



CALLS FOR JUSTICE



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

2022 Status Report



May 2022



This status report is dedicated to the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and those experiencing gender-based violence in Prince Edward Island communities.

About the Cover

The Board of Directors of the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions in the success of the MMIWG Portrait: Patricia Voisey, Makayla MacPhail, Kelly Sark, Bronson Jacques, Artist for the MMIWG Commemoration Art Piece, the Confederation Center of the Arts for housing the portrait and the families who participated in the Commemoration MMIWG Portrait.

From left to Right: Sarah Jackson, Doreen Jenkins, Judy Clark, Brooklyn Beaton, Cristine Bernard, Nora Richard, Emily Spencer & Daughter Maddy, Stephanie Stanger & Daughter Isabelle.



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INTRODUCTION

Reconciliation relies on the ability of two parties, people or groups to restore productive relations. In the context of Canada's commitment to improving relations with Indigenous people and working to repair the damage of the past, reconciliation is an ongoing journey of education, acknowledgement, and action. Renewing relationships with Indigenous people hinges on the acknowledgement of past harms and the impacts of intergenerational trauma as a result of colonization and a commitment to working together to improve outcomes for Indigenous people.

The Government of Prince Edward Island is resolute in continuing its journey toward reconciliation in partnership with Indigenous people. It recognizes that the approach to reconciliation must be both restorative and innovative to address the issues facing Indigenous people in PEI. This report highlights progress that the Government of PEI has made, as well as future steps that government is taking to advance reconciliation in Prince Edward Island.

Context

On June 3, 2019, “Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” was released. It documents the truths of family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers, including 14 individuals from eight Prince Edward Island (PEI) families who participated in the two-year inquiry. The final report also contains 231 Calls for Justice recommendations for governments, institutions, industry, and the general public to implement to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit (2S) people. The Government of Canada accepted all 231 Calls for Justice and, along with provincial and territorial governments, is shifting its perspective toward reconciliation and taking concrete steps to address them.

The Government of Prince Edward Island is committed to ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit (2S) people and recognizes the importance of implementing the Calls for Justice across government. Part of this commitment includes an annual status report tabled in the PEI Legislature to provide an update on government’s progress towards the implementation of the Calls for Justice. This is the third Government of PEI report on the status of its response to the recommendations.

Moving forward, together


The Government of PEI recognizes that to drive lasting change, a collaborative approach involving all government departments is required. To foster the necessary collaboration, the Province established an MMIWG Inter-departmental Working Group with representatives from each department. Group members share information on important initiatives, perspectives and projects within their departments that support the Calls for Justice. This working group has increased effective and efficient collaboration to advance initiatives most important to Indigenous people in PEI.

The Government of PEI also recognizes the importance of ensuring that any action the government takes to advance the implementation of the Calls for Justice is responsive to the needs and priorities of Indigenous people. It is important to the Province that Indigenous voices and perspectives be at the center of this work. To ensure that the provincial response to the Calls for Justice is Indigenous informed, the Indigenous Working Group was formed in 2020. The Indigenous Working Group has a representative from Lennox Island First Nation, Abegweit First Nation, Mi’kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Native Council of Prince Edward Island and the Aboriginal Women’s Association of PEI. The Province meets regularly with the Indigenous Working Group to gather feedback and guidance on the priorities of Indigenous people in addressing the Calls for Justice, which in turn, helps set priorities for the province.

The Government of PEI is proud to reflect on the work that has been done over the past year to advance the implementation of the Calls for Justice across government. Recognizing that much work still needs to be done, we affirm our commitment to an approach that fosters

trust and understanding by ensuring first and foremost that Indigenous perspectives inform the province’s response to the Calls for Justice.





Over the first year of meetings between the Province and the Indigenous Working Group, several reconciliation priorities emerged from discussions between the government and the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group. The following initiatives to address these priorities advance the ongoing work of reconciliation and respond to the MMIWG Calls for Justice in PEI. Additional achievements are presented in the next section.

PRIORITIES

Education/Training

The province previously committed to making its cultural training mandatory for all new and existing public service employees. As part of this committee, the Province held an Indigenous Speakers Series during the month of October for public service employees to commemorative Mi'kmaq History Month. This work is ongoing and, with the guidance of the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group, a new training program will be fully launched in 2022.

Housing

The Government of PEI is providing \$500,000 to support Indigenous housing initiatives and projects on PEI, a priority outlined by the Indigenous Working Group, in last year's report. This fund will help support culturally appropriate housing services for Indigenous people. This housing support will help address safety and security for Indigenous people, recurring themes in the MMIWG Calls for Justice.

Health

Navigating the health system has been difficult for everyone over the past two years. The Indigenous Working Group realized that it has been as difficult and perhaps even more so for Indigenous people. It advocated for an Indigenous Health Navigator on PEI and steps are now being taken to establish this position within the provincial health care system. This navigator will help the Island's Indigenous population to access the health services they need.



Ongoing Support for MMIWG Work in Communities

Engagement with Indigenous people plays an important role in advancing reconciliation; it ensures that Indigenous perspective and lived experience is at the center of efforts to make progressive change. The creation of the Indigenous Working Group has provided an opportunity for government to work closely with Indigenous representatives to inform the Province's response to the MMIWG Calls for Justice. Recognizing the commitment that participating in the Working Group requires and the valuable work that is being done in communities to respond to the Calls for Justice, the Province has created an MMIWG Fund of \$250,000/year to support work being done by the First Nations and organizations represented on the Indigenous Working Group.

Some of the important initiatives the Indigenous Working Group have accomplished this past year from the Province's financial support included a creation of an MMIWG resource toolkit, Commemorative Gathering, hiring of MMIWG Coordinator, investments in materials and cultural supplies as well as care packages for Indigenous men and women in the community. This funding has also provided capacity for Elder participation, as well as professional development opportunities for members to receive their Mental Health First Aid certifications.

Looking Forward

The implementation of commitments that address the priorities identified in the 2021 MMIWG Status Report is an accomplishment. While we have seen progress over the last year, the Government of PEI knows that reconciliation is an ongoing journey and our work is not finished. As the Province continues to work with the Indigenous Working Group, new priorities and initiatives to advance the implementation of the MMIWG Calls for Justice will be identified.

Support for MMIWG Work

When Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was published, government's responsibility on a provincial level was outlined in detail. The Government of PEI is committed to an ongoing approach that continues to center Indigenous voices. Part of that commitment is to support the Indigenous Working Group so its members can continue to provide guidance to the Province and pursue projects that help address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit (2S) people. Through in-kind support and ongoing conversation with members of the Working Group, to Province is open to receiving feedback from the committee to advance the work of the MMIWG file.





ACHIEVEMENTS BY THEME

In addition to the priorities, informed by meetings held with the Indigenous Working Group, the Province has been active on several fronts to address the Calls to Justice from the MMIWG inquiry. The following subsections, organized by theme, explain what has been accomplished and what is expected in the future.

Education and Culture

Education and culture are important foundations for understanding different perspectives and understanding sense of self and sense of community. Education remains a vital component of reconciliation by ensuring that the multi-generational impacts of residential schools and colonial policies are acknowledged, understood, and not ever forgotten. Education also promotes understanding Indigenous worldview, traditions, culture, and history. Identity is the backbone of belonging, builds connection among people, and promotes healing. Due to colonial efforts to assimilate and fragment Indigenous identity, the culture, traditions, and languages of Indigenous people have suffered greatly. The Government of PEI has implemented programs and initiatives to address the marginalization of Indigenous education and culture, particularly for those who are already marginalized in some way, such as women and 2SLGBTQIA individuals. Overcoming colonial oppression and reactivating education and culture is a beacon of hope and an important segment of the journey to reconciliation.

Looking back

Education is crucial for reconciliation. The Government of PEI has implemented several initiatives to help promote education and awareness of Indigenous perspectives and culture. Through curriculum changes, Reconciliation Week activities, new programs in schools and beginning to renew classroom libraries to reflect Indigenous voices and stories, the Province has continued working toward building on Indigenous ways of knowing and learning.



The revitalization and promotion of Indigenous culture form important steps on a journey of reconciliation. For generations, Indigenous culture has suffered as the result of colonial policies, intergenerational trauma, and racism. The Government of PEI understands how important it is to support efforts to restore Indigenous culture, traditions and languages so that it can be celebrated by Indigenous people today and passed on to Indigenous youth for tomorrow.

Recent or current activity

- Several Island schools were given the opportunity to interact with large maps of Turtle Island (the continent of North America), helping both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students understand the history of the continent. Displaying the maps fosters reconciliation and understanding and provides an opportunity to share and celebrate history.
- The Government of PEI declared September 30th a statutory holiday to honour the residential school legacy and recognize the intergenerational effects it continues to have on Indigenous populations. In the lead up to this important day of observance, Island schools participated in Reconciliation Week activities, creating a sense of recognition, respect and commitment to true reconciliation.
- The province's Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) is assisting the Department of Education in creating and implementing Indigenous knowledge initiatives and promoting understanding. Knowledge of the history of Indigenous people in Canada is needed to understand the way forward. Teachers and students want to know where they fit in this story. The IEAC relies on Indigenous voices to help shape the story to ensure the youth of tomorrow have a decolonized education that is accurate, authentic and sacred.

- The Public Service Commission (PSC) initiated a series of brand new training programs such as the Unconscious Bias in the Workplace webinar, Cross-Cultural Understanding, Dismantling Racism, and Valuing Diversity and Human Rights in the Workplace. The PSC also highlights Indigenous knowledge and history in its Leaders in Action training. Through its Diversity and Inclusion theme calendar, the PSC continues to highlight and recognize important Indigenous celebrations throughout the year.
- The Province committed \$80,000 to the Netukulimk Education program this past year. Though the world at large is shifting its focus toward environmental sustainability, the Mi'kmaq concept of Netukulimk has guided Indigenous way of life since time immemorial. Netukulimk promotes taking from the land only what is needed to maintain spiritual and resource sustainability. The funding is being used to implement a community-based approach to education resource design in renewable energy and to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers among Indigenous youth. The program practices the concept of two-eyed seeing to borrow and share both Western and Indigenous concepts.
- The Government of PEI has undertaken several initiatives to assist Indigenous communities to reclaim the right to their culture, as outlined in the federal MMIWG Final Report. Traditional practices of knowledge-sharing and gathering have been severely impacted by colonization. Initiatives like the Provincial Artbank collection, the Indigenous Funding Stream of the PEI Arts Grant and support for the participants of the Petapan symposium are helping the Indigenous people to reclaim and promote Indigenous art and culture. Indigenous ceremonies and traditions, such as pow wows have continually received financial support. Lastly, the Government of PEI is funding the creation of programs such as Indigenous Authentic PEI Experiential Tourism, providing financial support to the Lennox Island First Nation Development Corporation to create homegrown tourism experiences, and providing ongoing funding to Epekwitkewaq, the Cavendish Visitors Centre, which houses Mi'kmaq exhibits.



Looking Forward

- The Government of PEI is developing a new curriculum component for Grade 7 students focusing on Indigenous content, knowledge and ways of knowing.
- The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning is updating classroom libraries to include more Indigenous content and is holding an MMIWG Art Project at Montague High School that will end in an exhibit.
- Understanding the importance of a successful 2022 tourist season after two years of being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province is providing funding support for the upcoming season. Indigenous tourism in PEI only continues to grow and the Province is proud to support these excellent economic development opportunities that allow visitors to experience rich Indigenous culture in PEI. Post-season sharing of successes and learning opportunities will help ensure the growth of Indigenous-related tourism.



Health and Wellness



There is more to health than sickness or disease. It also includes physical, mental and social well-being. The Government of PEI acknowledges that Indigenous communities may not access health care services as frequently as non-Indigenous people, and that this must be addressed to meet its responsibility to its Indigenous population.

Looking back

Last year's report emphasized the COVID response for the Indigenous community on PEI. That response was supported where possible under difficult, unforeseen circumstances. Throughout the pandemic, however, it became more apparent that an Indigenous patient navigator was important to improve equity of care.

Other important initiatives were the ongoing work by the Health Planning Policy Forum, the Mobile Mental Health Unit, E-Health options for rural patients and multiple mental health and psychiatric supports.

Recent or current activity

- The Province has partnered with Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation to provide front line clinical mental health and addictions support right in their communities. These community-based health services, including access to psychiatric services on a monthly basis, help restore patient's sense of self and connection to their community.
- The Province, through the Department of Health and Wellness, is creating an Indigenous Health Navigator program, as referred to earlier. In addition to providing guidance to access modern health services, this program will seek to support traditional ways of wellness. The program's liaison and coordination role will assist Indigenous community members in accessing the services and treatment they need, helping them rediscover the health system in a post-pandemic world.
- The Government of PEI has made consistent investments over the past several years to advance wellness as it pertains to mental health, social relationships and physical capacity. For example, the Active Transportation initiative helps Indigenous Islanders achieve positive health outcomes by providing connective infrastructure and transportation routes. These active pathways (e.g., walking, rolling, biking and running) are used to stay active while getting from one place to another.



Looking Forward

- The Health and Wellness virtual care team will be establishing a digital health literacy working group with the aim of making virtual services more accessible for Islanders, ultimately improving rural health care.
- The Government of PEI is developing a training program to aid in the establishment of a Community of Practice using the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health publication entitled *Journey to Healing*. This training will focus on a decolonized healing approach.
- The Health Policy Planning Forum E-Health Working Group, which continues to facilitate federal-provincial-territorial response to Indigenous health needs, is developing a work plan for the next year.
- The Province will continue to offer cultural competency training, with special focus on trauma-informed practice and health. Sharing of best practices will strengthen the training program and ultimately improve results.



Human Security



Human security is a complex concept with many components including economic, personal, political and food security. The absence of any of these components can put marginalized groups at risk. Economic security is threatened by poverty, personal security by violence, political security by repression and food security by hunger and famine. Strong communities provide ample social and economic opportunity that help people to thrive. The Government of PEI is committed to supporting programs and initiatives that improve the variety of factors that influence human security.

Looking back

Many initiatives addressing Human Security were brought forward in 2020-2021. A continued joint focus on fishing and farming, as well as food security, were important items that have been expanded upon.

The further development and eventual establishment of the Rural Transportation System provides safe and reliable transport to and from rural communities throughout PEI. This renewed focus on safe transportation is critical to the overall safety to vulnerable populations and provides additional security to Indigenous women and girls.

Finally, last year's report made note of many economic programs that benefit to Indigenous people on PEI. Economic security is critical to Indigenous well-being and provides correlating positive outcomes in other facets of life such as health, positive relationships and nutrition.

Recent or current activity

1. Environmental Security

- The Government of PEI has provided a number of grants, subsidies and incentives to address climate change and achieve carbon neutrality. Efficiency PEI's Winter Warming, Home Energy Assessments, Energy Efficient Equipment and Home Insulation programs have been collaboratively customized for both Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation to retrofit buildings and seize energy efficiency opportunities. This win-win project is providing a more energy efficient structure for their communities which, in turn, contributes to the Island's path to net zero and energy conservation. In July 2021, the Government of PEI completed an 18-month climate change risk assessment to identify the consequences of climate change on health, social stability, environment, infrastructure and economic sectors. The Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action engaged Indigenous people across PEI to help inform this assessment tool. Through interviews and reviews of existing studies, the Department gathered and incorporated the unique risks that climate change pose to Indigenous people in Prince Edward Island into the assessment tool. The Climate Change Secretariat also presented to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI on the recently updated coastal flood maps.

2. Community and Food Security

- Over the past year, the province has offered, through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Community Food Security programs to Indigenous people in PEI. This benefit was emphasized by the embargo on PEI potatoes to the American market and the resulting focus on food security for all. The Province has also provided financial support to the Lennox Island Food program.

- The Government of PEI's Rural Growth Initiative has supported projects critical for both the Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, enabling sustainable development through their non-profits. For example, government has provided infrastructure support to the Abegweit Fish Hatchery, equipment purchases for the Lennox Island Fire Department and equipment support for the highly successful oyster hatchery on Lennox Island First Nation. To further foster rural growth, the Government of PEI has been streamlining the transition from traditional ways of knowing and living to the digital world through its Computers for Success program. This program refurbishes and distributes computers, equipment and software to non-profit organizations and groups. In the past year, the program has distributed 120 computers to the Native Council of PEI, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Center, collectively.

3. Transportation and Personal Security

- In recognition that transportation routes in Canada can be dangerous for vulnerable groups, as stressed in the MMI-WG final report, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's Highway Safety Division circulates materials to highlight the importance of reporting suspicious practices along routes and at stops to combat human trafficking. Further, government has ensured that resource material from the Canadian Council of Motor Vehicle Administrators (CCMVA) is incorporated into Commercial Vehicle Officer training sessions. The CCMVA maintains a direct relationship with Truckers Against Trafficking. Though public transit is usually seen as an urban issue, access to rural transportation should be prioritized as well. In October 2021, The Government of PEI announced a rural public transit system that serves a large part of the island and connects to Abegweit First Nations community members via a stop at Scotchfort. This rural system is looking to expand in 2022, with the possibility of including a stop at the Lennox Island First Nation.
- In April of this year, the Province committed to funding to support the creation of a Men and Boys Coordinator position within the Native Council of PEI to lead important work as part of a response to the Calls for Justice. This Indigenous-led prevention initiative will provide important programming and learning for Indigenous men and boys, who play an important role in addressing gender-based violence.

4. Economic Security

- Since a person's opportunity to earn a living is a critical component of human security, the Government of PEI offers a number of programs to promote capacity building for Indigenous people through subsidized wages, availability of work experience, network connections and promotion of the arts/crafts and tourism sectors. For example, over the past year, Jobs for Youth, Workplace Essential Skills and the MCEI Social Enterprise Project were initiated or continued. These Indigenous-directed programs ensure community members have access to the same opportunities as other Islanders.
- The PSC maintains meaningful and positive working relationships with community organizations; For example, it participated in the Abegweit Job Fair to showcase job opportunities with the public service and how to apply for them. This effort is further supported by the Diversity Talent Pool and Diversity Employment Program which continue to encourage departments and agencies to identify potential employment opportunities for members of diversity groups.

Looking Forward

- Tourism PEI and representatives from the Indigenous communities are eagerly awaiting the 2022 tourism season and the opportunity to use the findings from the 2020 Indigenous Tourism Atlantic Canada Study to build a successful, authentic Indigenous tourism industry in the province.
- The PSC launched its new Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2025. This strategy will serve as a roadmap for departments and agencies in developing their own diversity and inclusion plans based on their mandate, type of services, clientele, staff compliment, and specific diversity group needs.
- A newly approved Diversity and Inclusion Growth Program is being developed to advocate an inclusive PEI that values and reflects our diversity and remove barriers that prevent residents from participating in all aspects of Island life.



Indigenous justice, a critical value for equity in law, must be undertaken with a restorative lens focused on healing of trauma and incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Honest and open sharing of perspectives between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups is critical. The Government of PEI, with support from the federal government, provides Indigenous Courtwork (ICW) services, available to any Indigenous person in criminal court matters, intended to help reduce some of the barriers to justice for Indigenous peoples by providing culturally responsive supports. This approach focuses on solutions that are culturally coherent and meaningful for Indigenous people. The Government of PEI has an Indigenous Justice Program operated by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI.

The PEI Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU), operating through Victim Services, provides various supports to family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and funds projects that provide culturally relevant healing practices for Indigenous women. Community and Correctional Services representatives participate in Restorative Justice Circles delivered by MCPEI's Indigenous Justice Program.



Looking back

Last year's status report explained important initiatives, organizations and projects, including the role of Victim Services, the Indigenous Justice Program, Indigenous Case Worker and Gladue Reports, all of which provide important services or provisions to PEI's Indigenous people.

Some initiatives continuing from last year include the establishment of a missing person's toolkit and missing person's legislation, Community Police Services and Restorative Justice Program. Each of these efforts are focused on providing a fair and honest approach to equitable Justice for Indigenous people on PEI.

Recent or current activity

- The Government of PEI amended its *Statute of Limitations Act* to remove the limitation period in civil proceedings for claims of sexual assault or battery, certain claims of misconduct of a sexual nature other than sexual assault or battery and certain claims of assault. These amendments facilitate the carriage of justice while recognizing the difficulties victims face due to marginalization and the burden of proving assault. It is not uncommon for a victim to require time to heal before they are willing or able to confront a traumatic event; this amendment provides that time.
- Probation Services provides reporting services for the courts upon request while MCPEI has prepared Gladue Reports when required by the court. Justice is delivered in a way that is culturally aware and useful for both the courts and Indigenous offenders and victims. Gladue Reports, which consider the effect intergenerational trauma has had on Indigenous offenders, are important to present the unique circumstances of the Indigenous person and allow the court to take these factors into consideration in sentencing; e.g., personal challenges, family, community, racism, loss of language, removal from land, Indian residential schools and foster care.
- In August 2021, JPS and Justice Canada established an agreement to provide Indigenous Courtwork (ICW) services and contribute to a national network of service providers. Services will be available to all Indigenous peoples in PEI, regardless of their status or where they live.

- The Government of PEI Victim Services section assists victims throughout their involvement in the criminal justice system. Available across the Island, these services also provide support to the victims' family members. Indigenous Islanders who feel they have been victimized, whether or not they have made a complaint to the police or charges have been laid, can access the services. Victim Services is independent from the Crown Attorney's office, police, and the courts but maintains a collaborative approach with the justice system to provide a best practices approach. Victim Service workers assist with navigating court procedures, finding information on case-related matters, planning for the safety of victims of intimate partner violence and assisting victims in accessing Criminal Injuries Compensation.
- An Indigenous case worker provides the Turning Point program which provides one-on-one clinical supports to families experiencing violence.
- The Government of PEI has amended its *Social Assistance Act* and the *Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act* in response to Human Rights Tribunal decisions relating to child protection for Indigenous children and Jordan's Principle. These amendments have amended what is considered income. For example, payments received from the Government of Canada or the Province as compensation for a harm done are no longer considered as income under the legislation. Also, amendments addressing young adults "aging out" of the system are under way, which is a crucial development for those who experience an immediate lack of services on their 18th birthday.
- The Government of PEI has updated legislation and policy to build upon the foundation of cultural connection, cultural practice and human rights. The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* is currently being updated to include adherence to the federal *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families*. This legislated requirement is a good example of coordinating provincial services to meet federal initiatives, including those around "best interests of a child."



Looking Forward

- Community and Correctional Services staff are continually being trained on cultural competency and a training program is being developed to educate participants on how to apply an intergenerational trauma lens to their work.
- The Government of PEI is looking forward to gaining clarity around accountability and reporting expectations. For example, there are ongoing discussions about the objective responsibility of the National Action Plan, to which the provincial government has contributed. Engagement is critical to the reconciliation process as Indigenous people will provide insights and suggestions to make the National Action Plan as well as provincial/territorial plans as effective as possible.



CONCLUSION

The MMIWG Calls for Justice are extensive, and the implementation of the recommendations will be marked by significant societal change. The Government of PEI recognizes that it has an important role in leading efforts to effect lasting, positive change. By developing an approach that specifically seeks to center Indigenous voices and perspectives, the Province is attempting to honour the principle of “nothing for us, without us”. The Government of PEI is committed to this ongoing process and wishes to thank the meaningful contributions made by the Indigenous Working Group and the group’s continued collaboration with the province.

While great progress has been made so far, the Government of PEI acknowledges that the work of reconciliation has just begun. The Province reaffirms the importance of an Indigenous informed response to the MMIWG Calls for Justice and looks forward to continuing to strengthen the relationship and trust between the government and the Indigenous Working Group. By working together, we can ensure that our actions are meeting the priorities of Indigenous people and leading to lasting positive change.



Appendix A



Education and Culture

2.3 We call upon all governments to ensure that all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people are provided with safe, no-barrier, permanent, and meaningful access to their cultures and languages in order to restore, reclaim, and revitalize their cultures and identities. These are rights held by all segments of Indigenous communities, from young children to Elders. The programs and services that provide such access should not be tied exclusively to government-run cultural or educational institutions. All governments must further ensure that the rights of Indigenous children to retain and be educated in their Indigenous language are upheld and protected. All governments must ensure access to immersion programs for children from preschool into post-secondary education.

2.4 We call upon all governments to provide the necessary resources and permanent funds required to preserve knowledge by digitizing interviews with Knowledge Keepers and language speakers. We further call upon all governments to support grassroots and community-led Indigenous language and cultural programs that restore identity, place, and belonging within First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities through permanent, no-barrier funding and resources. Special measures must include supports to restore and revitalize identity, place, and belonging for Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been isolated from their Nations due to colonial violence, including 2SLGBTQIA people and women who have been denied Status.

2.5 We call upon all governments, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to create a permanent empowerment fund devoted to supporting Indigenous-led initiatives for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities to access cultural knowledge, as an important and strength-based way to support cultural rights and to uphold self-determined services. This empowerment fund should include the support of land-based educational programs that can assist in foundational cultural learning and awareness. This empowerment fund will also assist in the revitalization of distinct cultural practices as expressed by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people, with eligibility criteria and decision making directly in their hands.

2.6 We call upon all governments to educate their citizens about, and to confront and eliminate, racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia. To accomplish this, the federal government, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and provincial and territorial governments, must develop and implement an Anti-Racism and Anti-Sexism National Action Plan to end racist and sexualized stereotypes of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people. The plan must target the general public as well as public services.

2.7 We call upon all governments to adequately fund and support Indigenous-led initiatives to improve the representation of Indigenous Peoples in media and pop culture.

4.2. We call upon all governments to recognize Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the pursuit of economic social development. All governments must support and resource economic and social progress and development on an equitable basis, as these measures are required to uphold the human dignity, life, liberty, and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people. All governments must support and resource community-based supports and solutions designed to improve social and economic security, led by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people. This support must come with long-term, sustainable funding designed to meet the needs and objectives as defined by Indigenous Peoples and communities.

6.1 We call upon all media, news corporations and outlets, and, in particular, government-funded corporations and outlets; media unions, associations, and guilds; academic institutions teaching journalism or media courses; governments that fund such corporations, outlets, and academic institutions; and journalists, reporters, bloggers, film producers, writers, musicians, music producers, and, more generally, people working in the entertainment industry to take decolonizing approaches to their work and publications in order to educate all Canadians about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people.

11.1 We call upon all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions and education authorities to educate and provide awareness to the public about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people, and about the issues and root causes of violence they experience. All curriculum development and programming should be done in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, especially Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people. Such education and awareness must include historical and current truths about the genocide against Indigenous Peoples through state laws, policies, and colonial practices. It should include, but not be limited to, teaching Indigenous history, law, and practices from Indigenous perspectives and the use of *Their Voices Will Guide Us* with children and youth.

15.2 Decolonize by learning the true history of Canada and Indigenous history in your local area. Learn about and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' history, cultures, pride, and diversity, acknowledging the land you live on and its importance to local Indigenous communities, both historically and today.

Health and Wellness

3.2 We call upon all governments to provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous-centred and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate, and meet the health and wellness needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The lack of health and wellness services within Indigenous communities continues to force Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to relocate in order to access care. Governments must ensure that health and wellness services are available and accessible within Indigenous communities and wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people reside.

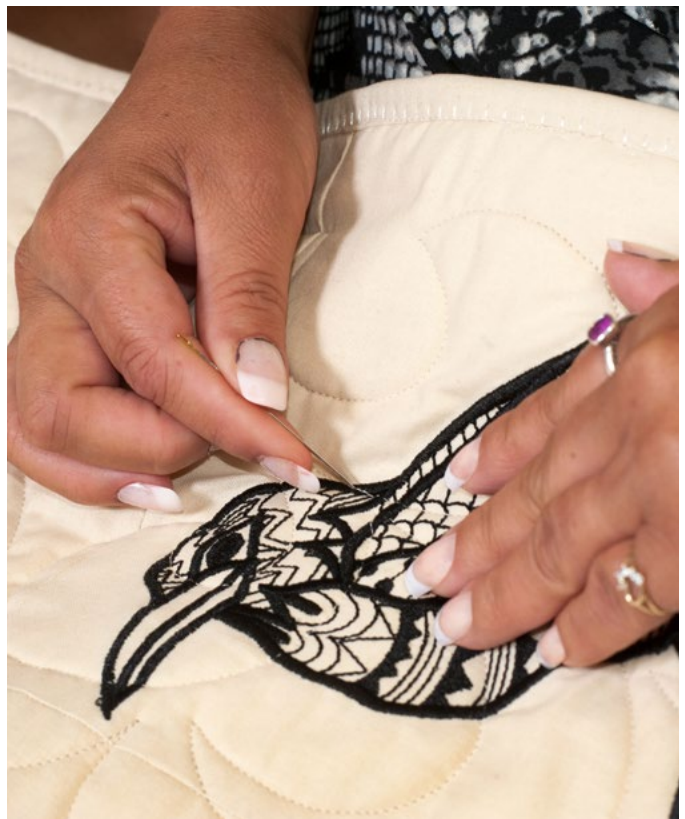
3.4 We call upon all governments to ensure that all Indigenous communities receive immediate and necessary resources, including funding and support, for the establishment of sustainable, permanent, no-barrier, preventative, accessible, holistic, wraparound services, including mobile trauma and addictions recovery teams. We further direct that trauma and addictions treatment programs be paired with other essential services such as mental health services and sexual exploitation and trafficking services as they relate to each individual case of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

3.5 We call upon all governments to establish culturally competent and responsive crisis response teams in all communities and regions, to meet the immediate needs of an Indigenous person, family, and/or community after a traumatic event (murder, accident, violent event, etc.), alongside ongoing support.

3.7 We call upon all governments to provide continual and accessible healing programs and support for all children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and their family members. Specifically, we call for the permanent establishment of a fund akin to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and related funding. These funds and their administration must be independent from government and must be distinctions-based. There must be accessible and equitable allocation of specific monies within the fund for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples.

4.8 We call upon all governments to ensure that adequate plans and funding are put into place for safe and affordable transit and transportation services and infrastructure for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people living in remote or rural communities. Transportation should be sufficient and readily available to Indigenous communities, and in towns and cities located in all of the provinces and territories in Canada.

13.5 We call upon resource-extraction and development industries and all governments and service providers to anticipate and recognize increased demand on social infrastructure because of development projects and resource extraction, and for mitigation measures to be identified as part of the planning and approval process. Social infrastructure must be expanded and service capacity built to meet the anticipated needs of the host communities in advance of the start of projects. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that policing, social services, and health services are adequately staffed and resourced.



Human Security

2.1 We call upon all governments to acknowledge, recognize, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages as inherent rights, and constitutionally protected as such under section 35 of the Constitution.

4.1 We call upon all governments to uphold the social and economic rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people by ensuring that Indigenous Peoples have services and infrastructure that meet their social and economic needs. All governments must immediately ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to safe housing, clean drinking water, and adequate food.

4.2 We call upon all governments to recognize Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the pursuit of economic social development. All governments must support and resource economic and social progress and development on an equitable basis, as these measures are required to uphold the human dignity, life, liberty, and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. All governments must support and resource community-based supports and solutions designed to improve social and economic security, led by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This support must come with long-term, sustainable funding designed to meet the needs and objectives as defined by Indigenous Peoples and communities.

4.4 We call upon all governments to provide supports and resources for educational, training, and employment opportunities for all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. These programs must be available within all Indigenous communities.

4.8 We call upon all governments to ensure that adequate plans and funding are put into place for safe and affordable transit and transportation services and infrastructure for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people living in remote or rural communities. Transportation should be sufficient and readily available to Indigenous communities, and in towns and cities located in all of the provinces and territories in Canada.

7.4 We call upon all governments and health service providers to provide necessary resources, including funding, to support the revitalization of Indigenous health, wellness, and child and Elder care practices. For healing, this includes teachings that are land-based and about harvesting and the use of Indigenous medicines for both ceremony and health issues. This may also include: matriarchal teachings on midwifery and postnatal care for both woman and child; early childhood health care; palliative care; Elder care and care homes to keep Elders in their home communities as valued Knowledge Keepers; and other measures. Specific programs may include but are not limited to correctional facilities, healing centres, hospitals, and rehabilitation centres.

8.1 We call upon all transportation service providers and the hospitality industry to undertake training to identify and respond to sexual exploitation and human trafficking, as well as the development and implementation of reporting policies and practices.

Justice

5.6 We call upon provincial and territorial governments to develop an enhanced, holistic, comprehensive approach for the provision of support to Indigenous victims of crime and families and friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons.

5.15 We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments and all actors in the justice system to consider Gladue reports as a right and to resource them appropriately, and to create national standards for Gladue reports, including strength-based reporting.

5.17 We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to thoroughly evaluate the impacts of Gladue principles and section 718.2(e) of the *Criminal Code* on sentencing equity as it relates to violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

12.3 We call upon all governments and Indigenous organizations to develop and apply a definition of "best interests of the child" based on distinct Indigenous perspectives, world views, needs, and priorities, including the perspective of Indigenous children and youth. The primary focus and objective of all child and family services agencies must be upholding and protecting the rights of the child through ensuring the health and well-being of children, their families, and communities, and family unification and reunification.

12.10 We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to immediately adopt the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal 2017 CHRT 14 standards regarding the implementation of Jordan's Principle in relation to all First Nations (Status and non-Status), Métis, and Inuit children. We call on governments to modify funding formulas for the provision of services on a needs basis, and to prioritize family support, reunification, and prevention of harms. Funding levels must represent the principle of substantive equity.





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