other forums (provincial and national) to address the 231 Calls for Justice – including promoting best practices to engaging families and survivors
- Collaborating with families, survivors, and partners on commemoration events and activities (e.g., vigils, rallies, marches, monuments, etc.) and other dates of significance (e.g., Take Back the Night, Women’s Memorial March, etc.)
- Communication – with families, grassroots, organizations, governments, and various partners
- Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with services providers and leadership
- Sharing of regional initiatives – e.g., Yukon Accountability Forum 2022, Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik, City of Saskatoon “Coming Home” Implementation and consultations on development and implementation of the Office of the Matriarch
- Presentations to education on the 231 Calls for Justice – including encouraging youth to become involved
- Media interviews
- Conducting training on victim-centred approaches
- Self-education
- Providing frontline services, e.g., Food Sovereignty Program, providing updates to MMIWG2S+ families who are homeless

- Attending and presenting at various conferences – including advocating for the inclusion of families and survivors

NFSC worked on high level and strategic internal documents and processes on its interim operations and governance. Based on the NFSC guiding principle of “Nothing About Us, Without Us”, the NFSC is seeking resources to support a national virtual engagement and survey process for the inclusion of families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (MMIWG2S+) and survivors of gender-based violence across Canada to be included in the development of a National Family and Survivors Circle independent, legally incorporated, and non-profit entity.

Progress/Successes

Developed a 2021-2022 NFSC Work Plan guided by the NFSC Vision and Mission and Four Pillars – Inclusion, Interconnectedness, Accountability, and Impact.

Promoted the NFSC Pillar of **Inclusion** by providing collective advice to federal government departments on various common short-term priority items within the Federal Pathway to promote best practices for engaging MMIWG families and survivors of gender-based violence in barrier-free processes that are funded and include supports (e.g., trauma-informed, wrap-around, etc.).

Adopted motions to establish an independent, legally incorporated, and non-profit National Family and Survivors Circle entity and to direct the NFSC Technical Team to undertake actions to implement the motion including retaining professional services. Legal reservation of the “National Family and Survivors Circle, Inc.” name with the Manitoba Companies Branch, Province of Manitoba.

Promoted the NFSC Pillar of **Interconnectedness** by building the foundation for partnerships with Federal/ Provincial/Territorial/Indigenous (FPTI) tables and federal government departments, and through meetings with the new Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. The NFSC identified the need for long-term investments to be linked to specific Calls for Justice and clearly identified the requirement for reporting on the benefits, successes, and impacts. The NFSC advocated that all funding for initiatives be clearly identified as existing, realigned, enhanced, new, and distinctions-based, remaining within federal departments, outgoing to communities and partners, on-reserve/off-reserve, etc. The NFSC provided consistent messaging on the importance of transformative change where impact is felt on the ground by developing a strategy and implementation of the National Action Plan and the Federal Pathway.

In an April 8, 2022, news release, the NFSC highlighted the missed opportunities in Budget 2022 to specifically reference how affected families, communities and survivors of gender-based violence would benefit. For example, Budget 2022’s commitment to help Indigenous communities mitigate the on-going impacts of COVID-10 could have referenced the “shadow pandemic” of increased gender-based violence during the pandemic.

Promoted the NFSC Pillars of **Accountability** and **Impact** through consistent messaging and advocacy that the MMIWG2S+ issue remain at the forefront of investments and actions; for all governments and contributing partners to clearly identify investments, actions with clear timelines, sharing of results and impacts on the ground, and demonstrating MMIWG families, survivors of gender-based violence, and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are involved; and for the immediate implementation of Call for Justice 1.7 establishment of a National Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudsperson and a National Indigenous and Human Rights Tribunal.

On March 19, 2022, the NFSC issued a news release calling on all governments, including Indigenous governments, agencies, institutions, and all Canadians to urgently act on implementing the 231 Calls for Justice as legal imperatives. NFSC Chair, Hilda Anderson-Pryz, stated, “The ultimate goal must be to end all forms of gender-based violence.”

In a March 24, 2022 news release, the NFSC called on all governments, organizations, agencies, and institutions to collectively take action, speak out, and stand together against all forms of gender-based violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people regardless of residency, to include the following immediate actions: independent mechanisms for disclosures; establishing and funding victim-centred and self-determined crisis and healing supports; safe spaces for programs and services; creating and implementing rights-based policies for prevention and safety; and all core and project funding agreements must demonstrate prevention and protection against gender-based violence in terms and conditions.



Next Steps/Priorities

The NFSC is working towards establishing an independent, legally incorporated, and non-profit National Family and Survivors Circle entity through:

- Immediately seeking resources to conduct an independent national virtual engagement and survey with families of MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People and survivors of gender-based violence.

The NFSC is developing a 2022-2023 NFSC Workplan to:

- Secure sustainable core funding for the independent NFSC entity – operations, management, and infrastructure. Continue engagement of MMIWG families and survivors of gender-based violence.
- Continue promotion of the NFSC Four Pillars and contribution to the NAP.
- Continue advocacy and strengthening relationships with all governments and contributing partners.

Reports/Publications

NFSC Contribution to the 2022 NAP: <https://familysurvivorscircle.ca/2021/06/02/nap-contribution>

NFSC website: <https://familysurvivorscircle.ca>

NFSC Facebook: @familysurvivorscircle

NFSC Twitter: @nfscircle

NFSC Instagram: @familysurvivorscircle



Assembly of First Nations

In 2021, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations released *The Healing Path Forward, 2021 Federal Priorities for Strengthening and Rebuilding First Nations*. The Healing Path calls for Canada to fully implement all 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and to ensure implementation is undertaken in the spirit of reconciliation.

Background of the Assembly of First Nations

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern. The AFN hosts two Assemblies a year where mandates and directives for the organization are established through resolutions directed and supported by the First Nations in Assembly (elected Chiefs or proxies from member First Nations).

In addition to the direction provided by Chiefs of each member First Nation, the AFN is guided by an Executive Committee consisting of an elected National Chief and Regional Chiefs from each province and territory. Representatives from five national councils (Knowledge Keepers, Youth, Veterans, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and Women) support and guide the decisions of the Executive Committee.

Background on Regional Engagement and the First Nations Action Plan

In 2021-2020 the AFN carried out a Regional Engagement Strategy to incorporate perspectives from survivors and families into the report *Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice: An action plan to end violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people*. The AFN Women's Council worked with the regions to host 85 virtual sessions across Canada, with 1,144 participants through either virtual meetings, surveys, written submissions, and video submissions. In addition to the First Nations Action Plan report, the Regional Engagement Strategy produced regional reports that capture the uniqueness of each region while the First Nations Action Plan reflects the themes that can be addressed at a national level.

The First Nations Action Plan report includes three (3) frameworks to guide the implementation work.

Framework for Supporting Survivors and Families

The framework for supporting survivors and families guides the development and implementation of strategies that should be developed by all levels of government to support First Nations survivors and families when they need it the most. The three primary pillars to support survivors and families includes a national strategy to provide “wrap-around” services for survivors and families so there is consistency between jurisdictions, the creation and funding of a national investigative taskforce to review or reopen cold case investigations involving First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and establishing a National Indigenous Human Rights Ombudsperson and National Indigenous Human Rights Tribunal.

Framework for Prevention Services

The framework for prevention recognizes that First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people have the right to live free of violence and all forms of discrimination. A national First Nations MMIWG2S+ Prevention Strategy is needed to address the underlying factors that contribute to the disproportionate rate of violence experienced by First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. While there are a number of existing programs and services being offered, there is no comprehensive and coordinated national response for a First Nations led violence and prevention strategy.

Framework for Healing Ourselves and Our Nations

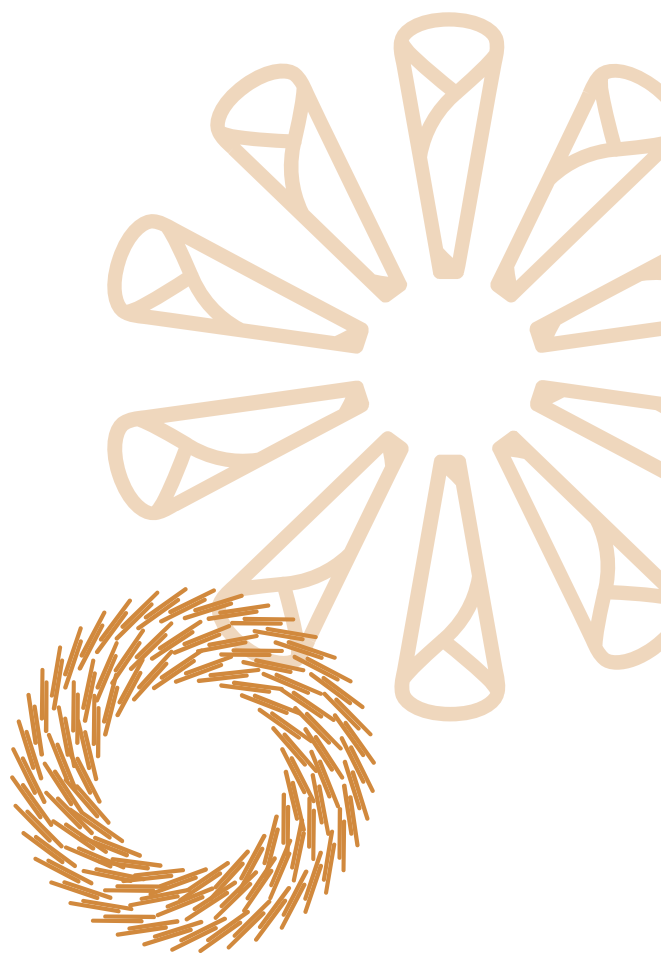
The framework for healing ourselves and our nations recognizes that overcoming violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is an ongoing process that requires continual support and resources both at the individual and First Nation level. Four areas must be considered in this healing process, including immediate funding for First Nations healing centres, shelters, and safe spaces. There also needs to be additional resources provided for cultural practices and land-based activities to be incorporated into programs and services. An area that has been highlighted as a gap in the work around addressing violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is the role of First Nations men and boys who also need to have access to mental and emotional health supports to address intergenerational trauma and abuse. At a First Nations level, there needs to be an increase in efforts to support self-determination and revitalizing First Nations laws to exercise their jurisdiction to ensure the safety and security of their own people.



Little Progress on Implementation of the NAP and First Nations Action Plan

Urgent action is needed to fully implement the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (NAP) and *Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice* (First Nations Action Plan). Budget 2021 provided for \$2.2 billion over 5 years and \$160.9 million per year on-going to respond to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls *Calls for Justice*. However, despite this historic investment, little progress has been made with respect to implementation of the NAP and the First Nations Action Plan.

The AFN is calling on the federal government to provide greater transparency with respect investments targeted for implementation of the NAP and for the immediate implementation of the frameworks outlined in the First Nations Action Plan. Gender based violence continues to disproportionately effect First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people at increasing rates. The AFN believes that immediate action is needed for real changes to occur and be felt “on the ground” and within our nations.





Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

ITK's work is strategically linked to implementing the actions in the National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People. The following are key highlights in advancing the National Inuit Action Plan. This work is achieved through various national-level working groups led by ITK with members from Inuit land claims organizations, Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada and the National Inuit Youth Council.

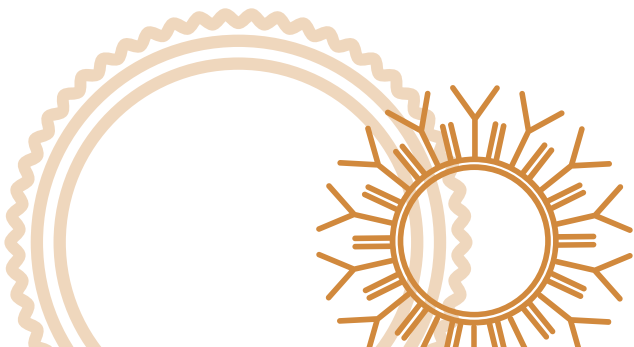
Shelters and Housing: In 2019, ITK released the Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy to bring housing outcomes in Inuit Nunangat in line with housing outcomes in the rest of Canada. Our work contributed to the federal budget 2022 announcement of an additional \$845 million over seven years for housing across Inuit Nunangat.

Infrastructure: In August 2021, ITK released a research brief that provides an overview of the reality of internet access in Inuit Nunangat. In addition, it evaluates the infrastructure required to bridge the digital divide between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada.

Education: ITK undertook work to complete a business case for establishing an Inuit Nunangat university and continued our partnership with the MasterCard Foundation to support this work. In addition, ITK completed an environmental scan of Inuit education at the K-12 level, which includes an in-depth analysis of the legal and legislative responsibilities of all jurisdictions involved in K-12 Inuit education.

Economic Security: In July 2021, ITK released the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy, which advances Inuit-driven solutions to improve food insecurity and sustainable food systems. ITK is working towards capturing the true depth of poverty for Inuit in Inuit Nunangat. This work involves research on developing poverty metrics to capture relevant, up-to-date data on the cost of living in Inuit Nunangat.

Health and Wellness: ITK and Inuit land claims organizations engaged in the proposed federal distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to inform key priority areas for the co-development process. In regards to suicide prevention, ITK is working at improving knowledge on trauma-informed care, working with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the Kids Help Phone on shared priorities, and sharing information on preventing child sexual abuse through webinars.

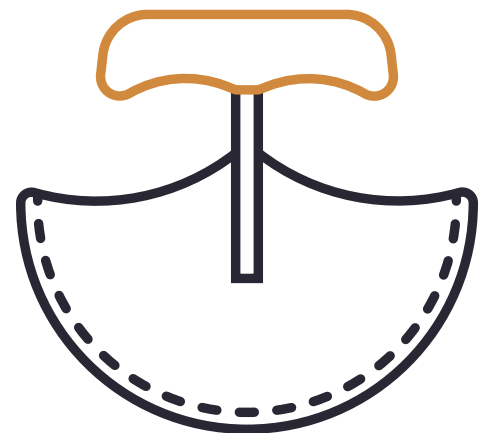


Justice and Policing: A sub-working group was created to track the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and identify Inuit priorities for an UNDRIP Action Plan. ITK also created an ad-hoc Justice Working Group to provide direction towards an Indigenous Justice Strategy. In addition, ITK has a shared work plan with the RCMP to improve the relationship between Inuit communities and the RCMP.

Children and Youth: ITK completed an evaluation of the interim Inuit Child First Initiative and is working on a long-term Inuit-specific policy and legal equivalent options to Jordan's Principle. This work ensures that the Government of Canada maintains its commitment to substantive equality for Inuit children. ITK also supports Inuit land claims organizations in protecting children and asserting and exercising their jurisdiction over Inuit children and youth in care through the implementation of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit & Métis children, youth and families. In November 2021, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation passed a new law, Inuvialuit Qitunrariit Inuuniarnikkun Maligaksat (Inuvialuit Family Way of Living Law). The legislation will ensure that Inuvialuit children, youth, and families are cared for in a way aligned with Inuvialuit priorities. In addition, based on a decision of the ITK Board of Directors, ITK has been working with Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to add each Inuit land claim organization as a Listed Community under the Ontario Child Youth and Family Services Act in order to ensure that Inuit-specific supportive services are provided to Inuit in Ontario who come in contact with Children's Aid Societies. ITK is currently listed in the act and has designated Tungasuvvingat Inuit as its representative.

Anti-Racism and Reconciliation: The Inuit Crown Partnership Committee Reconciliation Measures and MMIWG Working Group has been established as the table to review and provide oversight for implementing the National Inuit Action Plan. The National Inuit Committee on Health has been involved in discussions and decisions related to addressing anti-Indigenous racism in the healthcare system, including distributing federal funding to Inuit rights holders.

Governance: ITK and the federal government co-lead the development of a federal Inuit Nunangat Policy that Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee Leaders endorsed in April 2022. The policy applies to all federal departments and agencies, guiding them in the design, development and delivery of all new or renewed federal policies, programs, services, and initiatives that apply in Inuit Nunangat and/or benefit Inuit, including those within many of the other themes of the National Inuit Action Plan. Further, ITK is active in collaborative workshops on a proposed Modern Treaties Implementation Review Commission. The workshops have fostered a better understanding of the context of modern treaties, their character, their scope of application and their legal status in Canada.



Inuktitut: ITK completed an environmental scan of Inuit education at the K-12 level, which includes an in-depth analysis of the legal and legislative responsibilities of all jurisdictions involved in K-12 Inuit education. In addition, ITK and the Atausiq Inuktitut Titirasiq Development Team continued to work on establishing Inuktitut spelling and grammar rules and standards. Work has continued to advance an Inuktitut costing analysis and funding model for Inuit Nunangat, which will inform the implementation of the federal Indigenous Languages Act and action on each region's language priorities.

Data and Research: ITK has continued to advance work on the Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey. In January 2022, data collection began in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. ITK developed a proposal to secure \$4 million in the 2021 federal budget to create an Inuit Data Strategy. ITK also launched a series of research briefs to inform federal policy and support greater knowledge about issues of importance to Inuit. In addition, critical partnerships for the National Inuit Strategy on Research were brokered, including with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Polar Knowledge Canada.

Urban Inuit: ITK established an Urban Inuit Task Force, with a mandate which includes targeted research on statistics and needs relating to Inuit outside of Inuit Nunangat. This group has been meeting monthly on thematic issues important to urban Inuit.

Men and Boys: ITK has established an ad-hoc Justice Working Group to provide input toward an Indigenous Justice Strategy. This work will be guided by the actions of the National Inuit Action Plan. The Nunatsiavut Government has hired a Sexual Violence Prevention and Outreach Counsellor who will develop a weeklong program delivered at the Labrador Correction Centre. In addition, they will provide counselling to men in Happy-Valley Goose Bay, Nain and Hopedale and have weekly meetings with inmates to do traditional activities.

Family Violence: ITK actively considers the root causes of violence and applies a GBA+ lens in our work when implementing policies that work towards ending violence in Inuit communities, including work on early learning and child care, suicide prevention and other social and wellness initiatives. Inuit leadership has continued to speak out about, advocate for, and lead the implementation of measures within their respective areas of jurisdiction that help end violence against Inuit women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Next Steps

ITK will work with the Reconciliation Measures and MMIWG Working Group to finalize an implementation plan that will provide information on how to move forward with the actions indicated in the National Inuit Action Plan. We will also continue to advocate for Inuit-specific funds to support the implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan.





Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Key Highlights

Identification of 2022-23 immediate priority areas for Pauktuutit's implementation for federally led actions from the Inuit action plan.

This is the first step of implementation to address the 14 key themes. This identification process of immediate priorities areas was determined by completing a cross analysis of our immediate priorities identified by resolutions and our mandate. This included implementation actions for each of the priority areas.

GBA+

Pauktuutit has finalized and holds the copyrights to an Inuit-specific GBA+ Framework. Pauktuutit's Inuit-specific GBA+ Framework centers the voices of Inuit women and gender diverse Inuit in the actions and implementation of MMIWG and highlights how the systematic application of a culturally appropriate GBA+ lens can lead to more responsive and inclusive policies, programs, and initiatives.

Continued advocacy in the areas of:

- **Shelters and Housing** – continued advocacy and raising awareness of need to support Inuit women where they are.
- **Infrastructure** – continued advocacy and raising awareness of need to support Inuit women where they are.
- **Education** – ongoing advocacy.
- **Economic Security** – continued advocacy.
- **Health and Wellness** – Continued advocacy for the return of midwifery to communities to support Inuit women and birthing in community.
- **Justice and Policing** – Continued advocacy in addressing policing measures. Continued advocacy and engagement on the implementation of UNDRIP legislation as well as engagement on the Indigenous Justice Strategy.
- **Anti-Racism and Reconciliation** – Continued advocacy through our ongoing relationship development and equitable participation with the federal government of Canada through our Memorandum of understanding in areas of poverty reduction, violence and abuse prevention, health and wellness all under an overarching principle of Pauktuutit's Inuit specific Gender Based Analysis Plus framework.
- **Governance** – Continued advocacy and work to provide resources and supports for Inuit women and gender diverse leaders, and the development of leadership of Inuit women and gender diverse individuals.
- **Inuktitut** – Continued advocacy of language rights.
- **Urban** – Continued advocacy for the inclusion of Inuit women and gender diverse individuals in all initiatives no matter their residency.



- **Men and Boys** – Continued advocacy for a wholistic approach in addressing violence.
- **Family Violence** – Continued advocacy with participation on the IPV Standing Committee, advocating for the implementation of community-based gendered-violence prevention.
- **Children and Youth** – Continued advocacy, promoting the rights of Inuit women and gender diverse peoples and their rights and rights of children regardless of beneficiary/location - focusing on early interventions, preventions and reunification programming and supports, and data collection strategy C-92.

Progress/Successes

Overview of progress, including measuring success/impact

- **Shelters and Housing** - Pauktuutit was successful in securing five shelters (One per Inuit Nunangat and urban-Ottawa) under MMIWG.
- **Health and Wellness** – Conducted three engagements in support of distinctions-based health legislation. Completed a series of educational videos on Inuit midwifery.
- **Justice and Policing** – Working with the RCMP to address the recommendations highlighted in the 2020 policing report through a Memorandum of Agreement, this work is supported with funding from Public Safety
- **Urban** – Provided COVID 19 – food security to families living out of Inuit Nunangat. Continued advocacy with StatsCan for the inclusion and focus on prioritizing urban Inuit organizations to develop accurate and up-to date urban Inuit population data and information.

- **Men and Boys** – Recent funding for the continuation of the EMB focusing on men, youth and young boys along in healing journey through multiple violence and abuse prevention and rehabilitation projects.
- **Family Violence** – participation on the IPV Standing Committee, advocating for the implementation of community-based gendered-violence prevention
- **Commemoration** – Red Amautiit Project (5), Pauktuutit is honouring the lives and legacies of missing and murdered Inuit women and girls and LGBTQIA+ individuals with our commemoration project – The Red Amauti. We now have four, regionally distinct, amautiit and one heritage amauti. The four regional amautiit include elements from each of the four Inuit Nunangat regions. All of the amautiit are sewn by Inuit seamstresses, to honour those we have lost.

Next Steps/Priorities

Pauktuutit's next steps include:

Continue to work collaboratively with each of the Inuit Nunangat regions to implement actions in each of the 14 priority areas with a gendered lens, using Pauktuutit's GBA+ framework to embed the voice of Inuit women in all actions. Continue to support and advocate for this work to be implemented across Canada for Inuit women regardless of where they live.





Urban Working Group

Who we are: We are survivors, family members, front line service providers and experts with lived experience in the urban reality and violence against *Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Urban Reality: A majority of Indigenous people live in urban areas, and these voices are largely ignored, erased, undermined or silenced. Respect for and full inclusion of the dynamic, resilient and strong urban *Indigenous communities and voices would lead to human rights advancement, culturally appropriate programs and services and significantly improved socio-economic conditions.

Key Highlights

- Launched our MMIWG2S+ Urban Working Group National Action Plan entitled: Urban Path to Reclaiming Power and Place, Regardless of Residency that identified eight (8) Urban Pathways to End Violence.
- Held a National On-line Conference to report back to Urban MMIWG2S+ Families and Survivors, Urban Service Providers, Government Partners and other Key Stakeholders.
- Advocate to all Governments on prioritizing funding to Indigenous-led service providers and support development of Indigenous-led organizations where they don't exist.

- Further developed our Co-Development resource document to inspire a new approach to shared decision-making. It means that the right people are at the table as equal partners when decisions are being made. In other words “nothing about us without us.”

Urban Path to Reclaiming Power and Place, Regardless of Residency: Urban Implementation Plan

We are proposing three themes as part of a holistic model to implement the urban approach to end violence. This model is intended to be a starting point for a national discussion, to ensure that urban organizations and communities have what they need to elevate their work to end violence, based on their own priorities.

- **Urban Reality:** is to ensure Urban Indigenous voices and place in leading solutions. As most urban service delivery organizations are led and accessed by women, ignoring urban is also about ignoring urban *Indigenous women.
- **Responsibilities and Accountabilities:** this is the Urban Indigenous responsibility to ending violence through measured goals and monitoring impacts while ensuring accountability for all governments.



- **Co-development, coordination and collaboration:** this emphasizes “nothing about us without us” and builds on the fact that we are stronger when we work together.

Next Steps/Priorities

- Complete the MMIWG2S+ Urban Implementation Plan in collaboration with MMIWG2S+ Families and Survivors, Urban service providers, all governments and other key stakeholders.
- Host several National Gatherings to consider establishing a National Coalition of Indigenous Urban Service Provider Organizations and Urban Indigenous Strategy.
- Complete and promote our Co-Development approach document.
- Promote the Urban Reality, adopt the definition of Urban and amplify the voice and engagement of Urban Indigenous service providers on ending violence.

Reports/Publications

MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan: [Urban Path to Reclaiming Power And Place, Regardless of Residency:](https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca/contributing-partners#Urban)
<https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca/contributing-partners#Urban>

Contact us:
MMIWG2S-UrbanWorkingGroup@outlook.com

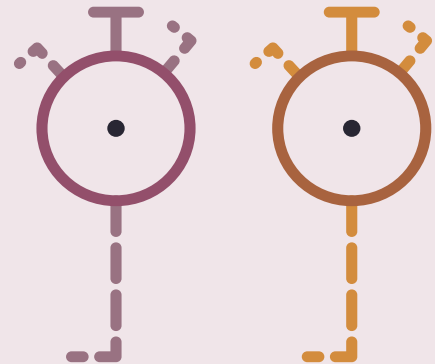




2SLGBTQIA+

The Government of Canada committed to working together with Indigenous, provincial and territorial partners on the development of the National Action Plan to make transformative change and to end systemic racism and violence against Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. The vision was to increase visibility and focus attention on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues. An important outcome of the National Inquiry was to articulate needs and issues specific to 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

In the past year, support has come from Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) in making presentations, reviewing their plans and priorities and beginning a national 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee process to address ending violence affecting 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Initial work focussed on promoting supportive policies, programs, and resources which would establish infrastructure for 2SLGBTQIA+ groups at the local, regional, provincial, territorial and national levels. Support was also provided to the 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee to undertake further research identifying population demographics and needs and beginning to build a 2SLGBTQIA+ specific database. The Committee process facilitated several federal departments to make presentations on their proposed approaches to actively engage 2SLGBTQIA+ people. The Committee also worked with the Urban Sub-Working Group, given the population distribution of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, to address joint approaches. The National Committee also reached out to community grassroots organizations, regions, provinces, territories and nationally to attend a 2SLGBTQIA+ sponsored gathering to provide input into identifying further priorities.



Women and Gender Equity (WAGE) have heard the need to provide ongoing supports for local, regional, provincial and territorial and national 2SLGBTQIA+ specific groups. WAGE has begun to look at ensuring that 2SLGBTQIA+ people work in the LGBTQ Secretariat.

CIRNA is an active participant and has engaged the 2SLGBTQIA+ groups as well as facilitated direct federal department engagement as required.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has identified 88 new shelters and transitional housing as priorities. Notional allocations for 2SLGBTQIA+ specific approaches have been identified.



In moving the implementation of the MMIWG 2SLGBTQQA+ NAP forward, we will need to continue to support capacity-building and infrastructure development in order to address the need for culturally relevant, safe and supportive 2SLGBTQQA+ facilities and programs throughout the country. We will need to expand the National Committee process to engage more community, regional, provincial, territorial and national realities. We will need to encourage other Indigenous national partners to do more than use the 2SLGBTQQA+ acronym and ensure that direct engagement and systems change occurs.

There are many priority areas identified in the NAP that have not been addressed. Amongst them, housing, justice, disability, health and mental health are priority areas for development. In light of the National Action Plan and the Prime Minister's apology to the 2SLGBTQQA+ community, it is important to ensure that federal, provincial and territorial processes begin to implement the matters raised in the National Action Plan. We note the provinces and territories are significantly behind and lacking positive progress with respect to the 2SLGBTQQA+ population.





Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Key Highlights

In the past year, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) created a MMIWG Senior Advisor and Project Coordinator position to engage with community members, federal and provincial governments, and Indigenous partners. CAP undertook a National Engagement Initiative, hosting MMIWG events with each of the affiliated Provincial and Territorial Organizations (PTOs). These sessions focused on gathering critical feedback on the 2021 National Action Plan and gaining a better understanding of the diverse unique community needs and approaches to ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The accumulation of voices from these sessions has led to the creation of CAP's *MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan*, released June 3, 2022.



CAP established a policy table with the federal government to advance priorities identified through the nationwide engagement strategy with PTOs. Overarching priorities incorporate a rights-based approach including the application of the Daniels lens to all MMIWG2S+ action and implementation plans. Immediate and long-term priority areas align with the CAP MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan. They include: equitable access to long-term sustainable funding for local resources and supports for victims and survivors; addressing systemic discrimination and anti-discriminatory approaches in the delivery of justice including policing; identification of opportunities for resolutions of jurisdictional barriers; developing inclusive accountability measures; establishing diverse and cross-jurisdictional partnerships toward CAP's inclusion at policy tables; and conducting research toward developing a plan to address missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys.

Keeping all work family and survivor focussed through group meetings, sharing circles, counselling, vigils, and creating safe spaces for families and women to share their stories are all promising practices adopted by CAP affiliated PTOs. The combination of interdisciplinary, multistakeholder, and community-based approaches to address the crisis of MMIWG2S+ continues to be a success.

In partnership with CAP affiliate New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC), CAP and NBAPC released the *Guidelines for Journalists Reporting on Missing Indigenous People*, a culmination of the efforts from consultations with Indigenous community members, partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous media professionals, and schools of journalism.



CAP partnered with affiliate NBAPC to host the 3rd Looking Out For Each Other (LOFEO) project symposium entitled *MMIWG2S+ Supporting Better Outcomes*. This online event included presentations, workshops, and discussions from the LOFEO project network and others doing work in the same MMIWG2S+ field. This platform provided an opportunity to raise awareness of collective work to develop and support the creation of Indigenous-led responses that will lead to better outcomes for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

CAP hosted the first *Gender Symposium Mobilizing Indigenous Two-Spirit History*. It was an interdisciplinary discussion that aimed to foster partnerships, community engagement, and networking opportunities. The symposium aimed to mobilize knowledge sharing on the history of Two-Spirit and non-binary individuals to increase awareness and understanding of 2SLGBTQQIA+ history and enhance public awareness about Two-Spirit identity and how crucial Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer leaders are to the movements of change.

Throughout 2021, CAP was involved in numerous presentations including: before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples as part of the Review of the Final Report of the National Inquiry; the Federal Provincial Territorial (FPT) Senior Officials Committee Responsible for Human Rights on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and Women and Gender Equality FPT meetings.

Progress/Successes

Keeping to the vision that families and survivors are central, the work of CAP and affiliated PTOs focussed on created safe spaces for individuals to share their stories.

The development and creation of CAP's National Action Plan is foundational to advancing the rights of urban, rural Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Through the CAP national engagement with the PTOs and as illustrated in CAP's National Action Plan, the safety and security for all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, regardless of status or location, is a priority. To support moving forward with this priority, CAP obtained funding to develop wellbeing indicators and create evidence-based methodologies to measure the safety of Indigenous people who live off-reserve. This work will be foundational to measuring the success of implementing CAP's National Action Plan.

A key success has been the collaborative work at the Canada-CAP policy table. The table continues to push forward substantial and transformative change with a focus on systemic issues, policy, capacity building, and partnership development.

As CAP collaborates with the Government of Canada to advance shared policy priorities through our Political Accord Tables, there have been successes in partnership with the PTOs which advance the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SGLBTQQIA+ people. The NBAPC LOFEO project has accomplished groundbreaking work in working with Canadian institutions on policing standards and procedural protocols for missing persons investigations, focussed efforts around missing person's legislation, guidelines for journalists reporting on missing Indigenous Peoples, a helpline for crisis support, navigation and resource guide, and staff training. Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Manitoba hosted a cultural healing and gathering with Elders, teaching their culture, having healing circles, making space for one-on-one conversations, and having an evening feast in memory of MMIWG2S+. Spaces for healing and wellness have been created through yearly gatherings, celebration of life, and Indigenous youth fun day. These on-the-ground initiatives are all part of progressing safety, security, healing, and wellness for urban, rural Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



Next Steps/Priorities

Our focus moving forward is the implementation of CAPs National Action Plan. A key component of implementation includes capacity building for CAP and PTOs. Through the Canada-CAP Political Accord MMIWG2S+ Policy Table, CAP is focussed on establishing permanent, no-barrier, equitable, and sustainable funding to move forward on implementation. Applying the Daniels lens is foundational, ensuring all Indigenous Peoples have equitable access to programs and services, and organizations have the capacity to meet their communities' unique and diverse needs. NBAPC will continue to focus on policing reform, developing media guidelines for families, and continuing their work on shelters and helpline expansions. This priority will support PTO capacity to progress on their work and enhance their initiatives through the development of their own MMIWG2S+ action and implementation plans.

CAP is working with the Government of Canada through the MMIWG2S+ Policy Table to identify policy gaps, barriers, and opportunities to support the implementation of CAPs National Action Plan. The immediate policy priority areas include health and wellness, as well as justice and accountability. Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Manitoba hopes to host a multi-day gathering where people can gather as a community, where women can work with their hands to support their healing process, and where talking circles and crafting activities are available. The advocating of healing and wellness on a policy level will be key in supporting such initiatives. As CAP continues their partnership with NBAPC, moving forward on influencing missing person's legislation creation and amendments will be a priority for the Canada-CAP Political Accord MMIWG2S+ Policy Table. In collaboration with the Government of Canada and the PTOs, CAP will continue to provide informed, effective, and relevant policy analyses and recommendations to support the implementation of CAPs National Action Plan and the development and implementation of PTO action plans.

Reports/Publications

CAP partnering PTO NBAPC reports regarding community needs, identifying policy gaps and barriers, and provision of mainstream services: https://nbapc.org/lofeo-research-reports/?preview_nonce=0c53a93667&preview=true.

Newsletters, news and press releases as a mean to disseminate information and keep families, communities, partners, stakeholders informed of the Looking Out For Each Other project: <https://nbapc.org/lofeo-news>.

Policing – standards and procedural protocols for missing persons investigations, <https://nbapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/UQAM-LOFEO-Final-report.pdf>

Law – missing person's legislation, curriculum for law students at UNB, <https://nbapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/LOFEO-legislation-and-standards-draft-report-July-2021-FINAL.pdf>

Media – guidelines for journalists reporting on missing Indigenous people, curriculum for journalism students at Canadian public institutions, <https://nbapc.org/programs-and-services/lofeo-media/>

Helpline – development in NB, crisis support, navigation and resource guide, staff training. Expansion of helpline to other Eastern provinces, <https://nbapc.org/lofeo-helpline>



Government of Canada

Key Highlights

Between June 2021 and June 2022:

The [Federal Pathway](#) was published on June 3rd 2021. It contains the Federal Government's commitments to ending violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples. Over 25 departments and agencies are actively implementing the Federal Pathway. This has been done through programs and funding, new or renewed policies, and passing of key legislation.

More specifically, new programs have been launched, such as those for [supports for families and survivors](#), [cultural spaces](#), [health and wellness](#), [languages](#), [shelters](#), [housing](#), [education](#) and [data](#).

The Federal Government has also created policies supporting [community safety initiatives](#), [justice and policing](#), the [Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy](#), the [National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking](#), and the [Distinctions-Based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy](#).

In addition, legislation, such as the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\) Implementation Act](#), was passed and engagement and collaboration is underway to develop the UNDRIP Action Plan by June 2023.

Details on the Government of Canada's efforts can be found in the [Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report](#).

Progress/Successes

Engagement Progress

The Federal Government engaged with Indigenous families, survivors, leadership, organizations and communities as well as with provinces and territories in the implementation of the Federal Pathway initiatives.

The Government of Canada has also continued to engage with partners on the Federal Pathway implementation work through established governance committees such as the National Family and Survivors Circle, Urban Committee, 2SLGBTQQIA+ Committee, Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee working group, and with Indigenous leadership and women's organizations and former Inquiry Commissioners.



Implementation Progress

Historic investments were made through Budget 2021. As a result, in 2021-22, over 50 initiatives by over 25 federal departments and agencies moved forward and are now in various stages of implementation. These initiatives start to address the root causes of violence in the four key themes of Culture, Health and Wellness, Human Safety and Security, and Justice, and help to build organizational capacity and coordination. They align with priorities identified by Indigenous families, survivors, communities and partners, and start to address the Calls for Justice. It includes community programming for child and family services, health services, family violence prevention, shelters, housing, infrastructure, cultural spaces, policing, education, languages, and supports for mental wellness and healing. Through a 2021-22 call for proposals, 20 Indigenous organizations across Canada and serving First Nations, Inuit and Métis, were funded to support families and survivors in their healing journeys. Supported projects include commemorative events, healing gatherings, counselling services, and expanded safe space access.

Policies have been developed and are being implemented such as the Distinctions-Based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy, the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Anti-Racism Strategy, and the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy, through which 38 new shelters and at least 50 new transitional (second stage) housing units across the country will be built. Also, in 2021 – 22, the Government of Canada worked on the development of policies such as the Indigenous Justice Strategy, the forthcoming National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, and Federal LGBTQ2 Action Plan, the Disaggregated Data Action Plan, and the UNDRIP Implementation Action Plan, all of which will contribute to ending violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Key legislation is being implemented, including the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families which seeks to ensure that Indigenous communities are supported in exercising their jurisdiction over child and family services. In support of the Act, capacity-building funding has been made available to support Indigenous groups, communities, peoples and Indigenous governing bodies for exercising jurisdiction over child and family services and supports. Through implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act, 410 projects from First Nation, Inuit, Métis organizations, and organizations serving urban populations have been funded in 2021-2022.

Budget 2022 builds on the investments of Budget 2021 and provides additional investments in the areas of education, housing, health, prevention, mental wellness, and climate leadership that will contribute to ending the violence. In addition, Budget 2022 provides investments for the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, the Federal LGBTQ2+ Action Plan and the Anti-Racism Plan, which respond to priorities identified by Indigenous partners.



Next Steps/Priorities

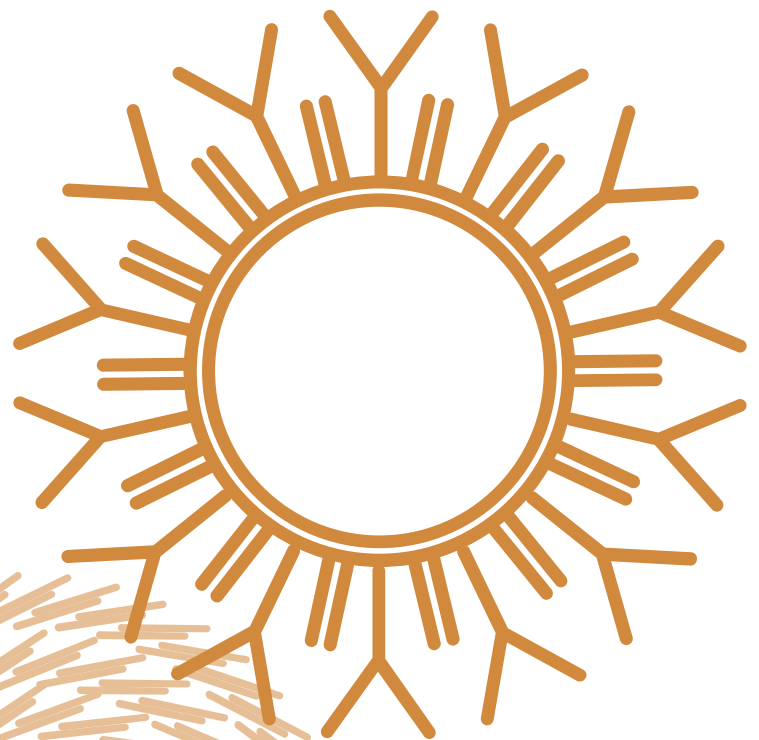
The Government will accelerate the implementation of the Federal Government initiatives, legislation and programs and policies related to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The Government will continue to identify, address and fill gaps brought forward by families, survivors, partners, and organizations. To support this, the government continues to provide funding for the work of the National Families and Survivors Circle and other Indigenous partners so they can engage on key priority areas.

Continuing its critical role in addressing the root causes of the violence towards MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, the Government has committed to working with Indigenous families, survivors and partners, and provinces and territories to establish an oversight mechanism for the National Action Plan to monitor, report on progress, and to identify gaps and/or opportunities.

Reports/Publications

[Federal Pathway](#)

[Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report](#)

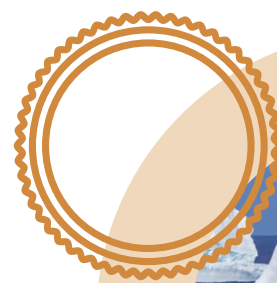




Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Overview

- Since release of the National Inquiry’s final report, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has been working with our federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues to address disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in our province and country.
- While our continued work with our colleagues across the country is important, our priority remains the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). Issues discussed are deep-rooted, and the steps required to appropriately address them are complex.
- Prior to advancing work in the area of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse individuals (MMIWG2S+), it is essential that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador engage with Indigenous peoples in our province to ensure actions taken are responsive to the issues and needs of our province’s Indigenous communities, families, and peoples. To do otherwise would be disrespectful to the spirit of the National Inquiry’s final report and the trauma that Indigenous people in our province have experienced.
- To this end, the focus of the 2021-22 Provincial Indigenous Women’s Gathering was to bring together Indigenous women from across the province to discuss and prioritize Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry’s final report that are relevant to Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, and communities in our province.
- Approximately 25 Indigenous women were in attendance, along with Ministerial, Executive, and staff representatives from the Provincial Government’s Office of Women and Gender Equality, Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Department of Justice and Public Safety.
- The Provincial Indigenous Women’s Steering Committee is in the final stages of preparing recommendations for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on how to best action provincially relevant Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry’s final report. Recommendations are expected to be formally presented to the Provincial Government in summer 2022.





Highlights on Investments

Newfoundland and Labrador contributed to the National Action Plan in June 2021 and continues to be an active member of the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Working Group. The Province looks forward to participating as the national focus shifts into implementation and continues to make changes that honour the Calls for Justice from the Final Report into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Notable Newfoundland and Labrador investments that support ongoing work include:

- The Department of Justice and Public Safety is working with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to increase capacity at the Labrador Correctional Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This renovation will have the option to house both female and male inmates in Labrador, reducing the need for transports to other facilities on the Island portion of the province. This addition to capacity will facilitate a greater number of inmates, many of whom are Indigenous, to stay closer to their home communities in Labrador. In addition, the improved facility will allow for the delivery of more culturally appropriate programming to male inmates with the hope of reducing recidivism and ultimately violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD) ended the child protection practice of sending birth alerts to hospitals in Newfoundland and Labrador in June 2021. CSSD's discontinuation of birth alerts honors the MMIWG Calls for Justice and Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Calls to Action to end this practice, which was known to disproportionately affect Indigenous and marginalized expectant parents. Collaboration between the department, Indigenous governments and organizations, extended family, and health and other service providers will continue to be the focus of the new direction when expectant parents voluntarily seek support prior to the birth of their baby.
- To honour survivors and raise awareness about the legacy of residential schools, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador observed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the launch of the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System on April 29, 2022.
- In summer 2021, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador established the Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism, which includes Ministers of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills; Justice and Public Safety; Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation; and Education. The Committee recognizes the systemic and persistent nature of racism and Ministers have been meeting with and seeking input from residents, community and cultural organizations, employers, educators, and researchers, on their experiences, and to hear recommendations on stopping all forms of racism including anti-Indigenous racism. Specific responsibilities include:
 - Seeking input from the public and various partners, including community groups, educational institutions, Police and Emergency Services, public, private, and voluntary sectors, and all orders of government regarding measures that could be taken to address racism and its impacts in Newfoundland and Labrador; and
 - Promoting respect and understanding for and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Indigenous and racialized communities into the social and cultural mosaic of the province.

- Completed the Inquiry into Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. The outcomes of this Inquiry are intended to enhance the safety of people throughout the province, as effective and responsive search and rescue support is vital to the people who need it. The final report was released December 1, 2021.
- The Office of Women and Gender Equality has supported numerous initiatives focused on the well-being of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people, including funding for the Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program and the annual Provincial Indigenous Women's Gathering, which was held in Steady Brook from December 6-7, 2021. This year's Gathering focused on identifying provincially appropriate responses to the Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report. Recommendations on how to best move forward in responding to the Calls for Justice is currently in development and expected to be formally presented to the Provincial Government in summer 2022.
- Expansion of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program.
- Ongoing engagement with the Premier's Roundtable on Gender Equity.
- Continuing to advance infrastructure improvements, notably continued investments in the Labrador Correctional Centre, to ensure it can facilitate more intimates staying in Labrador as well as have capacity to offer enhanced services and programming to better serve the community.

As outlined above, the Provincial Government is eagerly awaiting the submission of recommendations from the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee on how best to implement the Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report. The Committee's final report is expected to be presented in early summer 2022. It is the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's expectation that the contents of this report will provide a roadmap for implementation of Calls for Justice that are specifically relevant to Indigenous families and communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Upcoming Investments

- Advancing the work of the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences, and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System.
- Planning for a new Heritage Centre near Beothuk Lake to commemorate the Beothuk people.
- Provision of grants aimed at preventing violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- Support for the Provincial Indigenous Women's Gathering.
- Funding for the Newfoundland and Labrador Search and Rescue Association, which stems from recommendations from the Search and Rescue Inquiry.

Reports/Publications

- As mentioned above, recommendations on how to best action Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report is currently in process. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador expects to obtain this report from the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee in early summer 2022.
- Public Inquiry Respecting Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons (<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2021/jps/1201n05/>)





Government of Prince Edward Island

Key Highlights

Recognizing that Indigenous voices and perspectives must be centered in the work of responding to the MMIWG Calls for Justice, the Government of PEI has prioritized developing a process that is Indigenous-led and informed. This has included the creation of an Indigenous Working Group with representatives from First Nations and Indigenous organizations across the Island. The Indigenous Working Group meets regularly and provides important feedback and guidance that informs the priorities that the Government of PEI sets to address the Calls for Justice.

The Province has also established an Interdepartmental Working Group with representatives from every government department that work collaboratively to share information and identify opportunities to respond to the Calls for Justice through programs and policies in their departments. This has resulted in a cross-government approach that has supported the implementation of new initiatives that advance the Calls for Justice.

The key successes highlighted below are not an exhaustive representation of the significant work being done to respond to the Calls for Justice in PEI. They are reflective of the priorities identified through meetings held with the Indigenous Working Group over the past year and the efforts of the Interdepartmental Working Group to respond to these priorities.



Progress/Successes

Education/Training

The province previously committed to making its cultural training mandatory for all new and existing public service employees. As part of this committee, the Province held an Indigenous Speakers Series during the month of October for public service employees to commemorate Mi'kmaq History Month. This work is ongoing and, with the guidance of the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group, a new training program will be fully implemented in Summer 2022.

Health

The Indigenous Working Group advocated for an Indigenous Health Navigator on PEI. Steps are now being taken to establish this position within our provincial health care system. This navigator will help the Indigenous population in PEI to access the health services they need.



Housing

Safety and security are important to achieve better outcomes for Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people. They facilitate an environment of healing and provide stability, leading to positive impacts in all aspects of life. Establishing a dedicated stream of funding available to support Indigenous housing in PEI would ensure that extra supports are provided to develop culturally appropriate housing services for Indigenous people in PEI. The Government of PEI is proud to announce a \$500,000 fund specifically for Indigenous housing initiatives. This funding will help support projects that help address safety and security, key themes in the MMIWG Calls for Justice.

Support for MMIWG Work in Communities

The Government of PEI is pleased to have established an annual MMIWG fund of \$250,000 to strengthen the capacity of the Indigenous Working Group to participate in the ongoing work related to MMIWG and the Calls for Justice. This fund provides \$50,000 to each First Nation and Indigenous organization represented on the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group (comprised of the Aboriginal Women's Association, Lennox Island First Nation, Abegweit First Nation, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, and the Native Council of PEI) to ensure that representatives can continue to engage meaningfully in their communities and provide guidance to the Government of PEI.

Next Steps/Priorities

The Government of PEI's immediate focus is shifting to new priorities established from dialogue with Indigenous partners. The Province will continue to work with the Indigenous Working Group to identify priorities and inform the actions that government is taking to advance the Calls for Justice.

The Government of PEI recognizes the commitment that participation in the Indigenous Working Group takes and the important work that the First Nations and Indigenous organizations are doing to address the Calls for Justice. We are committed to supporting the Indigenous Working Group so its members can continue to provide guidance to the Province and pursue projects that help address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit (2S) people. Through in-kind support and ongoing conversation with members of the Working Group, to Province is open to receiving feedback from the committee to advance the work of the MMIWG file.

The Government of PEI has committed to tabling annual status reports on the progress being made to implement the Calls for Justice across government. It has thus far tabled two MMIWG status reports and is tabling the third such report before the end of the Spring 2022 Legislature session.

Reports/Publications

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/mmiwg-report2022.pdf>





Government of Nova Scotia

“This work is important and urgent. Collaboration is key to our success, and we continue to ensure that all voices are heard and reflected in our holistic approach to addressing the 231 Calls for Justice.”

— **Chief Annie Bernard-Daisley**

Co-Chair, Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Chiefs

“Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association brings attention to important issues affecting our women, our men, and our communities. Together with the Province, we are taking action on things that matter.”

— **Bernadette Marshall**

President, Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association

“We continue to centre Mi’kmaq women’s leadership, as we work in partnership to strengthen safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. The only way forward is together.”

— **Hon. Karla MacFarlane**

Minister Responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Minister of L’nu Affairs

Nova Scotia is pleased to reaffirm our commitment to ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people and provide a joint update on our progress. We honour and acknowledge all survivors, family members, those lost to violence, and everyone affected by ongoing experiences of violence. The Mi’kmaq and the Province have embraced a collaborative approach to responding to the Calls for Justice. Families and survivors are at the centre of our work. We are walking together in partnership to address priorities identified by the Mi’kmaq, in the Final Report, and in the National Action Plan in a collaborative way.

Key Highlights

The principles that guided our approach throughout the Inquiry – honouring relationships, keeping families at the centre, and collaboration and partnership – continue to guide our work and actions taken to date to respond to the Calls for Justice in Nova Scotia. Through a holistic approach, progress is being made on interconnected, foundational areas such as health and wellness, culture and language, child welfare, housing, gender-based violence, and economic security. The safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people remains a critical priority on our pathway to reconciliation.



There have been significant shifts in women's leadership within Nova Scotia, most recently with the election of Chief Annie Bernard-Daisley as the first female co-chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, and the appointment of the Honourable Karla MacFarlane as the first provincial Minister to hold both the Status of Women and L'nu Affairs portfolios and responsibilities. These are important signals on the role of women's leadership and the significance of the work ahead.

Progress/Successes

Nova Scotia continues to collaborate with Mi'kmaw partners, through the leadership of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNWA). Through engagement with families, grassroots, and organizations, NSNWA identified that a critical next step would be to host their first Mawio'mi in September 2021 to provide a safe space to empower women, girls, and two-spirited people to gather, share, engage, and support one another. This gathering represented a decolonized approach to Indigenous-led engagement to gather knowledge, experience, and solutions to inform future actions, through ceremony and healing. NSNWA will host the next Mawio'mi in August 2022.

The NSNWA was contracted by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to conduct engagement in the Atlantic region to contribute to AFN's action plan on MMIWG. In fall of 2021, a total of 665 individuals participated and the resultant report includes Atlantic specific recommendations, priorities, and next steps for action.

In November 2021, the Province ended the use of birth alerts, and enhanced supports for families through the new Family Connections Program. Indigenous-led work is underway to "decolonize birth" by engaging with Mi'kmaw women about traditional birthing practices and ceremonies and strengthening the continuum of care and supports, building capacity for Indigenous midwifery and doulas.



The Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre (JPC) continues to provide supports to Indigenous women off-reserve in Sydney, many of whom live with complex and intersecting realities of homelessness, poverty, violence, addiction, and multiple system interactions. JPC has expanded access to mental health supports, supervised parenting visits, food and clothing bank, economic supports, and cultural activities.

Tajikeimik, a collaboration of all 13 Mi'kmaw First Nations, is leading health transformation on behalf of all Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia. In March 2022, the Province provided funding to Tajikeimik to develop a culturally responsive mental health and addictions strategy. This work exemplifies the partnership between the Mi'kmaw and the provincial health system to address health disparities and improve access to culturally safe mental wellness care and support.

In April 2022, the Mi'kmaw Language Act was passed. The Act recognizes Mi'kmaw as Nova Scotia's first language and will support efforts to preserve and promote it now and for future generations. This work reinforces the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and aligns with MMIWG Calls for Justice, to ensure meaningful access to language, culture, and identity as a foundation for resilience and safety. The legislation will be proclaimed and will take effect on or after Treaty Day, on October 1, 2022.

Our collective work recognizes the interconnected and intergenerational impacts of systemic discrimination, racism, and sexism. In April 2022, the Dismantling Racism and Hate Act was passed. This new legislation is the first of its kind in Canada, and outlines the government's approach to addressing systemic racism, hate, and inequity, and commits to developing a provincial strategy and a health equity framework by July 2023.

Next Steps/Priorities

On our pathway to build a better future and write a new story with Indigenous partners, we are actively working to connect, align, and integrate our responses and actions. Some specific next steps include:

- Developing and launching Standing Together, the coordinated provincial approach to prevent domestic violence, integrating knowledge from Indigenous-led initiatives and projects;
- Building promising practices and culturally responsive supports through Creating Communities of Care Through a Customary Law Approach, which is supporting urban Indigenous and African Nova Scotian survivors of gender-based violence;
- Partnering with and supporting a multi-year Mi'kmaw language revitalization strategy (stemming from the new legislation);
- Continuing to raise awareness on the context and impacts of MMIWG, including a Mi'kmaw-led media campaign on sexual exploitation and non-consensual sharing of intimate images; and,
- Supporting the development of the NS Indigenous Human Trafficking Strategy, led by NSNWA.





Government of New Brunswick

Key Highlights

The Government of New Brunswick focused on developing its response to help improve outcomes for Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. New Brunswick held engagement sessions with the NB Advisory Committee on Violence against Indigenous Women and several First Nation communities, Indigenous peoples, and Indigenous organizations. They identified as critical needs: a focus on youth, the provision of culturally safe and appropriate supports, addressing gender inequality, mental health and addictions, and increasing meaningful opportunities. They also identified the uniqueness of each Indigenous community and the diverse realities of Indigenous persons depending on whether they live in community or off, rural or urban. The Government of New Brunswick's response is currently being developed and will reflect the community engagement sessions, and positive government actions underway, as part of the government's commitment to address violence against Indigenous women and girls and the Calls for Justice. The following principles for change were articulated as part of the community engagement sessions and guided government's work, together with its partners:

- Indigenous Woman Centered
- Valuing Culture
- Working in Partnership
- Building Trusting Relationships
- Family Participation and Peer Support
- Respect, Dignity & Compassion
- Interdisciplinary Systemic Approach



Progress/Successes

The following examples highlight some of the work completed or underway:

- The Indigenous Domestic Violence Outreach Pilot Program, an Indigenous led and culturally sensitive service, is making a difference in supporting women living in or leaving abusive relationships in three First Nations communities and off-community in the Miramichi region. This program has been expanded to reach eight additional First Nation communities in New Brunswick.
- Ongoing training sessions on intimate partner violence, the Danger Assessment tool and the *It's Your Business: A Domestic & Intimate Partner Violence Workplace Toolkit* with Indigenous communities, organizations and service providers working with Indigenous people.
- Awakening Cultural Identity and Spirituality (ACIS) – Is an activity and ongoing program within the Crime Prevention Branch. This is a voluntary program that links Traditional Elders with adult offending individuals requesting culturally distinct services for effective reintegration.
- Courage to change Indigenous Journals – These are to be implemented as evidence-based programming in Community and Institutional Corrections and have been edited by a New Brunswick First Nations Committee to ensure the cultural content is accurate for New Brunswick.
- Eagle Feather – Justice and Public Safety has an option for offenders to be able to use Eagle Feathers in oath taking processes in courts in New Brunswick.
- Coroner Inquest related to the death of a member of an Indigenous community – Whenever possible the inquests are held in a location where an Indigenous community is included in the area from which the jury will be polled. The following considerations have also been made in the inquest planning process:
 - An Indigenous Elder has been acting as an independent resource to the inquest team to provide cultural context and advice.
 - An eagle feather is made available as a choice for swearing in witnesses.
 - Cultural ceremonies such as smudging are facilitated.
 - Relationship building takes place during the planning stages of the inquest with the Indigenous communities involved and/or are near the location where the inquest will be held.
- Improving the provision of community-based mental health and addiction services to First Nations communities, on and off-reserve.
- Developing mobilization primary care units to serve First Nations communities and the off-reserve population. Regional Health Authorities focused on implementing a team-based model of primary health care, consisting of a doctor, nurse practitioner, social worker and mid-wife working in a mobilization unit to serve First Nations communities and the off-reserve population.

- Regional Health Authorities and Department of Health, in collaboration with First Nations, developing training tools and cultural safety/ awareness activities to enhance culturally appropriate approaches for health care.
- The provincial government, on October 29, 2021 announced the discontinuance of its birth alert practice, with more emphasis being placed on supporting expectant mothers. The elimination of birth alerts is intended to support healing of all families and communities; it is also important to focus on prevention efforts and furthering education about programs and services that are available to parents and expectant mothers, fathers and families.

Next Steps/Priorities

The Government of New Brunswick is developing its own response to the National Inquiry and will continue to move forward on the identified priority areas: safety and security, health and well-being, justice and policing, education and employment and culture and rights.

New Brunswick's path forward will respect the principles for change identified in partnership with the *NB Advisory Committee on Violence against Indigenous Women*, build on the perspectives learned through engagement and improve on current initiatives to create measurable change.

The Government of New Brunswick is taking an interdisciplinary systemic approach to change. New partners and priorities will be identified and added as we move forward together. As progress is achieved, initiatives and actions will be measured as to how they are achieving outcomes and help identify future work. We also recognize the need for transparency and accountability in this work. We will work in partnership with Indigenous peoples, Indigenous communities and the Advisory Committee to make change happen and will measure and report on progress on the implementation of these goals, outcomes and actions.

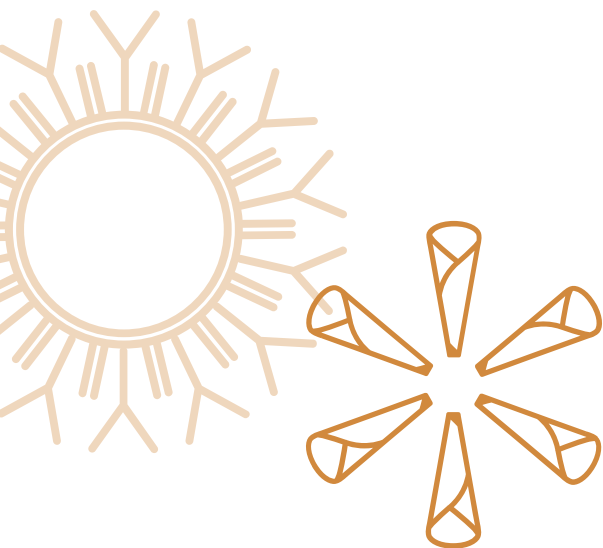




Government of Québec

In the *2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People*, published on this date last year, the gouvernement du Québec reiterated its commitment to combating violence against Indigenous women and girls and, with Indigenous partners, to implementing its own actions in its areas of jurisdiction.

It is in the same vein that the gouvernement du Québec is proud to present today to its population and Indigenous partners an overview of the concrete steps taken in 2021–2022 to improve living conditions for Indigenous peoples, and particularly Indigenous women and girls in Québec. These actions are meant to address the recommendations of the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec (the Viens Commission) and of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NIMMIWG), including the 21 recommendations laid out in the report specific to Québec.



In June 2021, in response to Call for Justice 20 in the NIMMIWG report specific to Québec, the Parliament of Québec passed the *Act to authorize the communication of personal information to the families of Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution*. This Act, which came into force September 1st, 2021, aims to support families in their search for information on health and social services institutions and religious congregations, particularly on the circumstances surrounding the disappearance or death of their child after the child was admitted to one of these institutions. The Act overrides certain access to information regimes by allowing specific personal information about a child to be communicated to their extended family or any significant person. The Act is to be carried out by several stakeholders: the special advisor for family support, Ms. Anne Panasuk; the Direction de soutien aux familles, created as part of the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones at the same time as this Act came into force; and the Association des familles Awacak. The monitoring committee on the Act was created in October 2021, as well, and has been holding working meetings since then. During 2021, 17 femicides were committed in Québec, three of them against Nunavik women. The premier ministre, François Legault, responded to this terrible occurrence by mandating the vice-première ministre and ministre de la Sécurité publique, Ms. Geneviève Guilbault, to lead a committee on stopping crimes against women. This committee has worked on priority efforts relating to domestic violence and the femicides. Four of these efforts were announced on June 3rd, 2021, and were specifically aimed at First Nations and Inuit:

- Increase funding of emergency shelters in Indigenous³² communities under agreement and urban centres for women and children facing domestic violence;

- Support culturally relevant local services that help Indigenous women and men, as well as their relatives, in the healing process after domestic violence;
- Support the development of culturally relevant and safe services for prevention and intervention in domestic violence in Nunavik, in collaboration with Inuit partners; and,
- Add domestic violence personnel to the Indigenous police force to ensure that victims are better cared for and perpetrators monitored more closely throughout all stages of the process.

Note that some of these priority efforts are in addition to the 2020 budget's announced investment of \$200 million over five years for implementing the recommendations of the NIMMIWG and the Viens Commission. Nine departments and agencies have put forward 35 structural measures over the course of 2021–2022 to cover a range of issues and recommendations, including:

- Incorporating cultural safety into the health and social services network;
- Access to justice and training for Indigenous police force personnel;
- Funding consolidation for two student residence complexes with communal spaces and affordable housing for Indigenous students in Sept-Îles and Trois-Rivières, and beginning the process of constructing a third centre in Québec City; and,
- Developing an implementation plan for incorporating Indigenous content into the Quebec school curriculum, in collaboration with First Nations and Inuit.

³² Under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the Northeastern Quebec Agreement, the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi nations take over numerous responsibilities in areas such as health and social services, education and income security, and were granted funding to that end.

As part of a collaborative process of working with Indigenous organizations against domestic violence, the gouvernement du Québec has allocated funding for projects developed by and for Indigenous peoples, with a request for proposals from the Secrétariat à la condition féminine and the ministère de la Justice. Funding has also been granted to the Québec City organization Maison communautaire Missinak, to create a transition house to shelter Indigenous women and children who have been the victims of domestic violence and provide them with affordable housing and psychosocial support services.

Furthermore, in December 2021, the gouvernement du Québec launched the *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs* [2021-2026 governmental action plan in response to the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors]. This includes 10 measures tailored to the Indigenous context and four steps specifically for Indigenous peoples.

The gouvernement du Québec and Indigenous organizations have also continued their efforts through the work of the Comité femmes autochtones [Indigenous women committee]. Over the course of 2021-2022, the committee identified work priorities, which will be studied over the next year in order to inspire new government efforts.

Lastly, the *Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit 2017-2022* came to an end during 2021-2022. This action plan included more than 26 measures aimed at Indigenous women and children. The process of renewing the action plan is underway. Many Indigenous organizations and elected leaders have already been heard from, including those who represent the interests of Indigenous women and children in Québec. The new action plan will come out in 2022 and will strengthen the government's response to the inquiry commissions.

The gouvernement du Québec is more committed than ever to supporting Indigenous women and children socially and economically, intensifying its work against the diverse forms of violence they suffer and continuing the search for information about Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution. The gouvernement du Québec will strengthen its efforts to respond to the recommendations of the NIMMIWG and the Viens Commission, in partnership with Indigenous organizations of Québec. It also is committed to taking into account the needs expressed by the First Nations and Inuit of Québec as part of its action plans and anti-violence work currently underway. The gouvernement du Québec considers the conditions that Indigenous women and children live in to be of fundamental importance, and, in collaboration with Indigenous partners, will continue to pursue efforts to improve those conditions.





Government of Ontario

Key Highlights

On March 31st, 2022, Ontario issued the first annual progress report on Pathways to Safety: Ontario's Strategy in Response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, released in May 2021. The progress report outlines advancements Ontario has made to address critical gaps in supports for Indigenous women and children, and the ways we are confronting and eliminating the root causes of violence faced by Indigenous women, children and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) people.

The advances are a testament to the ongoing collaboration with Indigenous partners and communities to address and help eliminate the root causes of violence, with emphasis on increasing accountability, building relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners, and increasing programming and new investments.



For example, Ontario extended the mandate of the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council to March 2025 to ensure the voices of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people continue to be centered in all program and policy developments aimed at ending violence. The Indigenous Women's Advisory Council provided critical input on the development of Ontario's Pathways to Safety strategy and continues to guide its implementation, as well as providing advice on priorities under the Associate Minister of Women and Children's Issues portfolio. Priorities include child, youth and family well-being, anti-human trafficking and broader violence prevention.

Examples of other key actions and investments Ontario has made to address commitments in Pathways over the past year include:

- Investing over \$36 million in Indigenous community-led mental health and addictions supports
- Providing \$20 million over three years to support burial investigations by Indigenous communities at former Indian Residential Schools in Ontario
- Strengthening mandatory, Indigenous-focused content in Social Studies, Grades 1-3 through a co-development process with Indigenous partners for implementation in September 2023. These revisions will complement the mandatory learning already present in Social Studies, Grades 4-6, and History, Grades 7, 8 and 10, introduced in 2018, and complete the spectrum of learning across this curriculum.

Progress/Successes

Between June 2021 and June 2022, Ontario's continued response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry was driven by the province's commitment to transparent accountability and building meaningful relationships. Together with the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council, the province has begun designing and implementing accountability mechanisms to effectively monitor progress on the strategy's six Pathways. In early 2022, Ontario's Ministry of Indigenous Affairs also commenced work with the 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations and with Anishinabek Nation to hold targeted, culturally responsive, and community-led conversations on the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry, so their input can be used to inform future progress under Ontario's strategy.

First Nation, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous partners have told the province that addressing violence against Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people requires the creation of systems that truly foster safety and security for Indigenous communities, and clear measures and outcomes to effectively track this progress. The collaborative and transparent collection of data to meaningfully measure the reduction of violence against Indigenous peoples is a significant long-term priority for Ontario, and while work is at a preliminary stage, it is underway.

Over this past year, Ontario has also continued to build on its commitments by strengthening actions and investing in new initiatives under Pathways to Safety. Some successes over this last year include:

- Ongoing work under the Child Welfare Redesign with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to support the development and implementation of Indigenous-led models for child and family services
- Investment to support capacity-building activities for the Indigenous women's shelter sector as well as new and expanded healing lodge services
- New investments in mental health and addictions supports for Indigenous communities
- Expanded funding to anti-racism programs and supports
- Investment to support the identification, investigation, protection, maintenance and commemoration of burials at Indian Residential Schools and surrounding areas.

Next Steps/Priorities

Ontario recognizes that much more needs to be done. The legacy of the Indian Residential School system continues to haunt Indigenous communities across Ontario and Canada. Coupled with the impacts of the pandemic, including increased violence experienced by Indigenous women, efforts to address the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry must take on a renewed urgency. Ontario will continue working with Indigenous partners to expand collaboration and strengthen our response to the Calls for Justice, including efforts to improve collaborative data collection and measurement, collect baseline data, develop relevant indicators, and track strategy progress.



Work will also continue with the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council to support Women's Circles and Family/Survivors' Circles so women's voices are amplified. These commitments are important steps in Ontario's strategy.

Ontario will also continue to work with the federal government on shared priorities, including justice and policing, mental health supports, and housing supports. Ontario also recognizes that much more work needs to be done with Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities, and we will continue to build on conversations held to date so the needs of gender-diverse Indigenous peoples are addressed and met under the province's strategy. Finally, in partnership with the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council, Ontario will continue to release annual public progress reports to highlight progress in building a province where all Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people live in safety, free from violence and exploitation.

Reports/Publications

Ontario's 2021-22 Pathways to Safety Progress Report, released on March 31, 2022, highlights advancements made on accountability and relationship commitments under Ontario's strategy and profiles progress on key initiatives and new investments made this past year.

Progress Report: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-2021-22-pathways-safety-progress-report>

Pathways to Safety Strategy: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/pathways-safety-ontarios-strategy-response-final-report-national-inquiry-missing-and-murdered>





Government of Manitoba

Introductory Statement

Honourable Alan Lagimodiere, Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations, Manitoba Government

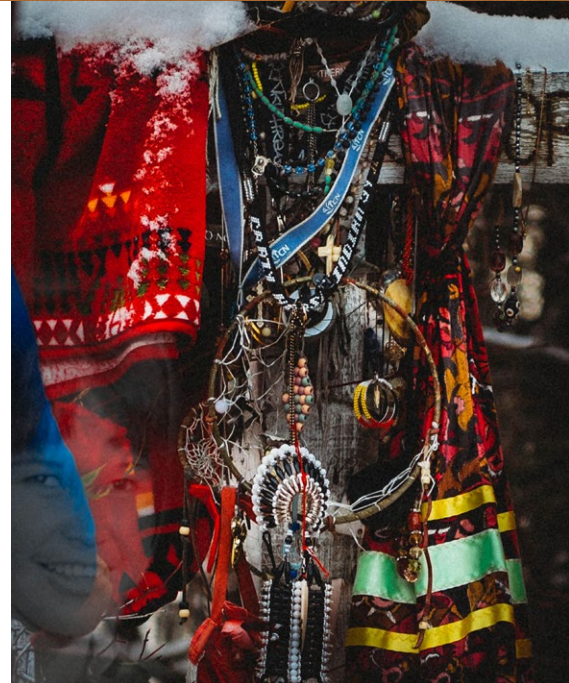
Today, as the 2022 Progress Report on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan is released, we pay our sincere respects to the families and friends who continue to experience a painful loss and mourn their missing and murdered loved ones. We also honour the strength and courage of survivors who have, and continue to experience trauma and violence.

Manitoba is committed to putting an end to gender-based violence, advancing reconciliation and supporting families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people.

In collaboration with community, we want to make transformative change. The voices of families and survivors must be at the centre and lead us in the work we do. It is our hope to continue to shed light on MMIWG2S+ and to continue to work in partnership as allies to end gender-based violence.

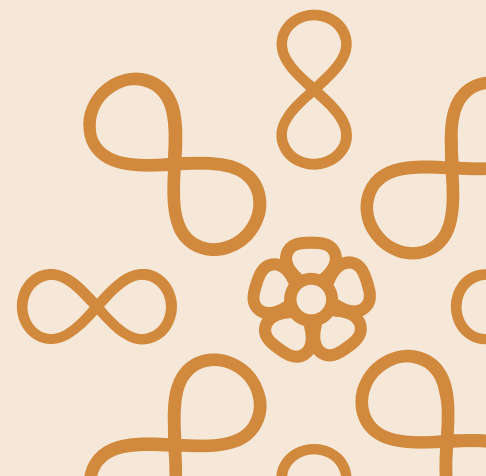
Areas of Progress

Manitoba continues to work toward developing concrete and effective responses to the National Inquiry that build on the work underway at the community-level. The Manitoba Government is supporting a partnership table coordinated by the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to co-develop a provincial implementation plan to raise awareness and end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples in Manitoba. This implementation plan will be an Indigenous-led expression of priorities as related to the Calls for Justice. It will be informed by the National Action Plan and used to align Manitoba's efforts to advance work as related to the National Inquiry.



View of the memorial built in honour of Helen Betty Osborne

(Credit: B. Bloxom; The Pas Family Resource Centre)



Some Success Stories

At the beginning of 2021/22, Manitoba supported various Indigenous-led community agencies to deliver programs that address the diverse needs of victims and address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Three-year grants were provided to support:

- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak – Indigenous Men and Boys are Part of the Solution to Building Healthy and Safe Communities
- Manitoba Métis Federation – Métis MMIWG Family Support Project
- Southern Chiefs Organization – Preventing and Addressing Family Violence Clan
- Mothers' Turtle Lodge – Healing Village Social Enterprise Training Program
- Ka Ni Kanichihk – Heart Medicine Lodge
- Portage La Prairie Bear Clan – Noozhek (support for Indigenous women taking meaningful action to search for stolen sisters)

On May 12, 2022, the Manitoba government proposed new legislation, as well as amendments to existing acts, that would further protect vulnerable children and youth who are at risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Proposed new legislation, would improve the ability of law enforcement to investigate suspected instances of human trafficking by requiring hotels and temporary accommodations, including online accommodation platforms, to keep a register of guests, including their names and addresses, and make the registers available to investigators by order or without a warrant on an emergency-demand basis. Further legislative amendments would require hotels, temporary accommodations and operators of taxis and online ride sharing platforms such as Uber to immediately report suspected human trafficking to police.

Manitoba has invested in a multi-faceted, skilled-trades training initiative for Indigenous women in four northern and remote communities, in partnership with the Manitoba Construction Sector Council (MCSC). The training initiative includes career exploration, targeted training, mentorship and ongoing career support. Training will be delivered by MCSC in framing, water and waste-water installation and blast hole drilling, which are all skills that are in high demand in these communities.

Manitoba is launching a web-based crisis line service to improve access to support for Manitobans experiencing family, domestic, and intimate partner violence. The web-based chat feature is an additional option to the existing crisis phone line, allowing for more discrete methods of accessing resources for those impacted by intimate partner violence, providing privacy, flexibility and anonymity.

Through federal funding made available from Canada's Victims Fund, Victim Services has received support through 2025/26 to improve culturally-aware programming offered by the branch. This includes funding to enhance the accessibility of Grandmother, Elder, and Knowledge Keeper support for victims of crime, and also having ceremonial tools such as tobacco, sweet grass, and other traditional materials available at all Victim Services offices.

On March 17, 2022, the Government introduced a bill to amend the *Victims' Bill of Rights* to allow for more discretion by administrators of victims services programs in supporting families of deceased victims of crime who might otherwise not have been eligible, through no fault of their own, but who are in need of support. Supporting victims of crime is important to healing and ending the cycle of victimization. These amendments are another step to ensuring the justice system not only holds offenders accountable but also supports victims during the time they need support.



Next Steps

With humility, we acknowledge that a great deal of work remains to be done and progress is ongoing. Solving this national tragedy is not easy but we continue working towards developing concrete and effective responses to the National Inquiry and the Calls for Justice that build on the work that is underway at the community-level.

The Manitoba Government has recently amended the *Path to Reconciliation Act* to establish the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as a central and guiding aspect of the government's approach to advancing truth and reconciliation in Manitoba.

These legislative amendments affirm that the Manitoba government will be guided by the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG, alongside the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Addressing violence, in particular the incidences of MMIWG2S+, is a priority for the Manitoba Government and we intend to continue to take action to prevent and combat gender-based violence in all forms.

Link to Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations, MMIWG website:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/inr/mmiwg/index.html>



Each of the 231 Calls for Justice was printed and placed along the memorial route for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration for Helen Betty Osborne on November 13, 2021

(Credit: B. Bloxom; The Pas Family Resource Centre)





Government of Saskatchewan

Key Highlights

Since the release of the *National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People*, the Government of Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan) continues to engage with Indigenous communities to better understand their concerns and priorities regarding matters related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other gender-diverse people (MMIWG2S+).

- In Fall 2021, the province held an engagement session to focus on the safety of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, and on relationship building through economic reconciliation. The session was primarily led by Indigenous women, and the presenters discussed Indigenous entrepreneurship and community safety.
- Ongoing funding will be provided, starting in 2022-23, for the *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Community Response Fund*. This program funds initiatives created by Indigenous communities and organizations that address the Calls for Justice (CFJ). Saskatchewan is currently working with Indigenous representatives to co-develop the criteria, application process, and evaluation tools. This fund, which responds to CFJ 15.6, will enable applicants to generate self-determined solutions and increase safety within their communities.
- Addressing the root causes of violence and victimization is paramount for long-lasting change. This past year, Saskatchewan provided funding to Kineepik Métis Local #9 for the Muskwa Lake Wellness Camp. The camp is a grassroots community-directed program that provides land-based health intervention to address alcoholism, suicide rates and overdose deaths in northern Saskatchewan communities and includes Western addictions education and traditional Indigenous teachings. This responds to CFJ 7.3 and 7.4. The project will focus on developing a culturally responsive model that can inform future programming. Part of the grant will also go toward winterizing the camp, which will allow the program to run year-round and enable the camp to increase the number of people it serves.
- Cowessess First Nation signed off on the first Coordination Agreement in Canada in July 2021 related to *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. Cowessess' service authority, the Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge, is building capacity to assume delivery of child and family services to members of their Nation. Working protocols between the Lodge and Child and Family Programs continue to be developed. In response to CFJ 12.1, the Ministry of Social Services works closely with Indigenous communities and First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies to help keep families together, build capacity for extended family caregivers and keep children connected to their culture and community.



Progress/Successes

Work continues within the themes of Culture, Health and Wellness, Human Security, and Justice.

Culture, Health and Wellness

- To provide culturally safe culture and language programs for Indigenous children, Early Years Family Resource Centres have begun to offer programming in Indigenous languages. To date, Nipawin Early Years Family Resource Centre is offering programming in Cree (CFJ 2.3, 12.7).
- Saskatchewan hosted a public Solstice Speakers Series consisting of four events focused on MMIWG2S+ and reconciliation. The second event in late 2021 was a panel discussion on MMIWG2S+ as a form of gender-based violence, its impacts on families and community, and available supports. This event provided an opportunity for the public and community to connect, heal, and learn together, which supports the National Action Plan goal of achieving societal change by knowing the root causes of violence against MMIWG2S+ (CFJ: 11.1).
- Access to cultural spaces supports the principle of reclaiming Indigenous cultural identity and traditional practices. The incorporation of dedicated cultural spaces within health care and corrections facilities is one way to increase cultural awareness and connection. For example, four new cultural centres have been built within corrections facilities since 2021 to ensure First Nations and Métis ceremony and culture is available for adults and youth (CFJ 15.2).

- Saskatchewan continues to support families of MMIWG2S+ and survivors of violence. For example, the Saskatchewan Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) takes a family-centred approach which includes attending and helping families organize events and activities and linking families to trauma and grief supports. This past year, FILU enabled inmates in custody to access FILU supports (CFJ 5.6).

Human Security and Justice

- Saskatchewan continues to address the CFJ within the justice system, including calls related to trauma-informed and inclusive programming. These initiatives are designed to support women in their healing journey through increased access to relevant supports and training opportunities. This includes supporting entrepreneurial training in correctional centres for female inmates (CFJ 4.4).
- Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of increasing supports for Indigenous women and girls to access economic opportunities, which can aid in breaking the cycle of violence. In 2021, Saskatchewan signed onto the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. One of the key priorities in 2022-23 is to engage with First Nations and Métis organizations to develop a plan for a coordinated system that reflects the needs of First Nations and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan (CFJ 1.3, 4.1, 4.4).
- As part of ongoing awareness and education, phase two of Saskatchewan's multiyear public awareness campaign, Face the Issue, launched in 2022. The campaign challenges beliefs that normalize interpersonal violence. The initial phase was designed to spark conversations, increase awareness of services, and focus on prevention. The second phase focuses on subtle forms of abuse, asking the question: "Would you know abuse if you saw it?" The campaign was translated into Cree and Dene and has had over 2.2 million views (CFJ: 1.9).



- The Protection from Human Trafficking Act came into force on April 20, 2022 to provide further safeguards for victims and survivors of human trafficking. The Act streamlines the process for victims to seek a protection order. It adds new provisions for protection orders, including one that prohibits traffickers from contacting their victims directly or indirectly. Victims can apply for a protection order on their own or be assisted by a shelter worker, a medical professional, or another prescribed individual as defined in the Act. The legislation includes significant penalties to discourage violations of protection orders. These changes respond to CFJ 3.4.

The root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people are deep and complex. Saskatchewan is committed to bridging community-led solutions and government services to address the social and economic marginalization experienced by Indigenous communities and make progress on reconciliation. The province recognizes the resilience of Indigenous peoples and respects their leadership and continued partnership in addressing violence within our communities. This collaborative work must continue to better support Indigenous women, gender-diverse people, and communities across Saskatchewan.

Next Steps/Priorities

While efforts to address the CFJ are ongoing, the following remain priorities for Saskatchewan:

- Increasing the number of Indigenous employees across the public service to reflect and address Indigenous priorities, including the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the MMIWG2S+ CFJ. Within several ministries, Indigenous Advisors guide government work and often work with Indigenous organizations and communities to address priority areas such as missing persons (CFJ 1.3, 1.4).
- Ongoing commitment to training and continued awareness across the Saskatchewan public service addresses the calls for health providers, police, employees in the judicial system, child protection workers, and all Canadians to learn about the history of Indigenous people and the impact of colonial policies. The Saskatchewan Police College employed its first Indigenous Executive Director and its first Indigenous female training officer. The Police College has also begun including Indigenous presenters and perspectives into its recruit training program (CFJ 7.6, 9.2, 9.3, 10.1).



When someone dies, there is often a gravesite, a place to gather and remember; when someone vanishes, there is a void. Created by Indigenous artist, Lyndon Tootoosis, the Place of Reflection in Regina, Saskatchewan began with a small group of community members who shared a concept that grew into the existing place of hope.



Government of Alberta

Key Highlights

(between June 2021 and June 2022)

Vision: Alberta is a place where Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (two-spirit+) people live in safety and security, free from violence, and are treated with dignity and respect.

Development/release of plans, reports, summaries

- The Alberta government is addressing this national tragedy with Indigenous women guiding our way. In March 2020, Alberta established the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, made up of four Indigenous women and three members of the Legislative Assembly, to provide advice, direction and input into the Alberta government's proposed action plan to address the National Inquiry Calls for Justice. The Alberta Joint Working Group delivered its final report in late December 2021, which is currently being reviewed (<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-joint-working-group-on-mmiwg.aspx>).
- Alberta responded to the Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force final report – *The Reading Stone – The Survivor's Lens to Human Trafficking*, on August 31, 2021.

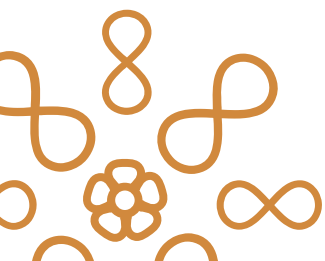
Initiatives/programs put in place

- Minister of Indigenous Relations declared Sisters in Spirit Day on October 4 every year since 2019, and has participated in Red Dress Day gatherings on May 5 to raise awareness of violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta, which gives space to communities to help raise awareness and prevent family violence by organizing public events and activities.
- The Alberta government and its community partners lead awareness events each year to recognize the 16 Days of Activism and call for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence.

Work or initiatives with communities, grassroots organizations

Alberta's government continues to fund Indigenous communities and organizations to advance work toward Indigenous people's safety and well-being:

- Navigational and advocacy supports to Indigenous women in Alberta through the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) and Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society.



- Public awareness strategies identified by Indigenous partners to tackle the barriers to eliminating discrimination against Indigenous peoples through the Multiculturalism, Indigenous and Inclusion Grant Program in Alberta.
- Alberta Ministry of Indigenous Relations provided more than \$979,000 in grants to support initiatives to help stem the ongoing crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people, such as:

Progress/Successes (between June 2021 and June 2022)

Overview of progress, including measuring success/impact

- Continued support to the First Nations and the Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security, which provide recommendations on government policies, programs and services that can improve the lives of Indigenous women, their families and communities.
- Supported the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Joint Working Group):
 - They examined topics related to law enforcement, human trafficking, housing and homelessness, violence prevention, media, children’s services, income support and mental health, addictions and health services.
 - The Joint Working Group submitted its final report to the Ministers of Indigenous Relations, Justice and Solicitor General and Associate Minister of Status of Women (December 2021).
- Improving the functionality of the Aboriginal Alert system across multiple platforms, build partnerships with law enforcement agencies and broadcasters, and increase public awareness of the service;
- Programming to Indigenous girls and gender diverse youth aged 15 to 21 to help combat gender-based violence; and
- Supporting community gatherings, healing circles and coordination with the RCMP and other agencies that respond to emergencies.
- Continued implementation of legislation such as Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence Act (Clare’s Law), and Protecting Survivors of Human Trafficking Act.



Priorities identified relating to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Supporting Indigenous Women’s social and economic security: Collaboration with Indigenous organizations to support eight projects totalling \$979,000 on initiatives targeting improved access to government programs and services; supporting Indigenous women, families and survivors of violence; increasing awareness of Indigenous missing persons; youth conversations on normalization of violence; and improving communication between service organizations to support Indigenous women, girls and two spirit plus people.

Acknowledging the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people: Continue to support the First Nations and Métis Women’s Councils on Economic Security and provide long-term funding support to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women.

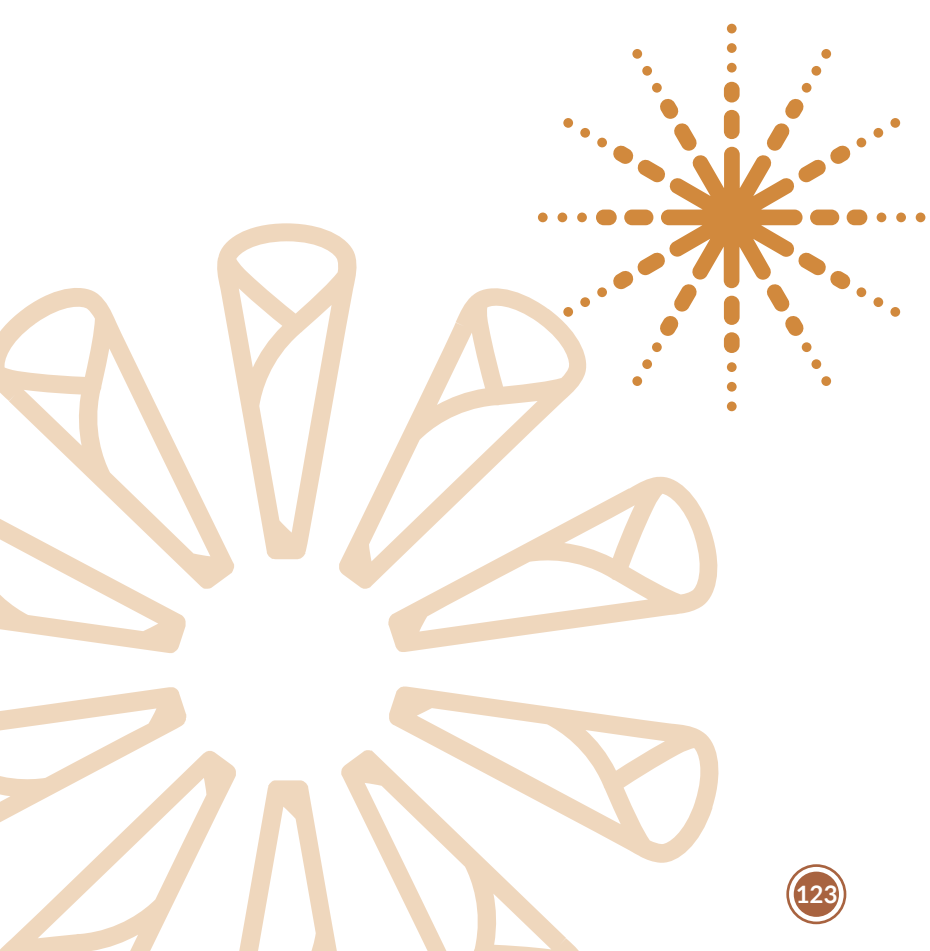
Next Steps/Priorities

Alberta continues to analyze the National Inquiry Final Report as well as the advice, direction and input from the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls with the purpose of developing actions to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people.

Reports/Publications

Relevant reports/publications

Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force final report – The Reading Stone – The Survivor’s Lens to Human Trafficking: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/the-reading-stone-the-survivors-lens-to-human-trafficking>





Government of British Columbia

Key Highlights

Key accomplishments from June 2021 to June 2022 included release of *A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC* (the Path Forward) in conjunction with the release of the *2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People* on June 3, 2021, more funding provided to increase the number of emergency sexual assault response services grants, and release of the five-year Declaration Act Action Plan.

Path Forward

The Path Forward reflects priorities identified in Indigenous-led dialogue sessions with survivors, family members and communities held in 2019 and 2021. It sets a solid foundation with early strategies and a foundational investment of over \$5 million in 2021/22 to develop and implement the Path Forward Community Fund. The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) will manage the Fund to help Indigenous communities and organizations expand safety planning capacity. The Fund is a key part of the Path Forward, BC's response to the *Reclaiming Power and Place: the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (the Final Report).

Supports for Sexual Assault Response

In March 2021, BC provided an additional \$10 million in funding to enhance the Emergency Sexual Assault Services multi-year grant program (administered by the Ending Violence Association of BC) supporting the delivery of co-ordinated, community-based emergency sexual assault response services throughout B.C. until March 2023. In recognition of the substantial need for locally relevant and culturally safe supports for survivors in Indigenous communities in B.C., more than 40% of the grant funding was allocated to Indigenous service providers.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan

On March 30th, 2022 BC also introduced a five-year Declaration Act Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). The Action Plan achieves one of the early actions in the Path Forward and is a commitment in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act), but it is much more than a legislative requirement. It provides a collectively identified long-term vision for the implementation of the UN Declaration in B.C. including 89 priority actions that will be taken towards that goal over the next five years.



Progress/Successes

On June 3, 2021, the second-year anniversary of the release of the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the National Action Plan – a path towards ending violence against Indigenous Women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples was released. On the same day, BC released [A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC](#) (the Path Forward).

The Path Forward is grounded in the Province's participation in the National Inquiry, research and review of historic reports and more than 3,000 recommendations, and engagement with Indigenous leadership, survivors, family members and community organizations undertaken in 2019 and 2021.

The number one priority identified across all community engagement sessions since 2019 is the need for increased capacity so that Indigenous communities can create and implement their own culturally safe and appropriate solutions to the systemic issues resulting in violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. In a first step to meet this need, the Province made a foundational investment of more than \$5 million in 2021-22. With these resources, BC is investing in a [new Path Forward Community Fund](#) – accessible to First Nations communities, urban/off reserve communities, Métis, Inuit citizens and 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities – to support capacity to develop safety plans. A cornerstone of this work includes taking a distinctions-based approach (i.e., an approach that recognizes the diversity of Indigenous communities across BC) that honours and respects the expertise, agency, and leadership of Indigenous peoples throughout all stages of planning and implementation.

The Path Forward Community Fund

The BCAAFC will manage the Community Fund, including developing and administering the grant program, defining criteria, reviewing applications and distributing grants to Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the Province. As part of this work, the BCAAFC will engage communities and work collaboratively to inform and develop the objectives, intended outcomes and key indicators of the Fund. This will include making best efforts to establish an advisory committee that reflects regional representation, on and off reserve, Elders, First Nations, Inuit, Metis, and non-status communities.

Next Steps/Priorities

Moving forward, BC will continue to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples across the province to implement actions identified in this plan, reflecting our mutual commitment to work together in partnership.

As we reflect on the third anniversary of the release of the Final Report of the National Inquiry, BC's continued focus on addressing the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples remains unchanged. The resiliency and innovation in community, and the leadership and expertise of Indigenous women in particular, must be acknowledged and supported.



The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan five-year plan represents a significant milestone towards fulfilling our shared responsibility for meaningful reconciliation through enhancements that support the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples, and brings significant provincial investments to housing, child welfare, justice and public safety, cultural preservation, transportation and connectivity to the forefront of our government's work in the next five years.

Ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people requires sustained commitment and efforts by all, with the flexibility to adapt based on emerging needs and priorities. Our government has strongly renewed its commitment to doing its part to ensure that its legislation, policies, programs and services meet the needs of those they are intended to serve.

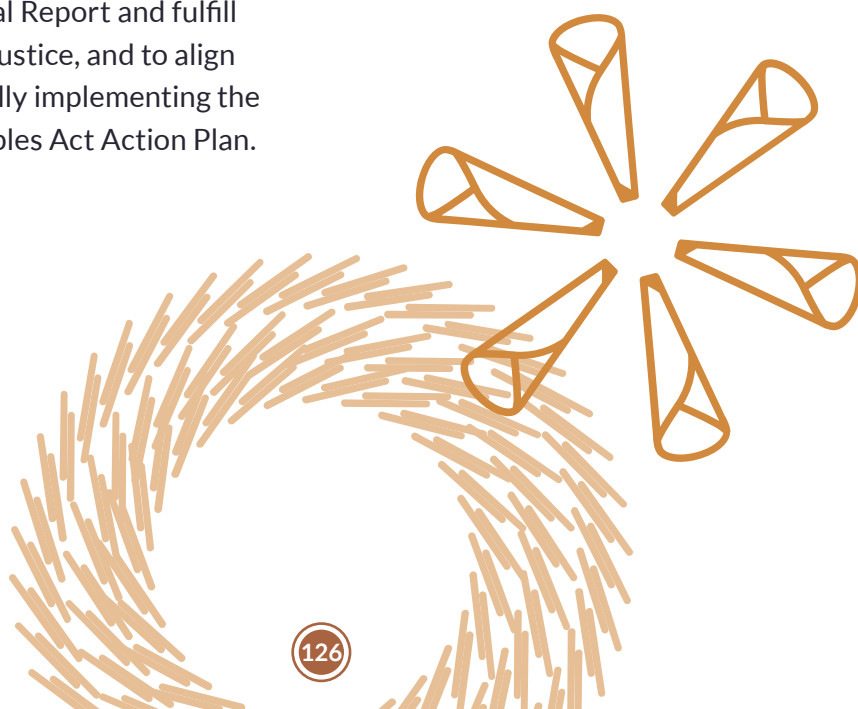
This update has provided examples of some of the key recent initiatives BC has undertaken to advance this agenda – we know there is significant work left to do and our path forward will be guided in partnership with community, collaboration with Indigenous leadership, and coordination with all provincial stakeholders and the federal government.

Moving forward, BC will be keenly focused on working collaboratively on all relevant initiatives intended to respond to the Final Report and fulfill provincially relevant Calls for Justice, and to align our efforts towards meaningfully implementing the Declaration of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

Reports/Publications

Recent inquiries, reports, and other publications are posted publicly on the BC Government's webpages. The following link includes the Path Forward, BC's submissions to the commission of the National Inquiry into MMIWG, reporting related to the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, and other key inquiries and reports: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/about-bcs-justice-system/inquiries>.

Additionally, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan can be found at the following link: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/ministries/indigenous-relations-reconciliation/declaration_act_action_plan.pdf.





Government of Yukon

Key Highlights

Since the release of *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy*, the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ has continued to work in partnership to guide how Yukon addresses the tragedy of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S+ people. This approach, bringing together representatives of Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nation governments, Indigenous women's organizations, and families and survivors is a unique "whole of Yukon" approach to the work. It has also meant that each step takes more time and is more complex than originally planned.

In 2021, the Yukon Advisory Committee (YAC) struck a Technical Working Group to create an Implementation Plan for the Strategy, providing more detail to the Strategy so that all partners could collaborate in doing the work. The YAC hosted the first annual Accountability Forum on May 18-19, 2022, bringing families and survivors together with partners and contributors for Yukon government, Yukon First Nations, private industry, and the non-profit sector. The event successfully highlighted promising practices, built relationships, and fostered momentum for the monumental work ahead. It sent home a clear message to all participants of the importance of keeping families and survivors at the heart of the work.

This logo of Yukon MMIWG was created by Janelle Richardson. Janelle's youngest sister Tina was one of the MMIWG of the Yukon. In her honour, she dedicates this memorable logo to her, with whom she never had the opportunity to meet but will forever be in Janelle's her heart.



Progress/Successes

Although there is a deep understanding in Yukon of the magnitude of work ahead and how the pandemic impacted our progress so far, many promising practices are underway to highlight.

The Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act (2022) was passed by the Legislative Assembly and received assent on March 31, 2022. This Act was created in partnership with representatives from Yukon First Nations and co-chaired by the Council of Yukon First Nations and represents a step towards developing a child welfare system based on non-discriminatory values and fundamental child and human rights. The foundation of this new Act is to have children safely supported within their families, extended families, and communities. The Government of Yukon knows it must continue to improve and expand culturally appropriate supports for Indigenous families.



The Government of Yukon has created a new Community Safety Planning program to ensure there is consistent funding for First Nations governments across the Yukon to engage in community safety planning activities. Phase one of the program is now available and will provide up to \$200,000 to each First Nations government to support local community safety assessments, planning and initiatives. This initiative will help First Nations create tailored community safety approaches that respond to their unique challenges, concerns and priorities. This program builds upon the successes that communities have seen, by leading with unique approaches to policing in Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, and Teslin Tlingit Council.

Council of Yukon First Nations, the RCMP 'M' Division, and Government of Yukon are working together to review the implementation of Sharing Common Ground: Review of Yukon's Police Force, which was completed in 2010. This is action 2.2 of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, which will identify progress made and outstanding actions to improve policing in the territory. The review is an important step in making the Yukon a safer place, where Indigenous women, girls and Two-spirit+ Yukoners are treated equitably and with dignity and justice.

The Government of Yukon is investing \$1 million from its Housing Initiatives Fund, building on \$15 million from Government of Canada, to refresh and renovate the High Country Inn in Whitehorse. This will create 55 new supportive housing units, of which 50 per cent will be allocated to women; 75 per cent will be allocated to Indigenous people; and 16 units will be allocated to youth (age 16–24). These units will support Yukoners who are in uncertain housing situations, who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, or who are living in temporary shelters.

Yukon was proud to officially establish the First Nations School Board in February 2022. Marking a long journey from 49 years ago, when 12 Yukon First Nations leaders presented “Together Today for our Children Tomorrow” to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, this agreement is a first step forward in reclaiming the rightful authority and control over education for Yukon First Nations and all Indigenous students.

In September 2021, a monument to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was unveiled in Whitehorse and in March 2022, three commemorative dresses were unveiled by Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Nacho Nyak Dun, and Selkirk First Nation.

Next Steps/Priorities

Moving forward, the Yukon Advisory Committee remains committed to leading the work in partnership. In the next year, the Implementation Plan will be released to partners and contributors. This will provide more guidance to partners and contributors doing this work.

The next Accountability Forum in 2023 will showcase more promising practices and progress on the implementation of the Strategy. Families and survivors will remain part of this forum, reminding all partners of the urgency and priority of this work. Long-term change will mean that Indigenous women's organizations have the capacity and resources to engage in this work; that the Yukon government continues to create meaningful partnerships with First Nations; that families and survivors have the supports they need; and that systemic discrimination ends.

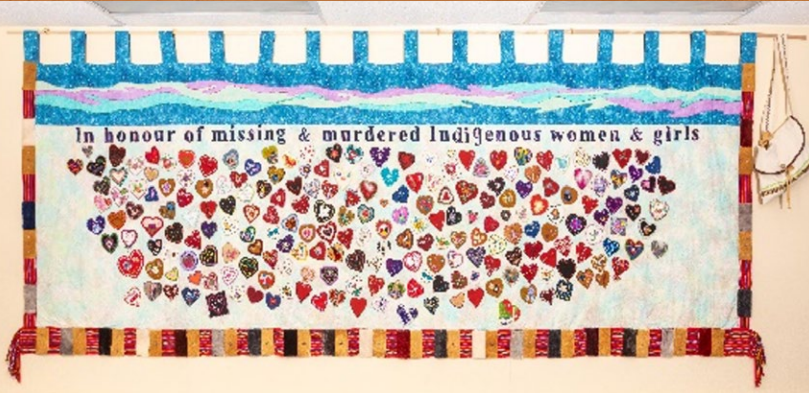
Reports/Publications

[Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy.](#)





Government of the Northwest Territories



The Draft Action Plan includes a commitment statement from Cabinet and the Premier and the following vision statement:

Key Highlights

On December 8, 2021, the Government of the Northwest Territories tabled its Draft Action Plan in response to the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Entitled “Changing the Relationship”, the Draft Action Plan aims to address the effects of colonialism and racial and gender discrimination at all levels of government and public institutions and to change attitudes and behaviors, especially those of service providers.

“We envision an NWT where Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people live free from violence, are respected and valued, have equitable access to programs and services, are honoured and celebrated, and where their security is assured and provided no matter where they reside.”

The GNWT is committed to working with all Northerners and with partners across Canada to address systemic causes of violence, inequality, and racism so that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can feel safe and empowered in our country and in our territory.”



The Draft Action Plan also incorporates the four primary recommendations put forward by the Native Women’s Association of the NWT in their final submission to the National Inquiry. The four recommendations are:

8. We must **acknowledge** that violence against Indigenous women and girls including members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities is a crisis that demands an urgent and active response.
9. We must re-establish, build and foster **trust** between all levels of government, service providers, communities and every one of their citizens.
10. We must ensure that the purpose and objective of all government services is to be community and **person centered**.
11. We must establish a meaningful entity with **accountability** to monitor and evaluate the acknowledgement by governments, efforts towards rebuilding trust and establishment of and outcomes from community and person-centered government services.

The Draft Action Plan is a three-year plan and is based on a thematic approach. The four thematic areas include: Culture, Justice, Health and Wellness, and Human Security. A total of 95 Actions were included in the Draft Action Plan, some of which are already being implemented. Full implementation will begin once the Draft Action Plan has been finalized in Fall 2022.

Progress/Success

The Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs launched a [MMIWG webpage](#) which provides an overview of the GNWT’s participation in, and response to, the National Inquiry. It includes links to all related documents, contact information for support services, and the GNWT’s Draft Action Plan.

In 2021, the Government of the Northwest Territories also launched the [“Living Well Together: Indigenous Cultural Awareness”](#) online course. This self-directed online course is comprised of eight (8) modules that are designed to raise awareness about colonization, residential schools and Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations. This course is mandatory for all GNWT Employees and is also available to the public at no cost.

The GNWT holds monthly meetings with their community contacts where briefings are provided on initiatives related to MMIWG that are taking place in the NWT and nationally. The GNWT also meets with and provides briefings to key organizations such as the Native Women’s Association of the NWT, the Women’s Shelters, the NWT Leadership Council (comprised of the Chairs of the regional health boards), the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT and Indigenous governments.

The Family Information Liaison Unit’s work aligns with the National Action Plan’s Common Short-Term Priorities 2b: *“Comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons, such as victim services, family information liaison units, legal services, access to coroner/hospital reports, media, etc.”*

Human Trafficking resources: Department of Justice has established Victim of Crime Emergency Fund, for travel costs to return to their home Nunavut community, and the purchase of emergency supplies and prescription medication.

Next Steps/Priorities

The GNWT will conduct community engagement on the Draft Action Plan from June to August 2022 before it is finalized and tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2022 session.

NWT Indigenous languages will be a feature component of the approach to community engagement on the Draft Action Plan. In advance of community engagement, the GNWT, in partnership with the Native Women's Association of the NWT, will co-host an Indigenous languages terminology workshop on terms related to MMIWG, family violence, gender-based violence and intimate partner violence. The terminology developed will be shared widely with communities and Indigenous organizations.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to responding to the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and intends to develop legislation to further support missing persons investigations (Call for Justice 5.8). In 2022, the GNWT will begin public engagement with NWT residents and stakeholders to guide the drafting of missing persons' legislation.

The Government will also be preparing an Annual Report which will be tabled on June 3, 2022.

Reports/Publications

[Changing the Relationship: The GNWT Draft Action Plan in Response to the Calls for Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People](#)

The following resources informed the work of the GNWT on the Draft Action Plan:

- [Doing Our Part: Initial Response to "Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls"](#)
- [Taking Action: GNWT's Workplan to Address the Calls for Justice](#)
- [Annual Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)
- [What We Heard: Preliminary Engagement on the GNWT Action Plan for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)





Government of Nunavut

Key Highlights

The *Arnait Tulliningit: Women's Leadership Forum* took place August 22-24, 2021, in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet and focused on empowering and building the capacity of women and girls to take on leadership and decision-making roles within their communities. Inuit women across Nunavut expressed the need for activities focusing on leadership development to build the foundation for greater action on gender equality and social change in Nunavut – the Government of Nunavut (GN) is responding to this need. 13 communities were represented with a total of 25 participants from across the territory.

In March 2022, GN Department of Health announced its commitment to providing medically necessary health care that aims to address the mental health of Nunavummiut when it comes to sexual health, including for the first time, health services for transgender and non-binary Nunavummiut. All individuals that meet the criteria are eligible for full funding including mental health services and costs of transition-related treatments. These are very specialized services, and the Department of Health is working with the Centre Métropolitain de Chirurgie in Montreal, currently, one of only three clinics in Canada that provide transition-related surgeries, to ensure Nunavummiut have access to these important services.

A successful application for the Rapid Housing Initiative 2.0 drew an additional \$75 million in territorial and federal funding for constructing 101 public housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is already building these units in Iqaluit, Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Naujaat, Kugaaruk and Pond Inlet. The housing will serve Inuit, with 50 per cent of the units dedicated to women and their children. This follows the successful conclusion of negotiations over the \$18 million Canada Housing Benefit to support more than 670 low-income households through programming to be delivered through the Department of Family Services.

Progress/Success

- Collaboration with Departments across the territorial government to determine what, if any, existing programs and services may already address the Inuit Specific Calls to action (partially or in full).
- GN participated in a Working Group alongside Pauktuutit and the Law Society of Nunavut on access to justice for family violence in Nunavut. The document produced focuses on research and includes a report on its awareness campaign.
- GN has provided funding for increased shelter and transition housing- Through the Kitikmeot Friendship Society, Cambridge Bay opened its first transition housing for women and as a youth shelter.



- GN Department of Justice received funding from Justice Canada to administer Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU). The unit provides services and support to families affected by MMIWG, including:
 - Coordinating service delivery between families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and other territorial and national agencies.
 - Supporting families' access to information from various entities such as the Nunavut Court of Justice, Coroner's Office, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Department of Family Services and Department of Health.
 - Helping families access culturally relevant services to assist their healing journey.
- The Family Information Liaison Unit's work aligns with the National Action Plan's Common Short-Term Priorities 2b: "*Comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons, such as victim services, family information liaison units, legal services, access to coroner/hospital reports, media, etc.*"
- Human Trafficking resources: Department of Justice has established Victim of Crime Emergency Fund, for travel costs to return to their home Nunavut community, and the purchase of emergency supplies and prescription medication.

Next Steps/Priorities

- In the coming year, Nunavut will begin working towards drafting an Action Plan to address the Inuit-specific calls to action. This will be done in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women. This Plan will outline areas that have already been addressed, areas where work is ongoing and areas that need to be focused on moving forward.
- Continue to call on Canada to extend the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) to Nunavut.

Reports/Publications

Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut: Final Report on Research and Awareness Campaign – https://www.lawsociety.nu.ca/sites/default/files/public/Access-to-Justice/Preliminary_Findings_Report.pdf

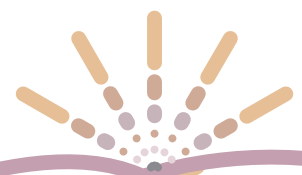




The Path Forward

As the federal government, provincial/territorial governments, Indigenous governments, Indigenous representative organizations, and Indigenous partners work together on the development of the National Action Plan in response to the Calls for Justice and Calls for Miskotahâ, the importance and the urgency of preventing and ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people must be recognized. Further, there is a critical need to keep survivors and family members at centre of the implementation of the National Action Plan.

The Path Forward focuses on the immediate next steps in the National Action Plan that were supposed to have been started and/or completed by June 2022. Since there has been little or no progress on these immediate next steps, they are re-stated. They need immediate attention when the implementation plan is prepared. Also, the remaining common short-term priorities still require work and need to be included within the implementation plan to be established. Further, where funding has been announced, there is a need to ensure it makes its way down to community-based service organizations and has its intended impact for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including support for survivors and family members.



Immediately Establish and Fund a National Action Plan Committee with an Independent Chairperson and Secretariat Support for the Work

The National Inquiry called upon “the federal government to create an independent mechanism to report on the implementation of the National Inquiry’s Calls for Justice to Parliament, annually” (1.10), and the National Action Plan added an immediate next step to “determine mechanisms and processes for national independent oversight and coordination of the National Action Plan, that includes Contributing Partners and governments with financial support”.

For effective implementation of the National Action Plan, and to ensure information sharing and a coordinated approach, it is crucial that a long-term National Action Plan Committee be created to oversee implementation of the National Action Plan with an independent chairperson. The Committee must involve families and survivors of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. It should also include, at a minimum, representation from all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), Indigenous representative organizations, and other partners.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

- Within three months of release of the Progress Report, as an interim measure, a National Action Plan Working Group be created with an independent Chairperson (with representatives from the National Family and Survivors Circle, contributing partners, provinces/territories, other partners), with support from the existing MMIWG Secretariat and funding for meetings, which will allow work to begin on the implementation of the National Action Plan.
- Mechanisms and processes be determined for national oversight and coordination of the National Action Plan, with financial support. An independent Chairperson and Secretariat function will also be required.

Immediately Develop an Implementation Plan for the National Action Plan

The development of an implementation plan was identified as an immediate next step in the National Action Plan but has not been established a year late. It is critical that a full implementation plan be prepared as soon as possible to address the goals in the National Action Plan.

It is recommended that, with the inclusion of families and survivors of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people at the forefront, the independent National Action Plan Working Group/Committee develop an implementation plan. This should include:

- An Implementation Plan for the National Action Plan is developed. This plan includes the short-term priorities identified in the National Action Plan, as well as medium- and long-term priorities that will lead to real systemic change.
- The roles and responsibilities of all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous) and Indigenous organizations to implement the 231 Calls for Justice and 62 Calls for Miskotahâ be clearly defined.
- specific actions, expected outcomes, timelines, and resources will be identified for each priority.
- Contributing Partners continuing to develop their implementation plans.
- Applying an Indigenous and gender-based analysis plus (GBA Plus) lens to the implementation plan.
- Developing an accountability/results structure for the National Action Plan.



Create a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People Federal/Provincial/Territorial Table

The National Action Plan included the development of a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ FPT Table to provide a specific forum to consider and coordinate intergovernmental collaboration and discussion on various areas such as administrative issues, policy, resourcing, resolution of interjurisdictional responsibilities, and processes that emerge from the implementation of the National Action Plan. This FPT Table has not yet been created, although the Prime Minister recently announced that this Table would be created.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

- A Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Girls 2SLGBTQIA+ Federal/Provincial/Territorial Table be established and launched.
- A mechanism for inclusion of Indigenous governments, representative Indigenous organizations, and the National Family and Survivors Circle at this Table be determined.

Independent Oversight Body

The creation of an independent national Indigenous oversight body or Independent National Indigenous Human Rights Ombudsperson and/or Tribunal was identified as an immediate next step in the National Action Plan but has not yet been implemented.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

- Various options for consideration by the National Action Plan Committee for an independent oversight body be identified.
- An agreed-upon mechanism be established for creation of an independent oversight body which represents the interests of families, survivors, and Indigenous communities by investigating and addressing complaints of mal-administration or a violation of right.
- Full implementation of national oversight and coordination of the National Action Plan with an independent Chairperson and Secretariat support, responsible for development of an implementation plan for the National Action Plan, and ongoing oversight and coordination of the National Action Plan.



2SLGBTQQIA+ People – Greater Access and Representation

During preparation of this Progress Report, it was found that there were not many initiatives or programs specifically designed for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

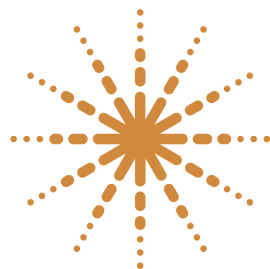
- Work be undertaken with 2SLGBTQQIA+ leaders to review and revise programs, policies, legislation, and practices to meet the needs of 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and ensure they have equal access.
- Support services be designed focusing on the specific needs of 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- New programs be created with a specific focus on 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Accountability Measures and Data

The National Action Plan called for the creation of broad accountability mechanisms rooted in Indigenous data sovereignty. Further, lack of data is a major gap which impacts on the ability to track the number of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; examine disaggregated data; examine distinctions-based and intersectional data about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in the criminal justice system; and measure the impact of programs and initiatives.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

- A Data Strategy sub-committee be established with representatives from the National Family and Survivors Circle, contributing partners, provinces/territories, and other partners including Indigenous experts on Indigenous Data Sovereignty, and Knowledge Keepers.
- The Data Strategy sub-committee will determine next steps regarding data and accountability mechanisms, and an independent web portal.
- By June 3, 2023, the second annual progress report on the National Action Plan is published.





Closing Comments

Over the last year, families, survivors, Indigenous women, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people have advocated for transformative change to support reclaiming their power. Through their continued advocacy and efforts, this has provided opportunities to take their rightful place in leadership roles in all governments and representative organizations. Families, survivors, Indigenous women, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are coming together to support each other, to heal and to lead the resurgence - the matriarch movement has started, and the demand for political and institutional will, action, accountability, respect, and inclusiveness can no longer go unheard.

The steps to end and redress this genocide must be no less monumental than the combination of systems and actions that has worked to maintain colonial violence for generations

(MMIWG National Inquiry Report, Volume B, p167)



Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people have Indigenous human rights that include inherent Treaty and Constitutional rights, they have the right to live free from violence, and be celebrated, honoured, respected, valued, treated equitably, and be safe and secure. Now more than ever, the urgency for action on the Calls for Justice and the Calls for Miskotahâ cannot be delayed and must be implemented. The time is long past due for a transformed Canada.

Indigenous girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, you are the future leaders, there is hope in this urgency – steps towards a safe and equitable future have started, your inherent rights can no longer be denied.



This work we are doing on MMIWG is so important because we want a better future for our children and grandchildren. My granddaughter, simply because she was born Indigenous, places her in a high-risk category to experience many forms of violence. I don't want that for her future.

– Granny

(Credit: Alison Rogers-Biscaye)

“We want the goal to be that our women can live in a world free of violence, one in which they can be respected, valued for their knowledge, and can feel safe and secure”

– Newfoundland Aboriginal Women’s Network

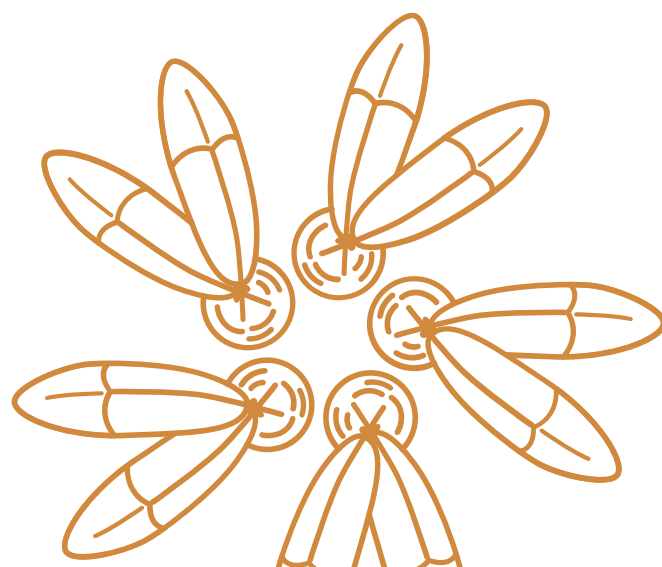
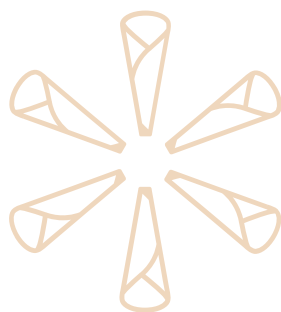


Appendix A: Acronyms

| Acronym | Definition |
|--------------------|---|
| 2S | 2 Spirit |
| 2SLGBTQQIA+ people | Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual Plus people |
| ACIS | Awaking Cultural Identity and Spirituality |
| AFN | Assembly of First Nations |
| AHS | Alberta Health Services |
| BC | British Columbia |
| BCAAFC | British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres |
| CACP | Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police |
| CAP | Congress of Aboriginal Peoples |
| CCSD | Children, Seniors and Social Development |
| CFJ | Calls for Justice |
| CIRNAC | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada |
| CMHC | Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation |
| CSC | Correctional Service Canada |
| CTA | Calls to Action |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------|---|
| FILU | Family Information Liaison Unit |
| FNGBA | First Nations Gender-Balanced Analysis |
| FNIGC | First Nations Information Governance Centre |
| FPT | Federal-Provincial/Territorial |
| FPTI | Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Indigenous |
| GBA Plus | Gender-Based Analysis Plus |
| GN | Government of Nunavut |
| GNL | Government of Newfoundland and Labrador |
| GNWT | Government of the Northwest Territories |
| IAAW | Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women |
| ISC | Indigenous Services Canada |
| ITK | Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami |
| JPC | Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre |
| LFMO | Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak |
| LOFEO | Looking Out For Each Other |
| MCSC | Manitoba Construction Sector Council |
| MMIWG | Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls |
| MMIWG2S+ | Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2-Spirited Plus |
| MN-S | Métis Nation-Saskatchewan |
| NAP | National Action Plan |
| NAWN | Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network |
| NB | New Brunswick |
| NBAPC | New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council |
| NS | Nova Scotia |

| Acronym | Definition |
|---------|--|
| NSNWA | Nova Scotia Native Women's Association |
| NWAC | Native Women's Association of Canada |
| NFSC | National Family and Survivors Circle |
| NL | Newfoundland and Labrador |
| NWT | Northwest Territories |
| OCAP® | Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession® |
| OCIL | Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages |
| OFIFC | Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres |
| PEI | Prince Edward Island |
| PTO | Provincial-Territorial Organization |
| RCMP | Royal Canadian Mounted Police |
| TRC | Truth and Reconciliation Commission |
| UNDRIP | United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| WAGE | Women and Gender Equality |
| YAC | Yukon Advisory Committee |





Appendix B: Key Terms

| Terms | Definition |
|---------------------|---|
| Agency | Refers to the capacity and rights of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices. |
| Anti-racism | Refers to strategies, theories, actions, and practices that challenge and counter racism, inequalities, prejudices, and discrimination. |
| Co-development | Refers to when two or more parties work together to develop a product jointly. |
| Colonization | Refers to when one group takes control of the lands, resources, languages, cultures, and relationships of another group. |
| Co-management | Refers to a process that brings together governments and organizations to share management responsibility. |
| Community | In the National Action Plan, the term “community” is utilized in the broadest sense, referring to Indigenous communities or groups with diverse characteristics who may be linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and/or engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings. |
| Culturally Informed | Refers to acknowledging, respecting, and integrating Indigenous cultural values, beliefs, and practices. |
| Culturally Safe | Refers to recognizing and addressing power imbalances and inequities, enabling services and processes that are holistic, spiritually, socially, and emotionally safe and allowing reclamation of power. |
| Decolonization | Refers to challenging colonial influences and dismantling and replacing structures that perpetuate the status quo using Indigenous perspectives. |

| Terms | Definition |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) | Refers to an analytical process used to assess how different women, men, and gender-diverse people may experience policies, programs, and initiatives. It includes other intersecting characteristics such as race, ethnicity, religion, age, and mental and physical disability. |
| Gladue Principles | Refers to an approach to sentencing and bail hearings allows judges to consider sentencing alternatives to incarceration when appropriate. These reports/ principles allow a judge to consider the colonial history of Indigenous people when they encounter the criminal justice system. This initiative is aimed at reducing the number of incarcerated Indigenous people. |
| Grassroots | Grassroots organizations use collective action from the local level to effect change at the local, regional, national, or international level. |
| Governments | Refers to federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous government. |
| Intergenerational Trauma | Refers to the transmission of historical and contemporary trauma from one generation to the next. |
| Miskotahâ | Refers to the Michif word for change. |
| OCAP® | Refers to ownership of, control of, access to, and possession of research processes affecting participant communities, and the resulting data. OCAP addresses issues of privacy, intellectual property, data custody and secondary use of data. ³³ |
| Racism | Refers to the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races. Racism is typically directed at and against communities that are considered to be non-white. |
| Residential Schools | Refers to government-sponsored religious schools that were established to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian culture. |
| Self-Determination | Refers to a state having the right to choose freely its political, economic, social, and cultural systems and is defined as the right of a people to constitute itself in a state or otherwise freely determine the form of its association with an existing state. ³⁴ |

³³ Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, & Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (2018). *Tri-Council policy statement: Ethical conduct for research involving humans*. Available at: <https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/documents/tcps2-2018-en-interactive-final.pdf>.

³⁴ Encyclopedia Britannica (2021). Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/self-determination>.

| Terms | Definition |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Shelters | Refers to emergency shelter projects that may contain hostel style living units where occupants can stay for only a short period of time, usually one to three weeks. |
| Strength-based | Refers to an approach, where the focus is on self-determination, and the individual identifies value and assembles strengths, capacities, and the free will to decide in the course of action. |
| Substantive Equality | Refers to taking special measures to achieve true equality in order to address historical disadvantages, intergenerational trauma, and discrimination. |
| Systemic Discrimination/ Racism | Refers to patterns of behaviour, policies or practices that are part of the structures of governments and institutions, and which create or perpetuate disadvantage for racialized persons. |
| Transitional Housing | Transitional housing is interchangeable with second stage housing and is an extended term, interim housing project for those leaving emergency shelters, providing accommodation generally for a period of about one year. |
| Wraparound Services | Refers to an integrated system of care that provides individualized, coordinated, person or family-driven care that will meet the complex needs of children and their families. |





Appendix C: Guiding Principles

| Guiding Principle | Description |
|--|--|
| 1. Honour the strength of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and support them in reclaiming their sacred roles and responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Focus on reclaiming the power, place, and dignity of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. |
| 2. Include families and survivors throughout the implementation of the National Action Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The lived experience of families and survivors provide critical insight, perspectives, and solutions for transformative change – they are the heart of this change.○ Family includes all forms of familial kinship including, but not limited to, biological families, chosen families, and families of the heart |

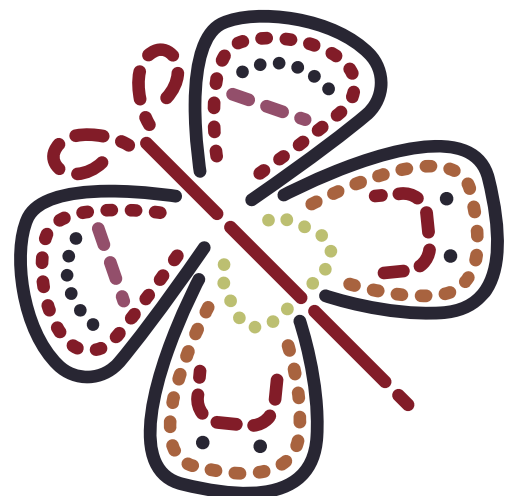


| Guiding Principle | Description |
|---|---|
| <p>3. Focus on substantive equality and Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights, and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Substantive equality</i>: identical treatment can sometimes result in inequality, so unique measures may need to be taken to achieve true equality in outcomes to address historical disadvantages, intergenerational trauma, and discrimination. ○ <i>Human rights</i>: all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and inter-related. Indigenous Peoples hold international and domestic human rights, including inherent rights, Treaty rights, and Constitutional rights. Governments have legal obligations to ensure that these individual and collective rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are fully respected, promoted, and upheld. ○ <i>Responsibilities</i>: when promoting and protecting their Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights, Indigenous people have the responsibility of respecting one another, the earth, and their cultural heritage. |
| <p>4. Support a distinctions-based approach to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of First Nations, Métis and Inuit are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognizes the rights including the right to self-determination, unique interests and priorities of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit grounded in the promise of section 35 of the <u>Constitution Act, 1982</u>.³⁵ |
| <p>5. Respect intersectional and diverse perspectives, and be inclusive of all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people no matter where they are</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Intersectional</i>: there is a need to account for the multifaceted and interconnecting aspects that make up an individual's identity, including ethnicity, cultural identity, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ability, class, and geographical location. ○ <i>Diverse perspectives</i>: individuals have differing experiences based on their diverse identities and histories. We must ensure inclusion of intersecting aspects of identity to meaningfully acknowledge and address the specific realities, barriers, and challenges not only between, but within, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and individuals. |

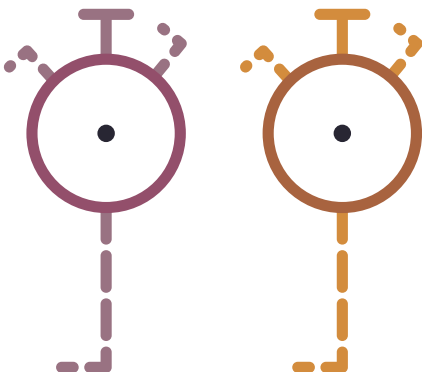
³⁵ Note: the Constitution also uses the term Aboriginal.

| Guiding Principle | Description |
|--|---|
| <p>6. <i>Base the National Action Plan on the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.³⁶ |
| <p>7. <i>Utilize a decolonizing approach, including being culturally informed and culturally safe</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decolonizing approach: involves challenging colonial influences and dismantling and replacing or adapting structures that perpetuate the status quo using Indigenous worldviews and perspectives. ○ Culturally informed: acknowledges, respects, and integrates Indigenous cultural values, beliefs, and practices. Rooted in a recognition of the importance of the land, culture, language, and Indigenous-led approaches, it encourages the revitalization and flourishing of Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditional knowledge. ○ Culturally safe: recognizes and addresses power imbalances and inequities, enabling services and processes that are holistic, spiritually, socially, and emotionally safe and allow reclaiming of power by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. |

³⁶ United Nations General Assembly (2007). *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Available at: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019/01/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf?msclkid=b46c198dc37a11ec9ccd86e675786055.



| Guiding Principle | Description |
|--|---|
| <p>8. <i>Co-develop, co-implement, and co-manage the National Action Plan</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognize that everyone has a role to play in ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This includes co-developing a National Action Plan, including a broad spectrum of engagement and collaboration that enables all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), Indigenous representative organizations and other partners to contribute, reflecting their own priorities and capacities. ○ To ensure that impacts are felt on the ground by Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, families, and survivors of violence, all governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), in partnership with Indigenous representative organizations, will co-implement and co-manage their commitments in the National Action Plan. This will ensure accountability on the next steps of the National Action Plan. |
| <p>9. <i>Build on evidence, and ensure the National Action Plan is sustainable and evergreen</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The National Action Plan should be based on informed decisions that are built on evidence, learning, and understanding of what works to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. ○ The National Action Plan must be sustainable by all governments (i.e., federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous) identifying and prioritizing resources to support implementation of the Plan. ○ As an evergreen document, the National Action Plan is living and changing, adapting to shifting priorities or circumstances over time. |





Appendix D: Goals and Short-Term Priorities

| Goal | Short-Term Priorities | National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls | | Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---------------------|
| | | Themes | Calls for Justice | Themes | Calls for Miskotahâ |
| 1. Achieve transformative changes in attitudes, behaviours, and knowledge within the broader society to prevent and end the root causes of systemic racism, inequality, injustice, and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people in Canada | a. Public education/awareness campaigns on the issues Indigenous people experience and to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence | Culture; Human Security; Health & Wellness; Justice | 1.9; 11.1; 16.23; 17.24; 18.1; 18.19-18.21 | Prevention & Awareness | 60-62 |
| | b. Trauma-informed training for those who work with Indigenous people on topics such as history, culture, issues, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, anti-transphobia, etc. | Culture | 7.6; 10.1; 16.27; 17.8; 17.13; 17.24; 17.29; 18.1; 18.13; 18.18-18.20; 18.26; 18.32 | Inter-governmental Affairs; Child Welfare; Implementation Committee; Health & Wellness | 6; 30; 49; 58 |
| 2. Keep families and survivors at the centre of the process and provide concrete support to survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people | a. Continuous and accessible community-led healing programs and support for children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people and family members | Health & Wellness | 3.7 | Services | 23 |
| | b. Comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons, such as victim services, family information liaison units, legal services, access to coroner/hospital reports, media, etc. | Health & Wellness; Justice | 5.6; 16.29; 17.28 | Services; Criminal Justice | 19-20; 22; 40; 45 |
| | c. Nationwide emergency number | Human Security | 9.5vii | -- | -- |

| Goal | Short-Term Priorities | National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls | | Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak | |
|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Themes | Calls for Justice | Themes | Calls for Miskotahâ |
| 3. Support the delivery of programs and services by Indigenous organizations, including at the grassroots level, to address all forms of gender- and race-based violence | a. Indigenous-led prevention and healing programs, education, and awareness campaigns for Indigenous families and communities related to violence prevention and lateral violence | Human Security; Health & Wellness | 1.8; 3.2-3.3; 7.3; 7.9; 11.2; 16.7; 16.9; 16.22; 16.24; 17.20; 17.27 | Services | 18-19; 24 |
| | b. Creation of shelters and second-stage/transition housing | Human Security | 4.7; 16.19; 18.25 | Services | 25 |
| 4. Address the broader root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people | a. Implement initial steps to ensure stable and sustainable housing and close the housing gap between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous Canadians | Human Security | 4.6; 16.18; 18.25 | Inter-governmental Affairs; Services | 8; 26 |
| | b. Immediate action to implement infrastructure to ensure access to high-speed Internet | Health & Wellness | 15.1; 16.5 | -- | -- |
| | c. Guaranteed annual livable income | Human Security | 4.5; 16.20 | Inter-governmental Affairs; Services | 8; 27 |
| | d. Support Indigenous-led initiatives for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities to access cultural knowledge and 2SLGBTQQIA+ programs and services | Culture; Health & Wellness | 2.4; 2.5; 16.4; 17.7; 17.25-17.26; 18.1; 18.7; 18.17 | Services | 18; 21 |
| | e. 24-hour in-person support system for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, such as wraparound mental health services, trauma, addictions, etc. | Health & Wellness | 3.4; 16.7; 17.23; 18.27 | Services; Health & Wellness | 23; 53 |
| | f. Governments recognize Indigenous self-determination and inherent jurisdiction over child welfare, and support enhancements for child and family services | Health & Wellness | 1.2v; 2.2; 12.1; 12.10; 17.17 | Child Welfare | 28-29; 31-33; 35-37 |



| Goal | Short-Term Priorities | National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls | | Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak | |
|---|--|---|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| | | Themes | Calls for Justice | Themes | Calls for Miskotahâ |
| <p>5. Develop a national Indigenous human rights accountability mechanism focused on Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights. This mechanism will create shared accountability for upholding the human rights of Indigenous Peoples regarding gender-based violence</p> | <p>a. Oversight bodies, such as Indigenous Ombudsperson, Human Rights Tribunal, or civilian police oversight bodies to represent the interests of families, survivors, and communities by investigating and addressing complaints of mal-administration or violation of rights</p> | Justice | 1.7; 5.7; 16.43 | Criminal Justice | 39 |
| | <p>b. National task force which reviews and re-investigates unresolved files of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people; and police services to provide unresolved cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people to the task force</p> | Human Security; Justice | 9.9; 9.10 | Criminal Justice | 39 |
| | <p>c. Make the National Inquiry's public record accessible and report annually to Parliament on the Calls for Justice; implement LFMO Calls for Miskotahâ</p> | Justice | 1.10; 1.11 | Consultation & Engagement; Implementation Committee | 16; 46-48 |



| Goal | Short-Term Priorities | National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls | | Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | | Themes | Calls for Justice | Themes | Calls for Miskotahâ |
| 6. Support a paradigm shift in policies and systems across Canada which defines transformative change in justice, health and wellness, human security, culture, and Indigenous human rights that include inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights | a. Justice Reform Committee to review legislation regarding gender-based violence, including missing persons legislation | Justice | 5.2; 5.3; 5.8; 5.14; 5.16-5.20; 14.3 | -- | -- |
| | b. Acknowledge, recognize, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages as inherent rights | Culture; Justice | 2.1 | -- | -- |
| | c. Implement Gladue principles that contribute to addressing systemic barriers, increase the involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations in rehabilitating offenders, and reduce the risk of future harm | Justice | 5.15; 14.5 | Criminal Justice | 42-43 |
| | d. Create a Deputy Commissioner for Indigenous Corrections and address issues for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ offenders, such as prohibiting transfer of women prisoners to male treatment centres; and increased opportunities for education/training in prison | Human Security; Justice | 5.23; 11.1; 14.7 | Criminal Justice | 44 |
| 7. Establish a culturally appropriate Indigenous data infrastructure reflective of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, based on Indigenous data sovereignty and culturally rooted and distinctions-based indicators | a. Address issues related to the accurate tracking of data on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people | Human Security | 9.5v | Identity, Data Collection & Research; Services | 2; 22 |
| | b. Collect disaggregated data (Inuit, Métis, and First Nations) to report on violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and on progress and the effectiveness of laws, policies, and services | Culture; Health & Wellness; Human Security; Justice | 16.6; 16.44; 17.2; 18.3; 18.4 | Identify, Data Collection & Research; Services | 2-3; 5; 22 |
| | c. Collect distinctions-based and intersectional data about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in the criminal justice system | Justice | 5.24; 16.31 | Identity, Data Collection & Research; Criminal Justice | 4; 41 |

Appendix E: List of Contributors to 2022 Progress Report

- National Family and Survivors Circle
- Assembly of First Nations
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
- Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Urban Group
- 2SLGBTQQA+ Group
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Government of Nunavut
- Government of Northwest Territories
- Government of Yukon
- Government of British Columbia
- Government of Alberta
- Government of Saskatchewan
- Government of Manitoba
- Government of Ontario
- Government of Quebec
- Government of New Brunswick
- Government of Nova Scotia
- Government of Prince Edward Island
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Government of Canada

In addition, numerous Indigenous regional, community, and grassroots organizations and Indigenous communities provided input to the Progress Report.





National Action Plan