

Government of Yukon

Introduction

I am pleased to share this update on work our government is doing to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit+ people in the Yukon. As many know, the Yukon Advisory Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People released Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy in December 2020. This was a historic strategy for the Yukon with delegates from all 14 Yukon First Nations, federal, territorial, and municipal governments signing a declaration to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit+ people and committing to work together to implement the Strategy.

For many years, I have served as a co-chair to the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+, along with representatives from First Nations leadership and Indigenous Women's Organizations. Our government and its partners remain as committed to this work today as we were when we signed the declaration in 2020. I am pleased to report we continue to build momentum and reinforce our commitment to creating a territory where everyone feels safe, valued and respected regardless of their gender or background.

Over the past year, our government has worked diligently with its partners on the Yukon's strategy to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit plus people and together we have made progress in advancing policies, programs and services that focus on prevention, intervention, and support for victims of violence.

Milestones the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ achieved in 2022-23 included holding the first Accountability Forum in May 2022 and the release of the Strategy's priority action items document in December 2022. The work we are partnering with Yukon Advisory Committee to oversee and implement the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, is complimented by other initiatives of the Government of Yukon. A key example is coordinating the implementation of a Sexualized Assault Response Team, including the completion of a Whitehorse Sexualized Assault Response Team Protocol and planning for rural expansion of Sexualized Assault Response Team.

While there is still much work to be done, we are proud of the progress we have made to date to create a safer, more equitable Yukon for all. We remain committed to working with our partners and communities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit+ people, and to build a brighter future for everyone in the Yukon.

Sincerely,

Jeanie McLean, Minister Responsible for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Progress and Key Highlights from June 2022 – 2023

Background

Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy was released in ceremony at the Kwanlin Dün Culture Centre on December 10, 2020. A declaration was signed by 52 signatories representing Government of Canada, Government of Yukon, all 14 Yukon First Nation governments, all municipal governments, Indigenous women's organizations, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy addresses the four pathways that continue to enforce the historic and contemporary manifestations of colonialism that lead to additional violence, which were identified by the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. In response, Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy maps 31 action items under four corresponding paths to dignity and justice:

1. Building Connections & Support
2. Community Safety & Justice
3. Economic Independence & Education
4. Community Action & Accountability

It's important to note that Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy is not a government document. Instead, it is a whole-of-Yukon strategy led by the Yukon Advisory Committee which includes representation from Yukon First Nations and Yukon Indigenous Women's organizations. As a result, the Government of Yukon will not lead all the strategy's actions, but will instead work with all partners, including First Nation governments, on oversight, implementation, and accountability.

Key highlights for 2022-23

- Since March 2021, the Yukon Advisory Committee worked with a Technical Working Group to complete a draft Implementation Plan for Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy. A first draft was submitted to the Yukon Advisory Committee in the spring of 2022. During the course of this work, 10 action items from the Strategy were identified as Priority Action Items.
- The Government of Yukon hosted the Yukon's first MMIWG2S+ Accountability Forum in May 2022. This inaugural event was the first time that partners and contributors came together since the signing of the Strategy, to share best practices, build relationships, and hear priorities.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee completed the Implementation Plan for the 10 + 2 priorities. Ten action items were identified by the Yukon Advisory Committee and two additional action items were identified by families as priority actions that need to start immediately.
- The [Priority Action Items](#) document was released on December 13, 2022.
- The Government of Yukon supported family members attending the Assembly of First Nations Gathering on MMIWG2S+, which was held in Vancouver BC in February 2023. Government of Yukon supported a Yukon Advisory Committee co-chair with presenting at this gathering.

Priorities June 2023 – 2024

The priorities for the Yukon Advisory Committee going forward

- Finalizing the Implementation Plan for the Yukon Strategy
- Releasing the Implementation Plan to families and the public
- Hosting a Technical Gathering with partners and contributors
- Hosting a 2nd Accountability Forum for families
- Creating an oversight and technical expertise structure to enable the Implementation Plan moving forward
- Working towards implementing Year 1 Priority Action Items

Linkages to National Action Plan Priorities and Calls For Justice

- In 2021-22, engagement was held with Indigenous organizations across Canada on Pillar 4: Indigenous led approaches. In the Yukon, engagement was held with Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+.
- Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy addresses all four pathways identified by the National Inquiry that continue to enforce the historic and contemporary manifestations of colonialism that lead to additional violence. The Strategy maps 31 items under four corresponding paths to dignity and justice:
 1. Building Connections & Support
 2. Community Safety & Justice
 3. Economic Independence & Education
 4. Community Action & Accountability
- Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy represents an unprecedented commitment to addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit+ Yukoners. It is unique in its "whole of Yukon" approach. Based on local priorities, the Strategy will guide Yukon's response to addressing the National Inquiry's finding of genocide and its Calls for Justice. The Yukon Strategy is intended as a living document, and the Implementation Plan will outline specific objectives, milestones, and implementation leads for the next 10 to 15 years
- The Government of Yukon is also negotiating with the federal government to finalize the territory's bilateral funding agreement and implementation plan under the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence. Formal bilateral negotiations are set to begin in May to determine details, including territorial priorities for investment, especially those that align with the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy.
- The five pillars of the NAP-GBV are:
 - Support for survivors and their families
 - Prevention
 - Promotion of responsive legal and justice systems
 - Support for Indigenous-led approaches and informed responses
 - Social infrastructure and enabling environments

- All pillars of the NAP-GBV link to the NAP of MMIWG and the Yukon MMIWG2S+ Strategy.

Closing Statement

The Government of Yukon will continue to collaborate with its Yukon partners on the Yukon Advisory Committee on implementation of the territory's MMIWG2S+ Strategy. In response to the National Inquiry's on MMIWG Final Report, and in partnership with Yukon First Nations, Yukon organizations, as well as families of MMIWG2S+ people and Survivors, the committee released; Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy in December 2020; Supporting the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy: Key Actions from the Government of Yukon in June 2022; and the Priority Action Items for the Yukon's missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-spirit+ people strategy document in December 2022.

In May 2022, the Committee hosted the first Accountability Forum, bringing signatories together with family members and Survivors. At the Forum, the Committee released ten priorities from the Strategy, representing the critical and timely work needed to begin immediately. In 2023, the Yukon Advisory Committee will release a comprehensive joint implementation plan and in 2023, the Committee will also hold a 2nd Accountability Forum.

Reports and Publications

[Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice](#): Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy

[Supporting the Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy](#): Key Actions from the Government of Yukon [Priority Action Items](#) for the Yukon Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy