



Government of the Northwest Territories

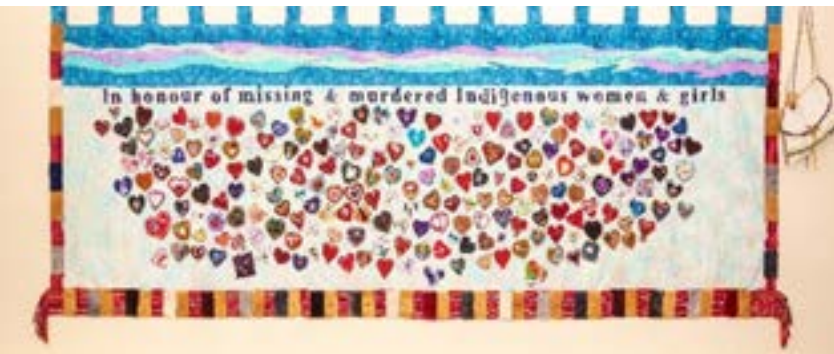
Key Highlights

On December 8, 2021, the Government of the Northwest Territories tabled its Draft Action Plan in response to the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Entitled “Changing the Relationship”, the Draft Action Plan aims to address the effects of colonialism and racial and gender discrimination at all levels of government and public institutions and to change attitudes and behaviors, especially those of service providers.

The Draft Action Plan includes a commitment statement from Cabinet and the Premier and the following vision statement:

“We envision an NWT where Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people live free from violence, are respected and valued, have equitable access to programs and services, are honoured and celebrated, and where their security is assured and provided no matter where they reside.

The GNWT is committed to working with all Northerners and with partners across Canada to address systemic causes of violence, inequality, and racism so that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can feel safe and empowered in our country and in our territory.”



The Draft Action Plan also incorporates the four primary recommendations put forward by the Native Women's Association of the NWT in their final submission to the National Inquiry. The four recommendations are:

1. We must **acknowledge** that violence against Indigenous women and girls including members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities is a crisis that demands an urgent and active response.
2. We must re-establish, build and foster **trust** between all levels of government, service providers, communities and every one of their citizens.
3. We must ensure that the purpose and objective of all government services is to be community and **person centered**.

- We must establish a meaningful entity with **accountability** to monitor and evaluate the acknowledgement by governments, efforts towards rebuilding trust and establishment of and outcomes from community and person-centered government services.

The Draft Action Plan is a three-year plan and is based on a thematic approach. The four thematic areas include: Culture, Justice, Health and Wellness, and Human Security. A total of 95 Actions were included in the Draft Action Plan, some of which are already being implemented. Full implementation will begin once the Draft Action Plan has been finalized in Fall 2022.



Progress/Success

The Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs launched a [MMIWG webpage](#) which provides an overview of the GNWT's participation in, and response to, the National Inquiry. It includes links to all related documents, contact information for support services, and the GNWT's Draft Action Plan.

In 2021, the Government of the Northwest Territories also launched the ["Living Well Together: Indigenous Cultural Awareness"](#) online course. This self-directed online course is comprised of eight (8) modules that are designed to raise awareness about colonization, residential schools and Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations. This course is mandatory for all GNWT Employees and is also available to the public at no cost.

The GNWT holds monthly meetings with their community contacts where briefings are provided on initiatives related to MMIWG that are taking place in the NWT and nationally. The GNWT also meets with and provides briefings to key organizations such as the Native Women's Association of the NWT, the Women's Shelters, the NWT Leadership Council (comprised of the Chairs of the regional health boards), the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT and Indigenous governments.

The Family Information Liaison Unit's work aligns with the National Action Plan's Common Short-Term Priorities 2b: *"Comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons, such as victim services, family information liaison units, legal services, access to coroner/hospital reports, media, etc."*

Human Trafficking resources: Department of Justice has established Victim of Crime Emergency Fund, for travel costs to return to their home Nunavut community, and the purchase of emergency supplies and prescription medication.

Next Steps/Priorities

The GNWT will conduct community engagement on the Draft Action Plan from June to August 2022 before it is finalized and tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2022 session.

NWT Indigenous languages will be a feature component of the approach to community engagement on the Draft Action Plan. In advance of community engagement, the GNWT, in partnership with the Native Women's Association of the NWT, will co-host an Indigenous languages terminology workshop on terms related to MMIWG, family violence, gender-based violence and intimate partner violence. The terminology developed will be shared widely with communities and Indigenous organizations.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to responding to the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and intends to develop legislation to further support missing persons investigations (Call for Justice 5.8). In 2022, the GNWT will begin public engagement with NWT residents and stakeholders to guide the drafting of missing persons' legislation.

The Government will also be preparing an Annual Report which will be tabled on June 3, 2022.

Reports/Publications

[Changing the Relationship: The GNWT Draft Action Plan in Response to the Calls for Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People](#)

The following resources informed the work of the GNWT on the Draft Action Plan:

- [Doing Our Part: Initial Response to "Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls"](#)
- [Taking Action: GNWT's Workplan to Address the Calls for Justice](#)
- [Annual Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)
- [What We Heard: Preliminary Engagement on the GNWT Action Plan for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)