



Government of Manitoba

Introductory Statement

**Honourable Alan Lagimodiere,
Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations,
Manitoba Government**

Today, as the 2022 Progress Report on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan is released, we pay our sincere respects to the families and friends who continue to experience a painful loss and mourn their missing and murdered loved ones. We also honour the strength and courage of survivors who have, and continue to experience trauma and violence.

Manitoba is committed to putting an end to gender-based violence, advancing reconciliation and supporting families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people.

In collaboration with community, we want to make transformative change. The voices of families and survivors must be at the centre and lead us in the work we do. It is our hope to continue to shed light on MMIWG2S+ and to continue to work in partnership as allies to end gender-based violence.

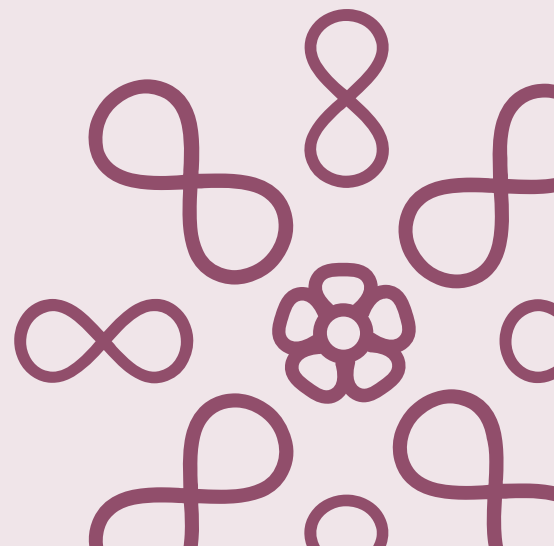
Areas of Progress

Manitoba continues to work toward developing concrete and effective responses to the National Inquiry that build on the work underway at the community-level. The Manitoba Government is supporting a partnership table coordinated by the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to co-develop a provincial implementation plan to raise awareness and end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples in Manitoba. This implementation plan will be an Indigenous-led expression of priorities as related to the Calls for Justice. It will be informed by the National Action Plan and used to align Manitoba's efforts to advance work as related to the National Inquiry.



View of the memorial built in honour of Helen Betty Osborne

(Credit: B. Bloxom; The Pas Family Resource Centre)



Some Success Stories

At the beginning of 2021/22, Manitoba supported various Indigenous-led community agencies to deliver programs that address the diverse needs of victims and address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Three-year grants were provided to support:

- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak – Indigenous Men and Boys are Part of the Solution to Building Healthy and Safe Communities
- Manitoba Métis Federation – Métis MMIWG Family Support Project
- Southern Chiefs Organization – Preventing and Addressing Family Violence Clan
- Mothers' Turtle Lodge – Healing Village Social Enterprise Training Program
- Ka Ni Kanichihk – Heart Medicine Lodge
- Portage La Prairie Bear Clan – Noozhek (support for Indigenous women taking meaningful action to search for stolen sisters)

On May 12, 2022, the Manitoba government proposed new legislation, as well as amendments to existing acts, that would further protect vulnerable children and youth who are at risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Proposed new legislation, would improve the ability of law enforcement to investigate suspected instances of human trafficking by requiring hotels and temporary accommodations, including online accommodation platforms, to keep a register of guests, including their names and addresses, and make the registers available to investigators by order or without a warrant on an emergency-demand basis. Further legislative amendments would require hotels, temporary accommodations and operators of taxis and online ride sharing platforms such as Uber to immediately report suspected human trafficking to police.

Manitoba has invested 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 (MCSC). The training initiative includes career exploration, targeted training, mentorship and ongoing career support. Training will be delivered by MCSC in framing, water and waste-water installation and blast hole drilling, which are all skills that are in high demand in these communities.

Manitoba is launching a web-based crisis line service to improve access to support for Manitobans experiencing family, domestic, and intimate partner violence. The web-based chat feature is an additional option to the existing crisis phone line, allowing for more discrete methods of accessing resources for those impacted by intimate partner violence, providing privacy, flexibility and anonymity.

Through federal funding made available from Canada's Victims Fund, Victim Services has received support through 2025/26 to improve culturally-aware programming offered by the branch. This includes funding to enhance the accessibility of Grandmother, Elder, and Knowledge Keeper support for victims of crime, and also having ceremonial tools such as tobacco, sweet grass, and other traditional materials available at all Victim Services offices.

On March 17, 2022, the Government introduced a bill to amend the Victims' Bill of Rights to allow for more discretion by administrators of victims services programs in supporting families of deceased victims of crime who might otherwise not have been eligible, through no fault of their own, but who are in need of support. Supporting victims of crime is important to healing and ending the cycle of victimization. These amendments are another step to ensuring the justice system not only holds offenders accountable but also supports victims during the time they need support.



Next Steps

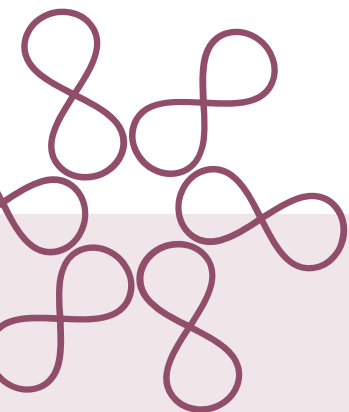
With humility, we acknowledge that a great deal of work remains to be done and progress is ongoing. Solving this national tragedy is not easy but we continue working towards developing concrete and effective responses to the National Inquiry and the Calls for Justice that build on the work that is underway at the community-level.

The Manitoba Government has recently amended the *Path to Reconciliation* Act to establish the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as a central and guiding aspect of the government's approach to advancing truth and reconciliation in Manitoba.

These legislative amendments affirm that the Manitoba government will be guided by the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG, alongside the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Addressing violence, in particular the incidences of MMIWG2S+, is a priority for the Manitoba Government and we intend to continue to take action to prevent and combat gender-based violence in all forms.

Link to Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations, MMIWG website: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/inr/mmiwg/index.html>



Each of the 231 Calls for Justice was printed and placed along the memorial route for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration for Helen Betty Osborne on November 13, 2021

(Credit: B. Bloxom; The Pas Family Resource Centre)

