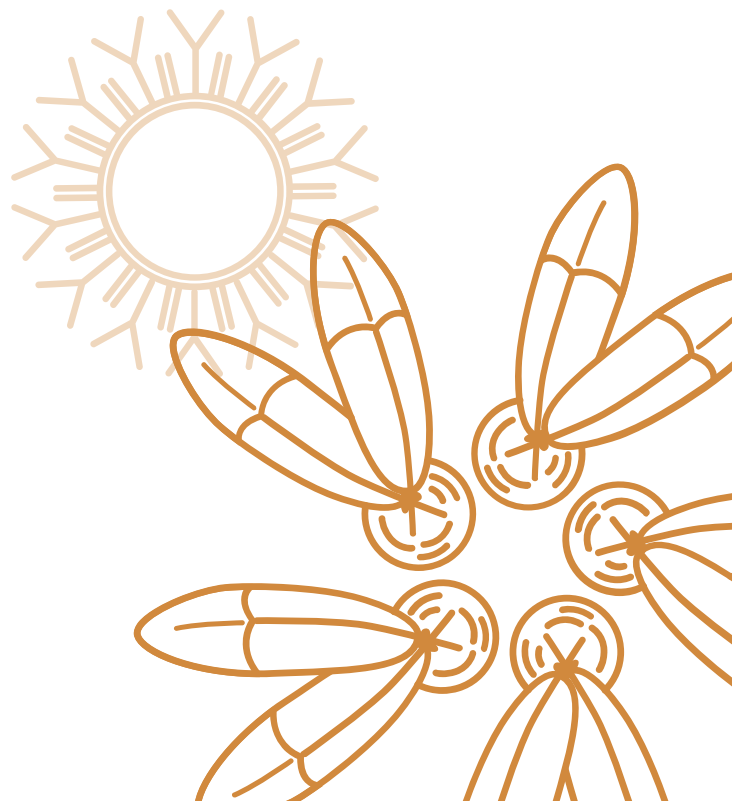




Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Overview

- Since release of the National Inquiry's final report, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has been working with our federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues to address disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in our province and country.
- While our continued work with our colleagues across the country is important, our priority remains the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). Issues discussed are deep-rooted, and the steps required to appropriately address them are complex.
- Prior to advancing work in the area of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse individuals (MMIWG2S+), it is essential that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador engage with Indigenous peoples in our province to ensure actions taken are responsive to the issues and needs of our province's Indigenous communities, families, and peoples. To do otherwise would be disrespectful to the spirit of the National Inquiry's final report and the trauma that Indigenous people in our province have experienced.
- To this end, the focus of the 2021-22 Provincial Indigenous Women's Gathering was to bring together Indigenous women from across the province to discuss and prioritize Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report that are relevant to Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, and communities in our province.
- Approximately 25 Indigenous women were in attendance, along with Ministerial, Executive, and staff representatives from the Provincial Government's Office of Women and Gender Equality, Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Department of Justice and Public Safety.
- The Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee is in the final stages of preparing recommendations for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on how to best action provincially relevant Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report. Recommendations are expected to be formally presented to the Provincial Government in summer 2022.





Highlights on Investments

Newfoundland and Labrador contributed to the National Action Plan in June 2021 and continues to be an active member of the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Working Group. The Province looks forward to participating as the national focus shifts into implementation and continues to make changes that honour the Calls for Justice from the Final Report into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Notable Newfoundland and Labrador investments that support ongoing work include:

- The Department of Justice and Public Safety is working with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to increase capacity at the Labrador Correctional Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This renovation will have the option to house both female and male inmates in Labrador, reducing the need for transports to other facilities on the Island portion of the province. This addition to capacity will facilitate a greater number of inmates, many of whom are Indigenous, to stay closer to their home communities in Labrador. In addition, the improved facility will allow for the delivery of more culturally appropriate programming to male inmates with the hope of reducing recidivism and ultimately violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD) ended the child protection practice of sending birth alerts to hospitals in Newfoundland and Labrador in June 2021. CSSD's discontinuation of birth alerts honors the MMIWG Calls for Justice and Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Calls to Action to end this practice, which was known to disproportionately affect Indigenous and marginalized expectant parents. Collaboration between the department, Indigenous governments and organizations, extended family, and health and other service providers will continue to be the focus of the new direction when expectant parents voluntarily seek support prior to the birth of their baby.
- To honour survivors and raise awareness about the legacy of residential schools, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador observed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the launch of the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System on April 29, 2022.
- In summer 2021, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador established the Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism, which includes Ministers of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills; Justice and Public Safety; Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation; and Education. The Committee recognizes the systemic and persistent nature of racism and Ministers have been meeting with and seeking input from residents, community and cultural organizations, employers, educators, and researchers, on their experiences, and to hear recommendations on stopping all forms of racism including anti-Indigenous racism. Specific responsibilities include:
 - Seeking input from the public and various partners, including community groups, educational institutions, Police and Emergency Services, public, private, and voluntary sectors, and all orders of government regarding measures that could be taken to address racism and its impacts in Newfoundland and Labrador; and
 - Promoting respect and understanding for and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Indigenous and racialized communities into the social and cultural mosaic of the province.
- Completed the Inquiry into Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. The outcomes of this Inquiry are intended to enhance the safety of people throughout the province, as effective and responsive search and rescue support is vital to the people who need it. The final report was released December 1, 2021.
- The Office of Women and Gender Equality has supported numerous initiatives focused on the well-being of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people, including funding for the Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program and the annual Provincial Indigenous Women's Gathering, which was held in Steady Brook from December 6-7, 2021. This year's Gathering focused on identifying provincially appropriate responses to the Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report. Recommendations on how to best move forward in responding to the Calls for Justice is currently in development and expected to be formally presented to the Provincial Government in summer 2022.

Upcoming Investments

- Advancing the work of the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences, and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System.
- Planning for a new Heritage Centre near Beothuk Lake to commemorate the Beothuk people.
- Provision of grants aimed at preventing violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- Support for the Provincial Indigenous Women's Gathering.
- Funding for the Newfoundland and Labrador Search and Rescue Association, which stems from recommendations from the Search and Rescue Inquiry.
- Expansion of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program.
- Ongoing engagement with the Premier's Roundtable on Gender Equity.
- Continuing to advance infrastructure improvements, notably continued investments in the Labrador Correctional Centre, to ensure it can facilitate more intimates staying in Labrador as well as have capacity to offer enhanced services and programming to better serve the community.

As outlined above, the Provincial Government is eagerly awaiting the submission of recommendations from the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee on how best to implement the Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report. The Committee's final report is expected to be presented in early summer 2022. It is the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's expectation that the contents of this report will provide a roadmap for implementation of Calls for Justice that are specifically relevant to Indigenous families and communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Reports/Publications

- As mentioned above, recommendations on how to best action Calls for Justice outlined in the National Inquiry's final report is currently in process. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador expects to obtain this report from the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee in early summer 2022.
- Public Inquiry Respecting Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons (<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2021/jps/1201n05/>)

