

Government of Manitoba

Introduction

As Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations for the Government of Manitoba, I am pleased to present provincial efforts and progress that are aligned with the National Action Plan of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is deeply felt across Manitoba. It is imperative that we continue to honour the memories of those who have been taken.

We also must continue to listen to the voices of those directly impacted and to further acknowledge the individual and collective strength, courage, and resiliency that families, Survivors and communities continue to demonstrate as they fight for justice and safety for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

It is through a “whole-of-Manitoba” approach based on partnerships, co-development and collaboration that will see our province move forward on implementation; this approach also emphasizes another foundational principle of reconciliation: ‘nothing about us, without us’.

- *Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations*

Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations, with support from Manitoba Status of Women and other departments, is leading the work that forms the basis of Manitoba's response to the National Inquiry and Calls for Justice, under the umbrella of Manitoba's Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet.

Work continues to develop concrete and effective responses to the National Inquiry that build on work underway at the community level and align with the main pillars of [Manitoba's Framework for Addressing Gender-Based Violence](#).

Manitoba has undertaken a large number of activities aimed at addressing the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and gender-based violence more generally. These issues are publicly reported on through Manitoba's *Path to Reconciliation Act Annual Progress Report* and via the Department of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations' website.

Analysis of Manitoba's efforts suggests that there is a need to continue to strive for better alignment of government actions with Indigenous and community-based priorities. This situation is not unique to Manitoba, and it remains Manitoba's perspective that collaboration, coordination and alignment is best achieved through co-developed approaches. Such approaches

engage Indigenous Peoples and communities early and substantially contributes to better and more sustainable outcomes.

Progress and Key Highlights from June 2022 – 2023

Manitoba continues to be involved in community-based, inter-governmental and inter-departmental work to help address the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples. This includes providing funding to Giganaawenimaanaanig (formerly the Manitoba MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee) via the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to support the co-development of a provincial implementation plan informed by the National Action Plan.

As part of the ‘whole-of-Manitoba’ approach to address gender-based violence, the Manitoba Government has also recently allocated financial resources from Manitoba’s new Indigenous Reconciliation Initiatives Fund to support two projects that will work to help break the cycle of violence. These include:

- The Department of Families (Manitoba Status of Women) provided support for the “EmpowerMen Program” aimed at engaging men and boys to develop solutions to reduce sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People; and
- The Department of Families (Manitoba Status of Women) provided support for the Manitoba MMIWG2S+ Partnership Implementation Plan initiative (now Giganaawenimaanaanig), a community-driven and community-led effort to respond to the Final Report of the National Inquiry.

Manitoba has recently made amendments to *The Path to Reconciliation Act* that establishes all Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry as a key component of the Manitoba Government’s approach to advancing truth and reconciliation in Manitoba.

To commemorate the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations continues to provide funding to community-led, grassroots organizations for commemorative, healing, and public awareness activities.

Manitoba has also pursued a wide variety of other initiatives that broadly align the Calls for Justice. Examples of these efforts include:

- Investing \$126 million toward a collaborative, whole-of-government strategy entitled ‘*A Place for Everyone*’ to address chronic homelessness. The strategy provides for a community-wide approach to help people find and retain housing while focusing on strengthening existing services, assisting people to transition out of homelessness, and increasing coordination at all levels of government;
- Investing \$893.0K toward a new, Indigenous-led Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinic at the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre in Winnipeg. The clinic will offer culturally safe and relevant programming to ensure individuals receive the supports they need throughout their recovery;
- Investing 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; and
- The *Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act*, also known as Clare’s Law, was passed in November to provide access to information on an intimate partner’s documented history of violence.

Priorities June 2023 – 2024

The Government of Manitoba is working closely with *Giganaawenimaanaanig* (We take care of them), formerly named the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Partnership Committee, to co-develop a Manitoba Regional Roundtable that will bring together families and communities affected by MMIWG2S+ across the province for a two-day event planned in summer 2023.

The Regional Roundtable presents the opportunity for all levels of government and the community as a whole to come together with families and survivors of MMIWG2S+ to move on coordinated actions, prevention, and solutions.

The Regional Roundtable will also host a consultation between Ministerial Special Representative Jennifer Moore Rattray and families regarding the development of the National Ombudsperson, as announced at the National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2Spirited and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in January 2023.

Linkages to National Action Plan Priorities and Calls For Justice

Immediate Emergency Crisis Responses for Communities Who Need it Most

Through partnerships with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and the Southern Chiefs' Organization, the Manitoba Government is providing more than \$2.1 million to support Indigenous-led mental health and wellness programming as follows:

- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak: \$1.069 million to support its all-Indigenous mobile crisis response team to provide mental health crisis response for First Nations across Manitoba. The response team includes members of the Indigenous community who blend experiential, academic and traditional knowledge to provide culturally sensitive crisis support for those who need it most; and
- Southern Chiefs' Organization: \$1.069 million for its mobile crisis response team to increase capacity to deliver emergency responses across southern First Nations. The team will consist of 11 members with diverse knowledge and skills who are trauma-informed and culturally sensitive to provide a holistic response for southern Manitoba First Nations experiencing crisis incidents.

This funding directly supports Call for Justice 3.4 that calls upon all levels of government to provide immediate wraparound holistic supports, including mobile trauma and addictions recovery teams. Manitoba will continue to work closely with Indigenous partners to improve mental wellness and health outcomes for communities across the province.

More Support for Community-Based Care to Survivors of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence

A new community-based sexual assault crisis response and healing program is currently in the process of being developed through Ka Ni Kanichihk (an Indigenous-led community organization in Winnipeg) to expand the availability and accessibility of specialized services and supports for survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. The Manitoba Government is committing \$1.3 million to Phase I of this new program, including the program's initial site at Klinik Community Health and a community spoke site at Ka Ni Kanichihk that will be served by a mobile team.

Plans for future phases includes developing spoke sites across Manitoba and establishing longer-term programming. The new program will complement [Manitoba's Provincial Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Program](#), increasing the resources available. It will also improve Manitoba's health-care system capacity by complementing the existing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program at the Health Science Centre in Winnipeg.

Support for Indigenous-led low-barrier safe spaces

The Manitoba Government is providing \$1.53 million in annual operating funding to Velma's House. Velma's House, a project of Ka Ni Kanichihk, is one of the only low-barrier 24-7 safe spaces in Manitoba that supports sexually exploited adult women. This annual funding will help to ensure that vulnerable women can access supports, meals, connections services and a place to sleep at any time of the day or night.

Closing Statement

Addressing violence and incidences of missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People remains an utmost priority. Manitoba will be there every step of the way alongside Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, families, survivors, leadership and their communities in taking concrete action to respond to the Calls for Justice to secure a future together where Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ can thrive in an environment of safety and security.

Reports and Publications

A more detailed list of Manitoba specific initiatives and reports by visiting Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations website [here](#).