

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Introduction

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador remains committed to the prevention of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes that Indigenous voices and perspectives must be at the heart of the work of responding to the Calls for Justice contained in the National Inquiry's final report, *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

In November 2022, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the formation of a Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council, as recommended to Government in the report *Hear Our Voices: MMIWG Policy Recommendations of the First Women of Newfoundland and Labrador*, which was received by the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador on July 6, 2022.

Hear Our Voices was produced by the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee, which is comprised of a balanced representation of the Indigenous Governments and Organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador, and is a valued advisor to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador regarding policies, programs, services and legislation that could negatively impact the status, lives, safety, and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people in the province. *Hear Our Voices* includes 196 provincially-based, culturally appropriate recommendations that align with the National Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice and aim to address the impact of intergenerational trauma and hardships and close gaps that exist in Indigenous communities.

Progress and Key Highlights from June 2022 – 2023

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to the partnership and collaboration required to prevent violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Membership of the recently announced Reconciliation Council has been identified by the Provincial Government and the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee and planning is now underway for the Council's inaugural meeting. In addition, Indigenous Governments and Organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador have engaged in many important programs, services, initiatives, and engagement activities to address violence against Indigenous women,

girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and have received funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments to support some of these initiatives.

Priorities June 2023 – 2024

A key priority for Newfoundland and Labrador will be to commence the work of the Reconciliation Council to advance activities regarding the 196 recommendations identified in the Provincial Indigenous Steering Committee's *Hear Our Voices* report. This work will bring together the knowledge of Indigenous women and gender diverse people and government to advance violence prevention and to support reconciliation. This work could include addressing the recommendations, identifying priority areas to be addressed and reporting on progress. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced \$241,500 for the Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program in Budget 2023, as well as \$25,000 to support the Provincial Indigenous Women's Gathering in Budget 2023.

Linkages to National Action Plan Priorities and Calls For Justice

The Reconciliation Council was recommended in the *Hear Our Voices* report, which was prepared in the spirit of the 231 Calls for Justice set out in the National Inquiry's MMIWG Final Report. The Reconciliation Council has been established and it is anticipated its first meetings will occur in 2023. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador commenced the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System, in April 2022. The Inquiry will report on the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system. The work of this Inquiry aligns with the Calls for Justice 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.5, and 12.15 in the area of Calls for Social Workers and Those Impacted in Child Welfare.

Closing Statement

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to work collaboratively with provincial Indigenous Governments and Organizations on all measures necessary to respond to the Calls for Justice, particularly through the activities and work of the Reconciliation Council, as it follows the path towards advancing reconciliation.

Reports and Publications

Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee:

[Hear Our Voices: MMIWG Policy Recommendations of the First Women of Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

News Release:

[Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council to be Established to Support Efforts Related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#)

First Voice Urban Indigenous Coalition reports released during 2022:

[Building Trust, Restoring Confidence Proposals for Strengthening Police Oversight in Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

[Our Shared Vision February 2023 A Path toward Truth and Reconciliation in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2023-33](#)

[The Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System website](#)