



Government of Yukon

Key Highlights

Since the release of Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ has continued to work in partnership to guide how Yukon addresses the tragedy of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S+ people. This approach, bringing together representatives of Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nation governments, Indigenous women's organizations, and families and survivors is a unique "whole of Yukon" approach to the work. It has also meant that each step takes more time and is more complex than originally planned.

In 2021, the Yukon Advisory Committee (YAC) struck a Technical Working Group to create an Implementation Plan for the Strategy, providing more detail to the Strategy so that all partners could collaborate in doing the work. The YAC hosted the first annual Accountability Forum on May 18-19, 2022, bringing families and survivors together with partners and contributors for Yukon government, Yukon First Nations, private industry, and the non-profit sector. The event successfully highlighted promising practices, built relationships, and fostered momentum for the monumental work ahead. It sent home a clear message to all participants of the importance of keeping families and survivors at the heart of the work.



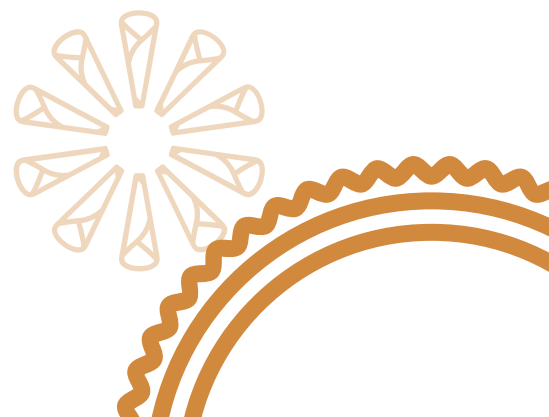
This logo of Yukon MMIWG was created by Janelle Richardson. Janelle's youngest sister Tina was one of the MMIWG of the Yukon. In her honour, she dedicates this memorable logo to her, with whom she never had the opportunity to meet but will forever be in Janelle's heart.

Progress/Successes

Although there is a deep understanding in Yukon of the magnitude of work ahead and how the pandemic impacted our progress so far, many promising practices are underway to highlight.

The Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act (2022) was passed by the Legislative Assembly and received assent on March 31, 2022. This Act was created in partnership with representatives from Yukon First Nations and co-chaired by the Council of Yukon First Nations and represents a step towards developing a child welfare system based on non-discriminatory values and fundamental child and human rights. The foundation of this new Act is to have children safely supported within their families, extended families, and communities. The Government of Yukon knows it must continue to improve and expand culturally appropriate supports for Indigenous families.

The Government of Yukon has created a new Community Safety Planning program to ensure there is consistent funding for First Nations governments across the Yukon to engage in community safety planning activities. Phase one of the program is now available and will provide up to \$200,000 to each First Nations government to support local community safety assessments, planning and initiatives. This initiative will help First Nations create tailored community safety approaches that respond to their unique challenges, concerns and priorities. This program builds upon the successes that communities have seen, by leading with unique approaches to policing in Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, and Teslin Tlingit Council.



Council of Yukon First Nations, the RCMP 'M' Division, and Government of Yukon are working together to review the implementation of Sharing Common Ground: Review of Yukon's Police Force, which was completed in 2010. This is action 2.2 of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, which will identify progress made and outstanding actions to improve policing in the territory. The review is an important step in making the Yukon a safer place, where Indigenous women, girls and Two-spirit+ Yukoners are treated equitably and with dignity and justice.

The Government of Yukon is investing \$1 million from its Housing Initiatives Fund, building on \$15 million from Government of Canada, to refresh and renovate the High Country Inn in Whitehorse. This will create 55 new supportive housing units, of which 50 per cent will be allocated to women; 75 per cent will be allocated to Indigenous people; and 16 units will be allocated to youth (age 16–24). These units will support Yukoners who are in uncertain housing situations, who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, or who are living in temporary shelters.

Yukon was proud to officially establish the First Nations School Board in February 2022. Marking a long journey from 49 years ago, when 12 Yukon First Nations leaders presented "Together Today for our Children Tomorrow" to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, this agreement is a first step forward in reclaiming the rightful authority and control over education for Yukon First Nations and all Indigenous students.

In September 2021, a monument to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was unveiled in Whitehorse and in March 2022, three commemorative dresses were unveiled by Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Nacho Nyak Dun, and Selkirk First Nation.

Next Steps/Priorities

Moving forward, the Yukon Advisory Committee remains committed to leading the work in partnership. In the next year, the Implementation Plan will be released to partners and contributors. This will provide more guidance to partners and contributors doing this work.

The next Accountability Forum in 2023 will showcase more promising practices and progress on the implementation of the Strategy. Families and survivors will remain part of this forum, reminding all partners of the urgency and priority of this work. Long-term change will mean that Indigenous women's organizations have the capacity and resources to engage in this work; that the Yukon government continues to create meaningful partnerships with First Nations; that families and survivors have the supports they need; and that systemic discrimination ends.

Reports/Publications

[Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy.](#)

