



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.



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).
- 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:
 - 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>

