

Government of Prince Edward Island

Introduction

In response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), the Government of Prince Edward Island has committed to an Indigenous-led process to address the Calls for Justice and drive lasting change for Indigenous families and communities. The Government of Prince Edward Island is focused on supporting healthy, safe, and sustainable Indigenous communities and working to achieve greater social justice and reconciliation. Through the Indigenous Working Group, government is actively listening to the concerns of Indigenous communities across the province and addressing those concerns with responsible initiatives and well-considered programs. The province recognizes that Indigenous voices and perspectives must be centered in the work of responding to the MMIWG Calls for Justice.

Progress and Key Highlights from June 2022 – 2023

The Province has been active on several fronts to address the Calls for Justice as well as in other areas in its journey towards reconciliation. A brief overview of the successes recorded in advancing the Calls is outlined below:

- The Indigenous Relations Secretariat delivered reconciliation training to each department to provide a substantive understanding of MMIWG and enable a definitive articulation of departmental work to advance reconciliation. A reconciliation e-learning series was also developed to educate public servants on Indigenous awareness and reconciliation.
- A dedicated annual fund of \$250,000 was provided to support the Indigenous Working Group to engage and collaborate with the province on work related to MMIWG and the Calls for Justice.
- The government provides programs and services to support Indigenous communities in areas of advocacy, business growth, employment opportunities, and up-skilling. Government continues to support Indigenous women for better social and economic performance, as well as to fill in the identified gaps and challenges that Indigenous groups have experienced.
- The Province provides project funding to support Indigenous organizations to address violence. These projects include Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Project, Engaging Men and Boys in Addressing Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls Project, and Indigenous Retreat to Address Gender Violence Project.

- *Awareness to Action: A Health Strategy for Women and Islanders Who Are Gender Diverse 2022-2027* aims to address challenges and improve the health and well-being of women and gender-diverse Islanders at every stage of their lives. A priority area of the health strategy is to create welcoming environments; enhancing Indigenous cultural safety and humility underpins this focus.
- The Anti-Racism Policy Advisor, in collaboration with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat, the Climate Change Secretariat, and Information Management and Information Technology, developed a Policy Lens Presentation presented to policy and leadership staff in all government departments in order to illustrate the benefits of using an equity lens when developing policies. These included anti-racism and Indigenous policy lenses.

Priorities June 2023 – 2024

The Government of Prince Edward Island recognizes the importance of the MMIWG Calls for Justice in the pursuit of equity and continues to document its efforts to meaningfully respond to the Calls. Active involvement and collaboration by all stakeholders with Indigenous peoples and communities on Prince Edward Island will build stronger relationships and respectful partnerships that benefit all Islanders.

The Province will continue to collaborate and engage with the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group to identify priorities and inform the actions that government is taking to advance the Calls for Justice. Through the province's MMIWG Interdepartmental Working Group, government departments will continue to work collaboratively to share information and identify opportunities to respond to the Calls for Justice through programs and policies in their departments.

The Government of Prince Edward Island is committed to supporting the Indigenous Working Group so its members can continue to provide guidance to the province and pursue projects that address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. Reconciliation will take time and the collaboration of several stakeholders, most importantly, Indigenous communities. This cooperation is instrumental in advancing reconciliation.

Linkages to National Action Plan Priorities and Calls For Justice

The Government of Prince Edward Island continues to participate on the MMIWG Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group to share information from the province. Each year the province provides updates to the National Action Plan highlighting key successes.

Closing Statement

The Government of Prince Edward Island has committed to tabling annual status reports on the progress made to implement the Calls for Justice across government. It has thus far tabled three annual MMIWG status reports and is tabling the fourth such report before the end of the Spring 2023 Legislature session. The province has made steady progress to advance the Calls for Justice. The path towards reconciliation requires ongoing commitment, action and reflection and the province is prepared to take up the challenge.

Reports and Publications

Prince Edward Island's 2022 Annual Status Report can be found at the following link: [A Journey Towards Reconciliation - PEI Status Report on the MMIWG & the TRC Calls](#).