



Second annual progress  
report on implementation  
of the **United Nations  
Declaration on the Rights of  
Indigenous Peoples Act**

July 2023





# Second annual progress report on implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

**United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Implementation Secretariat**  
Department of Justice Canada  
2023

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## Minister's message

The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (UN Declaration Act) marks a significant milestone in Canada's collective journey of reconciliation—one rooted in the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. Now and in the future, work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to implement the Act will help ensure that federal laws, policies, programs, and initiatives are aligned with the rights set out in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration).

This second annual report details the progress made between April 2022 and March 2023 on implementing the UN Declaration Act in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

Last year's report focused on early efforts to support the participation of Indigenous peoples in the implementation process and the whole-of-government commitment to change how the federal public service works with Indigenous peoples. It concentrated on key deliverables such as developing the draft action plan and identifying potential measures for aligning federal laws with the UN Declaration, in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

Over the last year, work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to implement the UN Declaration Act has continued, and accelerated, across the Government of Canada. This annual report focuses on the progress made towards ensuring the consistency of laws with the UN Declaration, the development of the [Action Plan](#) with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, and ongoing initiatives, programs, and policies that support federal implementation of the UN Declaration.

Since December 2021, the Government of Canada has continued to consult and cooperate with Indigenous peoples on proposed measures for the Action Plan and for aligning federal laws with the UN Declaration. The Action Plan and this annual report complement each other. The Annual Report reflects back, while the Action Plan moves us forward. Together, they represent the Government of Canada's commitment to right wrongs, take action, and be held accountable.

I want to thank First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners for their leadership, voices and determination. Together, we will continue this transformational work to ensure that the human rights of Indigenous peoples are upheld today and tomorrow.

There is much more work still to be done. This process is ongoing and will continue in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis as the best path toward better outcomes for all.

We are making tangible progress in ways that will result in significant benefits in the coming months, years and decades. This is challenging work and it is worthy of every effort. Together, we will identify



and undertake the changes needed to implement the UN Declaration and build a better future for Indigenous peoples across Canada and for all Canadians.

I look forward to the journey ahead. We all have a role to play in advancing lasting reconciliation. Implementing the UN Declaration will move us all forward on this path.

The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada



## Introduction and overview

Since our last report in June 2022, the Government of Canada has undertaken extensive consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to develop an Action Plan for achieving the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). Justice Canada and various federal government departments and agencies have consulted and cooperated with Indigenous partners across the country to identify Action Plan priorities and measures, including measures to ensure the consistency of federal laws with the UN Declaration and those related to annual reporting on progress.

In March 2023, Justice Canada released a draft action plan and "What We Learned to Date" report, which provided a summary of the proposals and priorities provided by Indigenous partners to support the implementation of the UN Declaration Act.

Following the release of the draft action plan, a second phase of consultation and cooperation was undertaken with Indigenous peoples. This phase focused on validating and refining the measures in the draft action plan and identifying gaps, and addressing them where possible.

"The UN Declaration outlines the fundamental human rights of Inuit, not aspirational policy goals. We welcome the completion of [the] Action Plan, which spells out Inuit priorities, to be implemented through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, as well as key measures intended to benefit all Indigenous peoples. The success of the UN Declaration Act in implementing our human rights is contingent on ongoing collaboration. We look forward to beginning the important work of implementing the Action Plan, through a process that will require diligence and political engagement by implicated federal departments."

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed

## Purpose and scope of annual reporting

As specified in section 7 of the UN Declaration Act, annual reports must be prepared, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, on the progress made during the previous fiscal year towards implementation of section 5 of the Act—measures to ensure consistency of laws with the UN Declaration—and section 6—the development and implementation of the Action Plan.

A necessary aspect of reporting on progress is ensuring that we capture and reflect on the perspectives of Indigenous peoples and their experiences over the past year. This report endeavours to reflect direct input provided by 17 Indigenous partners (Annex A) specifically for the purpose of preparing this annual



report, as well as reflecting elements of submissions from Indigenous partners through the course of developing the Action Plan where that input related to reporting.

Some of what we heard includes a need to focus on:

## Indigenous peoples' perspectives and rights

- Emphasizing the perspectives of Indigenous peoples regarding the fulfillment of their rights
- Avoiding a superficial report and providing a comprehensive examination
- Clarifying the rights-based reporting framework and the role of a distinctions-based approach

## Youth engagement and self-determination

- Advocating for a youth voice component in the report
- Recognizing the long-term process of Indigenous self-determination and assessing progress through the reflections and expectations of youth

## International perspective and best practices

- Seeking an international perspective to learn from leading practices in other jurisdictions

## Impactful stories and examples

- Including stories about how laws have changed and their impact on Indigenous individuals' lives
- Highlighting real-life examples, both domestically and internationally

## Representation, inclusion, and spirituality

- Desire to see Indigenous peoples represented in the report
- Advocating for inclusive terminology and greater involvement of individuals who live in poverty, who struggle with addictions, and who are immuno-compromised, including those living with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Acknowledging the importance of framing the report with spirituality, connection to ancestors, and creation
- Reflecting Indigenous ways of knowing and languages in the report



## Overview of UN Declaration implementation by other countries and provincial and territorial governments

Several articles of the UN Declaration deal with issues that fall under or intersect with areas of provincial-territorial jurisdiction as outlined in sections 91 and 92 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. These include education, health, housing, socio-economic rights and related programs, labour standards, land management, and natural resource development.

Some articles of the UN Declaration also deal with issues that intersect with other provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the *Constitution Act, 1982* or unwritten constitutional conventions.

While the Action Plan developed pursuant to the UN Declaration Act is focused on federal measures to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration in areas of federal authority and responsibility, some measures will be more effectively implemented through cooperative approaches with provinces and territories.

Currently, British Columbia is the only province or territory that has a legislated framework for implementation of the UN Declaration. British Columbia was also the first province in Canada to release an action plan dedicated to implementing the UN Declaration. The province released its [Declaration Act Action Plan](#) on March 30, 2022, outlining 89 specific actions.

In March 2023, the Government of the Northwest Territories introduced [Bill 85, United Nations Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act](#), which provides a framework for implementation of the UN Declaration at the territorial level. The legislation affirms the UN Declaration as a universal human rights instrument with application to the Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Territories and the laws of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Other provinces and territories have been pursuing the implementation of the UN Declaration and reconciliation more broadly through sectoral projects and initiatives. The Action Plan includes several measures that would benefit from collaboration with other levels of government. The federal government will look for every opportunity to collaborate with provinces and territories to help advance implementation of these measures.

### International landscape

The New Zealand government has been working in partnership with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission (HRC), an independent Crown entity, and the National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF), a national tribal organization, on the development of a draft plan to implement the UN Declaration in Aotearoa.





Between September 2021 and February 2022, the Ministry of Māori Development (Te Puni Kōkiri), HRC and NICF held over 70 targeted engagement workshops to hear from Indigenous communities about their aspirations for a UN Declaration plan. A key theme arising from the targeted engagement was for government to share its power and support Māori to be involved in and make decisions on issues that impact them. This applied to a range of topics, from justice, health and education to housing, the environment and cultural expression and identity.

Throughout 2022, Te Puni Kōkiri continued to work collaboratively with HRC and NICF. However, they were not able to finalise a draft UN Declaration plan as initially planned. In December 2022, the Government decided to defer a draft Declaration plan until 2024 and focus on building awareness and understanding of the Declaration and Indigenous rights.

Australia endorsed the UN Declaration in 2009. Since then, in international forums, Australia has committed to take actions to implement the UN Declaration and promote Indigenous peoples' enjoyment of rights on an equal basis. Australia has identified the Closing the Gap Strategy as its key policy platform to give effect to the UN Declaration. Through the 2019 National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap, Australia committed to better involve the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Bodies as partners and decision makers in relation to the Strategy.

While the Australian Government has yet to take legislative steps to implement the UN Declaration domestically, it has indicated that when new legislation is introduced to federal Parliament, it must have a statement of compatibility with international human rights—defined as the rights set out in the seven international human rights treaties that Australia has ratified.

Like Australia and New Zealand, the United States expressed its support for the UN Declaration in 2011. Since then, some Indigenous Nations in the US have passed their own tribal laws to implement the UN Declaration within their communities. The Muscogee Creek Nation, for example, has passed a resolution endorsing the UN Declaration into tribal law, as have the Seminole Nation, the Cherokee Nation, and the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.



# Consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples

“One of our youth participants expressed great satisfaction with the Indigenous approach to research and engagement. We visited their communities, sat with them, and witnessed the challenges and opportunities they face.”

Assembly of Seven Generations

Over the course of decades, Indigenous peoples from across Canada and around the world came together with United Nations member states to develop a framework for “the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the world.” As it was important that Indigenous peoples—including from Canada—were partners in the development of the UN Declaration, it is just as important that they are equal partners in its implementation.

In line with the requirements of the UN Declaration Act, the Government of Canada is committed to the implementation of the UN Declaration through broad, inclusive and distinctions-based consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, including through their governments and representative institutions. Given the diversity amongst First Nations, Inuit, and Métis across Canada, effective and iterative consultation and cooperation through self-identified institutions is critical to achieving the objectives of the UN Declaration such that implementation reflects the diversity of Indigenous peoples in the Action Plan and Annual Report.

Continuing to build on and refine approaches to consultation and cooperation, together with Indigenous peoples, will be important to fostering common understandings and to ensuring the effective implementation of measures to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration and to ensure consistency of federal laws with the UN Declaration.

There is considerable recognition that effective consultation and cooperation processes require adequate timeframes through appropriate channels, in addition to adequate and timely funding for Indigenous partners. A recurrent consideration is potential ‘consultation fatigue’ and the need for greater collaboration across and between federal departments and agencies, including with respect to consultation and cooperation on legislative and regulatory measures.



“I won’t believe [that the government is implementing the UN Declaration successfully] until I see my community or communities around me having a better quality of life. I want to see actual changes rather than another data report.”

Canadian Roots Exchange

Additional details on the challenges and successes of consultation and cooperation processes experienced by Indigenous peoples, their governments and representative institutions, and Government of Canada departments and agencies is provided in the sections on measures to ensure consistency of laws, and the Action Plan.

## Co-development

Reflecting various articles of the UN Declaration, the UN Declaration Act requires consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. Consultation and cooperation processes can fall along a spectrum, from those that are more limited where potential impacts are low, up to and including co-development. Departments like Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada have extensive experience undertaking consultation and cooperation—including through engagement and co-developed programs, policies and legislation with Indigenous partners. What co-development means in practice and who must be involved in co-development is a question that is currently being addressed through a distinctions-based approach.

For example, on December 2, 2022, members of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee endorsed the [Inuit-Crown Co-Development Principles](#), which are intended to be implemented and applied by Inuit and all federal partners engaged in co-development initiatives.

The Assembly of First Nations released a Co-Development Position Paper on April 5, 2022. The paper describes the term co-development as “a collaborative process in which the AFN and the federal government each play an equal role in defining and elaborating necessary changes to law and policy consistent with the inherent rights of First Nations” (page 2).

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is the lead federal department working with the Métis National Council and its Governing Members on drafting the Canada-Métis Co-Development Principles.

Finally, Indigenous Modern Treaty Partners and Canada co-developed [Canada’s Collaborative Modern Treaty Implementation Policy](#), which was released in February 2023. This policy represents a significant milestone that will support the transformation of Indigenous–Crown intergovernmental relationships to



ensure that Canada is fulfilling its obligations as a Treaty partner, while also implementing the aims and objectives of the UN Declaration.

Co-development has been an issue identified by a range of Indigenous peoples participating in the UN Declaration Act implementation process. Collaborative work on advancing and refining the concept in practical ways is ongoing.

“The Mi’kmaq experience with the concept of co-development at many tables always seem to be designed to have a predetermined outcome. Co-development need to be trans-systemic, authentic, respectful and meaningful engagement. These measurements of co-development need to address restitution, redress and environmental protection. The UN Declaration Act has to improve Mi’kmaq lives by making federal law consistent with the best principles of justice, the most compelling requirements of democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance, and good faith (arts 45, 46(2)(3)), and treaties (art. 37(2)).”

Eskasoni First Nation

## Measures to ensure consistency of laws

The UN Declaration Act requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to ensure that federal laws are consistent with the UN Declaration. In implementing this obligation, Aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and affirmed by the Constitution must also be respected. The Act also affirms that the UN Declaration can be used to interpret and apply Canadian laws, including the Constitution, which means that new laws and regulations or updates to existing laws or regulations that impact the rights of Indigenous peoples should contribute to achieving the objectives of the UN Declaration.

Several federal departments and agencies reported on legislation advanced between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. Details about how these legislative initiatives are being done in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples have also been provided. Please see Annex B for a summary of new legislation and legislative amendments advanced by the government during the reporting period. [LegisInfo](#) provides up to date information about all legislative initiatives introduced in Parliament.

Some Indigenous peoples and their governments and representative organizations have, however, noted concerns with the scope of consultation and cooperation undertaken on specific legislative initiatives advanced over the course of the year. These include concerns related to unilateral timeframes for comments and dialogue, lack of transparency of internal departmental decisions, and the scope of



Indigenous peoples, governments, and representative institutions included. Identifying lessons learned in processes undertaken to date will be used to inform ongoing implementation of section 5 of the Act and advance consultation and cooperation moving forward.

“I would say that, at least with the implementation, the engagement sessions and consultation with Indigenous peoples after it is passed into law isn't an appropriate process, especially when it deals with Indigenous rights. There needs to be a continual process of validation, engagement, and monitoring, and this needs to be resourced.”

National Association of Friendship Centres

Measures to develop agreed upon approaches to consultation and cooperation were included in the draft action plan released in March 2023 and in the Action Plan released on June 20, 2023. The Action Plan also includes measures directed at advancing implementation of section 5 of the UN Declaration Act.

## Indigenous peoples' perspectives on measures to ensure consistency of laws

Over the course of consultation and cooperation undertaken with Indigenous peoples on the development of the Action Plan, including the identification of measures to ensure consistency of laws, Indigenous partners have generally indicated that the UN Declaration implementation work has been progressive. At the same time, however, Government has also heard the need to clarify what consultation and cooperation means as there are concerns that the form and substance of consultation and cooperation is not yet at the level required by section 5 of the UN Declaration Act.

Challenges noted include concerns about: who is included in consultation and cooperation processes; receipt of requests for input on drafts rather than being asked at an earlier stage about Indigenous needs, interests, and ideas; and unilaterally imposed deadlines. In particular, barriers related to the ability of Indigenous peoples to access information about legislation under development or to contribute views on legislation to government have been identified as serious barriers to implementation of section 5.

Examples of departments and agencies moving ahead with legislation despite concerns about whether or not consultation and cooperation obligations have been met have also been provided by some Indigenous partners.

One related perspective expressed is that many departments and agencies seem unclear on, or unaware of, the application of the statutory obligation in section 5, despite the availability of interim guidance.



Indigenous peoples want to be included in the process of building on and moving beyond the initial interim guidance for assessing consistency of federal laws with the UN Declaration, and some have indicated their views of the breadth of laws that fall within the scope of section 5 and interest in ensuring a shared understanding of the provision.

In the context of working to co-develop the Action Plan, Indigenous partners called for meaningful partnerships, clear targets, and follow-up mechanisms to track progress and ensure accountability as it relates to implementing section 5. Also, Indigenous partners noted the importance of adequate financial and technical assistance, facilitating a strong flow of information and participation by Indigenous peoples as part of fulfilling consultation and cooperation requirements in consistency of laws processes. Partners specifically recommended including Aboriginal rights holders, including historic and modern treaty nations, Indigenous representative institutions and governing bodies; First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women and 2SLGBTQI+ persons; urban Indigenous people; and youth in all consistency of laws processes. According to partners making such recommendations, this could include thematic and geographic joint policy tables, a permanent standing committee, an Indigenous youth advisory committee, and a citizens' assembly. Indigenous partners also noted the importance of upholding free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) as applicable in consistency of laws processes.

Article 40 of the UN Declaration states that Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision-making through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, and that such decision-making shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules, and legal systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights. Indigenous partners have, similarly, suggested that efforts to assess consistency of federal laws with the UN Declaration should also include consideration of consistency with Indigenous legal orders and traditional knowledge.

“Because Indigenous Peoples have their own legal orders, their perspectives might differ from the perspectives of the Government of Canada. However, it is important to keep an open mind, to value the different angle these orders can bring to the table, and never forget that we live in a legal pluralistic society. The objective is to find a solution that is acceptable for everyone.”

Native Women's Association of Canada

Indigenous partners made a number of recommendations relating to ensuring consistency of federal laws with the UN Declaration which were summarized in the [“What We Learned to Date Report”](#) published in March 2023. These recommendations informed efforts to develop the draft action plan, and the subsequent finalization of the Action Plan.

Measures for ensuring consistency of federal laws also engage consideration of collaboration with provinces and territories. This theme emerged during consultation and cooperation and is similarly



reflected in both the “What We Learned to Date Report” and the Action Plan. Looking ahead, ongoing efforts to work together with provinces and territories on areas of shared interest and/or jurisdiction are likely to be a recurring theme.

“Reforming and advancing all legislative changes can shape stories and experiences for Indigenous communities in a positive way; especially when First Nation communities are bringing back their traditional Anishinabek governance models and implementing their own traditional laws and culturally unique frameworks.”

Anishinabek Nation

Recommendations for future annual reporting on progress on section 5 include combining Indigenous partners and Government of Canada perspectives on measures to ensure consistency of laws as evidence of collaboration and meaningful conversations on how to advance the implementation of UN Declaration Act. A unified voice that brings together the government and Indigenous peoples’ perspectives on how to advance the implementation process is needed.

Indigenous partners also recommended future annual reports include stories and examples about how laws have impacted traditional governance models and Indigenous individuals’ lives as a way of bringing life to Indigenous peoples’ experiences through this report. Similarly, some partners have suggested that showcasing examples from an international perspective would also help enhance the annual report.

Other partners have recommended more quantifiable approaches to identify how many laws have been changed, how many implementation processes for existing laws have been changed and how many of those changes have come as a direct result of consultation and collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

## Government of Canada perspectives on measures to ensure the consistency of laws

As a number of Indigenous peoples have noted, ensuring a whole-of-government approach to implementation of the UN Declaration and the UN Declaration Act requires that government officials are aware of and understand the UN Declaration and the Act and can apply them in their work. This requires training, information sharing, interdepartmental coordination, and the development and provision of policy development tools and legal advice. The Department of Justice Canada continues to provide support to Government of Canada officials in taking steps to ensure consistency of federal laws, and associated policies, programs and other measures, with the UN Declaration. Interim guidance developed in the previous fiscal year continues to be shared across government, helping to inform consultation and cooperation processes to ensure consistency with the UN Declaration. The Action Plan proposes to build



on this interim guidance by developing additional tools and processes to help support whole-of-government efforts to ensure federal laws are consistent with the UN Declaration. Government digital platforms and legal and interdepartmental networks continue to be used to share tools, resources and training both internally and externally, including on the UN Declaration webpage and on Government social media channels to help raise awareness of the UN Declaration and the importance of the UN Declaration Act.

Justice Canada is equipping legal advisors to work with government officials to implement the UN Declaration Act. Between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, over 300 federal public servants completed introductory training on the UN Declaration and the UN Declaration Act, and close to 250 Justice Canada legal professionals completed an intermediate course. In addition, Justice Canada officials presented at over 70 federal government meetings and training sessions and made over 15 presentations to non-Indigenous organizations outside of the federal government, including the Canadian Bar Association, the Conference Board of Canada, the Ontario Federation of Labour, and federal, provincial, and territorial committees.

The Canada School of Public Service, in partnership with Justice Canada, organized a training event for federal public servants that took place on April 20, 2022. The event featured a panel discussion with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis experts as well as senior federal government officials, who provided an overview of both the UN Declaration and the UN Declaration Act with a focus on their role in providing a framework for reconciliation. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Elders provided opening and closing remarks. Close to 2400 people participated in the event and more have viewed the [video and bilingual transcripts](#) since, as it is available on the CSPS website.

In addition to training, the development of in-house tools to assist officials in aligning legislation and other initiatives with the UN Declaration is also underway. This includes general information about the UN Declaration and the UN Declaration Act and the identification of resources available to officials, including guidance from the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Specific departments and agencies are also developing resources pertinent to their operations. For instance, Employment and Social Development Canada is developing internal tools to help guide alignment of initiatives with the UN Declaration (from project inception to completion). Canada Border Services Agency is developing an Implementation Action Plan, including tools and processes to support the full implementation of the UN Declaration Act within the agency. Lessons learned from these departments will help shape and guide other government departments in their efforts to implement the Act.

Departments and agencies are also continuing to develop their capacity to ensure that the UN Declaration Act is implemented across their portfolios. Efforts are ongoing to ensure all program and policy areas understand their roles and responsibilities. Government officials at Parks Canada, for





example, continue to implement change management processes, including training initiatives and presentations to key enabling teams to socialize the UN Declaration and outline related obligations. There is ongoing work to enable teams to advance from awareness to action, through development of tools that will support business units in conducting their own analyses of how their work intersects with the UN Declaration, so they can plan for change and engage Indigenous partners in that work. Employment and Social Development Canada is also leveraging internal networks and working groups to advance these efforts and ensure integration of the UN Declaration Act across the department.

Specific legislative and regulatory initiatives that were advanced during the reporting period and are relevant to ensuring consistency with the UN Declaration include:

**1. Non-derogation clause legislative initiative**

A non-derogation clause (NDC) is a statement in legislation that indicates the law should be interpreted to uphold, and not diminish, the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The addition of an NDC in the federal *Interpretation Act* has long been a priority for many Indigenous partners. Consultation and engagement on this initiative started in 2021. In 2022, Justice Canada officials consulted even more broadly to better understand the views of Indigenous partners. On March 1, 2023, Justice Canada published a draft legislative proposal on the NDC initiative on the Justice Canada website, and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis were invited to review the draft legislative proposal and provide feedback. Following this consultation and cooperation period, [Bill S-13, An Act to amend the Interpretation Act and to make related amendments to other Acts](#), was introduced in the Senate on June 8, 2023. Bill S-13 would amend the *Interpretation Act* to include an NDC, and repeal most currently existing NDCs in other pieces of legislation.

**2. Drinking water and wastewater**

Consistent with measures included in the draft action plan, Indigenous Services Canada is currently co-developing new drinking water and wastewater legislation (that includes pathways to protect source water and legally enforceable safe drinking water protections comparable to those in place in provinces and territories) with First Nations rights holders, including Modern Treaty and Self-Governing Nations, as well as with First Nations organizations, including the Assembly of First Nations, and provinces and territories.

**3. Health**

In 2021, the government committed to “fully implement Joyce’s Principle and ensure it guides work to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to foster health systems that will respect and ensure the safety and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.” Since 2021, Indigenous Services Canada has been working to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to improve access to high-quality, culturally-relevant, and safe health services with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and intersectional partners. Details on the co-development



process are provided in Annex B: List of Legislation and legislative amendments advanced during the reporting period.

#### 4. National Council for Reconciliation

In 2016, the Government of Canada committed to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action from their final report. Calls to Action 53-56 direct the Government to establish a National Council for Reconciliation. On December 1, 2022, the House of Commons adopted Bill C-29, *An Act to provide for the establishment of a national council for reconciliation*. Consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples included:

- an Interim Board comprised of Indigenous advocates, including a former Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, struck in 2018 to undertake initial consultations
- the development of a consultation draft of the bill
- further consultation, by a Transitional Committee

#### 5. Registration

[Bill C-38](#) was tabled in December 2022, and aims to address inequities in the registration and band membership provisions of the *Indian Act*. The tabling of the Bill resulted from Indigenous Services Canada facilitating close engagement with Indigenous partners, including Indigenous women's organizations.

#### 6. First Nations Fiscal Management

Introduced on March 23, 2023, [An Act to amend the First Nations Fiscal Management Act](#), to make consequential amendments to other Acts, and to make a clarification relating to another Act received Royal Assent on June 20, 2023. The *First Nations Fiscal Management Act* is opt-in legislation that provides First Nations with support and tools to strengthen their communities and build their economies. To support the proposed amendments to the *First Nations Fiscal Management Act*, activities in three distinct phases of engagement and consultation were carried out:

- The first phase included several years of close work with the Indigenous-led institutions established under the Act, First Nations, and other Indigenous organizations
- Phase 2 focused on consultation on the draft legislation with First Nations scheduled to the Act (for example, a presentation at the First Nations Leading the Way Conference and a summary of the proposed amendments posted online for feedback)
- The third phase included online engagement sessions with the previously mentioned parties as well as Modern Treaty and Self-Governing First Nations. Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada also reached out to the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council and the Manitoba Métis Federation to offer briefings



# Action Plan

Under section 6 of UN Declaration Act, the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, is required to prepare and implement an Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration. Specifically, the Act requires that the Action Plan include measures:

- to address injustices, combat prejudice and eliminate all forms of violence, racism and discrimination, including systemic racism and discrimination, against Indigenous peoples, including Elders, youth, children, persons with disabilities, women, men and gender-diverse and Two-Spirit persons
- to promote mutual respect and understanding, as well as good relations, including through human rights education
- related to the monitoring, oversight, recourse or remedy or other accountability with respect to the implementation of the UN Declaration

“For Inuit women, [who experience significantly higher rates of violence and sexual assault than non-Indigenous women](#), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan (UNDA) represents an opportunity to secure critical commitments to increase the safety of Inuit women and address the underlying and systemic reasons why these harms keep happening.

As the national voice for Inuit women, Pauktuutit will be watching to see if the implementation of the UNDA will be informed by utilizing a ‘gender-based plus analysis’ that will consider the distinct expert knowledge, lived experiences, and concrete ideas of Inuit women, as well as gender-diverse Inuit.”

President Gerri Sharpe  
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

The UN Declaration Act Action Plan is a fundamental part of the process of implementing the UN Declaration and recognizing and upholding the human rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada. To this end, the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, undertook efforts to co-develop the Action Plan to meet the statutory deadline of June 2023. Originally intended by those partners who advocated for the inclusion of a statutory timeline to ensure timely completion of the Action Plan, the legislated deadline for the preparation of the Action Plan created significant pressure for both the Government of Canada and Indigenous partners. COVID-19-related restrictions,



and some delays in distributing the approximately \$26.3 million in funding available to support Indigenous participation in the process, contributed to these challenges.

As described below, however, participation by Indigenous peoples in the two-phased consultation and cooperation process, which began in December 2021, was nonetheless extensive and guided the development of the Action Plan.

## Action Plan development—Phase 1

Phase 1, which took place largely between December 2021 and December 2022, focused on working in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, through their governments and representative institutions, to better understand their priorities to shape the draft action plan and to begin to identify potential measures for aligning federal laws with the UN Declaration. To support Indigenous participation in this process—as well as Indigenous-led engagement with their communities, citizens and members—a call for proposal process was launched. Over 150 Indigenous partners from coast to coast to coast were provided funding to support their participation in this process, totaling \$26.3 million. Please see Annex C for a list of funding recipients.

Consultation and cooperation occurred in several different ways, including bilateral and multi-lateral meetings between Justice Canada and First Nations, Inuit, and Metis governments, representative institutions, and organizations. Representatives from their Government of Canada departments and agencies joined these meetings as necessary to discuss specific proposed Action Plan measures. A total of 284 consultation and cooperation sessions were held between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, involving 123 Indigenous partners.

During Phase 1, Indigenous partners provided over 60 written submissions which identified more than 1,300 proposed Action Plan measures, many of which addressed similar topics. The majority of submissions were received during the months of December 2022 and January 2023. Given the ambitious statutory timeline, coupled with unanticipated challenges and delays that impacted the ability of Indigenous partners to organize their own consultation processes and synthesize and analyze the results, there was limited time to fully co-develop draft action plan measures.

As an alternative, and in order to provide a basis for ongoing consultation and cooperation during Phase 2, government departments and agencies were asked to propose draft measures within the scope of their departmental mandates that were responsive to the priorities shared by Indigenous peoples.

Phase 1 culminated in the publication of a “What We Learned to Date Report” and a draft action plan on March 23, 2023. The draft action plan contained 101 measures, organized into four chapters, and reflected approximately 80% of measures proposed by Indigenous partners up to that point.



## Action Plan development—Phase 2

During Phase 2, the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples and organizations at national and regional levels worked intensively, under short timelines, to validate the proposed measures in the draft action plan. This work included refining the measures in the draft action plan and identifying gaps and including additional measures, where possible, to complete the Action Plan by June 2023.

The validation process occurred through additional meetings between Indigenous peoples and federal departmental staff. Lead departments and agencies, identified on the basis of alignment between the subject matter of proposed measures and departmental mandates, worked directly with Indigenous peoples to develop final proposed language.

Phase 2 included over 100 bilateral meetings, thematic sessions, and roundtables as well over 60 additional written submissions from Indigenous partners. This resulted in 84 new and 77 revised action plan measures between the draft and completed Action Plan. This work helped address gaps and strengthen measures from the draft.

Government officials also met on several occasions with provincial and territorial counterparts to keep them informed of developments and offer an opportunity for dialogue, including on options for possible collaboration during the implementation phase. Bilateral engagement was also carried out, especially with British Columbia, which has already begun work to implement the UN Declaration and the BC Declaration Act Action Plan at the provincial level.

## Update on progress

The Action Plan is a starting point for ongoing consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples on UN Declaration implementation. The Government of Canada is committed to working with Indigenous peoples to advance implementation of the Action Plan in order to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration.

We acknowledge the tight timeframes required by the UN Declaration Act, which created challenges for us all. Despite the challenges, all submissions received from Indigenous partners throughout the process will be relevant and important to the overall UN Declaration Act implementation process. The submissions are expected to inform and guide the next phase of our implementation work together. The Act also requires that the Action Plan be reviewed and amended in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. In this way, the Action Plan is a living, evergreen set of Government commitments, with opportunities to renew and further co-develop its contents as part of the UN Declaration implementation process.



A variety of new and existing mechanisms may be utilized to make progress on the work ahead, including Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms, national and regional committees to co-develop implementation plans for the measures where needed, as well as possible federal-provincial-territorial-Indigenous fora.

## Indigenous Peoples’ perspectives on Action Plan development

The drafting of this Annual Report was guided by conversations with Indigenous partners looking back on the past year of work, and in particular on the process of consultation and cooperation to co-develop the Action Plan. While the number of Indigenous partners who participated in conversations with Justice Canada was limited by short timelines, the discussions were nonetheless rich and constructive. In total, 17 Indigenous partners provided feedback for the Annual Report over two months. Additionally, 265 proposed action plan measures from 33 partners related to Section 7 of UN Declaration Act and the annual reporting process moving forward. Several themes emerged from these conversations and submissions, which are discussed here.

### Successes

Overall, partners expressed that the Action Plan development process was positive and progressive. While some groups noted that the work was long overdue, they also noted the profound, generational work that the UN Declaration Act presents.

Among the groups that received funding, many noted the flexibility of funding as positive. This allowed them to engage with their community members in a way that suited their distinct needs.

In addition, substantial progress was made following the release of the draft action plan, including the addition of a co-developed Indigenous Modern Treaty Partners priorities chapter and the completion of the co-developed Inuit priorities chapter.

### Challenges

“The process was faster than what we would have preferred. It did not allow for ceremony and consulting with our ancestors to ensure the right timing for speaking.”

Communities Alliances & Networks



While the sentiment around the Action Plan development was generally positive, a number of consistent challenges were highlighted by Indigenous partners.

Some Indigenous partners expressed concerns about limited engagement by various departments and agencies as well as compressed timelines. As well, challenges relating to making specific legislative commitments were also seen as impacting the ambition and scope of the Action Plan, particularly in relation to measures associated with implementing section 5 of the Act.

Nearly every group noted that the short timelines within which they were asked to provide input and feedback created significant challenges for ensuring a truly collaborative process.

The lack of sufficient time led to numerous challenges, which many partners touched on. These included a lack of time to:

- conduct ceremony or consultations with Elders
- educate community members on the UN Declaration, especially in relation to the impacts for communities
- dig deeply into the issues and search for solutions to systemic problems
- engage all groups, especially diversity groups—women, youth, 2SLGBTQI+
- receive feedback from federal departments on proposed measures in a timely fashion

Funding to participate in the engagement process was also raised as an issue. The proposal-based approach for flowing funding was described as disadvantaging already under-funded and under-resourced organizations. Ultimately, some groups did not receive any funding, which limited their ability to engage their members meaningfully and, in turn, participate in the Action Plan development process. While some groups noted the flexibility of funding, other groups felt that the funding was not flexible enough to allow them to engage their communities in the ways they would have liked to.

## Government of Canada perspectives on Action Plan development

The development of the Action Plan was truly a whole-of-government effort. As proposed action plan measures were received from Indigenous partners, they were circulated to all relevant departments and agencies with a view to identifying the lead and supporting departments and agencies, in line with their respective mandates. Once identified, implicated departments and agencies were asked to respond to proposed measures and consider what they could commit to including in the draft action plan.

Once the draft action plan was published, departments and agencies worked with Indigenous partners to address feedback and gaps identified in the draft. At this time, intensive work was undertaken by



departments, agencies, and Indigenous partners to co-develop and refine the language of Action Plan measures.

## Successes

The intensive work over the course of Phase 2 of consultation and cooperation, in particular, resulted in a significant evolution of the Action Plan, including the addition of many new measures and strengthened language in relation to: implementation of pre-1975 treaties; self-determination and self-government; economic reconciliation; respect for legal pluralism; and the need for changing Government of Canada processes in relation to working together.

The volume of submissions and number of meetings with Indigenous partners reflected the level of interest and engagement from partners. Departments and agencies worked hard to meet this level of engagement and to work with partners, under very tight timelines, to ensure that action plan measures reflected the priorities of Indigenous partners and their respective communities.

Over the reporting period, more than 120 written submissions were provided by Indigenous partners, proposing nearly 1500 action plan measures.

As a reflection of the whole-of-government nature of this initiative, implementation of the Action Plan will be led by 28 departments or agencies. Approximately one quarter of the Action Plan measures specifically include commitments to co-development, continuing to build on the relationships and work that went into the development of the Action Plan.

## Challenges

Similar to challenges identified by Indigenous partners, departments and agencies also found short timelines to be challenging during the Action Plan development process. Limited time impacted the ability to meet with Indigenous peoples at various levels (senior official and working level meetings), and in some instances limited the depth and breadth of conversations. This, in turn, impacted the degree of co-development that was possible.

Towards the end of the process, timelines also began to limit which proposals from partners were able to be considered for inclusion in the Action Plan. Forty-four submissions were received past the time that they could realistically be considered by departments and agencies for inclusion in the Action Plan. We know these submissions are important to the overall process and are confident they will continue to inform the Action Plan implementation moving forward.

The exercise of reviewing proposed action plan measures also highlighted limitations within government structures to respond to the multi-faceted, transformational work of reconciliation. When a proposal did





not fit squarely into the mandate of a department, it sometimes became a challenge to identify a lead department or agency and ensure there was clear accountability. As the work of implementation of the Action Plan continues, this is a key lesson being taken forward.

Finally, through the work of developing the Action Plan, it became clear that ongoing education on the UN Declaration, the UN Declaration Act, and the Action Plan were needed across the Government of Canada. This, along with submissions from Indigenous partners to the same effect, led to the inclusion of action plan measures related to education, training, and awareness for all public servants and Indigenous communities on the UN Declaration and the associated work being undertaken in Canada to implement it.

“Advancing reconciliation and renewing our relationships with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples are essential to our country’s future. Our work as public servants must be rooted in the affirmation of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. We will continue to be guided by consultation and collaboration cooperation with Indigenous Peoples as we implement the UN Declaration Act and the Action Plan. Working collectively, we will rebuild trust, renew relationships, and ensure that Canada recognizes, upholds, and protects the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

John F.G. Hannaford, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet

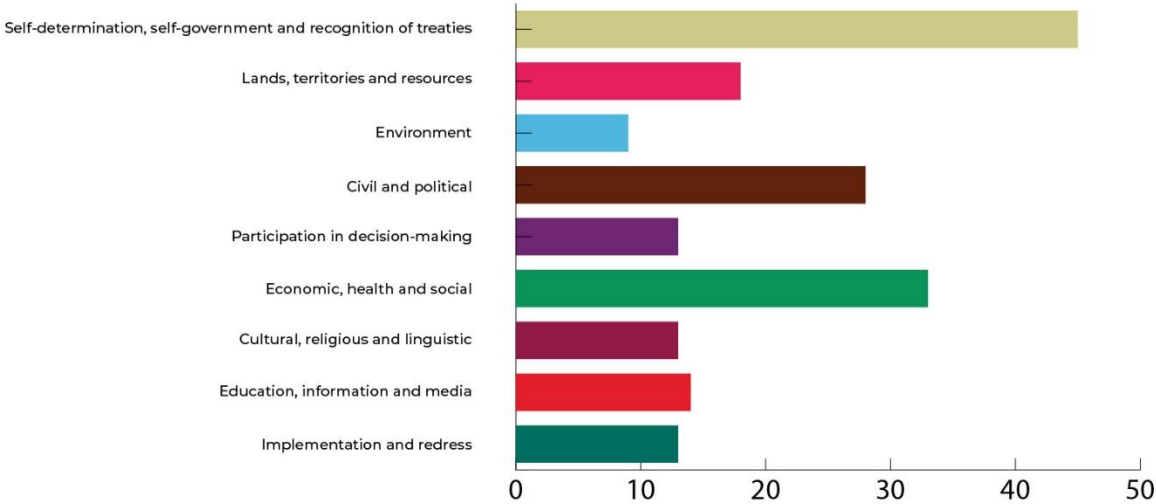
## Rights-based framework for reporting

While the focus of this year’s section of the Annual Report regarding the Action Plan focuses on its preparation, future years’ reporting will focus on the progress related to implementation of the Action Plan measures and the overall progress of the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, towards implementing measures to ensure the consistency of laws with the UN Declaration.

A rights-based approach to reporting on results and measuring progress on all of the articles of the UN Declaration, is intended to focus reporting on outcomes for Indigenous peoples rather than activities undertaken by government, and to help identify gaps as well as highlight some of the key strategic initiatives that federal departments and agencies have undertaken to advance the implementation of the UN Declaration. Thematic groupings provide an organizing framework for reporting, recognizing that the rights in the UN Declaration—like all human rights—are indivisible, interdependent, and inter-related, and that implementation of the Action Plan will need to be done in a holistic way.



## Number of measures per UN Declaration theme



These groupings, which are reflected in the organization of the Action Plan, are not meant to diminish the importance of each individual article in the UN Declaration, but rather recognize that measures to implement elements of the UN Declaration may implicate more than one article. The thematic groupings are also reflective of common intersections and themes found throughout international human rights instruments. By reporting on progress of actions at the level of thematic groupings, high-level progress in the implementation of rights flowing from the UN Declaration can be easily followed in a more global way.

## Future reporting on progress

Much of the work done over the past year was focused on identifying the priorities of Indigenous peoples and determining solutions in the form of agreed upon language to define action plan measures. While this work will continue, the focus will shift towards implementation of those measures and development of implementation plans, timelines and metrics, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. Metrics will be critical to mark progress on the implementation and to evaluate whether the action plan measures were successful in achieving their desired results. Like all initiatives under the Act, working in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples will be necessary to ensure that measures are responsive to their priorities. Communicating progress in a way that responds to the needs and priorities of Indigenous peoples and holds the Government of Canada to account is going to be key to the work done over the coming years.



In the outreach done on the Annual Report, Indigenous partners have shared some priorities for future reporting.

## Participation of Indigenous partners

The Government of Canada cannot evaluate progress on its own. As the impacts of action should be felt by Indigenous peoples, having Indigenous peoples' perspectives reflected is critical for understanding whether and/or how progress is being made. It was suggested by a number of partners that Indigenous organizations need to be involved in the implementation of actions and in evaluating progress on implementing those measures.

## Measuring progress

“Language used should be commitment oriented. Clear and specific targets are needed. SMART indicators are important. Report back mechanisms should be established to track and communicate actual progress. It is important to see tangible results.”

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek – Sandpoint First Nation

Indigenous partners want the measurement of progress to be transparent, objective, and speak to their communities. It will be important to develop a strategy or an overall evaluation framework that considers not only high-level results but that is reflective of experiences within communities. The importance of filling data gaps and collecting disaggregated data was also noted in order that impacts of the implementation of the Action Plan can be evaluated across distinctions groups as well as for urban Indigenous and diversity groups.

Using data is only one way to measure progress and we heard from numerous partners that data alone is insufficient. Elder Sakej Henderson of Eskasoni First Nation spoke to us about the inadequacy of Eurocentric measures and how it was important that evaluation tools be Mi'kmaq-based.

Others spoke of the need to establish timelines, milestones, and benchmarks that could be monitored and compared over time. Communities want to see tangible results from the implementation.

As metrics and other means of evaluating the implementation of measures are being developed, the Government of Canada will work in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous peoples on identification of data availability and data gaps, as well as measures to improve accessibility of information surrounding implementation of measures.



## Reporting

A number of partners communicated that it was important that reporting done on implementation of the UN Declaration Act Action Plan be done in a manner that is accessible. This could include using plain language when reporting, as well as having reports translated into Indigenous languages; particularly for Indigenous peoples who have substantial numbers of citizens who may not have the requisite fluency in either English or French. It is critical that reporting on implementation of federal legislation related to the rights of Indigenous peoples be accessible and understood by Indigenous peoples. This includes development of one or more communications strategies, to ensure that Indigenous peoples are aware of the legislation, the proposed measures, and the progress in achieving those measures.

Indigenous partners also want to see progress at the community-level, regionally, in urban centres, as well as at the national level. Transparency in how progress is being measured—and accountability when results or progress is not achieved—were other key aspects of importance to partners. Having updates available for Indigenous peoples and the Canadian public between annual reports was also mentioned as being important.

## Other reporting in support of implementation of the UN Declaration Act and reconciliation

While the passing of the UN Declaration Act and the work to implement its requirements present important milestones on Canada's path of reconciliation, the work of the Act and the Action Plan can not, and will not, progress in isolation. The Action Plan has been informed by, builds upon, and should be read in harmony with the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Reporting on the UN Declaration Act will be informed by reporting on other reconciliation work underway across the Government of Canada.

For example, on June 3, 2023, the second Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report was published, which tracks and reports on progress made to address the commitments in the Federal Pathway. This report outlines the work that has been undertaken by the federal government to respond to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice, including updates on the implementation of UN Declaration Act and the development of the Action Plan (Call for Justice 1.2v).

Consistent with Canada's commitment to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, Justice Canada continues to respond to the Justice Canada-led Calls to Action. The department's efforts have contributed to responding to Calls to Actions 43 and 44 through the implementation of the UN Declaration Act and the development of the First Annual Progress Report on the Act. Crown-



Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada continues to lead the coordination of public reporting on the Government's responses to the Calls to Action with input from all departments through a dedicated [Calls to Action website](#).

As the work to respond to key reports and recommendations of special procedures, treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies continues, work continues across government to further the implementation of the UN Declaration and to coordinate reporting on outcomes and results. Please see Annex D for information about actions that government departments and agencies are taking concurrently to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration. Details about how these initiatives are being done in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples are also provided.

## Way forward

Acknowledging that the content of the 2022 Annual Report did not meet all of our Indigenous partners' expectations, we are committed to creating a more inclusive and effective process this year. While there is still room for improvement, we are grateful for the permissions received to quote excerpts from the consultation and cooperation process with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis on improving the reporting process and content.

By far the most common concern that we heard from Indigenous partners and federal government departments and agencies was related to the compressed timelines, especially with respect to the validation of the draft action plan. There is an inherent tension between the objectives of significant change towards reconciliation and the desire for it to happen on an expedited basis with the fact that transformative change is hard and can be complex and that resources (human and financial) can be limited.

Meeting the June 2023 deadline for the Action Plan required a significant marshalling of efforts by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, as well the federal government. It necessitated the creation of entirely new mechanisms and ways of doing things. It is worthwhile recalling that the UN Declaration Act received Royal Assent only two years ago. Given the legislative framework embedded in the Act and the scope of this undertaking, it is not surprising that certain processes felt rushed and incomplete. Moving forward, it will be important to endeavour to improve the response time of federal departments to proposals from Indigenous peoples while at the same time more closely aligning Government of Canada timelines with those of Indigenous partners to respect their internal consultation and decision-making/consensus processes.

Indigenous peoples want to see their perspectives and contributions reflected in the Annual Report. In subsequent years, it will be important to continue to validate feedback from Indigenous partners for the



annual reports and provide adequate opportunity, resources, and time to accurately reflect Indigenous peoples' perspectives.

Moving forward, it will be increasingly important for annual reporting to continue to report specifically on measures to ensure the consistency of federal laws with the UN Declaration, including relevant legislative and regulatory changes.

## Next steps

As we begin to focus our attention on next steps, we do not underestimate the work ahead of us, especially because the 2024 Annual Report will be the first to account for the implementation of the Action Plan measures.

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners overwhelmingly suggested that the next steps related to implementation of the Action Plan be articulated within short, medium, and long-term timeframes. For example, short-term deliverables could focus on clear communication, education, and understanding of the UN Declaration. Medium-term goals could include increasingly aligning laws with the UN Declaration, addressing systemic racism, and establishing feedback mechanisms with Indigenous peoples. Long-term aspirations could involve equal rights, recognition of Indigenous laws, and addressing data collection and gaps.

“The work that remains to be done is formidable, as the implementation of the Declaration requires a complete paradigm shift within Canadian and Quebec institutions and ongoing consultation, collaboration with Indigenous people who consider the Declaration’s importance.”

Innu TakuaiKAN Uashat mak Mani-utenam

## Conclusion

Consistent with the Government of Canada’s commitment to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through renewed nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, and government-to-government relationships, we know that consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis is a continuous and ongoing process that will require us to build new ways of working together. A whole-of-government approach that includes a line of sight on how cross-cutting priorities could be addressed would make annual reporting more coherent, integrative, and accessible.

We will also continue to work together on distinctions-based approaches which also reflect an intersectional approach. Applying a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to engage with historically underrepresented voices—including Indigenous women, youth, Elders, Two-Spirit, gender-diverse,



persons with disabilities, and urban Indigenous people—and recognizing the importance of integrating traditional Indigenous governments more fully into the implementation of the Action Plan and reporting process, would have a positive impact on increasing inclusive outcomes.

The work to have completed the Action Plan creates the potential for transformational and generational change in nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, and government-to-government—including Modern Treaty Agreement holders—relations. While there have been challenges with the process, we can and must take the time to celebrate the long-term potential and positive implications of this collective effort.

## Acknowledgements

If we were to attempt to list everyone who contributed to the development of the Action Plan and the Annual Report, or who provided general support for the implementation of the UN Declaration, we would run the risk of omitting some, which would do a disservice to them and to the entirety of the process. Instead, we will acknowledge the considerable efforts that went into completing what is required by virtue of the UN Declaration Act in time to meet the legislated requirements.

“As the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, I am proud of what we accomplished together. I am well aware that the task of undoing 150 years of colonialism will continue long after I am Minister. The work ahead of us might be daunting at times, yet this is the work of reconciliation in action and, as such, we must acknowledge that the work may not ever be completely finished. I want to thank everyone for your leadership and partnership to date and reiterate the Government of Canada’s commitment to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.”

The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada



# Annex A: List of Indigenous partners who provided input in the development of the Annual Report

## National Indigenous organizations

- Assembly of First Nations
- Métis National Council
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

## National bodies

- Assembly of Seven Generations
- Communities, Alliances & Networks
- Canadian Roots Exchange
- National Association of Friendship Centres
- Native Women's Association of Canada

## Nova Scotia

- Eskasoni First Nation

## New Brunswick

- Indigenous Friends Association

## Québec

- Institut de développement durable des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador /  
Assemblée des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador





## **Ontario**

- Anishinabek Nation
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek / Sand Point First Nation
- Chiefs of Ontario
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

## **Saskatchewan**

- Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations

## **British Columbia**

- Nisga'a Lisims Government



## Annex B: Legislation and legislative amendments advanced during the reporting period

### Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

#### Review of current and new AAFC Acts and Regulations

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 18, 19, 38

**Description:** AAFC has developed an internal process, including an environmental scan, to review its current Acts and regulations to ensure that they align with the Declaration. This review will feed into a larger gap analysis of AAFC's policies, programs and services, which is expected to lead to the drafting of an AAFC action plan to address identified inconsistencies.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** AAFC has not consulted Indigenous peoples on the review of its laws and regulations yet. However, AAFC plans to work in consultation and cooperation with representatives from First Nations, Inuit and Métis while conducting the review of the Department's Acts and regulations. Furthermore, when working to develop the whole-of-government Action Plan, First Nation, Inuit and Métis were consulted on which laws should be prioritized and addressed.

### Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

#### ***An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** Nil – inadmissibility due to sanctions issued under the *Special Economic Measures Act*

**Description:** *An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations.* Public Safety/CBSA are the Government leads for this Act while some amendments fall under the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship's responsibility.



## Canadian Heritage (PCH)

### **Bill C-18 – *An Act respecting online communications platforms that make news content available to persons in Canada***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 13, 16

**Description:** *An Act respecting online communications platforms that make news content available to persons in Canada.*

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** In January 2022, Canadian Heritage contracted Archipel Research and Consulting Inc. to conduct two roundtables where 10 Indigenous publishers/organisations participated. Technical briefings and updates about the bill were provided at meetings with National Indigenous Organizations. Canadian Heritage also consulted Dadan Sivunivut, an Indigenous media holding company, on amendments to C-18, which were adopted by the House of Commons.

## Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

### ***Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Regulations***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 19

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** The consultation process for the *Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Regulations* included direct outreach to Indigenous governments and organizations. As part of the formal consultation period in August-September 2022, National Indigenous Organizations (NIOs) and National Indigenous Women’s Organizations were sent direct outreach emails that invited submissions responding to the consultation paper and to raise any questions. A meeting was held with Tsawwassen First Nation to discuss their feedback on the proposed Regulations on November 23, 2022. NIOs, National Indigenous Women’s Organizations, Modern Treaty Holders and Self-Governing Nations also received a mail out about the amendments to the Regulations on March 27th, 2023.



## **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)**

### **Bill C-29 – *An Act to provide for the establishment of a national council for reconciliation***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 8, 10, 18, 19

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** An Interim Board comprised of Indigenous advocates, including a former Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) commissioner, was struck in 2018 to undertake initial consultations. A consultation draft of the bill was then developed. A Transitional Committee was then struck, and did further consultations.

### ***An Act to give effect to the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, to amend the Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act and the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act and to make related and consequential amendments***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 4, 18

**Description:** The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement is the first self-governance agreement of its kind in Ontario. It marks an important step for the signatory Anishinabek First Nations, as the parts of the *Indian Act* concerning governance will no longer apply.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** CIRNAC worked on amendments on the *Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act* with shíshálh, including the use of their Indigenous language, *she shashishalhem*, in parts of the Act. The Self-Governing Yukon First Nations were consulted in relation to the amendments to the *Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act*.

### ***Fall Economic Statement Implementation Act, 2022, Division 3, Part 4***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 26, 32, 34

**Description:** Part 4 Division 3 of Bill C-32 received Royal Assent and came into force on December 15, 2022. This bill was an omnibus bill that contained the repeal of the *First Nation Land Management Act* and replaced it with the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management Act*.



**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** This legislation was co-developed with the Lands Advisory Board from 2020-2022 to ensure alignment on key policy objectives and resulted in a consultation draft of the proposed replacement legislation that was shared with the LAB and signatory First Nations to the Framework Agreement for feedback. In 2022, during a special meeting of First Nation signatories to the Framework Agreement, a resolution on the bill was presented and received unanimous support from First Nations.

### ***An Act to amend the First Nations Fiscal Management Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts, and to make a clarification relating to another Act***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 3, 4, 5, 18, 20.1, 21.1, 23, 19

**Description:** *An Act to amend the First Nations Fiscal Management Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts, and to make a clarification relating to another Act.* The proposed First Nations Infrastructure Institute (FNII) is a new institution that would be established under the *First Nations Fiscal Management Act* (FNFMA), as part of amendments included in Bill C-45, *An Act to amend the First Nations Fiscal Management Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts, and to make a clarification relating to another Act* introduced with first reading on March 23, 2023. Royal Assent June 20, 2023.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Activities in three distinct phases of engagement and consultation were carried out: several years of close work with the Indigenous-led institutions established under the Act, First Nations, and other Indigenous organizations; consultation on the draft legislation with First Nations scheduled to the Act (presentation at the First Nations Leading the Way Conference, summary of proposed amendments posted online for feedback); and online engagement sessions with the previously mentioned parties as well as Self-Governing and Modern Treaty First Nations. CIRNAC also reached out to the National Indigenous Organizations (AFN, MNC and ITK) and the Manitoba Métis Federation to offer briefings.

### ***Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management Act***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 26, 29, 32

**Description:** On December 15, 2022, the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management Act* received Royal Assent through the passage of the *Fall Economic Statement Implementation Act, 2022*. This more concise legislation repeals and replaces the *First Nations Land Management Act* and provides the *Framework Agreement* with the force of law, resituating it as the central authority on First Nation Land Management and recognizing it as a First Nation-led process.



**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** The Lands Advisory Board, representing 203 First Nations that are signatories to the Framework Agreement, worked with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to replace the *First Nations Land Management Act* with more concise legislation that better respects the central importance of the Framework Agreement. From April 2021 to December 2022, the Department and the Lands Advisory Board finalized the co-developed new legislation to replace the *First Nations Land Management Act*.

## Department of Justice Canada

### Centre for Information and Privacy Law: Nil for 2022-2023; *Privacy Act* modernization

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 3, 4

**Description:** The Department of Justice (is working on efforts to modernize the *Privacy Act* to ensure it better reflects modern expectations of privacy in Canada, including from the perspective of Indigenous partners, and supports horizontal and innovative initiatives within government.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** In support of this initiative, Justice officials undertook an initial engagement with Indigenous governments and organizations in 2020-2021, followed by the publication of the [What We Have Learned \(so far\) and Next Steps](#). Officials are now finalizing a second Indigenous engagement, which occurred throughout 2022, with the intention to publish its *What We Learned Report* in spring 2023. Throughout the course of these engagements, Justice has heard from Indigenous partners that modernizing the *Privacy Act* could support Indigenous data sovereignty, which many suggested is a necessary condition for the advancement of the right to self-determination and self-government. Certain Indigenous partners also shared this view in their submissions to the UN Declaration Act Implementation Secretariat on proposed action plan measures (APMs) for inclusion in the UN Declaration Act Action Plan. Officials are now preparing for the next stage of Indigenous engagement to advance further policy proposals for *Privacy Act* modernization and that in turn could help support the implementation of Indigenous data sovereignty.

### Aboriginal Law Centre: *Interpretation Act* (addition of a non-derogation clause)

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 37

**Description:** A non-derogation clause (NDC) is a statement in legislation that indicates the law should be interpreted to uphold, and not diminish, the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The addition of a NDC in the federal *Interpretation Act* has long been a priority for many Indigenous partners.



**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Consultation and cooperation on this important initiative started in 2021. In 2022, Justice Canada officials consulted even more broadly to better understand the views of Indigenous partners. On March 1, 2023, Justice Canada published a draft legislative proposal on the NDC initiative on the Justice Canada website, and First Nations, Inuit and Métis were invited to review the draft legislative proposal and provide feedback. Following this consultation and cooperation period, Bill S-13, *An Act to amend the Interpretation Act and to make related amendments to other Acts*, was introduced in the Senate on June 8, 2023. Bill S-13 would amend the *Interpretation Act* to include a NDC, and repeal most currently existing NDCs in other pieces of legislation.

## Department of National Defence (DND)

### *National Defence Act*

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 21, 30, 32

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** DND/CAF has consistently heard that access to lands, as well as participation in decision-making regarding military activities on Indigenous lands and territories, is a key priority for many Indigenous groups, including as it relates to Section 257 of the *National Defence Act*. As a result, over the course of fiscal year 2022-2023, DND/CAF undertook an interim policy approach via existing land claims negotiations, with a view to addressing decision-making matters in relation to military activities on Indigenous lands and territories. DND/CAF anticipates further internal discussions and engagement with Indigenous partners on these matters.

## Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

### ***Bill C-22 – An Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit and making a consequential amendment to the Income Tax Act***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 5, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 34

**Description:** The Government of Canada reintroduced framework legislation for the Canada Disability Benefit (Bill C-22) in the House of Commons on June 2, 2022. After being studied and amended by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Bill received unanimous, all-party support in its third reading on February 2, 2023, before being referred to the Senate where it is being further debated and studied. The goal of the proposed benefit is to reduce poverty and support the financial security of working-age persons with disabilities.



**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** ESDC launched a distinctions-based targeted engagement process in January 2022 and provided funding to National Indigenous Organizations to seek their advice on developing and implementing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, including the proposed Canada Disability Benefit. To facilitate the engagement process, five amendments to Engagement Protocol Agreements were made with the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, and the Native Women’s Association of Canada. To respect the government-to-government relationships embedded in Modern Treaties and Self-Government agreements, in fall 2022, ESDC sent letters to holders of Modern Treaties and Self-Government agreements to request their input into the design and delivery of the proposed Canada Disability Benefit.

### **Bill C-35 – *An Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada***

**Description:** Introduced in Parliament on December 8, 2022, Bill C-35 includes references to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in both its preamble and purpose clauses. Following its Second reading (February 1, 2023), the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, where it remained as of March 31, 2023.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Bill C-35 would enshrine in law that federal actions and decisions on early learning and child care for Indigenous families must be guided by the principles in the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework, which were co-developed in collaboration with Indigenous peoples and endorsed by the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council. The Government of Canada sought feedback from Indigenous partners before the Bill was tabled in Parliament.

Approximately 50 Indigenous governments and organizations were included in the pre-tabling engagement, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis National and Regional Partnership Tables, Self-Governing Nations, Modern Treaty Holders, and other national and regional Indigenous organizations. The Department also delivered presentations and held meetings with Indigenous partnership tables and Indigenous organizations who requested them. A *What We Heard* engagement report was published in November 2022.





## Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

### ***The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) – possible amendments***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 36

**Description:** Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is working closely with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and other federal departments, and in consultation and cooperation with interested Indigenous partners, in order to develop options to amend legislation concerning the right of entry to Canada. The initiative also includes exploring options to revise policies to address complex border crossing issues, and migration challenges faced by Indigenous peoples divided by Canada's international borders, including options to amend Canada's right of entry provision, and work and study permit requirements.

This initiative supports the Government's 2018 commitment to a longer-term process with concerned First Nations, Inuit and Métis to discuss potential solutions to a number of more complex border-crossing issues.

The recent Indigenous border mobility statements by the Prime Minister and the President of the United States in March 2023 reinforces this commitment to advance this initiative.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** CBSA and IRCC have been in contact and held introductory virtual meetings with the majority of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations who made a submission concerning border crossing and mobility related to article 36 of the UNDA in order to seek input on the proposed UNDA action plan measure. In addition, CBSA, IRCC and other departments continue to meet with interested First Nations, Inuit, and Metis governments and organizations that have come forward prior to developing options to expand the right of entry provisions found in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)*. Distinctions-based consultations on IRPA will continue through 2023 with a view to advancing options in 2024.

## Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

### ***C-38 – An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 3, 4, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 37

**Description:** *An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)*



**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Bill C-38 Engagement: From August to December 2022, Indigenous Services Canada hosted engagement sessions for impacted and interested parties to offer input and stay informed on the legislative amendment process, which ultimately culminated in Bill C-38 introduced on December 14, 2022. The Department continues to hold information sessions about the Bill. The Department continues to work with the First Nations and partners to address broader issues in registration while CIRNAC works on issues relating to First Nation citizenship. The Department is also working in close collaboration with the Native Women’s Association of Canada. This builds upon NWAC’s recommendations that were made in the Bill S-3 *Indian Act* final report.

### ***Indigenous health legislation***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 21, 24

**Description:** In 2021, the government committed to “fully implement Joyce’s Principle and ensure it guides work to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to foster health systems that will respect and ensure the safety and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.” Since 2021, ISC has been working to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to improve access to high-quality, culturally-relevant, and safe health services with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and intersectional partners.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Over the last fiscal year, Indigenous Services Canada has worked and continues to work with Indigenous partners to co-develop distinctions-based health legislation to improve access to culturally-relevant, safe health care services for Indigenous Peoples in Canada. From winter 2021 to fall 2022, regional and national First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Intersectional groups led numerous engagements within their communities on the vision for distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation. On January 13, 2023, a national summary report, [\*What we heard: Visions for Distinctions-based Indigenous Health Legislation\*](#), became publicly available. Indigenous partners who have provided input so far share some similar ideas about the potential health legislation. While some engagement reports highlighted that some First Nations do not support the proposed legislation or would prefer a Treaty-based process, overall the input received reflects hope and optimism that legislation will support Indigenous-led approaches, take steps toward upholding Indigenous sovereignty, and improve health equity. The work has now moved from the engagement phase to co-development with interested parties. ISC has launched Inuit, Métis, and First Nations co-development processes, which are focused on working in partnership through various distinctions-based tables to translate what was heard through engagement into proposed legislative options and support Indigenous-led approaches to improve health equity. The development of an intersectional co-development table on health legislation that is inclusive of urban Indigenous, non-status, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and other intersectional voices is also underway.



## Legislative proposal for drinking water and wastewater

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 3, 4, 5, 10, 18-21, 24-29, 31, 37-42, 46

**Description:** Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is currently co-developing new drinking water and wastewater legislation (that includes pathways to protect source water and legally enforceable safe drinking water protections comparable to those in place in provinces and territories) with First Nations rights-holders, including Modern Treaty and Self Governing Nations, as well as with First Nations organizations, including the Assembly of First Nations, and provinces and territories.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Throughout 2022, ISC engaged directly with First Nations rights-holders, including Modern Treaty and Self Governing Nations, as well as with First Nations organizations, including the Assembly of First Nations, and provinces and territories to advance development of a legislative proposal for drinking water and wastewater.

## Parks Canada

### ***Bill C-23 – An Act respecting places, persons and events of national historic significance or national interest, archaeological resources and cultural and natural heritage***

**Description:** Parks Canada is prepared to, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, take all measures necessary to ensure that Bill C-23, if adopted by Parliament as drafted, is consistent with the Declaration. As drafted, Bill C-23 would advance reconciliation by including representatives for First Nations, Inuit and Métis on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. This initiative responds directly to Call to Action 79(i) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Parks Canada invited 160 Indigenous and modern treaty organizations to provide advice on advancing legislation to protect and conserve federally-owned historic places, and on the Agency's internal cultural heritage policies. Parks Canada had the privilege of engaging with 40 Indigenous and modern treaty organizations on cultural heritage legislation and policy between winter 2021 and winter 2022, and received advice from community members, elected and traditional leaders, and Elders. Parks Canada has prepared a What We Heard report on the engagement that has been shared with participating communities and other partners. Following Bill C-23's introduction in Parliament on June 7, 2022, Parks Canada offered technical briefings on Bill C-23 to Indigenous representative organizations. To date, the Agency has provided briefings to the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council, and the Native Women's Association of Canada, as well as the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.



## Public Safety (PS)

### ***C-21 – An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 37, 38

**Description:** In the development of Bill C-21, analysis was carried out to outline the potential intersections between the proposed legislative initiative and the rights and principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as to identify accommodations to mitigate any potential impacts on Aboriginal and/or treaty rights.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** In the process leading up to the development of Bill C-21 including the previous Bill C-21, the Government of Canada engaged with a number of Indigenous groups on certain gun control measures. Since the tabling of Bill C-21, the Government of Canada has initiated dialogue with Indigenous groups to identify impacts of firearms legislation and programming.

## Transport Canada (TC)

### ***Bill C-33 – An Act to amend the Customs Act, the Railway Safety Act, the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992, the Marine Transportation Security Act, the Canada Transportation Act and the Canada Marine Act and to make a consequential amendment to another Act***

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 18, 20, 21, 27, 29, 32

**Description:** This enactment amends several Acts in order to strengthen the port system and railway safety in Canada.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** While work on these proposed legislative changes began prior to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* coming into force, UNDA assessments were completed for legislation administered by TC, including the *Railway Safety Act*, *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992*, *Canada Transportation Act* and *Canada Marine Act*. Transport Canada held a series of initial calls in November 2022 to provide National Indigenous Organizations with an overview of proposed legislative amendments to be tabled under Bill C-33. Transport Canada has committed to engaging with potentially impacted Indigenous communities and organizations on the implementation of these proposed amendments.



## ***Budget Implementation Act, 2022, No. 1., containing Transport Canada Measures (Part 4 Divisions 21, 22, 23)***

### **Amendments to:**

- *Marine Liability Act*
- *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*
- *Canada Transportation Act*
- *Wrecked, Abandoned, and Hazardous Vessels Act*
- *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant articles):** 3, 4, 5, 18, 26, 27, 29, 32

**Description:** This enactment amends several Acts, including the *Canada Shipping Act* to deliver on commitments related to the Oceans Protection Plan; the *Marine Liability Act* to clarify the liability and compensation regime for ship-source accidents; the *Canada Transportation Act* to strengthen air passenger rights, including changing the process by which air passenger complaints are resolved; and the *Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act* to establish and fund an owner-financed Vessel Remediation Fund.

**Indigenous consultation and cooperation:** Transport Canada sent mail to over 300 Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities regarding the amendments to the *Marine Liability Act*. A Let's Talk Transportation portal was also launched to reach a wider audience. A total of 50 meetings were held and 14 written submissions were received from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Engagement on *Canada Shipping Act* amendments included an online discussion paper with the ability to submit comments online. In addition, over 400 representatives of Indigenous groups, organizations, and communities were invited to a series of regional sessions. Over 45 individuals representing 26 Indigenous groups across all coastal regions participated in engagement sessions. Separate meetings with Reconciliation Framework Agreement Nations, AFN, and MNC were also held. Transport Canada has committed to engaging with potentially impacted Indigenous communities and organizations on the implementation of these proposed amendments.



# Annex C: List of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan development funding recipients

## **National Indigenous organizations**

- Assembly of First Nations (AFN)
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)
- Métis National Council (MNC)

## **National organizations**

- Communities, Alliances and Networks (CAAN)
- Canadian Roots Exchange
- National Association of Friendship Centres
- Assembly of Seven Generations
- Indigenous Bar Association of Canada
- Indigenous Friends Association
- Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)
- Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) and affiliates
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak

## **Regional Indigenous governing bodies, organizations, and groups**

### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

- AFN Newfoundland and Nova Scotia
- Innu Nation
- Miawpukek First Nation
- Northern Peninsula (Mekap'sk) Mi'kmaq Band
- NunatuKavut Community Council



## **Nova Scotia**

- Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
- The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance
- Kwilmuk'w Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office
- Eskasoni Band Council
- Native Council of Nova Scotia

## **New Brunswick**

- Mi'gimawe'I Tplu'tagann Inc.
- Wolastoqey Nation
- Gitpo Spirit Lodge
- Kopit Lodge (related to Elsipogtog First Nation)
- Oromocto First Nation

## **Prince Edward Island**

- Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI)

## **Québec**

- Assembly of First Nations – Québec – Labrador
- Innu TakuaiKAN Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam
- Femmes Autochtones du Québec
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
- Mohawk Council of Kahnawake
- Kebaowek First Nation
- Council of Long Point First Nation

## **Ontario**

- Chiefs of Ontario
- Union of Ontario Indians (Anishinabek Nation)
- Grand Council of Treaty 3
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Matawa First Nations Management
- Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group
- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan



- Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
- Ontario Native Women Association
- Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
- First Nations with Schools Collective (FNWSC)
- Mississauga Nation Chiefs
- Rainy River First Nations
- Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council
- Mushkegowuk Council
- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- Chippewas of the Nawash
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Eshkiniigjik Naandwechigegamig
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
- Gull Bay First Nation
- Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
- Lac Seul First Nation
- Wabun Tribal Council
- Aundeck Owing Kanning and Sheshegwaning First Nations
- Nokiiwin Tribal Council Inc.
- Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation

## **Manitoba**

- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Southern Chiefs' Organization Incorporated
- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO)
- Peguis Consultation and Special Project Inc.
- Anishinaabe Agowidiwinan Secretariat Inc.
- Interlake Reserves Tribal Council
- Island Lake Tribal Council
- Keewatin Tribal Council
- Red Sucker Lake First Nation
- Sagkeeng Anicinabe First Nation
- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation
- Uske
- Silent Drums
- Infinity Women Secretariat Inc.
- Manitoba Métis Fédération





- Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg
- Ebb and Flow First Nation
- Sapotweyak Cree Nation
- Clan Mothers Circle

## **Alberta**

- Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council
- Bigstone Cree Nation
- Piikani Nation
- Cold Lake First Nations
- Driftpile Cree Nation
- Fort McMurray 468 First Nation
- Siksika Nation
- O'Chiese First Nation
- Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc. (TCVI)
- International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development
- Keepers of the Water Society
- Industry & Government Relations Corporation (IGRC) (under Fort McMurray 468 First Nation)
- Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women
- Métis Nation of Alberta
- Mikisew Cree First Nation
- Blood Tribe/Kainai Tribal Government
- Sucker Creek First Nation
- Louis Bull Tribe
- Western Cree Tribal Council
- Lubicon Lake Band #453
- Stoney Nakoda Nations

## **Saskatchewan**

- Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN)
- File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Urban
- Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
- Red Earth Cree Nation (Mihkoskiwakak)
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation
- Shoal Lake Cree Nation



- Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
- Zagime Anishinabek First Nation
- Kawacatoose First Nation

## **British Columbia**

- BC Assembly of First Nations for the First Nations Leadership Council (BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs)
- Lake Babine Nation
- Witset First Nation
- Williams Lake First Nation
- Penticton Indian Band
- Kelly Lake First Nation
- Xatśúll First Nation
- Cowichan Tribes Government
- Fraser Canyon Emergency Services Society (Kanaka Bar First Nation)
- Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association
- Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
- First Nations Fisheries Council
- Thélá:ylexw awtxw Foundation
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre
- Huuayaht First Nation
- First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty Society
- Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
- Stó:lō Service Agency, Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre
- Aboriginal Living in Vancouver Enhancement Society (ALIVE)
- ʔAkisq'nuk First Nation
- British Columbia Treaty Commission

## **Northwest Territories**

- Deline Gotine Government
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Liidlii Kue First Nation (LKFN)
- K'ahsho Got'ine Government Negotiations Secretariat
- Yellowknife Dene First Nation
- Behdzi Ahda First Nation and Ayoni Keh Land Corporation



## Yukon

- Arctic Athabaskan Circle
- Assembly of First Nations - Yukon region
- Liard Aboriginal Women's Society
- First Nation of Na Cho Nyàk Dun
- Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
- Vuntut Gwitchin Government



## Annex D: List of policy and program initiatives advanced by government departments and agencies during the reporting period

The following is a list of key initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the UN Declaration advanced by Government of Canada departments and agencies during the reporting period. This list is not exhaustive.

### **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)**

#### **Inuit-Crown Food Security Working Group (ICFSWG)**

**Summary:** A working group established under the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee's (ICPC) joint Health and Wellness priority. As a participant of ICFSWG, AAFC committed to advancing the group's work plan, including implementing the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy, and developing an Inuit Nunangat school food program.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 4, 23

#### **Development and Implementation of the Science and Technology Branch Indigenous Strategy and Action Plan**

**Summary:** An internal strategy developed, in part, with the ongoing feedback received from Indigenous partners in research, to highlight key priorities and future objectives for the branch and beyond.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 31(1), 29(1), 32(1)

#### **Interdepartmental Indigenous Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (I-STEM) Cluster**

**Summary:** Launched in December 2019, the goal of the (I-STEM) Cluster is to inform and enhance federal policies, programs, and activities related to STEM disciplines, in order to increase and expand support for Indigenous priorities in environmental stewardship, research and technology development and transfer.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 10-18, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34



## **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)**

### **Indigenous Economic Development (IED) Champion File (Ongoing)**

**Summary:** The IED Champion File ensures coordination and collaboration across ACOA, as well as relationship building and strengthening with Indigenous partners and communities, to foster an Indigenous-led approach to increasing the number of Indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Atlantic Canada. Three principal areas of focus for the IED Champion File are:

- Indigenous-owned business development (i.e., help Indigenous-owned and led SMEs and Indigenous-controlled/band-led businesses better access resources)
- Capacity building of Indigenous communities and improving the inclusion of Indigenous people in the economy
- Stakeholder engagement and awareness within the Agency and the Government of Canada

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 13, 21, 31, 39

## **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)**

### **Indigenous Portfolio Action Plan (IPAP) (2021-2024)**

**Summary:** The IPAP is focused on renewing working relationships with Indigenous peoples based on collaboration and trust, through increased awareness of Indigenous culture within the CRA, hiring and retention of Indigenous employees, systematic engagement with Indigenous peoples, and tailored services to respond to specific Indigenous' client needs.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 13, 15, 18, 19

### **Canada Revenue Agency's Indigenous Strategy (2024-2027) (Ongoing)**

**Summary:** The CRA is developing an Agency-wide, client-centric, and integrated strategy to build trust and maximize the participation of Indigenous peoples in the Canadian tax and benefits systems.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 13(2), 15, 18, 19, 38, 39



## **Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA)**

### **Indigenous Framework Strategy (IFS)**

**Summary:** The IFS's vision is for the CBSA to be a leading organization that engages, respects, cooperates and partners with Indigenous peoples in providing integrated border services that support national security and public safety priorities while facilitating the free flow of admissible people and goods. It aims to improve the relationship with and outcomes for Indigenous peoples and enhance CBSA culture so that Indigenous peoples regard the Agency as a workplace of choice.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 19, 38

### **Policy on Indigenous Learning**

**Summary:** The Indigenous Learning Policy establishes roles and responsibilities for the specific Indigenous learning needs of all CBSA employees. Through this Policy, the CBSA aims to become a more responsive organization with culturally competent employees that will foster an inclusive workforce. The Policy will be finalized in 2023 and is stewarded by CBSA's Indigenous Training Program.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 15

## **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)**

### **Implementing CNSC's Internal Indigenous Reconciliation Strategy - Building Trust, Advancing Reconciliation (2020)**

**Summary:** This Strategy provides an internal guide to support the CNSC's approach to advancing reconciliation and enhancing consultation, engagement and relationship-building with Indigenous Nations and communities within the CNSC's regulatory processes, and over the long-term. In 2022-23, key implementation activities focused on: establishing a new Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund (ISCF); initiating a process to renew and update the CNSC's Regulatory Document REGDOC3.2.2- Indigenous Engagement; updating the CNSC's Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework; and pursuing hiring an Indigenous Advisor to provide strategic guidance to the CNSC Executive Team.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 19, 26, 32, 11, 12, 13



## **Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)**

### **Sidney Centre for Plant Health (CPH) Renewal Project**

**Summary:** Collaboration with local First Nations communities, to support the local First Nations economy, through skills development and local sourcing of resources in the construction of a facility for modernized, rapid-response to testing for regulated plant diseases and scientific research. This initiative also promotes increased collaboration and learning about traditional Indigenous practices relating to the land where CPH is situated, for CFIA employees and contractors.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 21

### **Indigenous Liaison role within emergency responses**

**Summary:** An Indigenous Liaison Officer is responsible for identifying emergency response activities that may have an impact on the rights or interests of Indigenous peoples. Additionally, Indigenous Liaison Officers work to establish proactive relationships, and to engage and collaborate with communities to implement regulatory actions in a respectful manner.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 28, 29

## **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)**

### **Transfer of care and control of funding for on-reserve funding housing programs to First Nations**

**Summary:** CMHC has received requests from Indigenous partners, in particular First Nations and First Nation representative organizations to begin discussions around the transfer of care and control of on-Reserve housing programs. In the spirit of reconciliation, the way forward on transfer of care and control of on-Reserve housing programs will be co-developed with First Nations, Modern Treaty Holders and Self-Governing Indigenous Governments. Two projects have been initiated with the Assembly of First Nations.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 23

### **Urban, Rural and Northern Housing Strategy**

**Summary:** The Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion's mandate letter outlines the commitment to work with Indigenous partners to co-develop an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous



Housing Strategy, a stand-alone companion to the National Housing Strategy, supported by dedicated investments. CMHC has also funded several Indigenous organizations to undertake research on the housing needs of Indigenous households in urban, rural and northern areas.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21, 23

## **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**

**Summary:** The RAP provides CMHC with the framework to advance reconciliation and a roadmap to implement purposeful and inclusive practices. The current version includes three key pillars: culture & inclusion, talent development, and housing transformation. The RAP is a living document that will be refreshed and adapted over time, to reflect CMHC’s work and priority areas.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 9, 21, 23

## **The Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing initiative**

**Summary:** This initiative will support new shelters and transition housing for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across the country, including on reserve, in the North, and in urban areas, thus expanding access to culturally relevant supports for Indigenous women, children, 2SLGBTQI+ people facing gender-based violence.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 5, 22

## **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**

### **Strategic Priority to Accelerate the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples in Health Research**

**Summary:** To further advance CIHR’s Action Plan, *Building a healthier future for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples*, CIHR is investing in impactful strategic initiatives developed by and with Indigenous Peoples to ensure its investment in Indigenous Health Research (IHR) reaches a minimum of 4.6% of their Grants and Awards annual budget (proportional to Canada’s Indigenous population in 2016).

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 24

**Canada’s Research Funding Agencies:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI; through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED))





## The Setting New Directions Strategy

**Summary:** The inter-agency Setting New Directions Strategy outlines four directions to support self-determination and strengthen the capacity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to lead their own research and partner with the broader research community: building relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples; supporting research priorities of Indigenous Peoples; creating greater funding accessibility; and championing Indigenous leadership.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 31, 34

## Canada Energy Regulator (CER)

### Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC)

**Summary:** The CER established the IAC in 2020, charting a new path forward for the CER and fulfilling a requirement of the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*. The IAC is a vital part of the CER's governance structure and advises the CER on building a new relationship with Indigenous Peoples. They also advise on strategic, systemic, policy and program development matters relevant to the CER's mandate, including the CER's oversight, expectations, and requirements of regulated industry.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 25, 26, 31, 32

### Indigenous Oversight Forum to Advance the Co-development of the Nova Gas Transmission Limited (NGTL) System

**Summary:** The NGTL System includes significant CER-regulated natural gas infrastructure that spans from Alberta to Northeastern-British Columbia. In 2022, the CER launched a multi-phased/multi-year initiative to co-develop a mechanism that would foster discussion and collaboration between the CER and Indigenous communities relating to pipeline oversight and issue resolution for new and existing NGTL projects, in a systemic manner.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 25, 26, 31, 32

### Onshore Pipeline Regulation (OPR) and Filing Manual Reviews

**Summary:** The CER is conducting a comprehensive review of the OPR, under the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* as well as updates to the CER Filing Manual. The OPR review and Filing Manual updates will encompass several important objectives including advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous



peoples, implementing the UN Declaration, and incorporating guidance on inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and protection of Indigenous rights and interests.

Phase 1 of the OPR Review included an unprecedented level of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities, with funding and engagement sessions available to support Indigenous participation. Discussions and engagement on the OPR and CER's Filing Manual will continue in Phase 2.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 26, 29, 32, 39

## **Enhancing Involvement of Indigenous peoples in CER's oversight of regulated pipelines through Government of Canada Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committees (IAMCs)**

**Summary:** When approving Line 3 and the TMX projects in November 2016, the Government of Canada committed to the creation of an IAMC for each project. The IAMCs bring together Indigenous and senior federal representatives from departments with regulatory responsibilities to provide advice to the CER and federal government, and to monitor the construction and operation of the projects. IAMC members have a shared goal of safety, environmental protection, and protection of Indigenous rights and interests. Over the last fiscal year, the CER has received and incorporated input from the IAMC on important initiatives including Indigenous monitoring; the OPR review process and Filing Manual update; and development of best practices for notifications to Indigenous Nations and communities regarding CER-reportable incidents.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32

## **Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)**

### **Pilimmakasivik**

**Summary:** Pilimmaksaivik is the Federal Centre of Excellence for Inuit Employment in Nunavut responsible for coordinating a whole-of-government approach to building a representative federal public service in Nunavut, including upholding its commitment under Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement. Pilimmaksaivik does this by reducing barriers for recruitment, designing and delivering culturally relevant and responsive training, as well as workplace wellness initiatives, which aim to increase Inuit representation across departments and agencies operating in Nunavut.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 21, 37



## **Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO)**

**Summary:** NPMO works with Indigenous peoples, northern governments, co-management boards, communities, industry and other partners to promote sustainable and responsible resource development across the territories, supporting economic growth and long-term prosperity for Northerners and all Canadians. The NPMO coordinates the participation of federal departments in impact assessments for proposed major development projects in the North.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 32

## **Northern Indigenous Economic Opportunities Program (NIEOP)**

**Summary:** The Northern Indigenous Economic Opportunities Program (NIEOP) provides funding to support Indigenous communities, Indigenous organizations and Indigenous businesses with the aim to increase the economic development capacity of Northern Indigenous communities and businesses, as well as facilitate the establishment or growth of Indigenous businesses.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21

## **Northern Isolated Communities Initiative (NICI)**

**Summary:** The NICI Fund aims to enhance Indigenous and northern food security by supporting local, community-led projects that reduce dependence on the southern food industry and the associated costs (e.g., transportation and storage) for northern communities.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21

## **Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED)**

### **Flexible criteria for CED programs for Indigenous clients**

**Summary:** In 2018, CED adjusted the funding criteria of its regular programs to reduce barriers to access for Indigenous clients, with the goal of increasing participation of Indigenous people in the Quebec economy. Currently, a review of funding criteria is underway to allow for increased flexibility to ensure the needs of communities are met.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 5



## **Joint administration of Initiative Verte du Québec (IVQ) with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)**

**Summary:** The objective of the IVQ is to support Indigenous peoples in Quebec in their development of economic opportunities related to the green energy sector and participation in Quebec's green energy transition. Since 2022, IVQ has been jointly administered by CED and ISC.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 5

## **Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)**

### **Partnership with Métis National Council (MNC)**

**Summary:** In order to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and resilience of Métis communities, CSIS will work with MNC to co-develop measures to facilitate effective identification of and response to threats to Métis security. CSIS began conversations about partnership with the Métis Nation in 2022, and senior CSIS executives met with representatives in 2023 at CSIS NHQ to discuss Métis priorities, perspectives, and history, including with reference to security issues.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 7

### **Advancing Inuit-Crown Partnership: Sovereignty, Defence, and Security**

**Summary:** CSIS has begun developing a partnership with ITK since 2022 to support Research and Data Security initiatives connected to the National Inuit Strategy on Research and the Inuit Data Strategy, as well as on cyber security and espionage issues related to Inuit Nunangat.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 7

## **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)**

### **Canada's Collaborative Modern Treaty Implementation Policy**

**Summary:** This Policy supports the full, effective, and timely implementation of all current and future modern treaties in Canada, with the specific goal of advancing a systemic shift in institutional culture throughout the federal government. The Policy was co-developed with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Modern Treaty partners throughout the summer and fall of 2022. The final draft of the Policy was completed in October 2022, and it was ratified by Cabinet, in February 2023.



**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 18, 19, 37

## **First Nations National Land Registry**

**Summary:** This initiative is a co-developed approach between Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and the Lands Advisory Board, to create a First Nation owned and managed national land registry with modern technology, and a First Nation-led organization to manage and administer it.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 26, 32, 34

## **Specific Claims Reform Co-Development Process**

**Summary:** The Specific Claims Reform Co-Development Process is on-going. Since the official launch of the process in November 2022, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and the Assembly of First Nations have established a Specific Claims Implementation Working Group (SCIWG). The SCIWG meets regularly to co-develop options for establishing a Centre and a reformed specific claims resolution process. The pace of claims resolution has accelerated since 2016, with 259 claims worth \$8.8 billion resolved from January, 2016 to May, 2023. In fiscal year 2022-23 alone, a record number of claims were resolved with 56 claims settled for \$3.5 billion.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 19, 27, 28, 40

## **Additions to Reserve Policy Redesign**

**Summary:** Budget 2021 provided \$43 million, starting in 2021–2022, to work with First Nation communities and representative organizations to redesign the federal Additions to Reserve policy and address the backlog of existing Additions to Reserve requests from First Nations across the country. Of this, \$10.8 million was allocated to CIRNAC to redesign the federal Additions to Reserve policy, and \$32.2 million for ISC to accelerate existing Additions to Reserve proposals.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 8, 25, 26

## **Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People**

**Summary:** The Federal Pathway is the Government of Canada's contribution to the [2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ National Action Plan](#). Released on June 3, 2021, in response to the [Final Report](#) of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the 231 Calls for Justice, it details the commitments from the Government of Canada to



end the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. As outlined in the 2022-23 Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report, there have been repeated requests from Indigenous partners for the establishment of an Indigenous Ombudsperson and Indigenous Human Rights Tribunal in Canada. The Government of Canada has appointed Ministerial Special Representative Jennifer Moore Rattray in 2023 to provide advice and recommendations, through engagement with survivors, families, partners and organizations, in support of Call for Justice 1.7.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 7

## **Negotiation of Treaties, Self-government Agreements and Other Rights-based Arrangements**

**Summary:** In 2022-23, Canada, Indigenous partners and provinces and territories continued to make progress in rights-based discussions across the country. In 2022–23, discussions took place at 188 tables to co-develop modern treaties, self-government agreements and other rights-based agreements. Results in 2022-23 stemming from these discussions include the signature of 7 agreements, 9 preliminary-type agreements and the introduction of 1 transformative piece of enabling legislation.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 14, 15, 21 and 37

## **Harvesters Support Grant & Community Food Programs Fund**

**Summary:** Launched in 2019, the Harvesters Support Grant (HSG) served an important milestone in response to recommendations from Northerners to support traditional food systems and country foods. Through Budget 2021 investments, the HSG expanded from \$8M per year to \$40M per year, including the addition of a new component – the Community Food Programs Fund (CFPF).

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

## **Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms**

**Summary:** Announced in December 2016 as part of the Government’s commitment to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the permanent bilateral mechanisms support collaboration with representatives of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the 4 Inuit Nunangat Regions, and the Métis National Council (MNC) and its governing members to advance joint priorities, co-develop policies and monitor ongoing progress. In 2022-23, the permanent bilateral mechanisms with the AFN and MNC were restarted following a pause in both processes; this included a meeting of federal and AFN senior officials in November 2022, and a meeting of federal and Métis leadership in December 2022. The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC), the permanent



bilateral mechanism with Inuit partners, met three times in 2022-23. Among the key achievements was the endorsement of the Inuit Nunangat Policy by the Prime Minister and federal and Inuit Leaders in April 2022.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 5, 11, 18, 19, 20, 21

## **Department of National Defence**

### **Indigenous Reconciliation Program**

**Summary:** Launched in 2023, the Indigenous Reconciliation Program (grants and contributions) supports early engagement and relationship-building with Indigenous communities, aligns engagement and operations with the UN Declaration and reconciliation as a whole, and enables Indigenous participation to inform DND/CAF operations/activities (e.g., real property development, land use planning, etc.).

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 13, 18, 19, 30, 32

## **Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)**

### **IT Apprenticeship Program for Indigenous Peoples**

**Summary:** The IT Apprenticeship Program for Indigenous Peoples creates a pathway to employment in Information Technology for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. The program is tackling the barriers in GC recruitment and hiring models, including the standard education attainment requirement for the IT occupational group.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21

### **Service Canada/Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Service Delivery Agreement (SDA)**

**Summary:** Under the Service Canada/GNWT SDA, NWT Government Service Officers located in 15 Indigenous communities across the Territory provide information and referral services as well as assist clients, often in their own language(s), in completing, accepting, and forwarding applications and forms to Service Canada for select Employment and Social Development Canada programs and services.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 13



## **Delivery and promotion of Services in Indigenous Languages**

**Summary:** ESDC is promoting service in Indigenous languages through various initiatives, including: processing name changes to Indigenous names, delivery of service through Telephone Interpretive Service (TIS), providing in-person service in Indigenous languages (where possible), providing communications products in Indigenous languages, and promoting programs via social media in Indigenous languages.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 13

## **Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)**

### **Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda**

**Summary:** In Budget 2022 the Government of Canada committed \$29.6 million over three years, starting in 2022-23, to advance an Indigenous Climate Leadership agenda with the objective of establishing a long-term plan for climate partnership between the federal government and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis that affirms and enables Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination. In 2022-23 the Government of Canada worked with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners at regional and national levels to initiate dialogue and engagement on the process for advancing distinctions-based climate leadership strategies.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 18-21, 23-26, 29, 31, 32, 39

## **Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG)**

### **Collaborative Fisheries Management Agreement with Abegweit First Nation**

**Summary:** During 2022-23, DFO worked closely with the Abegweit First Nation to co-develop a fisheries Rights Reconciliation Agreement (RRA). These Nation-to-Nation discussions led to the signing of an agreement that provides up to \$1.47 million over four years to boost the Abegweit Conservation Society's work managing threats to the Atlantic salmon and American eel, two culturally significant species at risk.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 2, 3, 5, 20, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32





## **The Tang.gwan-ḥačxwiqak-Tsigis Marine Protected Area (MPA) and cooperative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

**Summary:** DFO is working in collaboration with First Nations to advance the designation of the proposed Tang.gwan-ḥačxwiqak-Tsigis MPA to help safeguard this sensitive deepwater marine environment and its unique seafloor features.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 19, 25, 29, 32, 40, 46

## **Best Practices for Indigenous Input and Inclusion (BP111)**

**Summary:** DFO entered into a partnership and provided funding to the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute (NIFI) during 2022-23 to develop a clear process, with established guidelines, for incorporating Indigenous voices and perspectives into national policy development within both Coast Guard and DFO.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 2, 3, 5, 18, 20, 21, 23, 26, 32

## **Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)**

### **Establishment of Dedicated Engagement Team/Single Service Point to Support Indigenous Organizations**

**Summary:** In fall 2022, FedDev Ontario established a team to engage with Indigenous applicants on opportunities to support their economic development priorities. The two full-time equivalent positions act as a concierge service to connect Indigenous businesses and organizations with FedDev Ontario and other federal and regional programming.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21, 23

### **Indigenous Hub**

**Summary:** The Indigenous Hub within FedDev Ontario serves as a cultural sensitivity learning and advisory committee of Indigenous employees and partners focused on Indigenous issues across the Agency. It organizes broader Indigenous-focused training, awareness, and educational events with the aim of improving FedDev Ontario's capacity to support Indigenous economic development.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 15



## **Global Affairs Canada (GAC)**

### **Focus Groups for a New Approach to International Legal Obligations (ILO) Clauses in Governance Agreements and Modern Treaties**

**Summary:** Following a series of Focus Groups with Indigenous representatives, GAC introduced an interim approach to ILO language in governance agreements and Modern Treaties, which is focused on equal collaboration between Indigenous governments and the Government of Canada, and is therefore more in the spirit of reconciliation, and more consistent with the UN Declaration.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 18, 19

### **Partnering for Climate Initiative – Indigenous Component**

**Summary:** As part of Canada's \$5.3 billion climate finance commitment, and in order to leverage the climate action expertise and commitment of organizations in Canada, \$315 million has been allocated to the Partnering for Climate initiative to fund projects that support climate change adaptation. Of this amount, \$15 million will be dedicated to supporting Indigenous peoples in Canada, to partner with Indigenous peoples in developing countries to achieve their climate action objectives.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 29, 39

### **Columbia River Treaty (CRT) Negotiations**

**Summary:** Global Affairs Canada has been leading bilateral negotiations with the United States to modernize the Columbia River Treaty alongside the Province of British Columbia (BC) and the three Indigenous Nations in the BC-portion of the Columbia River Basin: the Ktunaxa, the Syilx Okanagan and the Secwepmec Nations.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 9-15, 16, 25, 31, 26-30, 32

### **Global Arctic Leadership Initiative (GALI)**

**Summary:** GALI is part of the implementation of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF) which was developed in consultation with the three Canada-based Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council – Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, and Inuit Circumpolar Council. These three organizations were consulted to identify funding and activity parameters to ensure that they could effectively represent their interests at the Arctic Council and other international decision-making fora.



**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 5, 18, 38, 39

## **Health Canada (HC)**

### **Dental Care**

**Summary:** As part of its outreach and engagement activities, the Dental Care Taskforce at Health Canada focused on providing information to Indigenous organizations on the interim Canada Dental Benefit, with an aim to promote awareness of the Benefit in Indigenous communities. Approximately 50 Indigenous organizations were invited to attend a stakeholder information session hosted by Health Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency regarding the interim Canada Dental Benefit.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21, 23, 24

### **Addressing Racism and Discrimination in Canada's Health Systems Program**

**Summary:** In response to high-profile racist incidents in Canada's health systems, particularly the death of Joyce Echaquan, Health Canada established the Addressing Racism and Discrimination in Canada's Health Systems Program. An open Call for Proposals was launched in April 2022, targeting proposals addressing anti-Indigenous racism, with priority given to projects that aim to develop and implement cultural safety training, curriculum and/or accreditation requirements, and projects that aim to integrate culturally safe care into acute care settings and traditional approaches to health.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21, 24

### ***Cannabis Act* Implementation and Related Policies**

**Summary:** An Expert Panel appointed by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions is leading the Legislative Review of the *Cannabis Act* which is studying the impact of the Act on Indigenous peoples and communities, and will be providing independent, expert advice to both Ministers on areas of the legislative framework, or its implementation, that the Government could prioritize for improvement or reform.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21, 24



## **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and Palliative Care**

**Summary:** As part of the work to review the provisions of Canada's MAID law and its application, Health Canada, in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations, started identifying distinctions-based priorities toward a broad engagement on end-of-life care at the federal level.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21, 24

## **Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)**

### **Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions**

**Summary:** The Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions was published September 26, 2022. The purpose of the framework is to support the consistent application of provisions dealing with Indigenous Knowledge in the Impact Assessment Act (IAA), the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, the Canadian Navigable Waters Act and the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the Fisheries Act.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 31(1), 31(2), 43

### **Seeking Free, Prior and Informed Consent in Impact Assessment – Example of the Marathon Palladium Project**

**Summary:** The Marathon Palladium Project (the Project) is a proposed palladium mine located along the shores of the Biigtig Zibi (Pic River) nine kilometres north of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg's reserve. Biigtigong Nishnaabeg indicated its support for the Project through a community ratification process held in November 2022. In this vote, a majority of community members supported the Project, the Community Benefit Agreement that had been negotiated with the proponent, as well as the Crown's accommodation package.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 19, 20, 26, 32

### **Indigenous Capacity Support Program**

**Summary:** The objective of the Indigenous Capacity Support Program is to support and promote the meaningful participation and leadership of Indigenous Peoples in project assessments, regional and strategic assessments and assessment follow-up activities. To support this objective, financial assistance



is provided outside the context of specific project assessments to Indigenous communities or organizations to carry out capacity-building activities.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 5, 18, 19, 26, 32, 34

## **Infrastructure Canada (INFC)**

### **Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy**

**Summary:** Reaching Home funds 37 urban, rural, and regional communities to address Indigenous homelessness off-reserve through the Indigenous Homelessness Stream, with the majority of recipients under this stream being Indigenous organizations. The program also funds National Indigenous Organizations and Modern Treaty holders through the Distinctions-based Approaches Stream. This stream funds co-developed approaches to address the specific needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Program representatives meet regularly with partners under both streams to advance the priorities of Indigenous program recipients.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21, 23

## **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)**

### **Improving First Nations access to safe, clean and reliable drinking water**

**Summary:** ISC continues efforts to advance water and wastewater service transfer and support self-determined service delivery models in First Nations communities. This includes advancing development and introduction, in consultation with First Nations, of new proposed First Nations drinking water and wastewater legislation that includes pathways to protect source water and legally enforceable safe drinking water protections comparable to those in place in provinces and territories.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 5, 10, 18-21, 24-29, 31, 37, 42, 46

### **Implementing an *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families***

**Summary:** ISC continues to implement the co-developed *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families*, which affirms the inherent right of self-government, including jurisdiction in relation to child and family services and sets standards for the care and protection of Indigenous children to reduce the number of children in care. As of March 2023, ten Indigenous laws on child and family services have been passed, and six coordination agreements and one bilateral agreement have



been signed to address coordination and delivery of emergency services and establish fiscal agreement amongst other discussions.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** Articles 4, 5, 7, 18, 31

## **Advancing Regional Education Agreements**

**Summary:** ISC continues to support self-determination and transfer of responsibility for education services to First Nations partners, recognizing that First Nations operate most First Nations schools. Nine regional education agreements have been signed with First Nations, with over 50 discussions with First Nations and First Nations education organizations to advance new regional education agreements. These agreements address comprehensive funding arrangements, roles and responsibilities as determined by First Nations, mutual accountabilities mechanisms and ensuring quality education is provided to First Nations students.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** Articles 4, 5, 14, 18, 21, 23

## **Community Development Wrap-Around Initiative**

**Summary :** ISC has created the Community Development Wrap-Around Initiative (CDWAI), which provides holistic wrap-around support to 22 participating First Nation communities over 5 years (2022-2027). The initiative involves a community-led and driven approach that prioritizes community development priorities by shifting the focus on each community's unique vision and needs for community development implementation.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** Articles 3, 4, 5, 18, 21, 23, 32

## **Library and Archives Canada (LAC)**

### **Listen, Hear Our Voices**

**Summary:** Listen, Hear Our Voices provides funding and support to Indigenous nations, governments and non-profit organizations in digitizing existing documentary heritage related to Indigenous languages and cultures, and building the skills, knowledge and resources to do this work in their communities. The applications are reviewed with advice and guidance from an external committee of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation experts.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 13



## **We Are Here, Sharing Stories**

**Summary:** We Are Here, Sharing Stories is an initiative to digitize and describe hundreds of thousands of Indigenous-related collection items in Library and Archives Canada's holdings (i.e., textual material, photographs, artwork, maps, publications etc.). The initiative's objective is to make the content accessible to everyone through LAC's website, social media and other online tools.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 13

## **Nations to Nations: Indigenous Voices at Library and Archives Canada e-book**

**Summary:** In 2022, LAC launched a free multimedia e-book, which features 28 essays and over 140 images. This e-book provides unique perspectives of First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, and it shows the diversity of the histories, languages and cultures of Indigenous peoples.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 13

## **Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)**

### **National Benefits-Sharing Framework**

**Summary:** The objective of the National Benefits-Sharing Framework is to improve the quality and consistency of benefits that Indigenous communities derive from natural resource projects in their territories. Budget 2023 provided \$8.7 million for NRCan to conduct deeper engagement with Indigenous partners, including Indigenous rights-holders, towards the development of this Framework, and to use these engagements to explore additional federal supports to increase access to capital for Indigenous groups to invest in natural resource projects.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 20, 21, 25, 26

### **Wah-ila-toos – Clean Energy in Indigenous, Rural, and Remote Communities**

**Summary:** Wah-ila-toos is a collaboration between multiple federal departments to deliver funding for clean energy projects (i.e. NRCan, CIRNAC, ISC, ECCC, and INFC), to support the transition from diesel reliance to sustainable clean energy options in Indigenous, rural, and remote communities. As part of the initiative, an Indigenous Council was established to centre and elevate Indigenous voices providing strategic guidance and direction on policy, program design and delivery, as well as recommendations on an engagement strategy and implementation of Indigenous Climate Leadership.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 18, 19, 21, 23, 29, 32



## **2 Billion Trees Program: Indigenous Funding Stream**

**Summary:** As a part of Natural Resources Canada’s 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program, \$500 million has been allocated to support Indigenous-led efforts to plant 180 million trees, increase forest cover and support Indigenous communities in their environmental stewardship goals. The Indigenous Funding Stream will be the first NRCan program to deploy a distinctions-based approach which would allocate funding to First Nations, Inuit and Métis, along with a dedicated stream for unaffiliated or cross-distinction applicants. This distinctions-based approach is the result of co-development on an inclusive governance approach and will ensure that the unique rights and interests of all Indigenous groups continue to be acknowledged and prioritized for the remainder of the 2BT program.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 23, 29(1), 39

## **Indigenous Natural Resources Partnership (INRP) Program**

**Summary:** The INRP program is NRCan’s flagship program that delivers on the federal government’s commitment to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by increasing the economic participation of Indigenous communities and organizations in the development of natural resource projects that support the transition to a clean energy future. The INRP program supports early to late-stage economic participation in projects to enable Indigenous communities to make informed decisions and develop innovative initiatives for emerging priorities.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 2, 32

## **Parks Canada (PC)**

### **Land transfer to Métis Nation – Saskatchewan from Batoche National Historic Site**

**Summary:** On July 22, 2022, Parks Canada transferred approximately 690 hectares of land situated on the west side of the Batoche National Historic Site to the citizens of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. Parks Canada has long worked with Métis at Batoche National Historic Site and this transfer of land and commitment to the collaborative management of the national historic site marks a significant step in the ongoing relationship and a recognition by PC of the deep cultural, spiritual, and historic significance of this land.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 26





## **Engagement with Indigenous peoples on access to the collection of artifacts under the care of Parks Canada**

**Summary:** The collection managed by Parks Canada is composed of approximately 31 million objects, including objects and artifacts of great significance to Indigenous communities. Consolidation into a purpose-built facility has been determined to be the most sustainable way to care for and manage the collection, but Parks Canada continues to seek opportunities to facilitate access to these objects, and to discuss options to further involve Indigenous peoples in the stewardship of the collection. Parks Canada has led 127 proactive engagement and consultation sessions with 55 Indigenous communities, to date, including 32 communities in 2022-23.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 11, 12, 13

## **Stories of Canada Program and the Métis Reconciliation Fund**

**Summary:** Through the Stories of Canada Program and the Métis Reconciliation Fund, Parks Canada is investing in new collaborative opportunities that support Indigenous communities in sharing and communicating their histories and cultures in their own ways and in their own voices. Funding supports place-based approaches to building relationships and formalizing working partnerships that respect the unique cultures, rights and responsibilities of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 13, 31

## **Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan)**

### **Supporting the Inclusive Growth Priority**

**Summary:** PrairiesCan is developing a roadmap to improve economic inclusion of Indigenous peoples across the Prairies. The plan includes examining measures and initiatives across different work streams such as program accessibility, communications, and engagement and training. Additionally, PrairiesCan advanced a project through the Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI) – a program that coordinates efforts and funding of 19 collaborating federal departments, to support Indigenous participation in economic opportunities.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 21



## **Public Safety Canada (PS)**

### **Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative (ACSPI)**

**Summary:** The Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative (ACSPI) works to prevent incidents of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), provides a means to enhance accessibility to Restorative Justice programming and responds to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 1-5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 46

### **Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative (ICCI)**

**Summary:** The Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative (ICCI) supports alternatives to custody and reintegration projects responsive to the unique circumstances of Indigenous people in Canada. ICCI projects provide culturally relevant services that may include counselling, treatment, life skills coaching, family reunification, and addressing the effects of residential schools and involvement with child welfare systems.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 1-5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 46

### **Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism**

**Summary:** The Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism aims to support rehabilitation and safer communities (including through culturally appropriate interventions), and collaborate with stakeholders to provide tailored supports for community reintegration. PS officials are engaging with Indigenous organizations and partners to better understand their priorities on how to reduce the barriers to community reintegration.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 1-5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 46

### **Firearms Initiatives**

**Summary:** To develop and implement firearms legislations and related initiatives, PS will continue to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and partners to inform federal firearms legislation



that is consistent with the UN Declaration, and to identify potential unintended impacts to section 35 rights related to the implementation of legislation and associated programs.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 37, 38

## **Transport Canada (TC)**

### **Oceans Protection Plan**

**Summary:** The Oceans Protection Plan, was first announced in 2016 and renewed in 2022, continues to take action to achieve the objectives of the Declaration and aims to preserve and restore marine ecosystems vulnerable to increased marine shipping and development. Under the OPP, \$300 million was announced to support 10 initiatives to ensure Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities play a more meaningful role in emergency response and waterway management, partner in decision-making, and receive training in marine safety, search and rescue missions, environmental monitoring, and emergency spill response.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 18, 19, 21, 23, 31, 32, 35, 39

## **Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS)**

### **Access to Information Review Report to Parliament (2022)**

**Summary:** This report represents the legislated review of the Access to Information Act (ATIA). It was informed by an open, accessible, and inclusive engagement process with feedback from Canadians, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, experts, access to information advocates, provincial and territorial governments, and federal Information and Privacy Commissioners—all of whom helped shape the next steps.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 34

### **Indigenous-Specific What We Heard Report (2022)**

**Summary:** The Indigenous-specific What We Heard Report presents a summary of the feedback received from Indigenous peoples, organizations and governments during the Bill C-58 consultations and the Access to Information (ATI) Review.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 34



## **Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) - Economic Development and Procurement Working Group**

**Summary:** A working group established under the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee's (ICPC), economic development and procurement priority area. TBS supports PSPC and ISC in the implementation of this priority area, which aims to support greater Inuit participation in the economy, including federal procurement process.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 3, 4, 5, 20, 21

## **Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)**

### **Launch of the 2SLGBTQI+ Federal Action Plan**

**Summary:** In August 2022, WAGE released the Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan with a key pillar dedicated to supporting Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ vibrancy and resurgence. Subsequently, WAGE launched a Call for Proposals for the 2SLGBTQI+ Community Capacity Fund, which prioritizes organizations serving communities experiencing additional marginalization, including Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 2, 31, 34

### **Endorsement of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and funding to bolster the capacity of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations**

**Summary:** The National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (NAP to End GBV) sets a framework for anyone facing GBV to have reliable and timely access to protection and services, no matter where they live in Canada. Prior to the endorsement of the NAP to End GBV, Budget 2021 provided \$55 million over five years to bolster the capacity of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations to provide GBV prevention programming aimed at addressing the root causes of violence. A Call for Proposals was launched in early 2022, and implementation of funded projects began in fall 2022.

**UN Declaration alignment (relevant Articles):** 22