



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada



# **INFORMATION RELATED TO CANADA'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

Third Universal Periodic Review



Canada

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# Canada's Third Universal Periodic Review

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## Introduction

The United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a constructive process to strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms everywhere in the world. Under the UPR, all United Nations (UN) Member States have their human rights record reviewed by other States and receive recommendations to improve human rights in its country.

Federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments share responsibility for implementing Canada's international human rights treaty obligations and collaborate on Canada's UPR.

On May 11, 2018, Canada appeared before the UPR Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council for an interactive discussion with other UN Member States. Canada received 275 recommendations from the 107 Member States that intervened during its review.<sup>1</sup>

On September 14, 2018, Canada submitted its Response to the recommendations, indicating which recommendations Canada accepts and notes.<sup>2</sup> Canada accepted 208 recommendations, either in full or in part. Recommendations that Canada accepted are those that FPT governments support and will undertake to implement through appropriate measures. Recommendations that are noted are those that call for specific actions that are not presently under consideration.

This document provides context as well as a summary of key considerations and examples of recent measures that informed Canada's Response.<sup>3</sup>

## International human rights instruments

### Consider ratifying additional international human rights instruments (general)

#### Recommendation 1: Accepted

FPT governments will engage in ongoing discussions to identify treaties for potential adherence by Canada.

At its UPR appearance, Canada made a voluntary commitment to initiate a transparent process for ongoing consideration by FPT governments of adherence to human rights treaties to which Canada is not yet a party.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of the recommendations that Canada received is in Annex 1 below.

<sup>2</sup> Canada's Response is an addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, [UN Doc. A/HRC/39/11/Add.1](#) (18 September 2018).

<sup>3</sup> The information contained in this document reflects the situation as of the time of drafting. For detailed information on actions taken to improve the human rights situation in Canada and to fulfil Canada's international human rights obligations, see Canada's third UPR documentation on the [UN website](#).

Ratifying additional international human rights instruments (migrants, Indigenous peoples, and stateless persons)

Recommendation 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31: Noted

These recommendations specifically call for Canada's ratification of international human rights treaties to which Canada is not yet a party. Canada is not in a position to accept such recommendations because adherence to these treaties is not currently under consideration. See, however, recommendations 8, 10, 11, 12 and 22 below.

Ratify the Convention on enforced disappearances

Recommendation 7: Noted

FPT governments continue to pursue discussions regarding Canada's potential accession to the [\*International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance\*](#). Consultations with federal departments and provincial and territorial governments are ongoing to carefully assess options for implementation. However, in the absence of a final determination regarding accession, Canada is not in a position to accept this recommendation.

Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Recommendations 8, 10, 11, 21 and 22: Accepted

The Government of Canada, with the support of all provinces and territories, acceded to the [\*Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities\*](#) (OP-CRPD) on December 3, 2018.

FPT governments continue to pursue discussions regarding Canada's potential accession to the [\*Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment\*](#) (OP-CAT).

Significant progress has been made thus far over the past two years to assess options for implementing the OP-CAT in Canada by undertaking extensive consultations with provincial, territorial and federal departments, in light of the approaches taken in various other countries.

Ratify Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Recommendations 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23: Noted

As referenced above, FPT governments continue to discuss Canada's potential accession to the OP-CAT. In the absence of a final determination, Canada is not in a position to accept the recommendations that it adhere to this treaty.

Accede to the Arms Trade Treaty

Recommendations 32: Accepted

On April 13, 2017, the Minister of Foreign Affairs introduced legislation in Parliament to make necessary changes to Canada's export and import control regime that will allow Canada to accede to the UN [\*Arms Trade Treaty\*](#). Bill C-47, *An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act and the Criminal Code*

*(amendments permitting the accession to the Arms Trade Treaty and other amendments)*, has been passed by the House of Commons and is currently being considered in the Senate.

## Follow-up to recommendations and effective implementation of international obligations

### Implementing the Safe Schools Declaration

Recommendation 34: Accepted

Canada endorsed the [Safe Schools Declaration](#) on February 21, 2018.

### Follow-up to recommendations (racial discrimination)

Recommendations 33 and 228: Noted

FPT governments give careful consideration to the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. Canada cannot at this time commit to follow up on all of the recommendations from these two UN bodies, but FPT governments will continue to take appropriate measures in response to the human rights issues they raise.

### Implementing international human rights obligations (general)

Recommendations 35, 36 and 37: Accepted

In December 2017, Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Human Rights met to discuss key priorities in relation to Canada's international human rights obligations. At this meeting, Ministers committed to the creation of a senior intergovernmental mechanism, the development of a protocol for following up on the recommendations of international human rights bodies, and a stakeholder engagement strategy.

At the UPR appearance, Canada made voluntary commitments to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration and public dialogue on human rights, and to implement the ministerial commitments announced in December 2017.

The Senior Officials Committee responsible for Human Rights has been created and is composed of designated representatives of federal, provincial and territorial governments at the assistant deputy minister or deputy minister level.

The Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial forum on international human rights, is working to develop the engagement strategy and the protocol for follow-up to recommendations.

### Visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous peoples

Recommendation 211: Accepted

Canada continues to facilitate visits by Special Procedures and acknowledges the July 2016 request by the [Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous peoples](#) and would be pleased to welcome the Special Rapporteur at the earliest opportunity.

## Indigenous peoples

### Protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and addressing discrimination

Recommendations 41, 46, 74, 76, 77, 230, 233, 234, 235, 237 and 238: Accepted

The Government of Canada is working to advance reconciliation and a renewed relationship with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, based on a recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. The Government is building partnerships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, provinces and territories, and stakeholders across the country to work on shared priorities and balanced solutions to reconciliation and implementation of the rights of Indigenous peoples. Governments' initiatives include measures to build on Canada's strong constitutional and legislative equality rights protections to address discrimination faced by Indigenous peoples.

- On August 28, 2018, a new Cabinet Committee on Reconciliation was formed to examine initiatives designed to strengthen the relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada. It builds on the work of the Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies related to Indigenous peoples to help ensure the Crown is meeting its constitutional obligations with respect to Aboriginal and treaty rights; adhering to international human rights standards, including the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#); and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action<sup>4</sup>.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) developed a formal approach to engaging with Aboriginal Governments which can be found in Respect, Recognition and Responsibility. The GNWT has formalized government-to-government relationships through bilateral Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements with eight (8) separate Intergovernmental Memorandums of Understanding with Aboriginal governments signed to date.

### Addressing discriminatory provisions of the Indian Act

Recommendations 78 and 79: Noted

Recommendation 80: Accepted

While Canada noted the broadly worded recommendations 78 and 79, recommendation 80 was accepted. Bill S-3, *An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux c. Canada (Procureur général)* was introduced in Parliament to eliminate all sex-based discrimination in the *Indian Act*. The legislative amendments came into force on December 22, 2017. The Government of Canada has committed to consult on any outstanding sex-based, inequities as well as broader issues related to Indian registration, band membership and First Nation citizenship.

### Ensuring access to justice for Indigenous peoples

Recommendation 106: Accepted

FPT targeted programs seek to enhance access to justice for Indigenous peoples, including:

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<sup>4</sup> On June 2, 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released 'Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future – the Summary of the Final Report'. The report included 94 recommendations as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action. The report and recommendations are intended to help address the legacy of residential schools in Canada and advance the process of reconciliation.

- The [federal Indigenous Courtwork Program](#) and [Indigenous Justice Program](#) help Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system to obtain, fair, just, equitable and culturally relevant treatment and to support Indigenous community-based justice programs that offer alternatives to mainstream justice processes in appropriate circumstances.
- Family Information Liaison Units in all provinces and territories help families of missing and murdered Indigenous women access available information about their loved ones from multiple government sources, including in respect of the criminal justice system.
- British Columbia is co-developing an Indigenous Justice Strategy with the BC Aboriginal Justice Council, which focusses on improving access to justice services for Indigenous peoples, including culturally relevant, flexible and user-focused processes.

### Access to services and improved standard of living of Indigenous peoples

Recommendations 140, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 173, 174, 231, 232, 236, 240, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247 and 248: Accepted

Canada acknowledges that Indigenous peoples face many challenges in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. The Government of Canada's vision is to support Indigenous peoples in independently delivering services and addressing the socio-economic conditions in their communities. The following sections contain some examples of FPT initiatives to improve the economic and social wellbeing of Indigenous peoples and their access to services.

#### *Indigenous children and families*

The Government of Canada has committed to six points of action to address the number of Indigenous children in care. These include:

- Continuing to work to fully implement orders of the [Canadian Human Rights Tribunal](#) relating to discriminatory practices in the provision of First Nations child and family welfare services, and reforming child and family services, including moving to a flexible funding model;
- Shifting the programming focus to prevention and early intervention;
- Supporting communities to assume responsibility for child and family services and exploring the potential for co-developed federal child welfare legislation;
- Accelerating the work of trilateral and technical tables that are in place across the country;
- Supporting Inuit and Métis Nation leadership to advance culturally-appropriate reform; and
- Developing a data and reporting strategy with provinces, territories and Indigenous partners.

In addition,

- The Government of Canada announced new investments to improve service coordination and ensure service access resolution so that children's needs are assessed and responded to quickly.
- In March 2018, the Manitoba government introduced initial amendments to *The Child and Family Services Act* that would allow Indigenous communities to create care plans for children that recognize and reflect their unique customs.
- The Government of Northwest Territories' [Building Stronger Families - An Action Plan To Transform Child and Family Services](#) commits to the overall goal of improving the quality of child and family services in the territory, with a view to achieving better outcomes for children and their families when they require services through the *Child and Family Service Act*.

### *Education and culture*

The Government of Canada has implemented an inclusive and comprehensive engagement process with First Nations for transforming on-reserve education. A policy proposal to strengthen First Nations elementary and secondary education was jointly developed with the Assembly of First Nations and other regional First Nation partners. Based on this proposal, the Government of Canada is implementing a new policy framework, beginning in 2019-20.

In Nova Scotia, the Treaty Education initiative works collaboratively with provincial departments, including Education, and Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey, the Mi'kmaq education authority, on the development of curricula to educate students and the general public on the history, culture and treaty rights of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

Manitoba's First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework is under review and will focus on improving education and training outcomes for Indigenous students.

### *Employment and skills training*

In 2018, the Government of Canada announced the co-development of a new Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program, which will provide distinctions-based support for First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit, as well as urban and non-affiliated Indigenous peoples. These investments will support Indigenous peoples to develop employment skills and pursue training for lasting employment, which will contribute to closing the socio-economic gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

### *Health*

The Government of Canada works with provinces, territories and Indigenous peoples to advance collaborative models of health and health care that support individuals, families and communities from a broad, holistic perspective.

Examples of initiatives include:

- The Government of the Northwest Territories' [Caring for Our People: Strategic Plan for the NWT Health and Social Services System 2017 to 2020](#), includes the setting of key priorities to reduce systemic and avoidable health disparities in the overall health status of vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples. In 2016, [Building a Culturally Respectful Health and Social Services System](#) was released as a commitment to action.
- The Yukon government is in the process of initiating a review of all of its Health and Social Programs and Services within the Territory. Part of the review will engage First Nations to incorporate their views and concerns.

### *Poverty and income assistance*

Improving Indigenous social and economic outcomes is a priority for Canada. Governments are addressing greater rates of poverty and food through policies, programs and legislative reform. Investments are crucial to begin addressing some of the root causes of poverty, for promoting opportunity and inclusive growth, and to help lay the foundation for community development.

The following are a few examples of measures currently undertaken by governments to address poverty and income assistance for Indigenous peoples:

- The on-reserve Income Assistance Program provides individuals and families in need with the means to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter, and provides funding to access employment supports. Investments beginning in 2018-19 will improve the program's responsiveness to the needs of First Nations who use the assistance program and support their transition from income assistance to employment and education.
- Canada's [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), discussed in further detail below, targets population groups most vulnerable to poverty, including Indigenous communities. The Government has engaged with Indigenous people as part of a nearly yearlong public consultation process and will work in partnership with Indigenous leaders to implement the Strategy.
- Consultations on Manitoba's new Poverty Reduction Strategy, currently under development to address the diverse experiences and needs of Manitobans experiencing poverty, have focused on the demographic profile of those at highest risk of poverty, including Indigenous peoples.

### *Housing*

The Canadian government is committed to closing the unacceptable housing gap for Indigenous peoples and supports housing reform that will consider countrywide on and off-reserve housing needs for First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation. Distinctions-based Indigenous housing strategies are being co-developed with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners to improve housing conditions over the long term and ensure that Indigenous peoples have greater control over housing in their communities.

Manitoba's upcoming new Provincial Housing Strategy recognizes that some communities and population groups, including Indigenous people, face complex housing barriers. The strategy will respond to these challenges and ensure provincial housing policies and programs are relevant, effective and efficient.

### *Food Security*

The Government of Canada supports food security for Indigenous peoples through multiple initiatives and community-based programs, such as the development of a [Food Policy for Canada](#). In addition, the Government is currently working in collaboration with Indigenous, territorial and provincial partners, through the co-development of a new Arctic Policy Framework, to address pressing issues that have an impact on food security, such as infrastructure, the environment and socioeconomic conditions.

The Yukon government is implementing the [Local Food Strategy for Yukon](#), which strives to increase food security for all Yukoners including First Nations citizens, through the production and sale of local food products. Manitoba's [Northern Healthy Food Initiative](#) supports traditional food projects in Northern Manitoba that encourage both adults and youth to return to the land and their culture through hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering practices.

### *Child protection systems*

#### *Recommendation 142: Accepted*

In Canada, legal obligations under provincial and territorial child protection legislation require authorities to respond to reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. All children have the right to be protected from harm and abuse and there may be times where it is essential that children are removed from their caregivers for their own health, safety and well-being, as a last resort measure.



The Government of Canada is engaging across the country on potential Indigenous child and family services federal legislation co-created with Indigenous communities. In addition, the Government of Canada is investing \$1.4 billion in new funding to address funding pressures facing First Nations child and family service agencies, while also increasing community based prevention resources so that children are safe and families can stay together.

### Developing a comprehensive national strategy to improve education, health-care, housing and standard of living of Indigenous peoples

Recommendation 245: Noted

Canada does not have a comprehensive national strategy that addresses the various social policy areas identified in this recommendation. Rather, all governments have ongoing or planned initiatives to improve education, health-care, housing and standard of living of Indigenous peoples (see recommendations 140 to 248 above).

### Implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Recommendations 249 and 250: Accepted

On May 14, 2018, the Government of Canada released a webpage entitled [Delivering on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#) to inform Canadians of the ongoing work to respond to the 94 Calls to Action. To date, progress has been made in advancing over 80 percent of the Calls to Action under federal or shared responsibility. Recent federal, provincial and territorial developments include:

- The current Government of Yukon platform commitment is to:
  - work with First Nation governments to address the legacy of residential schools by closing the gaps in service delivery and creating a culturally relevant and responsive justice and corrections system;
  - work with Yukon First Nations to identify how the Yukon Government can implement its responsibilities stemming from the Calls to Action; and
  - implement training programs for Yukon Government employees on the legacy and impact of residential schools.
- Manitoba has enacted *The Path to Reconciliation Act*, which reflects Manitoba's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, having regard to the principles of Respect, Engagement, Understanding and Action. The Act also provides for the development of a strategy for reconciliation that is to be guided by the Calls to Action, among other things.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories' current Legislative Assembly has made it a priority to support the Calls to Action that fall within its government's jurisdiction, especially those related to violence against Indigenous women and girls.

### Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Recommendations 251, 254, 255 and 257: Accepted

The Canadian constitution and domestic laws provide a framework and foundation for Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples through section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including the Crown's legal duty to consult and accommodate, which serves to protect Aboriginal rights from government action.

Building on this framework, in July 2017, the Government of Canada released the [‘Principles respecting the Government of Canada’s relationship with Indigenous Peoples’](#). The Principles provide clear direction on how the Government of Canada must work and act in partnership with Indigenous peoples to support the implementation of Indigenous rights, including the right to self-determination and the inherent right of self-government.

Principle 6 acknowledges that meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples aims to secure their free, prior, and informed consent when Canada proposes to take actions which impact them and their rights, including their lands, territories, and resources.

Canada is working, in partnership with Indigenous peoples, to advance diverse mechanisms and processes for collaborative consent-based decision making with Indigenous peoples.

### Indigenous land, natural resources, cultures and languages

#### Recommendations 252 and 258: Accepted

The Government of Canada is engaged in Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussions with Indigenous communities across the country to explore new ideas and ways of working together to advance these issues. The discussions represent more than 350 Indigenous communities, with a total population of more than 750,000 people. In many of the discussions, the focus is mainly on Indigenous land ownership, resources revenue and cultural and language preservation.

In February 2018, the Prime Minister of Canada committed to replacing the Comprehensive Land Claim Policy and the Inherent Right to Self-government Policy. The Government of Canada is engaging various groups on the legislative and policy changes necessary to reform government policies and practices to ensure that the starting premise for all federal government action is the recognition of Indigenous rights.

FPT governments are also working on various initiatives to protect and promote Indigenous cultures and languages. For example:

- The Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples are co-developing national Indigenous languages legislation to preserve, promote and revitalize Indigenous languages. Intensive engagement sessions with Indigenous leadership, language experts and practitioners have been held to seek their views on the content of the legislation.
- The Government of Nova Scotia is working to develop policies and programs to protect and preserve the First Nations Mi’kmaq culture and language.

### Publishing records of consultation and contracting with First Nations

#### Recommendation 253: Noted

Various Industrial Benefits Agreements are contracts signed between Indigenous peoples/groups and private sector entities. This recommendation was not accepted because the Government of Canada (the public sector) has no role to play in such activities of private sector entities.

## Re-establishing the right to a healthy environment

Recommendation 256: Noted

Canada supports a healthy environment and sustainable development and has laws in place accordingly, alongside a strong consultations process with Indigenous peoples to support these objectives. However, Canada could not support the underlying premise behind the wording of the recommendation.

## Education and employment

### Providing inclusive education for minorities and persons with disabilities

Recommendations 82 and 175: Accepted

FPT governments have measures in place to prevent non-discrimination and ensure inclusion in education for persons with disabilities and minority groups. For example:

- In Manitoba, the [Appropriate Educational Programming](#) guides policy and programming for all students, particularly those with special learning needs, in receiving the appropriate educational programming they require.
- The Government of Yukon is investing to improve school-based information technology and embrace modern teaching and learning practices. This funding will support equipping schools with mobile computer labs that bring digital learning directly to the classroom.
- The [Stratégie d'action en matière d'immigration, de participation et d'inclusion 2016-2021, « Ensemble, nous sommes le Québec »](#) contains commitments to strengthen the involvement and mobilization of stakeholders in the school system to promote intercultural education. This commitments include actions to prevent discrimination in schools.

### Improving employment equity

Recommendations 130, 131, 132, 133, 134 and 135: Accepted

Employment equity is protected under FPT human rights and employment equity legislation and through policy measures and programs in all jurisdictions. A range of FPT income, labour and education measures support vulnerable groups in accessing employment opportunities on an equal basis with others. For example:

- Quebec's [Plan d'action gouvernemental pour l'inclusion économique et la participation sociale 2017-2023](#) contains actions and measures aimed at improving income, integration into employment and training and social participation in order to help reduce socio-occupational inequalities.
- The Government of Canada is committed to improving the Employment Insurance system to better align with the realities of the modern workforce, including by allowing, in August 2018, new categories of claimants to earn income while receiving employment insurance benefits to help them transition back to employment.
- The Government of Nova Scotia has developed education tools to enhance awareness of Labour Standards, focused on youth, international students, new immigrants and temporary foreign workers to support diverse communities and youth entering the work force successfully.

## Addressing discriminatory labour practices against women and migrants

### Recommendation 137: Accepted

The Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) and International Mobility Programs (IMP) have a comprehensive compliance regime in place to protect temporary foreign workers and the Canadian labour market. The cornerstone of the compliance regime is the authority to conduct inspections, including unannounced on-site inspections, to verify whether employers meet conditions set out in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR). When an employer fails to meet Program conditions or does not cooperate during an inspection, a range of consequences can be imposed, such as administrative monetary penalties, bans, or revocation of positive Labour Market Impact Assessments.

The Government of Canada is seeking to improve women's economic security via a number of initiatives including: new programs in the skilled trades; pilot programming for newcomer women; the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy; fair compensation for women in federal public and private sectors (proactive pay equity legislation and pay transparency measures); Bill C-65 to create a more robust and integrated regime protecting employees from harassment and violence in federal workplaces; investments in childcare; and establishing e-procurement platform to help small and medium-sized businesses better access to opportunities to work with government.

Quebec has various measures to promote the integration of immigrants into employment, particularly as part of the [Stratégie nationale sur la main-d'œuvre](#).

## Improving education achievements of Indigenous and Black Canadians

### Recommendations 171 and 172: Accepted

Provincial and territorial governments continue to adopt measures aimed at providing students the opportunity to participate in inclusive and ethno-culturally-centered learning environments and enhancing educational achievements of all Canadians. For example:

- In the Northwest Territories, the [Right from the Start Early Childhood Development Framework and Action Plan](#) supports the healthy development of all children using the Northern context and the richness and diversity of cultures and languages across the Northwest Territories as a foundation for child development.
- In support of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework, the Government of Canada is committing up to \$1.7 billion over 10 years to strengthen early learning and child care programs and services for Indigenous children and families starting in 2018-19. This is part of the 2016 commitment of \$7.5 billion over 11 years the Government has made to support and create more high-quality, affordable child care across the country.

## Poverty, homelessness, and food security

Canada recognizes the importance of economic security and well-being for all Canadians. FPT governments have adopted a number of joint and independent initiatives to further the progressive realization of economic and social rights, as detailed in the following sections.

## Providing income supports for individuals and families

### Recommendation 138: Accepted

Provinces and territories are responsible for social assistance and social services, with the financial support of the federal government through the Canada Social Transfer. All levels of government continue to take steps to improve individual and family income supports. For example:

- [Opportunity for All – Canada’s First Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) brings together new investments of \$22 billion that the Government has made since 2015 to support the social and economic well-being of all Canadians, including through the Canada Child Benefit, Guaranteed Income Supplement, and the Canada Workers’ Benefit. These actions will help lift about 650,000 Canadians out of poverty by 2019, with more expected as the impacts of these investments are realized in the years to come.
- In 2018, the Government of Prince Edward Island modernized its social assistance, including increased food and shelter rates, higher income exemptions, more assets exemptions, and extended transition to work benefits.

## Ensuring justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights

### Recommendation 149: Accepted

Avenues of legal recourse for violations of economic, social and cultural rights are available in Canada, depending on the nature of the right infringed and the nature of the remedy sought. These avenues include constitutional challenges; judicial review of administrative decisions; discrimination complaints to human rights commissions and tribunals; complaints before other statutory bodies; and civil or tort actions in court. In addition, Canada’s international human rights treaty obligations are a relevant source of interpretation of domestic law.

## Ensuring individuals experiencing poverty are not unduly criminalized

### Recommendation 150: Accepted

Canada ensures that those living in poverty are not unduly criminalized. Provincial and municipal laws, regulations and by-laws regulate and prohibit some of the activities and conduct of individuals in public spaces. Federal, provincial and territorial poverty reduction strategies and policies address factors that can contribute to individuals coming into conflict with the law.

In the Northwest Territories, the Legal Aid Commission has recognized the need for specialized legal assistance to address problems experienced by those of limited means, and operates a program to provide non-complex legal information services to the public without requiring a legal aid application. These outreach services relate to civil matters affecting an individual’s livelihood, physical and mental health, or their ability to provide food, clothing and shelter for themselves or their families. These problems often underlie more obvious legal issues related to criminal or family law matters.

## Interdependence and indivisibility of all international human rights

### Recommendation 151: Noted

Canada reaffirms the interdependence and indivisibility of all international human rights. Economic and social rights are implemented in Canada through a wide range of laws, policies and programs enacted and administered by all levels of government.

The [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) (Charter) provides constitutional protections for some but not all economic and social rights.

Charter rights are interpreted and applied coherently on a case-by-case basis in accordance with established legal and constitutional principles and precedents. These principles, as well as broader considerations related to constitutionalism and the rule of law, parliamentary democracy, the principles of adjudication, continuity and consistency, and access to justice, inform litigation of Charter claims in the public interest.

### Reducing poverty, with particular focus on vulnerable communities

Recommendations 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158 and 159: Accepted

Most jurisdictions in Canada have poverty reduction strategies or policies that take into consideration the needs of vulnerable communities; in some cases the strategies are mandated by poverty reduction legislation. These strategies share common goals of reducing poverty through increased income and employment supports, addressing housing needs and homelessness, improving educational outcomes, supports for health and well-being and accessible coordinated services. This set of recommendations was accepted based on a number of existing and recent measures FPT governments are taking to reduce poverty. For example:

- Opportunity for All - Canada's first [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) was launched in September 2018. It sets targets to reduce poverty, aligns with existing PT and municipal strategies, and includes a plan to address key gaps in poverty measurement and publicly report on progress.
- Opportunity for All lays out a vision of a Canada without poverty and will use Canada's Official Poverty Line to measure progress toward two targets for poverty reduction: reduce the rate of poverty by 20% by 2020; and by 50% by 2030 relative to the 2015 levels. Meeting these targets will mark a significant reduction in poverty in Canada, reducing the number of Canadians living in poverty to about 10% by 2020, and to 6% by 2030 – a historic low.
- The Government of Manitoba is developing a renewed poverty reduction strategy to address the critical needs of Manitobans living in poverty and local challenges.
- The Government of Prince Edward Island is creating a collaborative Poverty Reduction Action Plan that will build on existing community strengths and focus on housing, employment, food, education, health, inclusion and community capacity building.
- The Government of Quebec has adopted the [Plan d'action gouvernemental pour l'inclusion économique et la participation sociale 2017-2023](#) to improve the income of individuals and families, particularly low-income workers and households receiving social assistance benefits.

### Preventing homelessness

Recommendation 160: Accepted

The Government of Canada works with provinces and territories, municipalities and stakeholders to help address the homelessness needs of all Canadians. All governments continue to take steps to address homelessness, including:

- On June 11, 2018, the Government of Canada announced its redesigned homelessness strategy, [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#). As part of the National Housing Strategy, the Government of Canada committed \$2.2 billion for homelessness over 10 years, building on

existing Budget 2016 funding. By 2021-22, this will double annual investments compared to 2015-2016. Reaching Home will expand the current federal homelessness program's community-based approach to reach new communities. It will focus on helping communities shift toward a more coordinated and systems-based approach to homelessness, as well as on achieving community-wide outcomes. This includes a reduction of 50% in chronic homelessness over the next ten years.

- The Government of Manitoba's upcoming Provincial Housing Strategy, will reflect Manitoba priorities in the areas of housing need and addressing homelessness.
- Quebec has the [Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2015-2020](#), which identifies 31 actions and 111 concrete steps to prevent and reduce homelessness in Quebec. This plan is in line with the policy directions set out in the [politique nationale du Québec de lutte à l'itinérance – Ensemble, pour éviter la rue et en sortir](#).

## Universal access to health care, education and adequate standard of living

Recommendation 161: Accepted

Though not *guaranteed*, as stated in the recommendation, federal, provincial and territorial measures provide for access to health care, education and an adequate standard of living.

With respect to the recommendation's focus on disaggregated data collection, the Canadian Community Health Survey collects information in relation to various aspects of health, such as chronic conditions and the use of health care services. The Survey aims to provide to local health units the information needed to evaluate existing programs and to design new ones suited to their communities.

In addition, Statistics Canada is currently developing a Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics, which will disseminate products and data on various populations and their socio-economic characteristics in relation to education, economic participation and prosperity, leadership, gender-based violence, and health and well-being, among other areas.

## Addressing the housing challenges faced by Canadians

Recommendation 163, 165 and 166: Accepted

Canada recognizes that certain populations and vulnerable people face significant housing challenges. With the launch of the National Housing Strategy (NHS) in 2017, the Government of Canada is taking significant additional measures to address the housing needs of Canadians. The National Housing Strategy is a 10-year, \$40 billion plan that sets ambitious targets to ensure that unprecedented investments and new programming deliver results. The NHS will deliver up to 100,000 new housing units, repair another 300,000 units through various new funding initiatives. It will also reduce or eliminate housing need for 530,000 households and reduce chronic homelessness by 50% by 2028.

## Recognizing the right to housing

Recommendation 162: Accepted in part

Recommendation 164: Noted

Canada implements the right to adequate housing, as recognized in the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), through a wide range of federal, provincial and territorial laws, policies and programs, including measures to address homelessness. The establishment of the National Housing Strategy is a significant milestone in advancing human rights-based approach to housing.

In the spring of 2018, the Government of Canada undertook consultations on new initiatives to further advance a human rights-based approach to housing. The consultations are informing the drafting of new legislation that will require the federal government to maintain a National Housing Strategy for now and the future, and report regularly to Parliament and Canadians on progress toward its key targets and outcomes. The legislation has not yet been introduced in Parliament, and will follow the normal legislative development process. As such, Canada was not in a position to fully accept recommendation 162 and notes recommendation 164.

## Improving access to clean water and sanitation

### Recommendation 167: Accepted

FPT legislation, policies and regulations promote access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

At its UPR appearance, the Government of Canada made a voluntary commitment to end, by March 2021, all long-term drinking water advisories affecting public systems on reserve.

The Government is investing \$1.8 billion over five years to improve on-reserve water and wastewater infrastructure and \$141.7 million to improve the monitoring and testing of on-reserve community drinking water.

An additional \$172.6 million over three years will support initiatives to accelerate, where possible, the pace of construction and renovation of water systems affected by long-term drinking water advisories, support repairs to high-risk water systems and assist efforts to recruit, train and retain water operators. These funds will also support efforts to establish innovative First Nations-led service delivery models.

## Women and girls

FPT governments are committed to advancing gender equality, and do so through legislation, policies, programs, and initiatives that promote and protect the rights of women and girls by increasing women's economic security and prosperity, encouraging women's leadership and democratic participation, and ending violence against women and girls.

## Enhancing women's empowerment and gender equality

### Recommendations 129, 176, 177 and 178: Accepted

- The Government of Canada is seeking to increase women's representation in politics and in leadership positions in the private and public sectors through: legislative amendments to allow Parliamentarians to take maternity and parental leave; measures to ensure federal workplaces are free from harassment and violence; and by amending the *Canada Elections Act* to reduce barriers to participation, such as rules related to candidates' childcare expenses.
- The Government of Canada further uses Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) to ensure government policy, legislation, and regulations are sensitive to the different impacts that decisions can have on diverse groups of men, women, and non-binary people.
- The Yukon Women's Directorate has prepared a 3-year Gender Inclusive Diversity Action Plan to help government employees consider the needs and experiences of diverse Yukoners in their daily work.



- All ministries of the Government of Alberta include gender equality statements in their public business plans. Alberta’s fiscal and strategic plans also include commitments to gender equality and gender budgeting.
- The Gender Equity Office in British Columbia has implemented a phased plan for GBA+ to ensure that gender equity is reflected in all budgets, policies, and programs across government.

## Improving equal access to justice for women

### Recommendation 107: Accepted

FPT governments continue to support measures to facilitate access to justice for all Canadians, including women. These include making available testimonial aids to assist vulnerable victims and witnesses to testify in court, initiatives providing assistance for victims of crime and their families (such as the Family Information Liaison Units); and women’s legal advocates for Indigenous women.

For example, one of the pillars for actions to the Government of Canada’s [It’s Time: Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence](#) aims to promote responsive legal and justice systems. Over the next five years, new investments will boost legal aid funding across the country focusing on supporting victims of sexual harassment in the workplace, and informing them of their rights and how to access help in situations of workplace harassment.

Quebec has adopted the [Stratégie gouvernementale pour l’égalité entre les femmes et les hommes vers 2021](#), which deals in part with equal access to services, particularly in the area of justice. The [Stratégie gouvernementale pour prévenir et contrer les violences sexuelles 2016-2021](#) also includes related measures, for example, improving information programs for victims.

## Addressing gender wage gaps

### Recommendations 125, 126, 127 and 128: Accepted

The FPT legal and policy framework to address gender wage gap discrepancies includes pay equity laws and programs, employment equity law and programs, non-discrimination legislation and employment standards legislation, as well as the right to equality in the *Charter*. This framework is complemented by initiatives designed to support women’s economic security. Examples of relevant FPT measures include:

- On October 29, 2018, the Government of Canada introduced an Act to Establish a Proactive Pay Equity Regime within the Federal Public and Private Sectors, ensuring more women are fairly compensated for their hard work. The Government also committed to introducing pay transparency requirements in the federally-regulated sector, which will provide more information on the pay practices of employers, with specific attention to making existing wage gaps more evident.
- Currently, six provinces have specific pay equity legislation (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Québec, Ontario and Manitoba).
- Six provinces and territories have equal pay for work of equal value protections in employment-related and/or human rights legislation (Alberta, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Ontario) and one jurisdiction prohibits discrimination in regards to wages (British Columbia).

## Ensuring equal access to abortion and sexuality education

### Recommendation 169: Accepted

Provinces and territories have jurisdiction over the provision of health care and social services. All provincial and territorial governments provide abortion services as insured health care services.

Provincial and territorial governments offer a range of sexual and reproductive health information and public health programs and services, including age-appropriate sexuality education in schools.

In addition, the Government of Canada provides funding, through the [Canada Health Transfer](#), to provinces and territories to ensure Canadians have access to insured health care services, which include reproductive health care services and information aimed at promoting good sexual and reproductive health.

## Violence against women and children

The Government of Canada at a federal, provincial and territorial level is committed to preventing and addressing gender-based violence in all its forms. Gender-based violence remains a significant barrier to achieving gender equality. Canada recognizes that prevention, supporting survivors and their families and making improvements to the legal and justice system are critical to ending this violence.

### Preventing violence against all women and girls

Recommendations 75, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 207 and 208: Accepted

Governments in Canada have legislative, administrative and operational measures to prevent and reduce violence against all women and children, and targeted measures to address violence against Indigenous women and girls, and their root causes. For example:

- New legislative amendments to strengthen criminal law responses to sexual assault (Bill C-51, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Department of Justice Act to make consequential amendments to another Act*) and intimate partner violence (Bill C-75, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*) were introduced in Parliament in 2017 and 2018, respectively.
- Bill C-78, *An Act to amend the Divorce Act, the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act and the Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act*, introduced in Parliament in 2018, proposes amendments to address family violence in the context of divorce.
- New investments to expand [Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence](#), the Strategy includes three pillars of action: prevention, support for survivors and their families, and promoting responsive legal and justice systems, and disseminates information through the GBV Knowledge Centre.
- The National Housing Co-Investment Fund – one component of the NHS – aims to build and renew over 4,000 shelter spaces for survivors fleeing domestic violence. It is expected that this will help reduce the wait-list for shelter spaces.

- A combined investment of more than \$4.2 million by the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan in support of 14 projects in nine Saskatchewan communities to improve housing options for victims of violence and the safety of women and children fleeing domestic violence.
- Through the new [Building BC: Women's Transition Housing Fund](#), British Columbia will invest \$734 million over the next 10 years to build and operate, 1,500 new units of housing including transition houses, safe homes, second-stage and long-term housing for women and children fleeing abuse. This is in addition to current transitioning housing.
- In May 2018, the Government of Alberta committed to end sexual violence and support survivors, which brings together community organizations and 10 government ministries to deliver a coordinated, province-wide response to sexual violence in Alberta.
- The government of Quebec has launched the [Plan d'action gouvernemental en matière de violence conjugale 2018-2023](#), aiming to promote priority judicial treatment of spousal abuse cases and provide support to agencies involved in cases of domestic violence.

With respect to improved support for victims of violence, funding at the federal level has been allocated to:

- Implement and test approaches to prevent gender-based violence, including child maltreatment and teen dating violence; and
- Enhance efforts to address online child sexual exploitation.

With respect to improved investigations, funding at the federal level has been allocated to:

- Establish a National Unit within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to coordinate the review of 25,000 "unfounded" sexual assault case files;
- Pilot a project at seven sites in Ontario allowing experts from outside of law enforcement agencies to examine sexual assault case files to determine any missteps in the investigative process;
- Supporting the development or enhancement of provincial programs to provide independent legal advice to victims of sexual assault; and
- Establish a National Human Trafficking Hotline, which will include a referral mechanism to social services and law enforcement.

## Improving legal aid for women

### Recommendation 112: Noted

The provision of civil legal aid to low income individuals falls under provincial jurisdiction as part of their constitutional authority for the administration of justice.

Newfoundland and Labrador's legal aid focuses on the areas of family, criminal, administrative and immigration laws.

The Legal Aid Commission of the Northwest Territories recognizes the need for specialized legal assistance to address problems experienced by those of limited means, and has expanded its Outreach program. In March 2017, family law duty counsel services were added which offer same day appearance support to individuals appearing in the weekly Supreme Court Family Law Chambers.

As an example of recent measures, in May 2018, the Government of Quebec increased the eligibility thresholds for the legal aid plan, which covers in particular civil and family matters.

New Brunswick's legal aid services includes family law matters, including family violence and applications for emergency protection orders. Priority is given to matters that directly affect children.

### [Implementing recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women](#)

#### Recommendation 189: Accepted in part

As noted above, FPT governments have a robust framework to addressing gender-based violence. For this reason, Canada accepted the first part of this recommendation.

Canada noted the second part of this recommendation. Canada has received the [Special Rapporteur's "Initial Findings"](#). Federal, provincial and territorial governments will consider the full scope of the recommendations once the Special Rapporteur's final report is released.

### [Adopting a national action plan addressing violence against women and girls](#)

#### Recommendations 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 and 197: Noted

Addressing gender-based violence is a shared responsibility between FPT governments. While there are numerous measures in place that seek to address gender-based violence, Canada is not currently developing a national action plan to address violence against women and girls, as specifically suggested in these recommendations. Rather, FPT governments work together to find complementarity between their respective strategies and other measures.

### [Documenting cases of gender-based violence against Indigenous women and girls](#)

#### Recommendation 205: Accepted

The need for quality data on the Indigeneity of gender-based violence victims is acknowledged as essential to improve the criminal justice system's response to such crimes. FPT governments will continue to seek ways to improve the collection of such relevant data. Canada notes, however, that different perspectives have been raised in the Indigenous community as to whether or not information on Indigeneity or ethnic background should be collected. Specifically, asking victims this question at a very traumatic time may not be appropriate nor aligned with a trauma-informed approach to working with victims.

### [Extending the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)

#### Recommendation 209: Noted

The government of Canada dedicated \$53.8 million to the National Inquiry, and provided terms of reference and a timeline of two years, September 1, 2016 to November 1, 2018, to deliver a final report and complete its important work. While Canada was not in a position to accept the recommendation, to extend the mandate of the National Inquiry by two years, the Government of Canada granted an extension of six months, to April 30, 2019, for the Commission to submit its final report. The Commission can choose to extend the time, up to December 2018, to hear from additional families and survivors, further examine institutional practices and policies, and undertake the research necessary to inform their recommendations on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

## Enhancing transparency of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Recommendation 210: Noted

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls operates arms-length from the Government of Canada. Canada notes the recommendation that it appoint a government interlocutor. It is for the Commission to report on the status of its ongoing work.

## Address cases of forced sterilization of women

Recommendation 212: Accepted

All Indigenous women and girls must receive culturally safe health services no matter where they live. The Government of Canada is committed to working with partners to improve the standard of health care services offered to Indigenous peoples across the country. The Government of Canada, through its Department of Indigenous Services Canada, is responding to recommendations made at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in February 2018.

These responses include working with Indigenous partners to develop pamphlets and guidance on reproductive health options and free, prior and culturally informed consent. Professional bodies such as the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada will be consulted.

Indigenous Services Canada is also establishing an Advisory Committee on Indigenous Women's Wellbeing. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Department on current and emerging issues within the social determinants of health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

## Children and youth

### Empowering youth

Recommendations 38, 120: Accepted

The Government of Canada is working directly with youth to develop Canada's first youth policy – a commitment to create a vision for youth, by youth, which can guide the priorities and actions of governments and society and ensure that youth voices are heard and respected.

The [Prime Minister's Youth Council](#) is a group of young Canadians who provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on issues of importance to them and all Canadians.

### Ensuring equitable access to services for children and youth

Recommendation 139: Accepted

FPT governments have ongoing measures to help ensure that all children and their families have access to the services and supports they need. For example:

- In Alberta, [Regional Collaborative Service Delivery](#) is an ongoing approach to encourage collaboration at local and regional levels to meet the needs of children, youth and their families more effectively.

- In the Northwest Territories, [Caring for Our People: Strategic Plan for the NWT Health and Social Services System 2017 to 2020](#), focuses on key priorities that ensure equity of services including access to the right services.
- The Jordan's Principle and Child First Initiatives ensure the First Nations and Inuit children living in Canada have access to the health, social and educational products, services and supports they need, when they need them, including respite, school supports, mental health services, mobility aids and more.

## Prohibiting corporal punishment of children

Recommendations 213 and 214: Noted

Children in all settings are protected from violent and abusive conduct under Canada's *Criminal Code* and provincial and territorial laws on child welfare.

Senate Bill S-206, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (protection of children against standard child-rearing violence)*, which proposes to repeal section 43 of the *Criminal Code* (correction of a child by minor corrective force), was referred to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for study on May 31, 2018.

The Northwest Territories' *Education Act* specifies that corporal punishment shall not be used in the discipline of students.

Governments in Canada continue to support measures, such as parenting programs and public legal education and information materials, discouraging the physical discipline of children.

## Protecting children from sexual exploitation

Recommendation 215: Accepted

Funds allocated through Canada's [Strategy to Prevent and Address and Gender-Based Violence](#) continue to enhance efforts to address online child sexual exploitation through:

- The development of a public awareness campaign specific to online child sexual exploitation;
- Policy coordination enhancement and development of the [National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet](#); and
- Capacity enhancement of [cybertip.ca](#), the national reporting tip line.

In addition, \$19.3 million over five years, and \$5.8 million ongoing was announced in February 2018 to support the RCMP National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre to enhance investigational capacity.

The Government of Quebec's [Stratégie gouvernementale pour prévenir et contrer les violences sexuelles 2016-2021](#) provides for action on the sexual exploitation of minors, including the creation of a coordinated team of investigators specializing in the fight against procuring and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The action plan [Les fugues en centre de réadaptation pour jeunes en difficulté d'adaptation : Prévenir et mieux intervenir](#) includes actions related to the sexual exploitation of these vulnerable young people.

## Promoting human rights education and establishing a federal children’s ombudsperson

### Recommendation 216: Accepted in part

Canada continues to consider the recommendations of the Committee on Rights of the Child, including taking steps to support high quality early learning and childcare; reduce child poverty; support children with disabilities; and address issues related to housing and homelessness.

Most provincial and territorial governments have legislatively mandated advocates for the rights of children and youth, which mainly fall under their jurisdiction. Canada notes the part of the recommendation to establish a federal children’s ombudsperson or commission.

## Persons with disabilities

### Developing mental health services

#### Recommendation 170: Accepted

Canada accepts this recommendation based on numerous existing measures of federal, provincial and territorial governments. For example:

- Canada’s national mental health strategy [Changing Directions, Changing Lives](#) provides recommendations for action by provincial and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations, and health care providers, and was developed as a catalyst for implementation of services.
- In Alberta, the [Edmonton Mental Health Court](#), opened in April 2018, deals with accused that are in trouble with the law at least in part because of mental health issues. The Court uses a therapeutic model, which involves a collaborative and healing approach.
- Prince Edward Island is implementing the [2016-2026 Mental Health and Addictions Strategy](#), its principles support this recommendation.

### Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities

#### Recommendations 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222 and 224: Accepted

Governments in Canada have various legislative and policy initiatives, in areas such as data collection, education, employment, health, housing and accessibility, to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. These and other constitutional and statutory protections seek to ensure that persons with disabilities are full and equal members of Canadian society. Recent examples include:

- On June 20, 2018, the Government of Canada tabled Bill C-81, *the Accessible Canada Act*, which, if adopted, would establish a model to eliminate accessibility barriers and lead to more consistent accessibility in areas under federal jurisdiction across Canada. The Act also proposes to amend the *Canadian Human Rights Act* to expand and formalize the monitoring role of the Canadian Human Rights Commission as it relates to the Government of Canada’s implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The Government of Canada’s National Housing Strategy prioritizes those in greatest need, including vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities. Low-income people living with disabilities will also benefit from funding initiatives for community housing, federal housing investments in provincial and territorial programs, and the upcoming Canada Housing Benefit. The federal government will also focus on data, innovation and research initiatives to help

understand issues and demonstrate solutions specific to housing, including for people living with disabilities.

- The Government of Québec, through its [Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation 2017-2023](#), introduced a basic income for persons with severely limited capacity for employment.
- The [Northwest Territories Disability Strategic Framework 2017-2027](#) and Action Plan guide the work required to advance equity, accessibility and inclusion, and participation to support persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

## Harmonizing accessibility requirements across jurisdictions

Recommendation 223: Accepted

While the direct impact of the proposed [Accessible Canada Act](#) would be within federal jurisdiction, some provinces and territories have already developed legislation or strategies that address accessibility or aspects of it within their respective jurisdictions. This recommendation presents an additional opportunity for federal, provincial and territorial governments to collaborate with all interested parties toward complementarity of accessibility requirements, leading to greater consistency across Canada.

## Domestic legislation and obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Recommendation 225: Accepted

Canada implements CRPD through protections under the Charter and a combination of FPT laws, policies and programs.

The proposed [Accessible Canada Act](#) would strengthen existing protections for persons with disabilities and further implement Canada's obligations under the CRPD.

## Consulting with persons with disabilities and their representatives

Recommendation 226: Accepted

Governments in Canada recognize the importance of meaningful involvement of the disability community in developing informed and effective policies and programs for Canadians with disabilities.

A key foundation for success in realizing a barrier-free Canada will be the continued and meaningful participation of Canadians with disabilities in the implementation of the proposed [Accessible Canada Act](#), including the development of standards and regulations.

Measures in place to improve the participation of persons with disabilities, include, for example:

- Public consultations with persons with disabilities are legislatively enacted in the *Accessibility for Manitobans Act* and integral to the standard development process.
- The Board of Directors of the [Office des personnes handicapées du Québec](#), composed mainly by persons with disabilities, has the function of taking positions on all matters related to persons with disabilities and developing the Office's policy directions.



## Immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrant workers

Canada's *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* is grounded in a commitment "to establish fair and efficient procedures that will maintain the integrity of the Canadian refugee protection system, while upholding Canada's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all human beings".

### Strengthening policies for social inclusion and tolerance

#### Recommendations 81: Accepted

Canada's inclusive laws are embedded in the Charter with its provisions related to equality and freedom from discrimination. Canada's Citizenship Act, Canadian Human Rights Act, Canadian Multiculturalism Act and Immigration and Refugee Protection Act uphold these principles.

Canada recognizes the multidimensional nature of newcomer integration (economic, social and cultural) as well as a formalized two-way approach to integration, with a dual emphasis on helping immigrants learn about Canadian values, and helping Canadians understand the diverse cultural backgrounds of newcomers.

Canada's approach to immigrant integration is built on the premise of a welcoming and inclusive society that fosters diversity, active citizenship and a commitment to multiculturalism. A number of federal, provincial and territorial legislative and policy frameworks are in place to support this vision.<sup>5</sup>

Both government and non-government societal actors play a key role in support of immigrant integration. The Government of Canada's Settlement Program aims to build bridges between newcomers and host communities through the Community Connections program stream to encourage social, cultural and professional interactions.

The Government of Quebec's [Politique québécoise en matière d'immigration, de participation et d'inclusion – Ensemble, nous sommes le Québec](#) and its *Stratégie d'action 2016-2021*, will contribute to preventing discrimination that acts as a barrier to the full participation of immigrants and ethno-cultural minorities.

### Reducing barriers to employment for immigrants

#### Recommendation 136: Accepted

Acceptance of this recommendation is supported by various federal, provincial and territorial measures that seek to reduce the employment gap among immigrants.

Immigrants who are actively seeking employment or those who wish to reintegrate into the labour market following a longer absence (e.g. studying, childcare or elderly care responsibilities), can access a wide range of employment related assistance. Economic integration services include supports for all newcomers to overcome barriers to employment by providing: labour market information; job-specific language instruction; employment and job-finding services, including Canadian workplace orientation, mentoring, preparation for licensure, job bridging programs, and, job-search workshops on networking, resumes, and interview preparation. For example:

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<sup>5</sup> All while maintaining a philosophy of cultural pluralism, Quebec decided to adopt its own approach regarding social coexistence in a context of ethnocultural diversity: interculturalism.

- Employment-related services such as employment counselling, work placements, mentoring, preparation for licensure and certification, and networking opportunities are a key component of the Government of Canada's Settlement Program.
- Federal funding is provided to seven Immigrant Employment Councils across Canada, whose sole objective is newcomer employment.
- The [Northwest Territories Nominee Program](#) helps employers to secure highly skilled individuals and newcomers to work and live in the Northwest Territories; strengthen the Northwest Territories' ability to enhance the economic benefits of immigration to the territory; and nominate eligible foreign nationals for permanent residency in Canada.

### Protecting the rights of all migrants

Recommendations 259, 260 and 271: Accepted

Canada protects migrants' rights in domestic law, including through the Canadian Constitution, the Charter and the [Immigration and Refugees Protection Act](#).

The Government of Canada provides protection to vulnerable women and girls through its in-Canada asylum and refugee resettlement programs, which take into account gender and diversity considerations. It also promotes awareness and prevention of gender-based violence through its integration, citizenship, and immigration policies and programs. Canada's Women at Risk Program offers opportunities for refugee women and girls in perilous or permanently unstable situations to resettle in Canada. See also the section on Racism and non-discrimination.

The Government of Canada is committed to protecting the rights of temporary foreign workers who come to Canada through its temporary immigration programs. The length of work permits for temporary residents is based on the labour market test and the job offer from the employer.

Canada has an obligation to ensure temporary foreign workers are aware of their rights and are protected from abuse.

With respect to upholding the integrity of Canada's temporary immigration program, the Government has in place measures to prevent and detect potential worker abuse, and to enforce consequences for employer non-compliance.

### Asylum-seeking procedures

Recommendations 268, 269 and 270: Accepted

Any person present in Canada or arriving at a port of entry, irrespective of the mode of entry, can make an asylum claim. All eligible claims receive a fair hearing at the independent Immigration and Refugee Board. Rejected claimants have access to appeal and/or recourse at the Federal Court. The Government of Canada provides basic services to asylum seekers while they await their refugee status determination decision.

Canada accepted these recommendations based on initiatives being undertaken by federal, provincial and territorial governments. For example:

- Government of Canada officials are carefully reviewing the findings and recommendations contained in the June 2018 Report of the Independent Review of the Immigration and Refugee Board: A Systems Management Approach to Asylum.

- Further, the Immigration and Refugee Board has introduced improvements to its asylum processing procedures as part of its [2017 Plan of Action for Efficient Refugee Determination](#), which have contributed to an increase in its capacity to hear refugee protection claims.
- The [Forum of Ministers Responsible for Immigration](#) and its working groups, including the Settlement and Integration working group, share information and best practices in all areas of immigration, including on refugees and asylum seekers.

## Eliminating legal exceptions to the principle of non-refoulement

### Recommendation 272: Noted

The Government of Canada takes its non-refoulement obligations under international law very seriously. These obligations are implemented in domestic law, including for the purposes of determining who is a “person in need of protection” under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Non-Canadian citizens who are identified as facing a risk of torture, a risk to life, or a risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment can be recognized as persons in need of protection and, generally, can apply to remain in Canada permanently.

Canada further demonstrates its commitment to the principle of non-refoulement through the Pre-Removal Risk Assessment process, which helps ensure that individuals who are facing removal from Canada, are not sent to a country where they would be at risk of persecution under the Refugee Convention, or at risk of torture or cruel and unusual treatment or punishment under the Convention against Torture.

## Addressing immigration detention

### Recommendations 266 and 267: Noted

The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* does not include a time limit on immigration detention. Canada’s Supreme Court has concluded that the absence of a time limit does not constitute “indefinite detention,” because of the meaningful process for ongoing review of detention, which takes into account the circumstances of each individual case.

In July 2018, the Government of Canada announced the roll-out of an expanded Alternatives to Detention Program as part of the [National Immigration Detention Framework](#). The program will result in fewer people in immigration detention overall, greater consistency in the way individuals are treated across the country, and better options for managing family situations in which the best interests of children must be a key priority.

## Ending detention of child refugees and asylum seekers

### Recommendations 273 and 274: Noted

While Canada noted these recommendations, the detention of refugee and asylum seeking children is a measure of last resort and, if applied, it is to be applied for the shortest period possible.

The 2017 federal Ministerial Direction on the treatment of minors in Canada’s immigration detention is to – as much as humanly possible –keep children out of detention and keep families together. The Ministerial Direction makes it clear that the best interests of the child must be given primary consideration. A minor may be detained or housed only in extremely limited circumstances after appropriate alternatives to detention are considered and determined to be unsuitable or unavailable.

The expanded [Alternatives to Detention Program](#) announced in July 2018 as part of the National Immigration Detention Framework, will, among other things, result in better options for managing vulnerable people or family situations, in which the best interests of children must be a key priority.

### Facilitating naturalization of stateless persons

Recommendation 275: Noted

While Canada is not in a position to establish a procedure to determine statelessness at this time, protections for stateless persons do exist in Canada. Canada's Citizenship Act includes provisions that enable Canadian citizenship to be granted to stateless persons.

Any stateless person in Canada requiring refugee protection can access the asylum system. Those who do not require refugee protection can apply to remain in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds or through other immigration programs.

### Improving the welfare of migrant workers

Recommendations 261, 262, 263 and 264: Accepted

All temporary foreign workers in Canada have the same rights and protections as Canadian workers.

Governments in Canada have measures in place aimed at protecting the rights of migrant workers. For example:

- To strengthen the compliance regime, the Government of Canada has introduced unannounced on-site inspections of employers that employ migrant workers, and enforcement measures in case of non-compliance.
- Since August 2017, the Government of Canada has been consulting with stakeholders to find innovative solutions to supporting and protecting temporary foreign workers in Canada. As a result of those consultations, the Government of Canada has launched, on a pilot basis, a Migrant Worker Support Network (Network) in BC. The Network comprises key stakeholders and partners involved in the protection of temporary foreign workers, including the workers themselves, migrant worker support organizations, settlement agencies, independent experts, labour and union representatives, employers and industry representatives, foreign governments, and different levels of government. This Network aims to provide TFWs with information on their rights, support them in reporting wrongdoing, and support employers in understanding and meeting Program conditions and requirements.
- The Government of Quebec has implemented its first [Stratégie nationale sur la main-d'œuvre pour 2018-2023](#), which includes measures to integrate temporary foreign workers.
- Alberta's [Temporary Foreign Worker Advisory Office](#) and Temporary Foreign Worker Helpline can help temporary foreign workers, international students (with work authorization) and employers understand their rights and find solutions to situations involving unfair, unsafe or unhealthy working conditions.

## Providing health care and social protection for migrant workers

### Recommendation 265: Noted

This recommendation was not accepted. Canada does not have national legislation governing the provision of these services. Provinces and territories have primary responsibility for the provision of health care and social services.

Concerning migrant workers' protection against all types of exploitation or trafficking, immigration officers can issue Temporary Resident Permits to foreign nationals who are victims of human trafficking. Victims may apply for a work permit at the same time, if they do not already possess one. Both the work permit and the initial Temporary Resident Permit can be obtained without charge.

## Racism and non-discrimination

Canada has a strong legal framework in place to combat racism and discrimination against all groups. The framework includes the Charter, federal, provincial and territorial human rights statutes, the *Criminal Code*, the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* and other legislation.

This framework is supported by FPT policies, actions plans, programs and strategies to enhance the multicultural nature of Canadian society and to remove barriers experienced by vulnerable groups. These measures cover a diverse number of areas including education, settlement and integration of newcomers, health, housing, social services, security and justice. Governments in Canada are committed to ensuring that these measures are responsive to the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

## Addressing all forms of racial discrimination and inequality

### Recommendations 39, 40, 42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 56, 57, 58, 67, 68 and 227: Accepted

Governments in Canada are committed to continue their efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination and intolerance, especially against minority groups and advancing substantive equality.

The Government of Canada has committed to developing a new federal anti-racism approach and launched a cross-country public engagement on October 15, 2018.

Recent measures include the Government of Canada's official recognition of the [International Decade for People of African Descent](#) and increased federal funding for Multiculturalism programming and activities. In addition:

- Manitoba's Department of Education and Training annually invests in integration services as part of its mandate to support the settlement and integration of newcomers to the province, including vulnerable groups.
- The Alberta Human Rights Commission provided funding to the Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (CAAC, operating as Africa Centre) to initiate province-wide dialogues on racism and discrimination, in particular, against Indigenous people and African Canadians, as well as other groups in general.
- On November 1, 2018, British Columbia introduced the *Human Rights Code Amendment Act* to re-establish its human rights commission and create a Human Rights Commissioner as an independent officer of the Legislature. The Commissioner will be responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, educating British Columbians on human rights, and examining and addressing discrimination, particularly issues of systemic discrimination.

## Implementing a national plan to address racial discrimination

Recommendation 53: Noted

FPT governments have measures in place to combat racial discrimination. However, Canada is not currently developing a National Action Plan, but rather a new federal anti-racism approach.

In August 2018, the Prime Minister of Canada issued the mandate letter for the new Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism. Key priorities listed include a cross-country engagement, to assess the barriers faced by minority groups in Canada, and the development of a new federal approach to combat discrimination and racism.

## Addressing anti-Semitism and Islamophobia

Recommendations 69, 71 and 73: Accepted

FPT governments are united in their condemnation of all forms of hatred and prejudice, and are taking measures to fight against anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim sentiments across the country. Examples of measures undertaken include:

- Provincial legislatures in Ontario and British Columbia and the federal House of Commons have adopted motions denouncing Islamophobia and all forms of systemic racism and religious discrimination.
- In Ontario, the *Anti-Racism Act, 2017* is the first legislation in Canada to establish and maintain a sustainable framework to identify and address systemic racism. The Act includes a requirement for an anti-racism strategy which includes initiatives to advance racial equality, with a targeted focus on addressing the adverse impact of different forms of racism, including anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia.

## Addressing violence based on race and religion

Recommendations 54, 59, 60, 61, 64 and 70: Accepted

Canada strongly condemns hate crimes and has robust *Criminal Code* offences and sentencing provisions to respond to such conduct, including against groups identifiable by their race, religion and ethnic origin. Recent legislation (*An act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code*) strengthened federal laws against discrimination, hate propaganda and hate crime based on gender identity and gender expression.

The Government of Canada's Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program currently provides funding to assist communities at risk of hate-motivated crime to enhance their security infrastructure.

## Introducing legislation against incitement to racial discrimination

Recommendation 55: Noted

Canada does not ban incitement to discrimination or organizations that incite discrimination on any grounds. Federal, provincial and territorial non-discrimination legislation prohibits discriminatory practices by private businesses on various grounds such as race in regard to employment, the provision of goods, services and facilities customarily available to the public, and accommodation.

Non-discrimination legislation in several jurisdictions prohibit the publication or display of material that is either discriminatory or likely to expose a person or group of persons to hatred on grounds of race, colour, ethnic origin and religion.

### Protecting the rights and access to services of vulnerable groups

Recommendations 47, 152, 168, 229, 239 and 241: Accepted

FPT measures seek to reduce inequalities in access to social services experienced by racialized and other marginalized groups. The multiplicity of measures reflects the need for a cross-sector and multi-dimensional approach to address discrimination. For example:

- The National Housing Strategy supports diverse communities and is helping Canadians access housing that meets their needs and they can afford. The National Housing Strategy prioritizes those in greatest need, including vulnerable populations, such as Indigenous peoples, racialized peoples, refugees and recent immigrants. It includes initiatives and activities that are expected to improve housing outcomes among these populations. In addition, one of the research activities under the Strategy will launch a platform to connect housing researchers and provide opportunities for targeted research related to diverse groups of women and men.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories works in partnership with Indigenous governments to ensure the seamless provision of health and social services in a culturally respectful manner. [Caring for Our People: Strategic Plan for the NWT Health and Social Services System 2017 to 2020](#) focuses on key priorities that ensure equity of services and reduce systemic health disparities.
- The Alberta Human Rights Commission partnered with community organizations in developing the [Coalitions Creating Equity initiative](#), a two-year pilot project, in partnership with five communities, which will help advance human rights and address local racism and human rights issues.

### Ensuring equal participation in politics and public affairs

Recommendation 121: Accepted

In April 2018, the Government of Canada introduced C-76, *Elections Modernization Act*. Building on recommendations of the Chief Electoral Officer, C-76 proposes updates to the Canada Elections Act, that, if passed, will reduce barriers to participation that Canadians may face when casting a ballot or participating in the broader democratic process.

Proposed amendments will reduce barriers to participation in the democratic process for specific groups, particularly Canadians with disabilities, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and Canadians living abroad. C-76 will also make it easier for Canadians with disabilities and Canadians caring for a young, sick or disabled family member to run for federal office.

## Older persons

### Protecting the rights of the elderly

Recommendation 84: Accepted

Governments in Canada have various initiatives in place to protect the rights of older persons. For example:

- The Government of Canada has been working to implement measures to improve seniors' access to affordable housing; their income security; promote healthy aging and improve access to health care; and foster their social inclusion and engagement.
- The Government of Canada is focusing on implementing relevant domestic and international strategies and plans, including the National Strategy on Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Act, the [Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging \(2002\)](#), the World Health Organization's [Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health \(2016-2020\)](#), and [Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia \(2017-2025\)](#) and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).
- A number of provincial strategies and action plans addressing issues relating to seniors and/or dementia across Canada. These include: New Brunswick (*We are all in this together: An Aging Strategy for New Brunswick*); Nova Scotia (*Shift: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population*); Quebec (*Plan d'action 2018-2023 Un Québec pour tous les âges, Le Plan d'action gouvernemental pour contrer la maltraitance envers les personnes âgées 2017-2022*); Alberta (*Alberta dementia strategy and action plan*); British Columbia (Provincial Guide to Dementia Care in British Columbia Achievements and Next Steps).
- With respect to housing, British Columbia provides housing support for seniors including allowing seniors to defer property taxes, increasing rental assistance for low-income seniors and working with partners to build more rental housing for middle and low-income seniors.

## LGBTQ2

### Promoting the rights of LGBTQ2 persons

#### Recommendation 83: Accepted

Canada strongly supports the rights of LGBTQ2 persons to live full and open lives, free from discrimination and ill-treatment, and with the same opportunities and aspirations as all other Canadians. Recent measures in this regard include:

- The [LGBTQ2 Secretariat](#) works across federal public service to support the integration of LGBTQ2 considerations into the everyday work of the Government of Canada. These efforts focus on ensuring that issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression are taken into account in the development of federal policies, programs and laws.
- New legislation came into force on June 21, 2018 that allows for the destruction of records of historically unjust convictions related to consensual sexual activity between same-sex persons.
- The Government of Quebec has adopted the [Plan d'action gouvernemental de lutte contre l'homophobie et la transphobie 2017-2022 : Pour un Québec riche de sa diversité](#). This second action plan aims to promote respect for the rights of sexual minorities and to increase public awareness of their realities.



## Public safety and law enforcement

### Addressing religious and racial discrimination in law enforcement and the criminal justice system

Recommendations 43, 52, 62, 63, 65, 66, 72, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117 and 119: Accepted

Acceptance of these recommendations is supported by the numerous measures being taken by FPT governments. For example:

- The Government of Canada has committed to increasing the use of restorative justice processes and other initiatives to reduce the rate of incarceration amongst Indigenous Canadians. The [Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative](#) supports the development of community-based alternatives to incarceration and reintegration support for Indigenous offenders.
- The RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency have adopted many measures to ensure that employees carry out their day-to-day work in a bias-free, respectful and inclusive manner. Cultural awareness training integrates concepts of human rights, equality and non-discrimination, ethics, bias-awareness and bias-free policing.
- Culturally and spiritually responsive interventions, programs and services for African Canadians and Indigenous Peoples in federal custody seek to influence the time they spend in custody, address their risk, foster their healing and rehabilitation and contribute to their reintegration into society.
- The Government of Nova Scotia is developing an Indigenous Justice Strategy. The initiatives of the Strategy will work to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous adults and youth in the criminal justice system, both those in conflict with the law as well as Indigenous victims/survivors.
- In June 2018, the Saskatchewan Police Commission released a provincial policy framework that, among other things: prohibits targeting identifiable population groups stopping or impeding their movement, and requires that the conduct, demeanor and approach of police conducting contact interviews be such as to clearly convey the voluntary nature of the interaction and avoid any air of intimidation.

### Preventing excessive use of force by police

Recommendations 102, 103 and 104: Accepted

Canada accepted these recommendations in light of criminal law legislation, policing guidelines and robust mechanisms in place to address complaints with respect to treatment by police. Canada's criminal laws make clear that the use of force is only permitted in cases where an officer was authorized by law to act, acted on reasonable grounds and only used as much force as was necessary in the circumstances. In jurisdictions across Canada, mechanisms are in place to hold police officers to account. Officers found to have used excessive force can face criminal charges and civil litigation.

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) [Incident Management Intervention Model](#) assists officers to perform a risk assessment and identify an intervention option that is reasonable given the totality of a situation. Ongoing research is conducted to make informed evidence-

based decisions and improve training in the area of use of force in order to better ensure the safety of the public police.

- Police forces across the country are guided by regulations, mandatory training and resources. For example: police services in Saskatchewan are guided by the National Use of Force Framework in assessing appropriate level of force to use in a given situation. They are subject to senior level reviews of incidents involving use of force to address incidents of non-compliance.

With respect to the issue of arbitrary arrests during protests, the Charter protects the rights of freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly and these rights are addressed in policing policies.

- The RCMP respects and upholds these Charter rights and takes the steps necessary to minimize the potential for violence. The RCMP may deploy resources to manage crowds of protesters to ensure their safety of other citizens in the vicinity of the protests action so as to maintain or restore peace. Those who unlawfully interfere with or threaten the safety of any person or property will be investigated in accordance with legislated responsibilities. The intervention will be applied in the context of a careful assessment of risk, taking into account the likelihood and extent of loss of life, injury and damage to property.
- Arrests/detentions are held to a standard of reasonable grounds or reasonable suspicion of belief that an offence has been committed or may be committed.

### Ending solitary confinement of prisoners

#### Recommendation 105: Noted

In Canada, administrative segregation is a legislative measure of last resort. The federal government is currently considering changes to the administration segregation regime while ensuring that federal correctional institutions provide a safe and secure environment conducive to inmate rehabilitation, staff safety, and the protection of the public. In October 2018, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-83, An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and another Act, which proposes to eliminate administrative segregation in federal correctional institutions, and implement a new federal corrections interventions model to manage the safety risks posed by certain inmates. Bill C-83 is currently considered by Parliament.

Provinces and territories are also working to address issues related to administrative segregation. For example: in Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Corrections and Policing has conducted a review of its use of administrative segregation practices in the Saskatchewan correctional centres and is now implementing recommendations with respect to appropriate use, reasonable alternatives and reintegration, length of stay, independent oversight, mental health and conditions of confinement.

### Reducing overcrowding in detention centers

#### Recommendation 115: Accepted

This recommendation was accepted in light of ongoing reductions in the rate of overcrowding and double-bunking across Canada.

For example, in the last few years, Correctional Services Canada (CSC) has added approximately 1,700 net new accommodation spaces in its institutions to facilitate inmate population management and to reduce the occurrence of overcrowding. Double bunking is also used to manage fluctuations in the

number of offenders admitted and processed during reception, or while offenders are suspended and temporarily detained while awaiting a Parole Board of Canada decision regarding their release.

The use of double bunking in CSC's institutions continued to decline in 2017-18; less than six per cent of offenders were double bunked compared with almost 21 per cent in 2012-13.

## Strengthening measures against human trafficking

Recommendations 122, 123 and 124: Accepted

Governments in Canada have various initiatives in place to identify and combat human trafficking, including tools to bring traffickers to justice. For example:

- The Government of Canada has proposed to establish a National Human Trafficking Hotline to allow victims to easily access help. The Hotline would receive calls on potential cases of human trafficking in Canada; refer victims to services and law enforcement; develop and disseminate research, training and information for human trafficking victims, governments and the general public; and build data management capacities to collect information on the incidence of human trafficking in Canada.
- In 2017, Ontario passed the [Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017](#). The Act enables people affected by human trafficking to apply for a restraining order to protect themselves, their children or persons at risk of being trafficked. It also makes it possible for survivors to sue their traffickers for compensation through civil court to help survivors restore and rebuild their lives. In addition, Ontario established a Human Trafficking Prosecution Team, comprised of dedicated and specialized Crown Attorneys responsible for prosecuting human trafficking cases, providing ongoing advice to police and prosecutors, and the development and delivery of enhanced education and training to justice participants. The Free Legal Support for Human Trafficking Survivors Pilot Program provides human trafficking victims and their parents with free, confidential legal advice, assistance with completing a restraining order application, and representation in court on applications for restraining orders.
- Saskatchewan supports police programs aimed at disrupting the Internet child pornography industry, and prosecuting those individuals responsible for sexually exploiting child victims of human trafficking.

## Business and human rights

### Environmental impact assessments

Recommendation 88 and 89: Noted

These recommendations were not accepted, as "periodic" environmental impact assessments are currently not conducted. Under both current and proposed legislation, all environmental assessments are conducted at the outset of a project.

Bill C-69, the *Impact Assessment Act* proposes significant changes to the current environmental and regulatory system in Canada, including: shifting from environmental assessment to impact assessment with a focus on sustainability, to include environmental, economic, social and health impacts of proposed projects; achieving one project, one review through coordination with other jurisdictions; establishing a single agency to lead all assessments; adding a new early planning and engagement phase

to support greater involvement of Indigenous peoples in the process; establishing legislated timelines to create a more predictable and timely process; and making project decisions based on science and evidence, and the public interest.

The Government of Canada's [Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy](#) responds to concerns related to impacts of the operations in the extractive sector of Canadian companies abroad. See recommendations 91 to 94 below.

### Regulating foreign activities of Canadian corporations

Recommendations 90 and 101: Noted

With few exceptions, Canada's domestic laws apply only to individuals and companies within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction; they do not apply extraterritorially to individual or companies for actions committed outside of Canada.

### Preventing human rights abuses by Canadian corporations operating abroad

Recommendations 91, 92, 93 and 94: Accepted

The Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) was announced on January 17, 2018. The CORE will be authorized to investigate allegations of human rights abuses arising from Canadian corporate activity abroad in the mining, oil and gas, and garment sectors, make recommendations and monitor their implementation, and issue public reports.

Canada's National Contact Point (NCP) under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises will continue to fulfill its mandate as a dispute resolution mechanism for all sectors for a wide range of issues, such as: employment and industrial relations, environment and bribery. The roles of the NCP and the Ombudsperson will be complementary.

The Government of Canada's department for public procurement (Public Service and Procurement Canada) is embarking in a number of new initiatives that are aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to address issues of human and labour rights within federal public procurement. This will include the requirement for government suppliers to certify that they have taken reasonable steps to guard against the use of forced labour within their supply chain as of January 2019.

Apparel contracts will be subject to further scrutiny and will be required to certify to eight specific human and labour rights principles as well as provide details on where products are manufactured. Through these new initiatives, the Government of Canada hopes to leverage its purchasing power to make a positive impact on the public procurement supply chain by encouraging its suppliers to respect international human and labour rights.

### Promoting responsible business in conflict-affected states

Recommendation 95: Accepted

Canada has endorsed a number of widely recognized international standards for responsible business conduct, such as the OECD [Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chain of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas](#), and Canadian companies are expected to meet or exceed them.

Canadian companies are further restricted to conduct businesses in countries or with individuals from other UN Member States that are under legislated and regulated economic and trade sanctions and

restrictions (the *United Nations Act*; *Special Economic Measures Act*; *Export and Import Permit Act*, and the *Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act*).

## Expanding the Office of the Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility Counsellor

### Recommendation 96: Noted

This recommendation was not accepted because the Office of the Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Counsellor reached the end of its mandate on May 18, 2018. The promotion and early detection functions of the CSR Counsellor are to be subsumed by the CORE, once created (see recommendations 91-94).

## Access to justice for victims of human rights abuses by Canadian corporations

### Recommendation 97: Accepted

Canada understands this recommendation as referring to victims' access to justice in Canada. Canada has a number of mechanisms such as courts, human rights commissions/tribunals, the NCP, and the CSR Counsellor to provide remedies for business-related human rights abuses. Recourse to the Ombudsperson or to the NCP do not preclude legal avenues in host countries or in Canadian courts where appropriate. However, Canada seeks to ensure responsible business practices are in place and offers accessible mechanisms to resolve issues proactively before they escalate.

In line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Canada recognizes the value of non-judicial mechanisms in ensuring that allegations of human rights abuses can be responded to quickly and by offering a less costly process that can be accessible to vulnerable individuals.

## Forming a national action plan for business and human rights

### Recommendations 98, 99 and 100: Noted

Canada does not currently have a National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights and is considering the appropriate approach for the Canadian context given recent measures to strengthen the approach to responsible business conduct (see recommendations 91-94).

## Other recommendations

### Increasing official development assistance

#### Recommendations 85 and 86: Noted

Canada notes these recommendations, which do not fall within the scope of the UPR.

Canada's annual investments in international assistance total more than \$5 billion. Canada's net ODA in USD rose by 9% in 2017 compared to 2016, based on preliminary 2017 data. This increase is attributed to increased humanitarian assistance, in-donor refugee support, and climate financing. For example, starting in 2018-19, the Government of Canada is providing up to \$2 billion over five years in new funding to international assistance to support the Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Canada is also working to better leverage its ODA to attract new sources of capital in support of development objectives, as ODA from governments alone is not enough to meet the scope of global needs.

## Promoting human rights in the context of climate change

### Recommendation 87: Accepted

This recommendation can be accepted in light of ongoing activities. Canada is taking a leadership role in implementing the [Paris Agreement](#) both at home and abroad.

The Paris Agreement, adopted by Parties to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) in December 2015, was another historic and significant step toward global climate action. To meet our obligations under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, Canada has pledged to deliver \$2.65 billion over five years in climate change programming. This contribution represents Canada's largest ever climate-finance contribution. Combined with provincial initiatives, it will help developing countries, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, transition to climate-resilient low-carbon economies.

## Decriminalizing defamation

### Recommendation 118: Noted

The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the offence of publishing a defamatory libel known to be false in section 300 of the *Criminal Code*, in *R. v. Lucas*, [1998] 1 S.C.R. 439. It held that the offence constitutes a limit on freedom of expression as protected under section 2(b) of the Charter that is demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society under section 1 of the Charter.

## Annex 1

### List of recommendations made to Canada under its third Universal Periodic Review

#### International human rights instruments

##### Recommendation 1: Accepted

1. Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Burkina Faso).

##### Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31: Noted

2. Ratify the international human rights instruments to which Canada is not yet a party (Mali).
3. Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);
4. Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Peru) (Albania) (Chile) (El Salvador) (Indonesia);
5. Adhere to and/or ratify those international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) (Honduras);
6. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Paraguay) (Egypt) (Uruguay) (Philippines) (Algeria) (Benin);
24. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Costa Rica) (Portugal) (Montenegro) (Spain);
25. Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Panama) (Togo) (Madagascar);
26. Ratify the convention on migrant workers and members of their families as well as the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Syrian Arab Republic);
27. Consider ratifying the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Peru) (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
28. Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Brazil) (Benin) (Madagascar);
29. Consider becoming a party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Georgia);
30. Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Costa Rica) (Côte d'Ivoire);
31. Ratify the American Convention on Human Rights (Paraguay).

##### Recommendation 7: Noted

7. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay) (France) (Belgium) (Japan) (Portugal) (Costa Rica)

##### Recommendations 8, 10, 11, 21 and 22: Accepted

8. Consider signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);

10. Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Tunisia);
11. Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);
21. Take steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New Zealand);
22. Expedite the process to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Greece);

Recommendations 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23: Noted

9. Consider ratifying the international human rights instruments to which Canada is not yet a party, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mongolia);
12. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, in line with the 2013 announcement that Canada would begin the process of joining (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
13. Ratify those international human rights instruments to which Canada is not yet a party, in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Romania);
14. Speed up the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and put in place a national preventive mechanism in accordance with this instrument (Switzerland);
15. Set a clear timeline for completion of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish, accordingly, the national preventive mechanism (Hungary);
16. Complete consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including provincial and territorial governments, to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and designate or establish a national preventive mechanism (Czechia);
17. Expedite accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia);
18. Expedite the process to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany) (Greece) (New Zealand);
19. Expedite the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Netherlands);
20. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal) (Chile) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Croatia) (Cyprus) (Denmark) (Estonia) (France) (Kenya) (Costa Rica) (Panama) (Spain) (Zambia);
23. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Croatia) (Finland) (Spain);

Recommendation 32: Accepted

32. Expedite accession to the Arms Trade Treaty (Australia);



## Follow-up to recommendations and effective implementation of international obligations

### Recommendation 34: Accepted

34. Take the necessary measures to advance with the implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict (Argentina);

### Recommendations 33 and 228: Noted

33. Take all necessary measures to ensure that the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination are fully implemented (Azerbaijan);
228. Develop and implement, in collaboration with Canada's various government entities and civil society, a national action plan to follow up on the recommendations of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, following its visit to Canada in 2016 (Haiti);

### Recommendations 35, 36 and 37: Accepted

35. Strengthen national mechanisms for monitoring implementation of the international human rights recommendations received by the State (Paraguay);
36. Strengthen the coordination on human rights implementation across levels of government in order to ensure better implementation domestically (Norway);
37. Establish a mechanism to follow up and implement human rights at all levels of government (France);

### Recommendation 211: Accepted

211. Arrange a follow-up visit from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to gauge progress, with a particular focus on missing and murdered indigenous women (United States of America);

## Indigenous peoples

### Recommendations 41, 46, 74, 76, 77, 230, 233, 234, 235, 237 and 238: Accepted

41. Take further legal and administrative measures for the promotion and protection of the human rights of aboriginals and to eliminate discrimination against minorities, so that they enjoy life on an equal basis throughout the country (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
46. Take additional measures to end discriminatory practices against Canada's indigenous populations, especially indigenous women and children (Algeria);
74. Develop a comprehensive plan to counteract all forms of discrimination against indigenous peoples (Sweden);
76. Adopt and implement policy measures to protect the rights of the peoples of the First Nations and immigrants, especially women (Pakistan);
77. Continue to strengthen its measures to address discrimination against indigenous women and girls, as raised by the treaty bodies (Japan);
230. Implement further actions to promote the rights of, respect for, and cooperation and partnership with indigenous peoples (Cuba);
233. Continue efforts to protect the rights of indigenous peoples (Republic of Moldova);
234. Continue efforts to guarantee the rights of indigenous people (Gabon);
235. Continue strengthening policies, programmes and legislative reforms for the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

- 237. Promote and protect the human rights of its indigenous people, in particular economic, social and cultural rights (Sudan);
- 238. Take further steps to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly regarding their economic, social and cultural rights, on an equal basis with non-indigenous populations (Brazil);

Recommendations 78 and 79: Noted

- 78. Revoke all discriminatory provisions that remain in the Indian Act, with a view to avoiding revocation of indigenous status (Paraguay);
- 79. Repeal the remaining discriminatory provisions in the Indian Act (Iceland);

Recommendation 80: Accepted

- 80. Abolish all discriminatory implications of the Indian Act to remove remaining historical discrimination against matrilineal descent regarding aboriginal status (Germany);

Recommendation 106: Accepted

- 106. Ensure that Canada's indigenous peoples are able to access justice on an equal footing with the rest of Canada's population (Philippines);

Recommendations 140, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 173, 174, 231, 232, 236, 240, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247 and 248: Accepted

- 140. Ensure that indigenous peoples have access to the same support, services and ability to exercise their human rights as other Canadian citizens (Sweden);
- 141. Enhance efforts to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, especially in the field of education and health services (Italy);
- 143. Address disparities in access to health, education and welfare services provided for indigenous people, in particular for children (Hungary);
- 144. Provide adequate needs-based funding for all social programmes for children and families of First Nations and indigenous communities (Haiti);
- 145. Remove all discriminatory practices against First Nations children in access to health, educational and social support and services (India);
- 146. Ensure non-discriminatory and culturally appropriate First Nations child and family services as well as other public services such as education, health, culture and language (Slovenia);
- 147. Continue its efforts in order to improve health care and education for indigenous children, also by ensuring the allocation of adequate funds (Greece);
- 148. Continue efforts to expand financial and human resources to ensure the implementation of Jordan's Principle (Republic of Korea);
- 173. Further strengthen its efforts to improve access to quality education for its indigenous peoples, particularly women and girls (Myanmar);
- 174. Continue efforts to ensure access to every level of education for all indigenous girls and women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 231. Intensify efforts aimed at alleviating the challenges faced by indigenous peoples (Georgia);
- 232. Intensify efforts aimed at addressing the persistent economic challenges faced by indigenous peoples throughout the country (Namibia);

- 236. Take effective legislative and administrative measures to concretely improve the living conditions of indigenous people and ensure all their rights (China);
- 240. Ensure full equality for indigenous peoples in the protection of their international human rights to health, education and welfare (Norway);
- 242. Intensify efforts to provide equitable access to health, education, social services, quality water and food security for indigenous people (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 243. Strengthen and enlarge its existing programmes and take more and specific measures towards improving the situation of indigenous persons, in particular with regard to the improvement of housing, employment and education opportunities especially after elementary school, and better safeguard women's and children's rights, in consultation with civil society (Netherlands);
- 244. Implement effective measures to reduce the high levels of poverty and food insecurity among indigenous peoples and to ensure better access for them to health care, education, adequate housing and other basic necessities (India);
- 246. Take additional steps in order to improve the standard of living of Indigenous peoples in Canada (Kazakhstan);
- 247. Step up efforts to improve the living conditions of indigenous peoples (Mali);
- 248. Continue to revise and adapt legislation to improve the living conditions of the First Nations (Spain);

#### Recommendation 142: Accepted

- 142. Cease cases of children being taken away from their parents by child welfare agencies, thus restoring the era of residential schools (1874–1996) (Syrian Arab Republic);

#### Recommendation 245: Noted

- 245. Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to provide indigenous peoples with access to education and health-care services, and improve the living standards and housing conditions of families with children (Belarus);

#### Recommendations 249 and 250: Accepted

- 249. Continue the important work on reconciliation with Canada's indigenous peoples by fulfilling the Government's promise to implement all of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in a timely manner (Sri Lanka);
- 250. Implement all of the "calls to action" from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Australia);

#### Recommendations 251, 254, 255 and 257: Accepted

- 251. Take all decisions concerning First Nations peoples in consultation with them (Slovenia);
- 254. Ensure that indigenous communities can express their free and informed consent prior to any measure that may affect their land (Holy See);
- 255. Ensure the creation of transparent mechanisms for receiving the free and informed consent of indigenous peoples in order to carry out economic activities in their traditional territories of residence (Russian Federation);
- 257. Prohibit the environmentally detrimental development of resources on the territories of indigenous peoples without the free, prior and informed consent of those communities (Ireland);

#### Recommendation 252 and 258: Accepted

- 252. Adopt measures to provide access to indigenous peoples to land and natural resources and to preserve their culture and languages (Russian Federation);
- 258. Invest in the preservation of endangered languages spoken by people belonging to First Nations (Israel);

#### Recommendation 253: Noted

- 253. Provide public documentation of consultation and contracting agreements with First Nations (United States of America);

#### Recommendation 256: Noted

- 256. Re-establish the right to a healthy environment, prohibiting the destructive exploitation of the environment, particularly in the territories of indigenous peoples (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

### Education and employment

#### Recommendations 82 and 175: Accepted

- 82. Take the necessary measures and place more emphasis on the principles of non-discrimination and inclusion in education, mainly for minority groups and persons with disabilities (Albania);
- 175. Continue providing resources for the full and effective classroom support needed to ensure inclusive education for children with special needs (Bulgaria);

#### Recommendations 130,131, 132, 133, 134 and 135: Accepted

- 130. Ensure equality of opportunity for all citizens, so that each eligible person would be able to work in high-level and professional job positions (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 131. Introduce strict policies and further strengthen its overall law enforcement to address discriminatory hiring practices (Malaysia);
- 132. Take all measures to ensure the adoption of employment equity legislative and policy measures in all jurisdictions to address unemployment faced by disadvantaged and marginalized groups (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 133. Intensify efforts to address the issue of unemployment and take measures to ensure equality in this area (Russian Federation);
- 134. Address the employment disparity for African Canadians through the enactment of employment equity legislation through targeted hiring policies similar to those for First Nations people (Botswana);
- 135. Promote fairer working conditions for all, including migrant workers (Nepal);

#### Recommendation 137: Accepted

- 137. Take the necessary steps to combat discriminatory labour market practices against women and migrant workers (Algeria);

#### Recommendations 171 and 172: Accepted

- 171. Strengthen special measures to increase the level of educational achievements of African Canadian children, in particular by preventing their marginalization (Serbia);
- 172. Put in place specific programmes to ensure better education for people of African descent and other indigenous peoples to lift them out of poverty (Senegal);

## Poverty, homelessness, and food security

### Recommendation 138: Accepted

138. Continue to support the social assistance programme and improve individual and family income (Libya);

### Recommendation 149: Accepted

149. Ensure the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights (South Africa)<sup>6</sup>

### Recommendation 150: Accepted

150. Ensure that those living in poverty are not unduly criminalized (South Africa)<sup>7</sup>

### Recommendation 151: Noted

151. Interpret the Charter of Rights and Freedoms confirming the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights with a view to ensuring access to food, health and adequate housing for all those living in the country (Uruguay);

### Recommendations 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158 and 159: Accepted

153. Continue its efforts to fight against poverty (Gabon);

154. Introduce all measures necessary to combat poverty more effectively while paying particular attention to vulnerable groups and individuals (Bahrain);

155. Continue with efforts to eradicate poverty among vulnerable groups: indigenous peoples, people of African descent and persons with disabilities (Peru);

156. Continue to take all measures necessary to combat poverty more effectively while paying particular attention to groups and individuals that are more vulnerable to poverty, such as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, single mothers and minority groups (Serbia);

157. Ensure that its poverty reduction strategy includes a targeted approach to addressing the socioeconomic disparities and systemic discrimination experienced by African Canadians and indigenous peoples and a federal disaggregated data collection programme (Trinidad and Tobago);

158. Promote social equality and take substantial steps in addressing the issue of poverty among indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities (China);

159. Continue efforts to holistically address poverty and homelessness, taking into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable communities, in particular indigenous communities (Sri Lanka);

### Recommendation 160: Accepted

160. Ensure that adequate measures are put in place to prevent homelessness (South Africa)<sup>8</sup>

### Recommendation 161: Accepted

161. Guarantee universal access to health care, education and a high standard of living without discrimination, including through the collection of disaggregated statistics (Mexico)

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<sup>6</sup> The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: “Ensure the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights; that adequate measures are put in place to prevent homelessness; and that those living in poverty are not unduly criminalized.”

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 1

<sup>8</sup> See footnote 1

#### Recommendation 163, 165 and 166: Accepted

163. Plan to allocate the necessary resources in order to overcome the housing crisis swiftly (Belarus)
165. Expedite the adoption of the national strategy to address issues of adequate housing (Republic of Korea);
166. Adopt the National Housing Strategy as soon as possible, taking into account the principles and recommendations included in the most recent report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context (Uruguay).

#### Recommendation 162: Accepted in part

162. Take urgent steps to address homelessness and adopt legislation that fully recognizes the right to housing and provide for effective remedies for violations for the right (Philippines)

#### Recommendation 164: Noted

164. Ensure that the legislation implementing the National Housing Strategy fully recognizes the right to housing and provide for effective remedies for violations of that right (Portugal);

#### Recommendation 167: Accepted

167. Comply with its commitment to guarantee the human right to drinking water and sanitation, and implement strategies to promote access to drinking water and to improve sanitation facilities in remote areas (Spain)

### Women and girls

#### Recommendations 129, 176, 177 and 178: Accepted

129. Implement existing measures effectively for improving gender equality with a view to enhancing women's participation in decision-making, full-time employment and equal pay for equal work (India);
176. Take measures to promote greater political participation of women in legislative bodies (Costa Rica);
177. Continue its work towards enhancing gender equality and women's political and economic empowerment (Iceland);
178. Continue adopting programmes and measures that seek to address the inequalities that women and girls suffer in the country (Cuba).

#### Recommendation 107: Accepted

107. Work towards improving access to justice for women, including indigenous and racialized women, and women with disabilities (Qatar);

#### Recommendations 125, 126, 127 and 128: Accepted

125. Devise innovative policies to bring down existing gender wage gaps (Israel);
126. Combat the wage gap between men and women on the basis of equal pay for work of equal value (Lebanon);
127. Bridge the wage gap between men and women (Iraq);
128. Adopt legislation in the federal jurisdiction and in all provincial and territorial jurisdictions on the principle of equal pay for work of equal value (Iceland);

## Recommendation 169: Accepted

169. Take action to ensure equal access to abortion and comprehensive sexuality education across provinces and territories (Norway);

## Violence against women and children

Recommendations 75, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 207 and 208: Accepted

75. Step up efforts to protect indigenous women and girls from all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse (Philippines);
179. Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women (Morocco);
180. Continue to combat violence against women (France);
181. Continue efforts to curb violence against women (Nepal);
182. Further strengthen its efforts in addressing issues regarding gender-based violence against women (Indonesia);
183. Strengthen measures taken to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women and girls (Mali);
184. Step up efforts in order to make more efficient the legal framework to protect women of all age groups against all forms of violence and from sexual abuse (Lebanon);
185. Step up efforts to protect victims of violence and ensure a sufficient number of adequate shelters for them (Czechia);
186. Enhance the efficiency of measures aiming at better preventing all forms of violence against indigenous women and girls (Kazakhstan);
187. Take immediate steps to ensure safe emergency shelter with adequate support in northern communities for those seeking protection from violence, in line with needs (Denmark);
188. Reinforce the existing mechanisms to prevent violence against women and girls as well as human trafficking, particularly for vulnerable populations (Angola);
190. Strengthen measures to protect victims of violence against women and girls, particularly among minority communities, including through ensuring access to quality multisectoral responses for survivors covering safety, shelter, health, justice and other essential services (Rwanda);
198. Take effective legal measures to combat violence against women, especially indigenous and ethnic minority women (China);
199. Ensure effective investigation of cases of violence against women and girls, especially those belonging to indigenous peoples, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Russian Federation);
200. Continue all efforts to combat discrimination against women and to combat violence against women, particularly indigenous women and women of African descent (Tunisia);
201. Step up efforts to reinforce existing measures for combating violence against women, especially indigenous women (Honduras);
202. Take immediate legal measures in order to stop the ongoing violence against indigenous and aboriginal peoples, especially women (Islamic Republic of Iran);
203. Continue its efforts to prevent and punish all forms of violence against indigenous women and girls, as well as to redress victims (Myanmar);
204. Continue to investigate, prosecute and prevent cases of violence against aboriginal women and girls (Estonia);

206. Continue to strengthen protection of the rights of indigenous women and girls against violence, in particular by systematically conducting investigations and ensuring the collection and dissemination of data on violence against indigenous women (Belgium);
207. Continue working with partners at all levels to address the significant levels of violence against aboriginal women, and its root causes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
208. Reinforce efforts to investigate cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women (Republic of Korea);

[Recommendation 112: Noted](#)

112. Increase funding for civil legal aid in order to ensure that women have access to adequate legal aid in all jurisdictions, in particular women victims of violence (Ghana);

[Recommendation 189: Accepted in part](#)

189. Continue efforts to reduce violence against indigenous women and girls, including by implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, after her recent visit (New Zealand);

[Recommendations 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 and 197: Noted](#)

191. Introduce a concrete action plan to combat all forms of violence against women and girls (Norway);
192. Adopt a comprehensive, measureable, well-resourced, time-bound national action plan to address all forms of violence against women and girls and make adequate shelters available to all victims (Germany);
193. Adopt a national action plan, in consultation with civil society organizations, to combat gender-based violence against women (Albania);
194. Convert the federal strategy on gender-based violence into a national action plan (Australia);
195. Adopt a national action plan, in consultation with civil society organizations, especially indigenous women's organizations, to combat gender-based violence against women (Zambia);
196. Adopt a national action plan on violence against women and girls, consulting in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on specific provisions for indigenous women (Denmark);
197. Adopt a comprehensive and time-bound national action plan to address all forms of violence against women, including indigenous women and girls (Finland);

[Recommendation 205: Accepted](#)

205. Ensure relevant authorities record the aboriginality of victims of gender-based violence (Australia);

[Recommendation 209: Noted](#)

209. Extend the mandate of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls by two years to allow all victims to be heard (Sri Lanka);

[Recommendation 210: Noted](#)

210. To help provide greater transparency regarding missing and murdered indigenous women, appoint a permanent government interlocutor to report to the Assembly of First Nations on the



status of the ongoing inquiry into the cases of missing and murdered indigenous women (United States of America);

#### Recommendation 212: Accepted

212. Take the necessary steps to investigate complaints lodged regarding the forced sterilization of women from vulnerable groups and, where appropriate, punish those responsible and assist affected women (Argentina);

### Children and youth

#### Recommendations 38 and 120: Accepted

38. Adopt and ensure the effective implementation of a national youth policy that would promote the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all young people (Republic of Moldova);
120. Continue efforts to promote the political participation of young people with a particular focus on the empowerment of young women, including indigenous women (Republic of Moldova);

#### Recommendation 139: Accepted

139. Take steps to ensure that all Canadian children have equal access to government services such as health, education and welfare, and address the disparities in access to these services for indigenous children in particular (Ireland);

#### Recommendations 213 and 214: Noted

213. Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);
214. Enact and implement Bill S-206 as soon as possible (Sweden);

#### Recommendation 215: Accepted

215. Continue current efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation (Tunisia);

#### Recommendation 216: Accepted in part

216. Continue efforts to complete implementation of the remaining recommendations, including the promotion of human rights education and the establishment of a federal children's ombudsman or commission (Bhutan);

### Persons with disabilities

#### Recommendation 170: Accepted

170. Develop people and community-centred mental health services that do not lead to institutionalization, over-medicalization or practices that do not respect the rights, will and preferences of all persons (Portugal);

#### Recommendations 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222 and 224: Accepted

217. Develop and apply mechanisms for combating inequality and discrimination affecting persons with disabilities and for gathering data on progress made (Panama);
218. Fully implement the rights of persons with disabilities, whose grievances make up almost 50 per cent of all discrimination complaints filed in Canada (Hungary);

- 219. Remove inequality and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities in realization of the rights to education, work, employment, health care, affordable housing and other basic needs (India);
- 220. Allocate the necessary resources to enable persons with disabilities to be afforded opportunities to improve their overall well-being and live in dignity (Malaysia);
- 221. Continue to tackle the issues related to persons with disabilities and poverty, as pointed out by relevant treaty bodies (Japan);
- 222. Ensure equal opportunities and accessibility for persons with disabilities (Bahrain);
- 224. Take further steps to extend welfare services and assistance to all persons with disabilities (Bulgaria);

[Recommendation 223: Accepted](#)

- 223. Promote the harmonization of legislation for the implementation of accessibility rights for persons with disabilities in all jurisdictions (Mexico);

[Recommendation 225: Accepted](#)

- 225. Consider all options and measures to ensure the legislation encompasses all aspects of the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Slovakia);

[Recommendation 226: Accepted](#)

- 226. Establish official and standing mechanisms to consult with organizations of persons with disabilities (Spain);

[Immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrant workers](#)

[Recommendation 81: Accepted](#)

- 81. Further strengthen policies for social inclusion and tolerance between groups, particularly with regard to migrants (Viet Nam);

[Recommendation 136: Accepted](#)

- 136. Take steps to reduce the employment gap among immigrants by the provision of employment opportunities without discrimination (Pakistan);

[Recommendations 259, 260 and 271: Accepted](#)

- 259. Consider taking further necessary measures to ensure adequate protection of the rights of migrants and refugees (Nigeria);
- 260. Take legislative and administrative actions to reform current policies to ensure the protection of all migrants (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 271. Continue to improve the condition of refugees and asylum seekers in accordance with Canada's international human rights obligations (Indonesia);

[Recommendations 268, 269 and 270: Accepted](#)

- 268. Ensure that all individuals who attempt to enter the country are provided with equal access to asylum proceedings (Mozambique);
- 269. Reinforce strategies aimed at reducing the backlog faced by the Immigration and Refugee Board, which causes delays in asylum procedures (Zambia);
- 270. Prevent additional delays in asylum procedures (Afghanistan);

#### Recommendation 272: Noted

272. Eliminate or improve the two exceptions in subsection 115.2 of the Law on Immigration and Protection of Refugees in order to safeguard the principle of non-refoulement, as provided for by international law (Ecuador);

#### Recommendations 266 and 267: Noted

266. Give attention to the issue of immigration detention for an indefinite period and seek to amend legislation to set a time limit for detention (Costa Rica);
267. Take steps to limit the use and prorogation of immigration detention (Mexico);

#### Recommendations 273 and 274: Noted

273. Put an end to the detention of child refugees and asylum seekers, with alternatives to detention that respect the best interest of the child (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
274. Put an end to the detention of refugee and asylum-seeking children, through alternatives that fully take into consideration the best interest of the child (Ecuador);

#### Recommendation 275: Noted

275. Establish a statelessness determination procedure and a protected stateless person status that facilitates the naturalization procedure for persons in that situation (Chile).

#### Recommendations 261, 262, 263 and 264: Accepted

261. Improve the conditions of migrant workers (Iraq);
262. Continue to take steps to improve the conditions of migrant workers, including temporary and seasonal workers, and their welfare (Sri Lanka);
263. Enable migrant workers, especially those of African descent, to access basic health services (Senegal);
264. Ensure that temporary and migrant agricultural workers are covered under the protection of labour legislation and have access to health and employment benefits (Trinidad and Tobago);

#### Recommendation 265: Noted

265. Revise its national legislation with a view to guaranteeing respect for and protection of migrant workers, particularly as regards access to health care and social protection for seasonal workers and their protection against all types of exploitation or trafficking (Honduras);

#### Racism and non-discrimination

##### Recommendations 39, 40, 42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 56, 57, 58, 67, 68, and 227: Accepted

39. Further intensify its efforts for the elimination of structural inequality and intersectional discrimination faced by vulnerable groups (Cyprus);
40. Continue with efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and intolerance, especially against minority groups (El Salvador);
42. Redouble its efforts to raise awareness of xenophobic and race-based discrimination and ill-treatment, with a view to thoroughly ending such practices in society (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

- 44. Strengthen legislation to combat discriminatory practices against indigenous peoples and people of African descent, and promote their inclusion in the area of human rights (Madagascar);
- 45. Put an end to the violation of the human rights of ethnic, minority and vulnerable groups, eradicating racist and discriminatory practices by public organizations and entities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 48. Continue efforts to combat racism, discrimination and hatred (Libya);
- 49. Redouble efforts to combat racism and discrimination in all its forms (Nigeria);
- 50. Eliminate all forms of racial discrimination through legal, administrative and policy measures (Kenya);
- 51. Continue to support governmental programmes aimed at combating racism and hatred, and fostering positive interaction between different cultural, religious and ethnic groups in Canada (Lebanon);
- 56. Continue efforts to combat racial discrimination and hate speech against foreigners and minorities (Tunisia);
- 57. Strengthen measures to combat structural discrimination against African Canadians, indigenous peoples, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons and religious minorities, in particular by establishing effective mechanisms of investigation and punishment of perpetrators of acts of discrimination and violence against them (Argentina);
- 58. Make serious efforts to deal with crimes committed on racial grounds and motivated by religious and ethnic hatred (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 68. Eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against Muslims and people of African descent (Sudan);
- 69. Continue strengthening the legislative and institutional foundations to combat discrimination against indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, people of African descent and Muslim minorities (Egypt);
- 227. Broaden the legislative framework as well as programmes and policies for improving the promotion and protection of the rights of people of African descent (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

Recommendation 53: Noted

- 53. Adopt and implement a national plan to combat racial discrimination (Togo);

Recommendations 69, 71 and 73: Accepted

- 69. Develop and implement strategies, including the introduction of legislation and awareness campaigns, to counter anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim sentiment across Canada (Bahrain);
- 71. Pay more attention to the issue of the rise of Islamophobia in certain provinces of Canada (Kazakhstan);
- 73. Address the worrying trend of the growing number of anti-Semitic incidents against members of the Jewish community in Canada (Hungary);

Recommendations 54, 59, 60, 61, 64 and 70: Accepted

- 54. Criminalize acts of violence on the basis of race and religion (Pakistan);
- 59. Intensify efforts to combat hate crimes (Iraq);
- 60. Strengthen its policy to fight against offences motivated by racial hatred (Côte d'Ivoire);

- 61. Redouble efforts to eliminate racist hate crimes and encourage the population to report such crimes (Qatar);
- 64. Address racist hate crimes, especially against the black population (Mozambique);
- 70. Continue to combat racial hatred and crimes against Muslims (Senegal);

#### Recommendation 55: Noted

- 55. Introduce legislation to ban any organization that incites racial discrimination (Pakistan);

#### Recommendations 47, 152, 168, 229, 239 and 241: Accepted

- 47. Continue to implement policies to reduce inequalities, especially among indigenous peoples, racial and religious minorities, and increase access to basic social services for all (Angola);
- 152. Ensure that the rights to health, education and employment of indigenous peoples, people of African descent as well as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are respected and guaranteed (Madagascar);
- 168. Continue promoting the living conditions of ethnic and racial minorities, especially in the areas of health care and decent housing (Holy See);
- 229. Continue taking steps to address the gaps in the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples (Bhutan);
- 239. Enable vulnerable persons, including indigenous peoples, to enjoy their basic rights: access to water, health, education and a fair justice system (France);
- 241. Make additional efforts to ensure equitable access to quality health, education and other social services for those belonging to indigenous communities and to those racialized individuals and groups (Qatar);

#### Recommendation 121: Accepted

- 121. Continue making further efforts to ensure equal participation in political and public affairs (Slovakia);

#### Older persons

##### Recommendation 84: Accepted

- 84. Continue efforts made to protect the rights of the elderly (Morocco);

#### LGBTQI2

##### Recommendation 83: Accepted

- 83. Continue strengthening efforts in promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (South Africa);

#### Public safety and law enforcement

##### Recommendations 43, 52, 62, 63, 65, 66, 72, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117 and 119: Accepted

- 43. Strengthen measures adopted by the Government to combat racism and discrimination against Canadians of African descent and indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system (Belarus);
- 52. Strengthen its efforts to fight racial discrimination, including by enhancing institutional capacity to systematically document, investigate and prosecute racially motivated crimes (Rwanda);

- 62. Take further measures to address hate crimes and racial profiling, in accordance with the rule of law, especially those that are directed towards religious minorities (Indonesia);
- 63. Take appropriate measures to address racism, racial discrimination and racial profiling, especially for people of African descent, and bring the perpetrators to book (Namibia);
- 65. Conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks against and harassment and intimidation of religious and ethnic minority groups and bring perpetrators of such offences to justice (Azerbaijan);
- 66. End anti-black and anti-Muslim discrimination and racism and implement an appropriate justice strategy within the criminal justice system in this regard (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 72. Ensure the consistent collection of data on ethnic and racial discrimination in the criminal justice system, and intensify the fight against racial profiling and ethnic and religious intolerance (Russian Federation);
- 108. Stop racial profiling and other discriminatory practices by the police and security agencies (India);
- 109. Combat racist hate crimes and racial profiling by the police, security agencies and border agents (South Africa);
- 110. Take measures to prohibit targeting, profiling and harassment of Muslims by the police, security agencies and other authorities (Pakistan);
- 111. Take effective measures to avoid the continuation of racial profiling by the police, security agencies and border agents of indigenous peoples, Muslims, Afro-Canadians and other minority ethnic groups (Ecuador);
- 113. Take measures to provide the necessary assistance to victims of violence, including psychological assistance (Russian Federation);
- 114. Tackle the root causes of the overrepresentation of African Canadians and indigenous peoples at all levels of the judicial system, from arrest to incarceration (Congo);
- 116. Organize training programmes for law enforcement officials to guarantee respect of human rights standards (Egypt);
- 117. Adopt specific measures to address racial profiling in law enforcement to prevent arbitrary arrests, stops, searches and investigations and the over-incarceration of African Canadians (Botswana);
- 119. Strengthen the framework to prevent the misuse of freedom of expression to incite violence and the glorification of terrorists as martyrs (India);

Recommendations 102, 103 and 104: Accepted

- 102. End excessive use of force by the police when responding to cases involving vulnerable people of African descent, such as those who are mentally ill (Sudan);
- 103. Adopt measures to prevent excessive use of force and the high number of deaths involving the police among vulnerable people of African descent (Czechia);
- 104. Put an end to the practice of excessive use of force by law enforcement officers, and arbitrary detentions during protests at the federal and provincial levels (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

Recommendation 105: Noted

- 105. Halt the practice of solitary confinement of prisoners (Philippines);

#### Recommendation 115: Accepted

115. Take effective measures to reduce overcrowding in detention centres (Ghana);

#### Recommendation 122, 123 and 124: Accepted

122. Enhance efforts to adopt adequate mechanisms to identify victims of trafficking, especially those who need protection and rehabilitation, including women belonging to ethnic minorities (Thailand);
123. Investigate, prosecute and adequately punish all cases of trafficking in persons (Serbia);
124. Revise the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking to reflect the international commitments Canada has subsequently made in this area (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

#### Business and human rights

##### Recommendations 88 and 89: Noted

88. Strengthen its legislation and standards in conformity with international obligations, conducting periodic environmental impact assessments in the context of industrial activity (Panama);
89. Ensure that mining operations are conducted on the basis of clear and honest assessments of their environmental impact (Holy See);

##### Recommendations 90 and 101: Noted

90. Strengthen legislation regulating the foreign activities of companies registered or headquartered in Canada (Peru);
101. Adopt legislation governing the conduct of corporations under its jurisdiction in relation to their activities abroad (Kenya)<sup>9</sup>;

##### Recommendations 91, 92, 93 and 94: Accepted

91. Take further steps to prevent human rights impacts by Canadian companies operating overseas, as well as ensuring access to remedies for people affected, and share Canada's practices as appropriate (Thailand);
92. Ensure that Canada's mining, oil and gas companies are held accountable for the negative human rights impact of their operations abroad (Philippines);
93. Adopt additional measures to guarantee the accountability of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights abuses in third countries throughout their chain of production and operation (Brazil);
94. Strengthen measures aimed at ensuring access to justice and remedies for violations of rights of persons by transnational corporations registered in Canada operating abroad (Namibia);

##### Recommendation 95: Accepted

95. Exercise due diligence in dealing with business entities that are involved in illegal economic activities and human rights violations in the uncontrolled conflict-affected territories of other United Nations Member States (Azerbaijan);

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<sup>9</sup> The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Adopt a national action plan to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and legislation governing the conduct of corporations under its jurisdiction in relation to their activities abroad."

#### Recommendation 96: Noted

96. Consider making the Office of the Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility Counsellor independent and broaden its mandate (Haiti);

#### Recommendation 97: Accepted

97. Consistency with the United Nations guidelines with regard to the arrival of the victims of Canadian companies operating abroad to justice in Canada (Syrian Arab Republic);

#### Recommendations 98, 99 and 100: Noted

98. Develop a national action plan for business and human rights (Switzerland);
99. Adopt a national action plan to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Kenya)<sup>10</sup>;
100. Start work on the drafting of a national action plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in cooperation with all stakeholders concerned (Belgium);

#### Other recommendations

##### Recommendation 85 and 86: Noted

85. Consider raising the level of official development assistance to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income in response to the call of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Nepal);
86. Increase official development assistance to reach the 0.7 per cent threshold of gross national product, with a focus on capacity-building and resilience (Haiti);

##### Recommendation 87: Accepted

87. Engage actively with the international community in efforts to promote and protect human rights in the context of climate change (Viet Nam);

##### Recommendation 118: Noted

118. Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code, in accordance with international standards (Estonia).

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<sup>10</sup> See footnote 4