



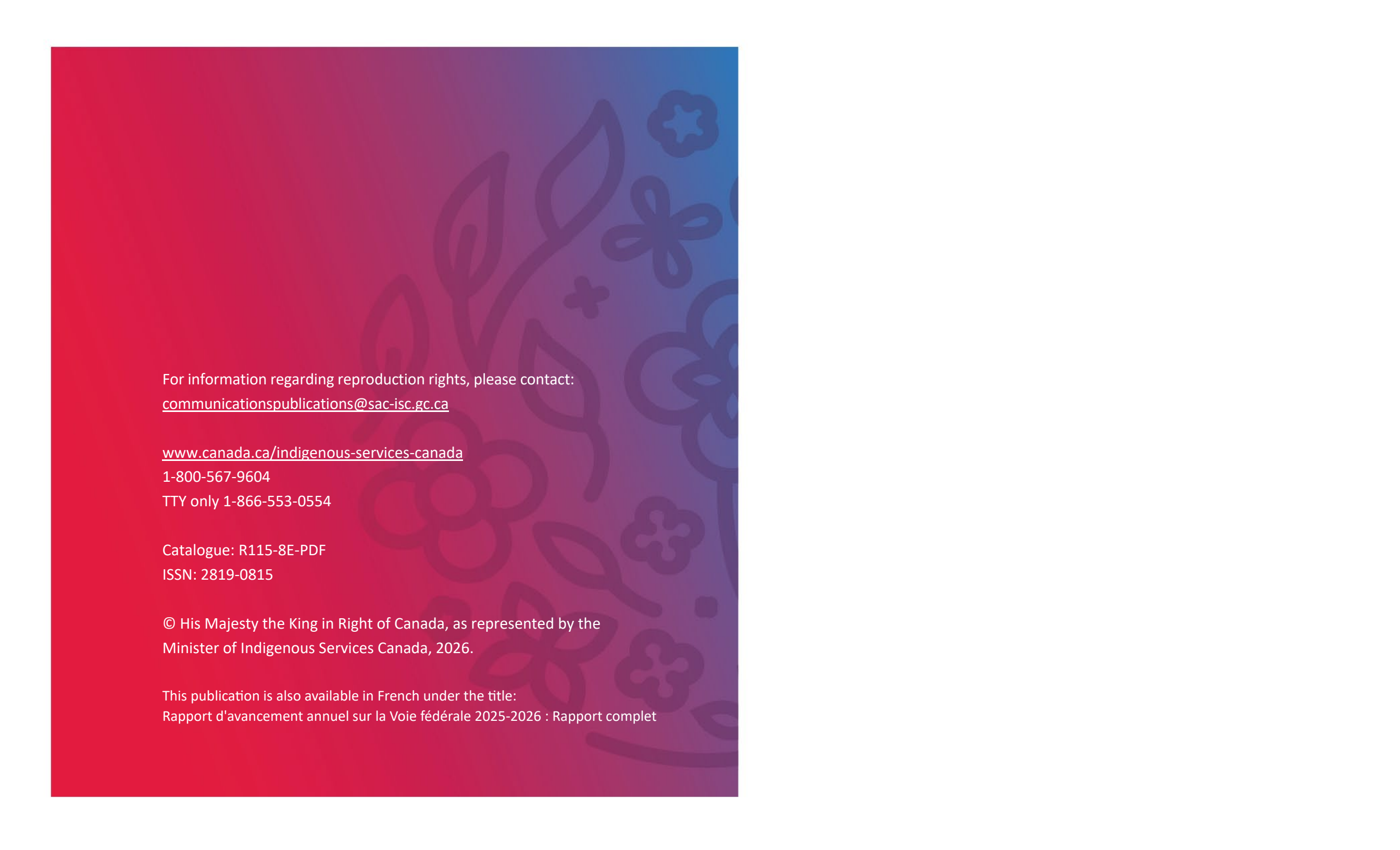
2025-2026 Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report: Complete Report



Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et Affaires du Nord Canada

Canada



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Minister's message

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the [2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People](#). This report highlights the important progress that Canada's new government has made over the past year to address this crisis.

Survivors and the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people remain at the heart of this work. It is their courage and determination that have and will continue to shape the government's response to the 231 Calls for Justice.

Over the past year, significant progress has been made to advance the Calls for Justice and improve outcomes for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. Through 174 initiatives led by 29 federal departments and agencies, we've made progress on 163 Calls for Justice. We partnered with 38 urban Indigenous organizations to expand culturally safe registration services to 65 service points, helping more people access essential services and benefits. Support was also provided to 33 projects through the Supporting Indigenous Women's and 2SLGBTQI+ Organizations program, strengthening Indigenous-led participation in decision-making. Investments were also made in new Indigenous-led shelters and transition homes. In total, the government of Canada funded the construction and operation of 80 facilities, including 38 shelters and 42 transition homes for a combined total of 1,287 beds.

At the same time, the government also supported Indigenous storytelling initiatives, community justice programs, and cultural safety and anti-racism training in medical education. Further, this past year, more than 8,200 Indigenous households gained access to high-speed internet, a critical step in promoting safety and connectivity. Finally, we also supported 211 Indigenous-led community justice programs with funding to deliver culturally relevant justice services.

However, we recognize that we cannot end this national crisis through one plan, individual or institution alone. Real, lasting solutions require a collective commitment to learning, listening, and collaboration.

To that end, as we look to the year ahead, we will work across all orders of government, institutions, organizations, and communities to continue making progress and build a stronger, safer future for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

The Honourable Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

2025-2026 Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report: Main Report

Introduction

Seven years have passed since the release of the National Inquiry's Final Report [Reclaiming Power and Place](#) in 2019, which included 231 [Calls for Justice](#) to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and Asexual (2SLGBTQQA+) people.

Since its release, Indigenous survivors, along with their families and communities, have continued to call for urgent, sustained action grounded in rights, safety, and accountability. Partners have been clear that the Calls for Justice set out a comprehensive roadmap for all levels of government (federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, Indigenous), civil organization and actors, and all Canadians to prevent violence, address root causes, and to ensure governments are held responsible for measurable progress.

As reflected in the report that follows, the implementation of the Federal Pathway and Calls for Justice align with the Government of Canada's seven mission priorities including bringing down costs and food security; improving access to housing; keeping Canadians safe with justice and police service actions; and building one Canadian economy while safeguarding vulnerable populations. The annual report highlights federal actions that advance reconciliation and strengthen partnerships with Indigenous Peoples through the implementation of Calls for Justice that affirm Indigenous rights, self-determination, support cultural continuity, enable Indigenous-led solutions, and work with Indigenous Peoples in the design, delivery, and monitoring of responses. Finally, the Government's commitment to achieve measurable results for Canadians is also reflected in the ongoing work to report on federal efforts to implement the Calls for Justice in a manner that is transparent, sustains accountability, takes a whole-of-government approach to improve safety, uphold rights, and address the root causes of violence.

The federal pathway

June 3, 2026 is the 5th anniversary of the publication of the [Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQA+ People](#). This was the Government of Canada's contribution to the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ People National Action Plan](#). The federal pathway acknowledged the government's receipt of and respect for the findings of the National Inquiry and outlined the federal government's commitments to end violence against Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQQA+ people.

The federal pathway committed the Government of Canada to a series of initiatives and objectives across the four interconnected thematic areas of:

- culture
- health and wellness
- human safety and security
- justice

These themes reflect both the structural roots of violence and the transformational pathways toward dignity, safety, and self-determination.

The federal pathway also affirmed Canada's intent and commitment to work directly with Indigenous partners to develop an implementation plan that supports the adoption of the detailed commitments within the federal pathway. Canada also committed to preparing this annual progress report to monitor the implementation of the federal pathway and provide an overview of implementation actions taken during each fiscal year.

The Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report provides qualitative and quantitative reporting on the evergreen, expanding work of the federal government on the Calls for Justice. This report works to provide an account of federal actions underway and identify where more progress and additional attention is required.

The federal government recognizes the central role families, survivors and Indigenous partners for any work to be meaningful. At the 2026 Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people, participants noted that the Inquiry's Final Report was released almost seven years ago and called for full implementation of each and every one of the 231 Calls for Justice. Others shared their frustration, that while families were promised transformation and communities were promised safety, many continue to experience delay, fragmentation and a lack of accountability. They pointed to the Calls for Justice being clear and recommendations and reports written, yet families continue their grieving and communities continue to do their best to respond to violence with limited resources. Others shared that Calls for Justice are meant to be implemented, not sitting in reports, remarking that the consequences of delayed action is unfortunately measured in lives.

The 5th Annual Progress Report offers an account of progress made by the federal government on the implementation of the federal pathway and the Calls for Justice between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. This year, 174 initiatives across 29 federal departments and agencies report actively advancing 163 Calls for Justice.

This report is offered with an acknowledgment that, while progress towards the implementation of the Calls for Justice is underway, more must be done to uphold the immediate safety, dignity, and rights of families, survivors, and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. The federal government continues to do the work to cultivate the long-term, transformative, and systemic changes required to end the asymmetries of power that allow for continued violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Main report

The main narrative of the report identifies some of the federal progress being made across the Calls for Justice, following the order of the calls:

- human and Indigenous rights
- culture
- health and wellness
- human security
- justice
- health and wellness service providers

- police services
- social services and child welfare
- extractive and development industries
- correctional services

Federal progress on the distinctions-based Calls for Justice are reported in the distinctions-based highlight reports.

Human and Indigenous rights

Calls for Justice 1.1 to 1.11 set out a rights-based expectation that Canada take concrete, sustained action to uphold and protect the human and Indigenous rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, recognizing that rights violations and lack of accountability are root causes of violence and impunity.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 1.1 to 1.11

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 1.1 to 1.11 include investments and measures that result in progress in four key areas:

1. whole-of-government coordination, engagement, and reporting
2. rights alignment, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA)-related consultation, cooperation, and implementation, and Indigenous partner participation
3. removal of jurisdictional and administrative barriers that deny access to services
4. prioritization of violence prevention, culturally safe systems, and community capacity.

In 2025–2026, the MMIWG Secretariat continued to play an important role bringing federal departments together to coordinate action on Calls for Justice and support the development of this annual report. It also supported community initiatives that expand culturally safe access to supports and services for families, survivors, and Indigenous communities.

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025-2026

Whole-of-government coordination, engagement, and reporting (Call for Justice 1.1)

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) invested \$16.6 million over 6 years to support CIRNAC's central coordination function. This investment supported

- continued engagement through the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group
- coordination of the fourth annual National Indigenous–Federal–Provincial–Territorial Meeting on MMIWG2S+

- engagement with the National Family and Survivors Circle Inc.
- leadership and coordination of the [Indigenous-led Data Research Projects Program](#) and the [Support for the Wellbeing of Families and Survivors of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People Contribution Program](#)

Rights alignment, UNDA-related consultation, cooperation and implementation, and Indigenous partner participation (Calls for Justice 1.2, 1.3)

Justice Canada continued working in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples on [Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(UNDA\)](#) and to support ongoing efforts to bringing federal laws into alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. In 2025-2026, \$7 million in funding was allocated to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and organizations, as well as urban Indigenous organizations and groups representing Indigenous women, youth, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, and 197 meetings were held with 63 distinct Indigenous partners. Funding supported ongoing engagement focused on Indigenous partners' participation in the implementation of UNDA, monitoring of progress and ensuring opportunities for periodic renewal and co-development of new priorities.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has continued to [implement *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*](#), supporting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis groups, communities and peoples as they develop and implement their own laws and systems for delivering culturally-grounded child and family services. In 2025-2026, ISC continued to support implementation of the Act through the provision of capacity-building funding, coordination agreement discussions with First Nations, and financial resources for the implementation of Indigenous laws. As of March 31, 2026, ISC had supported jurisdictional development activities and preparations for coordination agreement discussions through 690 projects from 321 Indigenous recipients.

In December 2025, ISC published the [2024 Annual Report on Registration under the *Indian Act*, First Nations Membership and Status Cards](#) highlighting continued efforts to reform registration processes and ensure full implementation of a suite of legislative amendments removing sex-based inequities from the registration provisions of the *Indian Act*. In 2025-2026, ISC continued to lead the [Collaborative Process on the Second Generation Cut-Off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds](#), with the aim of addressing longstanding discriminatory provisions in registration and membership under the *Indian Act*.

Removing denial-of-service barriers and addressing jurisdictional and administrative gaps (Call for Justice 1.6)

Justice Canada's Administration of Justice Agreements continued to reduce jurisdictional gaps by creating pathways for Indigenous governments to exercise administration of justice authority in ways that are culturally grounded and responsive to community safety needs, including the needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. This initiative was supported by \$1.7 million in 2025–2026.

Justice Canada's [Family Information Liaison Units](#) initiative remained a critical element of the federal government's response to the crisis of MMIWG2S+ people. For many family members, accessing information about their missing or murdered loved one has been difficult, given a variety of interconnected, systemic and structural barriers. Many families continue to have questions about police investigation or the decisions made by government agencies and criminal justice professionals, and may not know where to turn to get answers or may not be satisfied with the answers they have received. Working within provincial and territorial victim services frameworks, Family Information Liaison Units have served as "one-stop" information and support hubs that offer culturally safe services for families, wherever they are and for as long as they are needed. In 2025–2026, almost \$7.4 million was committed for these provincial and territorial units' delivery, within a broader funding commitment of \$37.3 million over 5 years and \$7.5 million annually ongoing.

As part of ISC's efforts to address administrative gaps and barriers to access services related to registration under the *Indian Act*, the [Trusted Source program](#) invested in 38 partnerships with urban Indigenous organizations to provide expanded and culturally safe registration services across 65 service points. These partnerships support urban individuals' service needs and overcome some of the barriers that can prevent access to the essential services and benefits tied to registration.

Violence prevention, culturally safe systems, and funding Indigenous community capacity (Calls for Justice 1.8, 1.9)

ISC's [Family Violence Prevention Program](#) continued to advance community-based violence prevention by funding Indigenous-led shelters, transitional housing, awareness activities, workshops, support groups, and culturally grounded prevention programming across First Nations, Inuit, Métis, urban Indigenous, and 2SLGBTQI+ communities. As of March 2026, the Family Violence Prevention Program has spent a total of \$96.6 million in 2025-2026. This includes \$56.1 million to support shelter operations, \$700,000 to support shelter project development, and \$39.8 million to programs and services for Indigenous people facing gender-based violence. These investments provide sustained support for Indigenous communities to deliver practical, culturally relevant prevention and healing initiatives.

Justice Canada's [Indigenous Courtwork Program](#) provided funding to help prevent further family disruption by supporting culturally competent justice system navigation, advocacy, and referrals to community-based supports for Indigenous families involved in family and child protection matters. In 2025–2026, \$3 million was available to support the development and delivery of these services, by Indigenous service providers across participating jurisdictions. This funding strengthens early intervention and helps families access more culturally relevant and stable pathways through the justice system.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's [Preventing and Addressing Family Violence program](#) advanced public education and violence prevention by funding projects that develop, deliver and test health promotion projects, including Indigenous-focused interventions that equip children, youth, families, and service providers with practical tools to recognize violence, build safe relationships, and disrupt potential risk factors before they escalate. The Public Health Agency of Canada invested over \$15 million in 2025-2026 to support family violence prevention, including support for Indigenous-focused projects. Together, these initiatives promote resilience, healthy relationships, and cultural connection. For example, the Public Health Agency of Canada is contributing \$601,959 over 4 years (2024 to 2029) to support the Infinity Women Secretariat to explore and promote the use of Red River Métis culture in building healthy relationships among youth. The Public Health Agency of Canada is also contributing \$1.66 million over 5 years (2024 to 2029) to Ilitaqsiniq to deliver family strengthening programs across Nunavut to prevent child maltreatment. The knowledge generated from these projects can inform future policy and public education efforts.

CIRNAC's [Supporting Indigenous Women's and 2SLGBTQI+ Organizations program](#) invested \$7,578,803 in 33 active projects to support organizations so they could improve governance capabilities, undertake community engagement with Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people, support Indigenous women leadership training and organizational leadership development, and culturally relevant prevention-related work.

This funding helps organizations plan over the longer term, retain expertise, and continue community-informed work that supports, safety, participation, and systemic change.

Culture

Calls for Justice 2.1 to 2.7 set out a rights-based expectation that the Government of Canada take concrete, sustained action to protect and advance Indigenous cultures and languages, recognizing that cultural suppression and language loss are drivers of the MMIWG2S+ crisis.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 2.1 to 2.27

Federal efforts include investments that result in progress in four key areas:

1. Indigenous-led media, broadcasting, storytelling and narrative change
2. revitalization and access to languages
3. cultural heritage, records, repatriation, digitization and community-governed access;
4. rights alignment, anti-racism, and cultural safety in systems

These efforts include new and ongoing distinctions-based investments, targeted agreements, and concrete measures that improve access to language, cultural knowledge, and Indigenous-led representation.

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025-2026

Indigenous-led media, broadcasting, storytelling and narrative change (Calls for Justice 2.3, 2.7)

Canadian Heritage invested \$940,000 through the Canada Media Fund's [Changing Narratives Fund](#) in 2025–2026, with \$457,722 (49%) supported three Indigenous projects. These projects included mentorship and training cohorts for Indigenous women and technical training in immersive and virtual production. One project supported five Indigenous women writers and producers while another supported 29 Indigenous creators.

Funding agreements were put in place to implement Changing Narratives in local journalism and in the Canada Periodical Fund, launched April 1, 2025. In addition, Canadian Heritage's [Indigenous Screen Office](#) Program continued to serve its mandate to foster narrative sovereignty and cultural revitalization by increasing Indigenous storytelling on screens and distributed \$11.9 million to 222 projects. Canadian Heritage's [Northern Aboriginal Broadcasting – Indigenous Languages Program](#) invested \$7.9 million to 22 recipients and almost half of the supported programming was produced and broadcast in Indigenous languages, supporting community access to language and cultural content across northern and remote contexts.

Revitalization and access to languages (Calls for Justice 2.2, 2.3)

Canadian Heritage continued to support the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, notably through its [Indigenous Languages Program](#) which supports communities and organizations in reclaiming, revitalizing, maintaining and strengthening Indigenous languages. In 2025-2026, the program continued year three of distinctions-based funding models, allocating approximately:

- \$46.9 million to First Nations Regionally Designated Organizations and the Cree Nation Government (within five-year agreements totaling approximately \$230 million)
- \$17.1 million to Inuit land-claim organizations (within five-year agreements totaling \$92.1 million)

- \$11.4 million to Métis Nation partners (within five-year agreements totaling \$61.4 million)
- \$6.1 million to multi-distinction and urban language initiatives through single- and multi-year agreements.

In 2025-2026, the federal government invested \$3.5 billion in ISC's [Elementary and Secondary Education Program](#), which funded 541 First Nations-administered education programs across Canada, supporting approximately 120,500 students ordinarily resident on-reserve to attend schools both on reserve and off reserve. The program provides, at a minimum, funding that is based on provincial funding formula methodologies, plus additional investments to address First Nations' unique circumstances, including funding for language and culture programming, full-day kindergarten for children aged four and five, before- and after-school programming, school food programming, and adult education. The program also supported First Nations in pursuing Regional Education Agreements as a key mechanism to advance self-determination and improve educational outcomes, resulting in the collective support of over 30,000 elementary and secondary students ordinarily resident on reserve across six provinces. As a result of this program, 94% of students in First Nations-administered schools received instruction in at least one First Nations language.

In 2025-2026, Employment and Social Development Canada's [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Transformation Initiative](#) delivered distinctions-based funding of \$574.4 million (First Nations), \$57.8 million (Inuit), and \$194.4 million (Métis), under the guidance of approximately 60 Indigenous Early Learning Child Care National and Regional Partnership Tables, or through bilateral arrangements.

This partnership-driven model supports a wide range of community-identified Indigenous early learning and child care priorities including:

- governance and capacity building
- enhancements to programs and services
- infrastructure repairs and renovations
- continued strengthening of legacy programs

The remaining 2025-2026 Indigenous early learning and child care funding is dedicated to the Quality Improvement Projects fund that finances projects that foster innovation and quality improvement in Indigenous early learning and child care. Funding is also provided through the three Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare Legacy funding streams. In 2025-2026, \$42 million was dedicated to the Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve program, \$29 million to the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities program, and \$55 million to the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative.

Cultural heritage, records, repatriation, digitization and community-governed access (Calls for Justice 2.4, 2.5)

Canadian Heritage's [Museums Assistance Program – Indigenous Heritage Component](#) provided targeted support to Indigenous communities and organizations for preserving, presenting, and promoting Indigenous cultural heritage in museums and cultural institutions. Investments supported activities including developing Indigenous-led exhibits, research, educational programming and revitalizing cultural practices, that ensure Indigenous voices lead the interpretation of their own histories. In 2025-2026, the program supported 10 new

repatriation-related projects totaling \$819,080 and provided over \$2.7 million to 44 Indigenous recipients across distinctions (including First Nations, Inuit, Métis, urban Indigenous, and multi-distinction organizations).

Rights alignment, anti-racism, and cultural safety in systems (Call for Justice 2.6)

Canadian Heritage continued to support the implementation of [Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028](#), to drive action in employment, justice and law enforcement, housing, healthcare and immigration systems. It also continued to support Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate, which addresses hate from multiple angles by supporting victims and survivors, helping communities prevent and respond to hate, strengthening research and data collection, increasing law enforcement resources, and raising public awareness. The federal government invested \$273.6 million over six years (starting in 2024) for Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate, with an additional \$29.3 million annually; \$25.4 million over five years (starting in 2023) to the Anti-Racism Strategy; and \$85 million over four years (starting in 2022) to the Action Plan and the Strategy.

Health and wellness

Calls for Justice 3.1 to 3.7 set out a rights-based expectation that Canada take concrete, sustained action to ensure Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people can access equitable, culturally safe, Indigenous-centered health and wellness supports, recognizing that unmet health needs, trauma, and systemic barriers can increase vulnerability to violence and preventable harm.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 3.1 to 3.7

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 3.1 to 3.7 include investments that result in progress across three key areas:

1. culturally safe access to health care and anti-Indigenous racism measures in health systems
2. trauma-informed mental wellness and crisis supports
3. determinants of health, including housing, food security, and early learning

Progress includes the scale and continuity of distinctions-based investments, numbers of community-based supports and workers funded, availability of 24/7 crisis supports, numbers of projects supported, and tangible service and infrastructure outputs (for example, shelters and transitional homes funded, and community-level program reach).

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025-2026

Culturally safe access to health care and anti-Indigenous racism measures (Calls for Justice 3.1, 3.2, 3.6)

ISC continued leading the work to eliminate [Anti-Indigenous Racism in Canada's Health Systems](#) and advance violence prevention through Indigenous-led, community-informed health programming that improves cultural safety, strengthens patient advocacy and navigation, and expands Indigenous midwifery and birth support services.

In 2025–2026, funding included:

- \$10.5 million for health system navigators
- \$2.8 million for patient advocates
- \$12.35 million for midwives, doula and birth support workers
- \$1.95 million for the Indigenous Women's Advisory Committee
- \$900,000 for Indigenous health organizations

These investments help reduce harm in health systems and improve access to safer, culturally appropriate care for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Health Canada's [Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund](#) invested \$81 million to date, with an additional \$10 million annually (2025–2026 to 2027–28) and \$20 million per year ongoing. In 2025–2026, the fund allocated \$12.6 million to 24 new projects in Quebec and \$1.7 million was allocated to an additional six projects, all working to improve culturally relevant sexual and reproductive health information, navigation, and provider tools for Indigenous and 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

Health Canada's [Emergency Treatment Fund](#) is supported by \$150 million over three years (starting 2024–2025) and investments have expanded rapid responses to emergent needs in the substance use and overdose crisis. In 2025–2026, the Fund provided 50 Indigenous-focused projects with over \$32 million in funding. The total number of Indigenous-focused projects that have received funding as of March 31, 2026, is 63 projects worth over \$43 million.

Health Canada's [Substance Use and Addictions Program](#) supported 19 Indigenous-focused and/or led projects, representing over \$8 million in investments. In addition, broader federal investments include \$144 million for the renewed [Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy](#), with cumulative (2017–2026) Substance Use and Addictions Program investments of over \$761.4 million to more than 470 projects.

Trauma-informed mental wellness and crisis supports (Calls for Justice 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)

ISC's [Mental Wellness Program](#) continued to support access to mental health and wellness supports. Service delivery includes a national network of an estimated 1,000 community-based Cultural and Emotional Support Workers through over 265 funding agreements, and 24/7 crisis line services, including the Hope for Wellness Helpline and crisis lines for Survivors and families impacted by the MMIWG2S+ crisis and Indian Residential Schools and Day Schools and other colonial sources of trauma.

Canadian Heritage's [Stream Three — Sport for Social Development in Indigenous Communities](#) invested \$2.5 million to 42 projects, included a number of funded projects that explicitly include safe, inclusive programming for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people and incorporate culturally grounded wellness activities. For instance, \$40,000 supported the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan's Coaches Mentorship Program and its associated Female and Gender Diverse Camps, and \$60,000 supported Minwaashin Lodge: Indigenous Women's Support Centre's land-based healing and cultural empowerment program.

Justice Canada's [Community Support and Healing for Families initiative](#) invested \$20 million over five years (starting in 2023), with \$4.15 million annually, to sustain and expand the initiative to increase the availability of community-based supports and services for families of all missing and murdered Indigenous people, including men and boys. In 2025–2026, \$4.4 million supported 27 Indigenous-led projects across regions, and as well as the launch of a Community of Practice intended to strengthen shared learning across projects.

Determinants of health, including food security, housing, and early learning (Call for Justice 3.1)

CIRNAC's [Harvesters Support Grant and Community Food Programs Fund](#) is supported by a \$120.7 million commitment over three years (2024–2027), including \$8 million in permanent annual support. Outcomes include support to more than 15,000 harvesters, over 700 food-sharing initiatives, and 400 community hunts and harvests across 112 remote communities, in partnership with 24 Indigenous governments and organizations.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada continued to support the Local Food Infrastructure Fund's Indigenous-led food production, harvesting, storage, and distribution projects that improve access to nutritious and culturally relevant food. To date in 2025–2026, the Local Food Infrastructure Fund approved \$30.4 million over two years to 237 projects, including approximately \$18.7 million for 118 Indigenous projects.

As part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy and the National Housing Strategy, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation supports the construction of new shelters and transitional housing through the [Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative](#). This initiative allocated \$420 million in program dollars towards the construction of shelters and transitional homes through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. As of March 31, 2026, approximately \$395.97 million has been committed toward the construction of 38 new shelters and 42 transitional homes, and funds had been used to ensure Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQI+ people have access to these essential supports and services.

Employment and Social Development Canada's [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Transformation Initiative](#) delivered distinctions-based funding, with guidance from approximately 60 Indigenous Early Learning Child Care National and Regional Partnership Tables and bilateral relationships. Funding is also provided through the three Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Legacy funding streams. In 2025–2026, legacy investments included \$42 million to the Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve program, \$29 million to the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities program, and \$55 million to the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative.

Human security

Calls for Justice 4.1 to 4.8 set out a rights-based expectation that the Government of Canada take concrete, sustained action to uphold the social and economic rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, recognizing that human insecurity, poverty, inadequate housing and infrastructure, and lack of safe mobility increase vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 4.1 to 4.8

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 4.1 to 4.8 include investments and measures that result in progress in six key areas:

1. housing stability and homelessness system responses in urban and hub communities
2. Indigenous-led shelters, transitional housing, and wraparound supports for people fleeing violence
3. victim services and safety supports that reduce harms and barriers to justice, including for people at heightened risk of exploitation

4. education, training, and employment pathways that strengthen economic security
5. housing construction, repairs, and community infrastructure to reduce overcrowding and housing insecurity
6. safe transportation and essential connectivity for remote and rural communities.

These efforts combine distinctions-based and Indigenous-led service delivery with broader infrastructure and mobility investments that address risk factors linked to violence, trafficking, and housing insecurity. Progress is demonstrated through multi-year funding commitments, the number and reach of Indigenous service delivery organizations supported, measurable service and employment outcomes, and tangible outputs such as upgraded shelter and service spaces, housing repairs and construction, and safer transportation options that reduce reliance on high-risk travel conditions for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025–2026

Housing stability, urban Indigenous service delivery, and homelessness system responses (Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.7)

Launched in 2017, the [National Housing Strategy](#) is a long-term initiative that contributes toward addressing the unique needs of Indigenous peoples through a human rights-based approach to housing and with program investments address barriers (for example, overcrowding and substandard housing) that have historically marginalized Indigenous populations. Through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation-led programs, funding for new construction and repairs has been prioritized for Indigenous communities, in addition to other supports for homeownership assistance, rental subsidies, and energy-efficient housing solutions. Investments as of December 31, 2025, included \$200 million to the Canada Community Housing Initiative to support 7,000 units in the existing urban Indigenous community housing stock to ensure continued availability to low-income households, as well as \$300 million through Northern Funding as part of the \$606.6 million federal-territorial joint investment delivered by Territories under the National Housing Strategy Bilateral Agreements.

Funded by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, the [Action Research on Chronic Homelessness](#) initiative continued to work as a strategic, community-based effort aimed at helping to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness, including Indigenous homelessness. Recognizing that Indigenous Peoples experience homelessness at disproportionately high rates due to historical and systemic marginalization, the Action Research on Chronic Homelessness initiative prioritized collaboration, system alignment, data enhancement and sharing, and culturally appropriate Indigenous supports. In 2025-2026, \$420,774 was committed to support the completion of three projects.

Supporting and resourcing Indigenous-led shelters, transitional housing, and wraparound supports for people fleeing violence (Call for Justice 4.7)

Referenced earlier in relation to Call for Justice 3.1, the [Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative](#), through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and ISC, funded Indigenous-led and culturally relevant emergency shelter and transitional housing. Additional investments are provided by ISC to provide enhanced services and culturally relevant violence prevention services.

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#)'s [Indigenous Homelessness stream](#) and [Distinctions-based Approaches stream](#) received \$111.6 million and \$45.9 million respectively in 2025-2026. Reaching Home provides dedicated funding for culturally appropriate services to prevent and reduce Indigenous homelessness, including addressing critical infrastructure gaps and supporting access to critical economic, social and community integration services that connect individuals and families to income benefits, financial assistance, employment services, education and training programs, as well as to Indigenous Elders, culture and language.

Victim services and safety supports, including for people with lived experience in the sex industry (Call for Justice 4.3)

Justice Canada's [Supporting Indigenous Victims of Crime](#) initiative supported and expanded the development of culturally relevant supports designed and delivered in partnership with those who have lived experience. In 2025–2026, the initiative continued funding in support of 44 projects led or jointly-led by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations, including programs that develop community-based trauma-informed models or promote the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ persons engaged in the sex industry. This work has been supported by an investment of \$38.6 million over five years with \$8 million ongoing, and in 2025–2026, just over \$7.1 million was allocated to support Indigenous-led approaches for victims and survivors of crime.

Education, training, and employment supports to strengthen economic security (Call for Justice 4.4)

ISC's [First Nations Post-Secondary Education Strategy](#) provided \$474.5 million in 2025-2026 to support First Nations students through direct financial assistance for tuition, living expenses, and travel, and to support First Nations-led post-secondary education institutions and First Nations partnerships with institutions, expanding access to community-based culturally relevant programming and enabling more learners to access and succeed in post-secondary education.

Working in parallel, ISC's [Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy](#) allocated approximately \$14.4 million in 2025-2026 to support improved access to post-secondary education for Inuit students through Inuit-led design and regionally delivered supports, including direct financial assistance, wraparound programs and services, as well as community engagement initiatives, all designed to enhance the accessibility of post-secondary education.

Finally, ISC's [Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy](#) provided approximately \$39.8 million in 2025-2026 to enhance access to post-secondary education for Métis Nation students' by addressing financial barriers through direct financial assistance, supporting student services, and strengthening Métis Nation education governance.

ISC's [First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy](#) operated the [First Nations and Inuit Skills Link Program](#) that supported initiatives that help First Nations and Inuit youth acquire essential employability and job-related skills, learn about job and career options and prepare for employment and career development. The First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy also includes the [First Nations and Inuit Summer Work Experience Program](#) and supported initiatives to help First Nations and Inuit youth acquire skills, prepare for full-time employment and earn income to support post-secondary education, through summer work experiences. Combined, the First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy funds 300 recipients and provides over 5,530 opportunities for First Nations and Inuit youth annually.

Housing construction, repairs, and community infrastructure to reduce overcrowding and housing insecurity (Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.6)

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's [Housing Infrastructure Fund](#) recognizes the unique nature of infrastructure and housing needs in Indigenous communities and was designed to support Indigenous applicants through specialized and flexible eligibility requirements. In 2025-2026, over \$52 million was invested in First Nations and Inuit led programs, including:

- the Michipicoten First Nation Water Treatment Plan upgrades
- the Curve Lake First Nation Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System project
- a collaborative land development project in Iqaluit, Nunavut

The fund invested in modernized, expanded, improved critical housing-enabling infrastructure projects that serve the social and economic needs of Indigenous Peoples and their communities through better living conditions, safe drinking water, and essential waste management services.

Safe transportation and mobility for remote and rural communities (Call for Justice 4.8)

Transport Canada's [Remote Passenger Rail Program](#) invested \$13.026 million for Keewatin Railway Company (capital improvements and maintenance), \$17.4 million to Tshiuetin Rail Company (operational and capital supports), and \$25 million to Arctic Gateway Group (Hudson Bay Railway), and supported safe, reliable travel that reduced reliance on high-risk transportation conditions linked to trafficking and violence risk factors.

Justice

Calls for Justice 5.1 to 5.24 set out a rights-based expectation that the Government of Canada take concrete, sustained action to ensure Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people can access safety, protection, and meaningful justice, recognizing that systemic racism and sexism across policing, courts, sentencing, and corrections contribute to violence, impunity, and over-incarceration.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 5.1 to 5.24

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 5.1 to 5.24 include investments and measures that result in progress across eight key areas:

1. Indigenous-led justice systems and systemic reform implementation
2. criminal law reform
3. Indigenous policing governance, resourcing, and operational capacity
4. community safety prevention and community-defined planning
5. victim and survivor access to justice and culturally grounded navigation supports
6. fair process, legal representation, and Indigenous-led community-based justice options
7. Gladue implementation and post-sentence Gladue aftercare
8. data

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025–2026

Indigenous-led justice systems and systemic reform implementation (Call for Justice 5.1)

Justice Canada began a phased approach to early implementation of the [Indigenous Justice Strategy](#), through existing justice-focused collaborative tables, with the objective of advancing priority-setting and developing regional costed implementation plans. The strategy creates space for revitalization of Indigenous laws, legal systems and legal institutions, community-based justice programs, diversion initiatives and restorative approaches that reflect the unique needs of Indigenous people. Justice Canada's role in supporting administration of justice negotiations ensures that community-identified priorities guide the development of legal systems that reflect Indigenous legal orders and traditions.

Criminal law reform (Calls for Justice 1.5, 1.9, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.19)

On December 9, 2025, the Government of Canada introduced significant reforms to Canada's *Criminal Code* and other pieces of legislation through Bill C-16, *Protecting Victims Act*. Bill C-16 proposes changes to enhance victims' rights and strengthen the criminal justice system's response to gender-based violence, in particular intimate partner violence and sexual offending, and offending against children. Proposed reforms include: making murder motivated by hate first-degree, including femicide even where it is not planned and deliberate; criminalizing coercive control; prohibiting the non-consensual distribution of sexually explicit deepfakes; and increasing penalties for the distribution of intimate images without consent, sexual assault on summary conviction, voyeurism, and obtaining sexual services from a child. The reforms proposed in Bill C-16 reflect the government's continued and ongoing commitment to end gender-based violence, including against Indigenous women and girls. Development of the Bill was informed by recommendations from several reports and studies, including the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+, and input from Indigenous partners.

Indigenous policing governance, resourcing, and operational capacity (Call for Justice 5.5)

Public Safety Canada continued work to reform the [First Nations and Inuit Policing Program](#) so that it better reflects the needs of First Nations and Inuit communities. In 2025-2026, the department invested close to \$393 million to support culturally appropriate policing services, through 104 cost-sharing agreements with provinces and territories.

Public Safety Canada also supported policing facilities through the [First Nations and Inuit Policing Facilities Program](#), providing funding for infrastructure builds, acquisitions, repairs and renovations to ensure that Indigenous police services can operate in stable, safe and culturally appropriate facilities. In 2025–2026, \$97,350,000 supported this work, and two new projects received \$8,883,355 in funding and 13 ongoing projects received \$31,633,295 in funding. These projects included two new builds in Alberta for Lakeshore Regional Police Service and Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service. Additionally, one continuing project in Alberta supported a new build for the Blood Tribe Police Service, and twelve other projects across Ontario and Québec are continuing – mainly supporting the construction of new policing infrastructure/detachment.

Community safety prevention and community-defined planning (Calls for Justice 5.5i, 5.5iv)

Public Safety Canada's [Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative](#) supported Indigenous communities to develop Community Safety Plans and implement community-designed safety projects. In 2025-26, this initiative worked with Indigenous communities across Canada to complete safety planning supported by facilitator-guided workshops and knowledge sharing across communities. Of these communities, 11 submitted completed Community Safety Plans within the fiscal year, and 35 processes remain ongoing.

To increase high-speed Internet access and improve cellular coverage in rural and remote communities, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada has been delivering the [Universal Broadband Fund](#), a \$3.225 billion initiative. The program includes specific provisions for Indigenous communities. In 2025–2026, funding was announced for 11

broadband and two mobile projects to improve connectivity in Indigenous communities, bringing high-speed internet to over 6,000 Indigenous households in British Columbia and Saskatchewan and improving mobile coverage along 122 km of highway surrounding Indigenous communities in British Columbia.

Victim and survivor access to justice and culturally grounded navigation supports (Calls for Justice 5.6, 5.11)

As mentioned under Calls for Justice 4.1 to 4.8, Justice Canada advanced the [Supporting Indigenous Victims of Crime](#) Initiative which seeks to increase access to Indigenous-led, culturally safe, survivor-centered services and supports, at the community level, for Indigenous people who are victims and survivors of crime. It also supports activities that strengthen partnerships between Indigenous agencies, justice sector agencies, and all levels of government, to identify and design actions, practices and initiatives within the justice system (including policing, courts, and victim services) to reduce the harm that Indigenous victims and survivors experience when in contact with the system, while also strengthening victims' rights.

As highlighted in the Calls for Justice 3.2 to 3.5 section, Justice Canada expanded support for the Community Support and Healing for Families Initiative, which supports the work of Indigenous community agencies and governments to increase access to community led healing spaces and culturally grounded support networks that help families navigate their grief, loss, and trauma.

As highlighted in the Calls for Justice 1.1 to 1.11 section, Justice Canada's [Family Information Liaison Units](#) initiative remained a critical element of Canada's work to offer support for families and survivors, focused on ensuring that family members have access to all the available information they are seeking about their loved ones, including information from justice sector institutions such as police, prosecutions, coroners, child protection, and correctional services, while ensuring families are connected with culturally grounded supports and community resources to help them on their healing journeys.

Funded through the [Indigenous Courtwork Program](#), Justice Canada provided Indigenous Family Courtwork Services that include culturally competent justice system navigation, early intervention, and advocacy for Indigenous people involved in family and child protection proceedings. In 2025–2026, the program operated in all provinces and territories and reached more than 80,000 clients, and \$3 million was available to support Indigenous families involved in family and/or child protection justice systems.

Fair process, legal representation, and Indigenous-led community-based justice options (Calls for Justice 5.13, 5.16, 5.22)

Justice Canada's [Criminal Legal Aid](#) initiative received investments in 2024 of \$440 million over five years (starting in 2024–2025), in addition to ongoing funding of \$142.4 million per year. Within this allocation, \$90 million was earmarked for 2025–2026 to continue supporting delivery of criminal legal aid services, including for Indigenous Peoples facing systemic barriers and overrepresentation.

Justice Canada's [Indigenous Justice Program](#) provided core funding to over 211 Indigenous-led community justice programs delivering diversion, restorative justice, mediation, and reintegration supports grounded in Indigenous laws and values, including \$26.9 million over five years and \$5.4 million ongoing supporting continuity and capacity for community-based justice services. Some examples of IJP community-based justice programs include:

- the Tsuu'tina Nation in Alberta who provides Peacemaker services to the Tsuu'tina Peacemaker court on-reserve

- the Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network in Nova Scotia that promotes prevention, provides diversion services referred by provincial courts or Indigenous court workers, communities and provide sentencing circles
- the Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society in British Columbia that delivers prevention

Correctional Service Canada launched revitalized Women-Centered Training in July 2025, grounded in the five Creating Choices principles. The updated training reflects a more trauma-informed, gender responsive approach, equipping staff to apply women centred practices in their respective roles while supporting the successful reintegration of federally sentenced women. Training of staff will continue and will include all new staff as they are identified.

Gladue implementation and post-sentence Gladue aftercare (Call for Justice 5.15)

Justice Canada continued funding to support the implementation of Gladue Principles, by providing \$3.5 million annually through the Indigenous Courtwork Program for the community-led development and delivery of Gladue reports in every province and territory. In addition, in 2025–2026, the Indigenous Justice Program continued to fund 48 programs delivering Gladue aftercare services across Canada, supporting clients in meeting sentence conditions and implementing recommendations from Gladue reports.

Indigenous-led and culturally grounded data systems (Call for Justice 5.24)

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada continue to support Indigenous-led research through the [Indigenous-led Data Research Projects Program](#). In 2025-2026, over \$1.5 million was allocated to support 12 existing multi-year projects focused on developing culturally grounded safety indicators and methodologies that reflect Indigenous worldviews. This included \$175,000 in continued funding for a multi-year initiative specifically focused on Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

Statistics Canada continued to advance its Disaggregated Data Action Plan, supporting Calls for Justice 5.24 by improving the availability of data disaggregated by identity, gender, geography, and other social factors. This work helps demonstrate the distinct experiences of Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ individuals and the barriers they may face within institutions such as policing and the justice system. Updates to Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey in 2025-2026 further support Calls for Justice 5.24 by strengthening the collection of Indigenous and racialized identity data in police-reported crimes, improving transparency, accountability, and identification of systemic bias in policing. On July 16, 2025, following endorsement by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Statistics Canada released two additional reports outlining the Operational Guidelines and Analytical Framework for collecting this data.

Health and wellness service providers

Calls for Justice 7.1 to 7.9 set out a rights-based expectation that governments and health and wellness service providers take concrete, sustained action to ensure health services for Indigenous Peoples are designed and delivered in ways that are Indigenous-led, culturally grounded, trauma-informed, and safe for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. These calls recognize that health systems can either reduce risk and support healing, or deepen harm when services are culturally unsafe, time-limited, or disconnected from community-defined approaches to care.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 7.1 to 7.9

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 7.1 to 7.9 include investments and measures that result in progress across seven key areas:

1. Indigenous-led cultural safety, navigation, and anti-racism measures in health systems
2. revitalization of Indigenous midwifery and birth practices and the restoration of community-based birth supports
3. trauma-informed mental wellness supports for Indigenous people impacted by the MMIWG2S+ crisis and other colonial harms
4. suicide prevention, crisis response, and community-based prevention pathways, including culturally safe referral options and Indigenous-language access where available
5. violence prevention and safer service pathways linked to health and wellbeing, with prevention programming delivered through community-driven and distinctions-based partners
6. specialized, culturally grounded treatment closer to home and in Indigenous languages
7. strengthening Indigenous health workforce, training, and research capacity to improve service quality, representation, and accountability over time

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025–2026

Indigenous-led cultural safety, navigation, and anti-racism measures in health systems (Call for Justice 7.1)

ISC's [Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Canada's Health Systems](#) continued to support Indigenous partners and health organizations to deliver Indigenous-led, community-informed approaches that improve cultural and patient safety and expand navigator and patient advocate roles, including some supports delivered in Indigenous languages. Investments were structured to support health system navigators, patient advocates, Indigenous health human resources, and national Indigenous health organizations.

Revitalization of Indigenous midwifery and birth practices (Call for Justice 7.4)

ISC's Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Health System's initiative also supported midwifery initiatives included work led by Indigenous midwives, communities, and advocates to restore Indigenous birth practices, including the National Council of Indigenous Midwives' Indigenous Midwifery Education Framework. Thirteen Indigenous midwifery students in eight communities were completing education while living and working in their Nations and Sturgeon Lake First Nation completed construction of a standalone birthing centre expected to open in spring 2026. Métis-specific midwifery and doula initiatives continued, alongside Saskatchewan's network of Indigenous birth support workers to provide one-on-one advocacy and referrals during hospital births, and work toward a community-based midwifery program and birth lodge in Canoe Lake.

Trauma-informed mental wellness supports for those impacted by the MMIWG2S+ crisis and other colonial harms (Call for Justice 7.2)

ISC's Mental Wellness Program continued to provide immediate, trauma-informed, culturally appropriate supports, including suicide prevention and life promotion initiatives, crisis response services, and culturally grounded substance use prevention and treatment. This included continued support for a suite of services:

- flexible funding for community-based mental wellness services
- 24/7 crisis line services
- trauma-informed mental health, emotional, and cultural support for Indigenous people impacted by MMIWG, survivors and intergenerational survivors of Indian Residential Schools and Federal Indian Day Schools, class members and potential class members of First Nations, Child and Family Services, and Jordan's Principle Settlement Agreement, and other colonial sources of trauma

In addition, in 2025-2026, ISC funded a national network of community-based Cultural and Emotional Support Workers as well as mobile multidisciplinary Mental Wellness Teams that provided services to communities across the nation. Mental wellness funding provided communities with the flexibility to tailor programming to their unique cultural and linguistic priorities and needs.

Suicide prevention, crisis response, and community-based prevention (Call for Justice 7.3)

The Public Health Agency of Canada continues to support the [9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline, available across the country](#) 24/7/365. Since launching in 2023, 9-8-8 has answered more than 850,000 calls and texts. In some parts of the country, callers to 9-8-8 can choose to be connected to the Hope for Wellness Helpline, a national service funded by ISC that is available to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across Canada, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hope for Wellness offers support in English and in French, as well as Cree, Ojibwe (Anishinaabemowin), and Inuktitut upon request.

Public Health Agency of Canada's HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund and Harm Reduction Fund investments supported community prevention capacity, stigma reduction in systems of care, and culturally safe sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections service access. On an annual basis, the Community Action Fund invests \$26.4 million, and the Harm Reduction Fund invests \$7 million to fund the work of 160 five-year projects.

Violence prevention and safer service pathways linked to health and wellbeing (Call for Justice 7.3)

ISC's [Family Violence Prevention Program](#) supported over 400 community-driven prevention projects in 2025–2026 (for example, outreach, awareness campaigns, workshops, support groups, and land-based programming), alongside distinctions-based partners including Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak. This program funded Indigenous-led initiatives aimed at increasing awareness, and addressing the root causes of family violence.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's [Preventing Family Violence Program](#) reached over 1,270 Indigenous children, youth and families, funded Indigenous-focused prevention projects (including culturally grounded healthy relationship programming, dating violence prevention for Inuit youth with disabilities, and family strengthening programs), and investing \$18 million in 2025–2026 and over \$14 million per year ongoing.

Specialized, culturally grounded treatment closer to home and in Indigenous languages (Call for Justice 7.5)

Supported and co-funded by ISC, and led by the Government of Nunavut, [Aqqusariaq](#) (formerly known as the Nunavut Recovery Center) is being constructed (with an anticipated operational start in fall 2026), to provide in-territory substance use treatment and trauma healing grounded in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles, with services offered in Inuit languages when possible. By integrating traditional knowledge with clinical interventions, Aqqusariaq aims to transform the way substance use and trauma are treated in Nunavut and to reinforce

community-based, on-the-land healing connections. The federal government committed \$47.5 million over five years for design and construction, and \$9.7 million ongoing for the operations of programs and services. In 2025–2026, \$12,088,400 in funding for programs and services was provided to the Government of Nunavut.

Indigenous health workforce and training capacity (Calls for Justice 7.6, 7.7, 7.8)

Health Canada funded work of the [National Circle for Indigenous Medical Education](#) (\$4.6 million agreement over three years) which included development and piloting of cultural safety and anti-racism learning products, including the Anti-Indigenous Racism 101 course, alongside leadership development programming for Indigenous physicians. These trainings aimed to advance Indigenous-led systemic change in medical education and support physicians with the ability to acknowledge, respect, and protect Indigenous peoples' rights to culture and languages as inherent rights.

While ISC's [Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Canada's Health Systems](#) initiative has been highlighted in relation Call for Justice 7.1, it also contributes to advancing Calls for Justice related to strengthening Indigenous representation across all levels of the health care system, by supporting the recruitment, retention, and advancement of Indigenous professionals within health systems, and by providing mentorship programs, education pathways, and workplace transformation.

Police services

Calls for Justice 9.1 to 9.11 set out a rights-based expectation that police services take concrete, sustained action to transform how policing and justice system actors relate to Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, recognizing that colonialism, racism, bias, and discrimination have shaped unsafe and unequal outcomes. These calls emphasize that rebuilding trust and improving safety requires Indigenous-led partnership, culturally appropriate service delivery, and accountable investigative practices, particularly in cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 9.1 to 9.11

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 9.1 to 9.11 include investments and measures that result in progress across six key areas:

1. reconciliation and institutional transformation
2. community-defined tools and locally informed onboarding approaches that support distinctions-based policing practice
3. strengthened investigative standards, national coordination, and cross-jurisdictional tools for missing persons and major or complex cases involving Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people
4. family-facing and public alert approaches that improve timely communication, accessibility, and community-led response for missing persons cases
5. mandatory training and professional standards to reduce anti-Indigenous racism and strengthen culturally safe policing
6. independent oversight and systemic review mechanisms that strengthen public accountability for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) conduct and policies

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025–2026

RCMP reconciliation and institutional transformation (Calls for Justice 9.1, 9.2ii, 9.2iv)

The 2025-2026 launch of the RCMP's Positive Space Initiative represented a significant institutional step toward transparency, accountability, and reconciliation with 2SLGBTQI+ communities. It operationalizes multiple Police Services Calls for Justice by:

1. acknowledging historical harms
2. embedding anti-discrimination learning and policy change
3. improving representation and workplace safety
4. setting a precedent for other law-enforcement bodies to address systemic violence through public accountability and inclusive reform

Community-defined tools to support locally informed, distinctions-based policing (Calls for Justice 9.2, 9.5)

The RCMP continued the development of Community Profiles to enable communities to define what police should know about local culture, language, and traditions, and advanced work toward national consistency while maintaining community specificity. In 2025–2026, a national template entered review (with internal and external partners) and was positioned for piloting in two RCMP Divisions.

The RCMP's Contract and Indigenous Policing business line, has also developed two national trauma-informed guides: one [for families of homicide victims](#) and one [for families of missing persons](#). Both guides were released in September 2025 as part of the 30 Days of Action, and the Commissioner sent a letter to all police chiefs across Canada to inform them of these new tools. Both guides provide trauma-informed, plain-language explanations of investigative timelines, roles, responsibilities, and available supports. They were developed in direct response to the testimony of families during the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and address concerns related to lack of information from police, confusion about the criminal justice system, and jurisdictional complexity. While authored by the RCMP, the guides are not agency-specific and are intended for use by all police and victim services across Canada, including Indigenous-administered police services. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police co-sponsored the guides and formally endorsed their use.

Standardized investigative standards, national coordination, and cross-jurisdictional tools for missing persons and complex cases (Call for Justice 9.5)

The RCMP's National Office of Investigative Standards and Practices (National Office) continued to provide national oversight and guidance to Divisions on major and complex investigations, including those involving Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. In 2025–2026, the National Office sustained Corporal-level positions in F and K Divisions (Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively) to support continuity on MMIWG-related files, and through its Investigative Genetic Genealogy Technique program began a proof-of-concept to advance otherwise unsolved homicide files.

The RCMP's [National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains](#) continued delivery of centralized supports (including national databases), and advanced trauma-informed practice through a Missing Person Return Support Discussion pilot informed by consultation with Indigenous scholars, communities, and policing partners. In 2025–2026, the National

Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains co-hosted a national symposium to strengthen investigative collaboration and approaches for missing persons and vulnerable populations, including Indigenous people and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

The RCMP continued maintaining the [Violent Crimes Linkage Analysis System](#) (ViCLAS) as a national-level violent-crime reporting mechanism that provides a unified platform for law enforcement agencies to share and analyze data and supports consistency in how files are investigated across jurisdictions. In 2025-2026, ViCLAS training (15-day course) was provided, in collaboration with the Canadian Police College, in-person to analysts at ViCLAS centers, and included training on the use of ViCLAS software.

Statistics Canada [advanced work on a national approach to Missing Persons Data Standards](#), including collaboration with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police committees to develop a framework for national-level indicators and to move toward recommended national standards. To support this, the project explored a pathway that looks at the key touchpoints where data on missing persons moves across police-based information systems on a national-level.

In 2025-2026, the Missing Persons Data Standards project worked to finalize recommendations for national-level data standards for missing persons at the microdata and aggregate levels. The Missing Persons Data Standards project worked in partnership with Public Safety Canada on a collaborative project led by CanOps to develop national-level data standards on the incidents of ground search and rescue. The scope of these initiatives are closely aligned and considered to be complementary sources of information on missing persons.

Family-facing communication supports and Indigenous-led public alert approaches (Call for Justice 9.3ii, 9.5ii, 9.5vii)

During the 30 Days of Action in September 2025, the RCMP released the English and French [Guides for Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons](#) with the aim of providing trauma-informed, plain-language information for families navigating investigative and justice processes. The Guides have been translated into 5 Indigenous and 5 non-Indigenous languages, which will be formatted and released as they are ready.

CIRNAC, Manitoba, and Giganawenimaanaanig continued to advance the [Red Dress Alert Pilot Project](#). In 2025–2026, Giganawenimaanaanig released [What We Heard: Manitoba-Wide Red Dress Alert System Pilot Project](#) (PDF) and outlined a [recommended path forward](#) (PDF), with federal analysis underway.

Independent oversight and systemic review of RCMP practices (Call for Justice 9.2ii)

Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP continued its systemic investigation of the British Columbia RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (note: the Community-Industry Response Group has been renamed the Critical Response Unit – British Columbia). This investigation examined the governance, structure and operations of the Community-Industry Response Group, as well as RCMP policies, procedures, guidelines and training. In 2025-2026, the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP completed its review of materials from the RCMP, and conducted final interviews with RCMP members and program areas.

Mandatory training and professional standards to strengthen cultural safety, anti-racism and anti-sexism (Calls for Justice 9.2iv, 9.3v)

The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP continued to respond to Call for Justice 9.2iv and provide Indigenous awareness training and education to its staff. As a means of ensuring transformational systemic change over time, the training is mandatory and has been integrated into all employees' performance management plans. In 2025-2026, employees participated in various activities, including an educational walking tour of downtown Ottawa with Indigenous Walks Ottawa, a demonstration on Ojibwe Spirit horses at Mādahòkì Farm, and training courses offered by the Canada School of Public Service. Additionally, the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP launched an Indigenous Relations Speaker Series, featuring presenters on diverse Indigenous-related issues.

The RCMP's Intercultural Learning Strategy mandatory learning products continued to be implemented and tracked, including the Uniting Against Racism course (90.3% completion as of November 1, 2025), the Cultural Awareness and Humility course (93.5% completion as of November 1, 2025) and the Cultivating Equitable and Unbiased Policing course.

Social services and child welfare

Calls for Justice 12.1 to 12.15 set out a rights-based expectation that Canada take concrete, sustained action to transform social work and child welfare systems so they protect the rights, safety, and wellbeing of Indigenous children, families, and communities, recognizing that discriminatory policies and practices have driven family separation and compounded harms for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. These calls emphasize that preventing violence and harm requires keeping children safely connected to their families, cultures, and communities, and ensuring child and family services are Indigenous-led, culturally grounded, and accountable.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 12.1 to 12.15

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 12.1 to 12.15 include investments and measures that result in progress across four key areas:

1. Indigenous-led jurisdiction, governance, and service design
2. prevention, family preservation, and addressing poverty and cultural-bias as drivers of apprehension
3. post-majority supports and representative services for children, youth, and families
4. substantive equality in access to services for children and addressing jurisdictional gaps

In 2025–2026, progress is demonstrated through sustained multi-year funding commitments; continued implementation of Indigenous jurisdiction under *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*; signed coordination agreements and active discussion tables; ongoing reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program; and the scale of service access supported through mechanisms such as Jordan's Principle. Together, these efforts indicate continued movement toward Indigenous-led child and family service systems that are intended to keep children safely connected to their families, communities, cultures, and Nations, while addressing service gaps and structural inequities that contribute to child welfare involvement for Indigenous children, youth, and families.

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025–2026

Indigenous-led jurisdiction over child welfare, governance, and service design

As discussed under Calls for Justice 1.1 to 1.11, ISC continued to lead the work on the implementation of [*An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*](#), and as of March 2026, there were 15 signed coordination agreements (14 with First Nations and one with an Inuit governing body), with 23 active discussion tables. Funding to implement the act continued to be supported through multiple federal budget allocations, including \$1.8 billion over 11 years (ending in 2035).

Prevention, family preservation, and addressing poverty and cultural bias as drivers of apprehension (Call for Justice 12.4)

As highlighted in the Calls for Justice 4.1 to 4.8 section, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada [Action Research on Chronic Homelessness](#)'s findings were shared as Community Snapshots and practical tools on the Homelessness Learning Hub. The initiative's Sudbury project continued to explore ways of improving systems alignment with the child welfare system and outcomes for Indigenous youth. The Sudbury project worked towards creation of the Emerging Adult Services for Empowerment Network, a network for key organizations that interact with youth transitioning out of child welfare, and piloted the Growing Response Analytics on Child-Welfare Exists Database in Homeless Individuals and Families Information System.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's Canadian Child Welfare Information System initiative continued to work in partnership with the Nunatsiavut Government on a pilot project using Newfoundland and Labrador data to compare out-of-home care rates among Inuit and non-Indigenous children and to document how Inuit research principles shaped the work. This initiative strengthens the evidence base needed to identify inequities and cultural bias in child welfare, and the work is supported through existing Public Health Agency of Canada resources.

ISC renewed the [Inuit Child First Initiative](#) and continued co-developing a long-term Inuit-specific approach with Inuit partners so Inuit children can access needed health, social, and educational supports before unmet needs contribute to child welfare involvement. On February 19, 2026, the federal government announced \$115 million to renew funding for the Inuit Child First Initiative until March 31, 2027.

ISC's [First Nations Child and Family Services program](#) continued to require that all services funded through the program uphold the principles and minimum standards set out in *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, including the principles of the best interests of the child, cultural continuity, and substantive equality. The program continued delivering culturally grounded prevention and protection services, post-majority supports, and First Nations Representative Services, while also engaging partners on program reform and transition planning in Ontario. These measures help reduce apprehensions by addressing structural drivers such as poverty, housing instability, and intergenerational trauma.

Post-majority supports for youth "aging out" of the child welfare system and representative services for children, youth, and families (Call for Justice 12.11)

As referenced in relation to Call for Justice 12.4, ISC's [First Nations Child and Family Services program](#) also advanced Call for Justice 12.11 by funding post-majority support services to youth formerly in care, up to the age of 26 or to the age as defined in provincial or Yukon legislation, whichever is greater. These services are designed to help young adults transition to independence and stability by addressing critical needs such as housing, food security, education, employment, mental health, addiction support, and healthy relationships. By offering these supports, the program recognizes that the impacts of care and trauma do not end at the age of majority and aims to reduce the risks of homelessness, exploitation, and continued marginalization. Youth benefit from extended, culturally grounded supports that help them reclaim agency over their futures, while communities are better able to support youth in healing, reconnecting with culture and family, and contributing to community life. This approach fosters long-term safety, resilience, and self-determination for young adults as they move into adulthood.

Substantive equality in access to services for children and addressing jurisdictional gaps (Call for Justice 12.10)

ISC's [Jordan's Principle](#) continued to work to prevent gaps, delays, or denials in access to services for First Nations children. In 2025–2026, the Government of Canada announced that it is implementing new ways to process Jordan's Principle requests with the intention of providing greater clarity and consistency related to the services available to First Nations

children. These changes reflect Canada's commitment to the long-term sustainability of Jordan's Principle, and the Government of Canada continues to work alongside the Parties to the complaint before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to advance resolution and to fully implement Jordan's Principle. Incremental funding announced in March 2025 increased total in-year Jordan's Principle funding for 2025–2026 to \$1.8 billion.

Extractive and development industries

Calls for Justice 13.1 to 13.5 set out a rights-based expectation that resource-extraction and development activities must be planned, assessed, implemented, managed, and monitored in ways that actively consider and mitigate risks to the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, and ensure they equitably benefit from development.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 13.1 to 13.5

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 13.1 to 13.5 include investments and measures in four key areas:

1. policy and regulatory tool development
2. community-based monitoring and oversight
3. targeted social infrastructure investments
4. applied research

In 2025–2026, progress is demonstrated through the development of practical federal tools and guidance to strengthen prevention and mitigation in major projects, the continued work of Indigenous-led monitoring and advisory bodies, targeted investments intended to strengthen community service capacity in areas affected by development pressures, and applied research that supports Northern-led evidence-building and mitigation planning. Together, these efforts indicate early movement toward more consistent consideration of safety, socio-economic impacts, and community-informed mitigation in resource development contexts affecting Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025–2026

Policy and regulatory tools to strengthen prevention and mitigation in major projects (Calls for Justice 13.1-13.5)

In 2025–2026, Natural Resources Canada continued advancing work under UNDA Shared Priority Measure 12 to establish a senior management committee to lead a coordinated federal government approach to MMIWG2S+ in resource development. The Department also engaged Indigenous and federal partners relating to Calls for Justice 13.1-13.5 to strengthen strategic partnerships to gain insights with a view of developing practical tools and supports that respond to heightened concerns about major project acceleration and associated risks (including trafficking and gender-based violence) along major project corridors. In addition, Natural Resources Canada established the MMIWG2S+ in Resource Development Regulatory Working Group and began developing a compendium of community-identified promising practices intended to provide project proponents and investors with Indigenous-informed guidance to reduce harms across the project lifecycle and strengthen implementation of Calls for Justice related to safety provisions and equitable benefits.

Enhancing Indigenous oversight, research and knowledge translation in large-scale infrastructure projects (Calls for Justice 13.1, 13.2, 13.4)

The Socio-Economic Subcommittee and the Circle on MMIWG2S+ and Resource Development associated with the [Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion](#) Project and Existing Line continues to support Indigenous involvement in oversight, undertake research and knowledge translation activities, and provide advice to regulators and federal partners focused on community safety and other socio-economic impacts linked to major projects. In 2025-2026, nine subcommittee meetings, one Alberta youth training pilot event, one Wise Practices event and three Circle gatherings took place to support this work. The federal government committed \$44 million over three years (2024–2027) to Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committees for Energy Infrastructure Projects, and in 2025–2026, \$7.9 million in grants and contributions was allocated to Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and Existing Line, including \$544,870 directed specifically to the Socio-Economic Subcommittee.

Targeted investments to expand service capacity and social infrastructure in and around development pressures (Call for Justice 13.5)

ISC supported First Nations health infrastructure to strengthen service capacity in communities, including in areas where development pressures intersect with health risks. As of September 5, 2025, \$100.3 million had been invested in the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority Hospital Redevelopment Project and the Saskatchewan Virtual Health Hub. These investments support improvements to health service delivery and community capacity to deliver services such as mental health supports, emergency response, and monitoring services in contexts affected by development pressures.

Applied research and Northern-led evidence-building relevant to development pressures (Call for Justice 13.5)

The National Research Council's [Arctic and Northern Challenge Program](#) advanced Northern-led applied research priorities through its final call for proposals in 2025 and an agreement and contracting phase for selected projects (with planned launches in 2026–2027). The program provided approximately \$1.4 million during 2025–2026 for research project collaboration.

Correctional services

Calls for Justice 14.1 to 14.13 set out a rights-based expectation that Correctional Service Canada (CSC) take concrete, sustained action to ensure Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people have meaningful options for decarceration, equitable access to culturally safe supports, and conditions of confinement that do not reproduce harm or undermine safe reintegration.

Implementation of Calls for Justice 14.1 to 14.13

Federal efforts under Calls for Justice 14.1 to 14.13 include investments and measures that result in progress in the five key areas:

1. expanding community-based decarceration and reintegration options
2. improving culturally grounded, trauma-informed programming for Indigenous women
3. systemic barriers in classification, case management, and correctional decision-making
4. strengthening healing, mental health, family, and community supports

5. advancing distinctions-based approaches, Elder participation, education, and safer institutional practices

Examples of efforts and investments for 2025–2026

Expanding community-based decarceration and reintegration options (Calls for Justice 14.1, 14.2)

CSC continued exploring new section 81 agreements with Indigenous communities and organizations, strengthened processes for transfers to section 81 facilities and Healing Lodges, advanced a section 84 Release Planning Kit for communities, and supported Indigenous-led reintegration services through the Community Reintegration Fund, backed by \$3.5 million in ongoing funding.

Improving culturally grounded, trauma-informed programming for Indigenous women (Calls for Justice 14.6, 14.8, 14.10)

CSC launched the Indigenous Women Offender Correctional Program Pilot in August 2025, with implementation underway at three of six sites. The pilot incorporates updated materials developed with guidance from an Elders' Advisory Committee and ongoing feedback from federally sentenced Indigenous women and Elders, reflecting progress toward programming that is more responsive to Indigenous women's realities, healing needs, and rehabilitation pathways.

Beginning to address systemic barriers in classification, case management, and correctional decision-making (Calls for Justice 14.3, 14.4, 14.5)

CSC continued research and engagement with Indigenous partners to improve security assessment and classification processes for federally sentenced Indigenous individuals, established the re-Search Advisory Council of the People of the Land, drafted an interim policy bulletin requiring case conferences at least every six months for women classified as maximum security, and issued guidance reminding staff to incorporate Indigenous Social History, mental health considerations, and victim concerns into decision-making.

Strengthening healing, mental health, family, and community supports (Calls for Justice 14.6, 14.11)

CSC continued to deliver Elder-driven, trauma-informed correctional programming for Indigenous women, provided \$43,000 in reintegration support funding to Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge to enhance work release coordination, continued implementation of improvements to the Mother-Child Program following its 2025 audit, and consulted incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Indigenous women, on changes needed to better support mothers and children. CSC also continued to review community-based residential capacity and alternatives to suspension, including temporary voluntary residency and other culturally relevant options.

Public Safety Canada's Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative continued working with successful applicants from the 2023-2024 call for proposals to implement their reintegration and alternatives to incarceration projects, entering into nine contribution agreements in fiscal year 2025-2026.

Advancing distinctions-based approaches, Elder participation, education, and safer institutional practices (Calls for Justice 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.13)

Through the Anijaarniq Holistic Inuit Strategy, CSC continued to strengthen Inuit-specific pathways, including Inuit Cultural Awareness training, Elder and Spiritual Advisor supports, and community engagement linked to section 81 and 84 development. CSC also continued to expand education, employability, and vocational supports, including through the National Employability Skills Program, which was completed by 74 Indigenous women between April 2024 and September 2025. In parallel, CSC continued implementation of body scanner technology, with 11 operational scanners planned by the end of 2025–2026, including three in women offender institutions, as a less intrusive alternative to routine strip-searches where conditions permit.

Conclusion

Over the past year, the federal government continued to advance work that advances the Calls for Justice and contribute to improving the safety of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people. An important part of this remained the government's commitment to distinctions-based investments and Indigenous-led partnerships. Federal progress reflects continued efforts to shift away from reactive responses toward wholistic, community-defined, and Indigenous-led programming.

To help support the immediate safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, new and ongoing investments in 2025–2026 focused on preventing and responding to violence through trauma-informed mental wellness supports, family violence prevention programming, and expanded access to shelters, safe transportation, and community infrastructure. These measures aim to reduce immediate risks while improving access to supports in ways that are more accessible, culturally relevant, and responsive to diverse needs.

The federal government continued to expand trauma-informed supports and strengthen systemic responses aligned with the Calls for Justice through coordinated investments in mental wellness services, culturally grounded victim supports, and justice system navigation. This included sustained funding for 24/7 crisis lines, community-based Cultural and Emotional Support Workers, and Family Information Liaison Units that provide accessible, culturally safe pathways for families seeking information and support. At the same time, efforts to strengthen systemic responses—such as reforms in policing guidance, Indigenous justice programming, and anti-Indigenous racism initiatives in health systems—aim to reduce re-traumatization, improve consistency across systems, and ensure responses are more respectful of lived and living experience. While work is ongoing, these efforts are important steps to ensuring systems are better equipped to respond in ways that uphold dignity and safety of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Efforts to shift toward holistic, community-defined, and Indigenous-led programming continued in 2025–2026, as reflected in distinctions-based investments and the expansion of Indigenous-led service delivery across sectors. Initiatives such as Indigenous-led shelters and transitional housing, community safety planning, Indigenous justice programs, and Indigenous early learning and child care partnerships demonstrate a continued move toward approaches shaped by community priorities and local knowledge. Increased support for Indigenous governance, data sovereignty, and community-based program design also contributed to more adaptable and culturally grounded responses. These efforts recognize that sustainable progress depends on supporting Indigenous leadership and ensuring that programs reflect the strengths, needs, and priorities identified by communities themselves.

The 2025-2026 Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report reaffirms the urgency and scale of the work that remains. Survivors and families are central to this work, and the federal government remains committed to supporting Indigenous-led actions that will lead to improved outcomes. Long-term efforts to measure the impacts of the federal investments and initiatives on the lived experiences of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, and especially those most affected by intersecting forms of violence and discrimination is important.

Federal implementation of the Calls for Justice is consistent with the Government's work to advance its mission priorities, particularly work to keep Canadians safe – including Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. In addition, bringing down costs (food security) and improving access to housing are Government priorities, and are priorities called for by Indigenous survivors, families and partners through the Calls for Justice as part of the necessary foundation for addressing the national crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people. Sustained and aligned federal action is improving safety, strengthening accountability, and supporting Indigenous-led solutions.

The Government of Canada remains committed to the Federal Pathway and recognizes both the continued need for action on the Calls for Justice and ongoing commitment to reconciliation that respects Indigenous self-determination and leadership. The test of real progress is not the number of initiatives described, but whether these actions and investments will translate into tangible safety, access to support and sustained structural change that will address the root causes of the national crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

2025-2026 Highlight report: Families and survivors

Introduction

The National Family and Survivors Circle Inc.'s (NFSCI, formerly the National Family and Survivors Circle) contribution to the 2021 National Action Plan, [The Path Forward - Reclaiming Power and Place](#), identified a set of actions requiring immediate federal action and proposed a set of related corresponding Calls for Justice for each action item. They categorized one set of action items and related Calls for Justice as foundational, and then four sets that fall under key rights areas:

- culture
- health and wellness
- human security
- justice

This highlight report is a specific response to NFSCI's call for the federal government to produce and publish reports that are inclusive of families and survivors on work to address the issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (2SLGBTQI+) people. The Highlight Report for Families and Survivors illustrate departmental and agency efforts on these priority action items identified by NFSCI as requiring immediate.

Foundational Calls for Justice

The NFSCI identified seven action items for the federal government related to foundational Calls for Justice. In 2025-2026, the federal government reported progress across all of these foundational areas, particularly through distinctions-based law and policy reform, Indigenous-led service delivery and governance, efforts to strengthen oversight and data, and investments intended to reduce structural barriers facing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

In 2025-2026, the federal government made progress by continuing to build rights-based structures intended to improve safety, access, representation, and support for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. For example, Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC's) efforts to reform child and family services through implementation of the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* has resulted in 15 signed agreements (14 with First Nations and one with an Inuit governing body) with another 23 coordination agreement discussion tables that are active. The aim of this work is to support stronger recognition of Indigenous rights, laws, and jurisdiction, along with implementation that is guided by Indigenous partners and communities. ISC's work in child and family services has helped address longstanding legislative and policy inequities affecting Indigenous children, and families.

Important progress was also reported through funding and service initiatives designed to respond to urgent harms and longstanding exclusion. The Family Violence Prevention Program, administered by Indigenous Services Canada, supported over 400 community-driven violence prevention projects across Canada, including but not limited to public outreach and awareness campaigns, workshops, support groups, stress and anger management seminars, and Indigenous knowledge land-based programming. Organizations like Circling Buffalo,

Three Eagle Wellness Society and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition used a variety of public initiatives to promote awareness of family violence and prevention efforts. Tunngasugit Inuit Resource Centre led a culturally relevant series of workshops aimed at addressing family violence among Inuit. Collectively, these efforts help reduce immediate safety risks, improve access to supports, and strengthen community capacity to respond to violence and systemic marginalization.

The federal government also made progress in creating more formal avenues for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people to shape decisions that affect their lives. Administered through Women and Gender Equality Canada, the Increasing the Capacity of Indigenous Women's and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Organizations initiative provided funding for Indigenous organizations such as Infinity Women Secretariat Inc. and AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association Inc. for leadership development, representation, and community-informed policy advice. In addition, through Administration of Justice Agreements, the Indigenous Justice Strategy, and distinctions-based organizational funding, federal action is supporting greater Indigenous participation in governance, advocacy, policy engagement, and service design. Through these initiatives, Indigenous Women's and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations have increased capacity and ability to advocate for actions that aim to prevent and address gender based violence, that is informed by their priorities and constituents.

Further, the federal government reported progress in reducing jurisdictional barriers and improving coordination across systems. For example, Justice Canada's Family Information Liaison Units provide service that support families and survivors navigate a fragmented and complex justice system that too often has resulted in neglect, delay, and re-traumatization. The National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, administered by Women and Gender Equality Canada, which includes an Indigenous-focused pillar, is working to strengthen existing federal-provincial-territorial approach and strategies to prevent and address gender-based violence. Implementation of agreements are underway across the country related governance and service initiatives. While these efforts do not eliminate jurisdictional gaps entirely, they represent practical steps toward more coordinated, culturally relevant, and survivor-centred responses.

Culture

The NFSCI identified three action items for the federal government related to Culture. These action items reflect the understanding that cultural continuity, representation, language, and identity are not insignificant issues, but foundational conditions for safety, dignity, healing, and justice for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

In 2025-2026, the federal government reported progress in all of these areas through Indigenous-led cultural funding, language revitalization initiatives, media and broadcasting supports, culturally grounded education and early learning, and anti-racism and anti-hate measures.

In 2025-2026, federal funding supported efforts to protect language and preserve cultural knowledge through revitalization, digitization of oral histories, Indigenous-language broadcasting, repatriation, and community-led heritage projects. For example, in 2025-2026, the Museums Assistance Program - Indigenous Heritage Component, administered by Canadian Heritage, funded 10 new Indigenous-led projects that supported the repatriation and repatriation of Indigenous cultural belongings to their communities. This work supports the immediate safeguarding of Indigenous teachings, stories, and materials that are essential to identity, belonging, and intergenerational continuity.

The federal government also supported access to culture and belonging through education, early learning, and culturally grounded services. Facilitated by Employment and Social Development Canada, the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Transformation initiatives was co-developed with Indigenous partners and organizations. Programs delivered through this initiative in 2025-2026 include the Aboriginal Head Start and First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative programs. Distinctions-based language funding, First Nations, Inuit and Métis-led early learning and child care, culturally rooted education programming, and land-based learning help create more permanent and community-based pathways for

Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities to access language, teachings, histories, and cultural knowledge. This work supports cultural continuity, and safer and more affirming environments for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Canadian Heritage's Indigenous Languages Program supports community-based language projects and initiatives such as immersion and mentorship programs. Program funding has been provided to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation, and the Nunatsiavut Government to advance self-determined strategies that strengthen access and use of Inuktitut across Inuit Nunangat. In Inuit contexts, federal support for Inuktitut revitalization, service accessibility in Inuktitut, educator training, and Inuit-led digitization strengthens language access, community control, and intergenerational transfer of knowledge. 2025-2026 Indigenous Languages Program funding also supported the implementation of Métis Nations language revitalization strategies including the provision of culturally appropriate urban services, culturally grounded health supports, the digitization of Métis languages and histories, and more accurate Métis representation in federal learning products. This contributes to improved visibility, belonging, and culturally relevant access to services and information.

Progress was also reported on anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, and anti-transphobia through broader federal strategies and targeted Indigenous-led initiatives. For example, Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy and Action Plan on Combatting Hate helped establish a broader policy and public education framework to address systemic discrimination, while the Changing Narratives Fund and Indigenous Screen Office, administered Canadian Heritage, are supporting Indigenous peoples tell their own stories in ways that challenge stereotypes and expand public understanding. CIRNAC's funding for Indigenous women's and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations, along with the RCMP's Positive Space Initiative, also contributed to more inclusive environments, stronger institutional awareness, and greater support for Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ leadership, advocacy, and systems change.

Health and wellness

The NFSCI identified five action items for the federal government related to Health and Wellness. These priorities reflect an understanding that health and wellness are deeply interconnected with safety, culture, family integrity, and freedom from racism and colonial harm. In 2025-2026, the federal government reported progress across all of these areas through Indigenous-led service delivery, distinctions-based health funding, anti-racism initiatives in health systems, mental wellness and substance use supports, child- and family-centred services, and community-based healing programs. In 2025-2026, the federal government reported meaningful progress in expanding community-based and culturally grounded health and wellness supports for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. Federal initiatives supported Indigenous-led mental wellness, substance use treatment, harm reduction, sexual and reproductive health, midwifery, doula and birth supports, patient advocacy, and culturally safe navigation. These investments improve immediate access to care that is trauma-informed, community-designed, and more responsive to peoples lived realities, including those facing racism, geographic barriers, family disruption, substance use harms, or limited access to culturally safe services.

Important progress was also reported for children, families, and survivors living with the impacts of violence, loss, and intergenerational trauma. Through ISC's Mental Wellness Program - MMIWG Crisis line and CIRNAC's support for the wellbeing of families and survivors, Indigenous organizations continued delivering healing circles, cultural supports, crisis response, celebrations of life, navigation services, and other community-led healing activities. The First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle also remained important mechanisms for reducing service gaps, supporting family and community-based care, and ensuring children can access the health, social, and educational supports they need without being further harmed by jurisdictional disputes.

In Nunavut, the federal government reported more coordinated and child-centred approaches through RCMP collaboration with Child Wellness Teams and the Umingmak Child Advocacy Centre model. The five-year Memorandum of Understanding with Nunavut's Department of Family Services, the Child Sexual Abuse Action Plan, mobile interdisciplinary response capacity, and strengthened information-sharing and training aim to reduce re-traumatization while improving access to counselling, medical care, advocacy, and wraparound supports for Inuit children and families affected by abuse. This work reflects the importance of integrated, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate responses in northern and remote contexts.

The federal government also reported progress in improving accountability and representation within mainstream health systems. Through ISC's work on anti-Indigenous racism in health systems and the National Circle for Indigenous Medical Education, progress included culturally safe training, workforce development, Indigenous faculty leadership, support for Indigenous midwifery and doula pathways, and initiatives to improve Indigenous recruitment and retention in health professions. These measures help respond to persistent barriers within mainstream systems and support more dignified and culturally grounded care for Indigenous patients and families.

Human security

The NFSCI identified seven action items for the federal government related to Human Security. These priorities reflect the understanding that human security depends not only on protection from immediate harm, but also on access to housing, food, infrastructure, education, income, mobility, family unity, and community-controlled services. In 2025-2026, the federal government reported progress across several of these areas through housing and homelessness initiatives, violence prevention programming, distinctions-based education and workforce supports, transportation investments, child and family services reform, and emerging work to address risks linked to major development projects.

In 2025-2026, the federal government reported meaningful progress in addressing immediate conditions that affect the safety, stability, and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. CIRNAC's Harvesters Support Grant and Community Food Program Fund supports a wide range of harvesting and hunting initiatives that have assisted more than 15,000 traditional harvesters, with activities being delivered across more than 112 remote communities, in partnership with 24 Indigenous governments and organizations. Federal investments in the Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative, jointly administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and ISC provided funding for the construction of 38 new shelters and 42 transitional homes across urban, rural, and northern regions in Canada. Housing, shelter, infrastructure, food, and freshwater investments are especially important in this context because inadequate housing, overcrowding, homelessness, food insecurity, and poor infrastructure can heighten vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and family disruption. Together, these initiatives help reduce immediate barriers by supporting shelters, transition homes, violence prevention, navigation services, outreach, and safer service spaces for Indigenous women, girls, families, survivors, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Important progress was also reported for Indigenous people fleeing violence, experiencing homelessness, or facing socio-economic exclusion in urban settings. In 2025-26, the Public Health Agency of Canada's Family Violence Prevention Program provided funding to projects that prevent and address the health impacts of family violence, reaching over 1,270 Indigenous children, youth, and families, as well as service providers, across Canada that provided tools and promoted safe and supportive relationships.

The federal government also reported progress on prevention and empowerment through education, employment, income support, and skills training. In 2025-2026 First Nations women (13,981), Inuit women (925), Métis women (5,343) and urban and non-affiliated partners (3,389) benefited from Employment and Social Development Canada's Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program with some finding employment while others returned to school or further training. Other complimentary federal initiatives such as distinctions-

based post-secondary education strategies, Indigenous Women's Entrepreneurship, and related wraparound supports are significant because they help address some of the economic pressures that can contribute to heightened vulnerability, including poverty, housing insecurity, dependence, and barriers to employment.

Further progress was reported in child and family services. The Inuit Child First Initiative, the First Nations Child and Family Services Program, and implementation of the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* continued to support more culturally grounded and non-discriminatory approaches to child wellbeing. These initiatives seek to reduce family separation linked to poverty and socio-economic conditions, strengthen kinship and cultural continuity, support youth aging out of care, and create pathways for Indigenous communities to design and deliver their own child and family service models.

Practical progress was reported in areas linked to mobility and resource development. Investments in remote rail transportation improve access to essential services and reduce reliance on unsafe travel options that can increase the risk of violence, trafficking, and exploitation. In parallel, Natural Resources Canada continues to lead on coordination with Indigenous and federal partners to improve the safety aspects of major projects, particularly as it concerns large influxes of non-local/non-regional workers. Through this work, the federal government is beginning to address longstanding concerns about the harms that major projects and resource development can create for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Justice

The NFSCI identified eight action items for the federal government related to Justice. These priorities reflect the understanding that justice reform must extend beyond procedural change to address systemic discrimination, family and survivor needs, Indigenous legal traditions, and the ongoing harms caused by colonial policing, courts, and corrections. In 2025-2026, the federal government reported progress across several of these areas through the Indigenous Justice Strategy, Indigenous-led community safety and justice programming, Gladue implementation, victim and family supports, policing and investigative reforms, and correctional initiatives.

In 2025-2026, the federal government reported progress in strengthening more culturally grounded, trauma-informed, and Indigenous-led justice responses. The release of the Indigenous Justice Strategy, led by Justice Canada, marked an important step in setting a co-developed, distinctions-based federal direction for justice reform. Its emphasis on Indigenous-led, culturally safe approaches, phased implementation, and regional priority-setting, signals movement toward a justice system that is more responsive to Indigenous laws, traditions, experiences, and community-defined priorities.

Progress was also reported in community safety and policing. ISC investments in the Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities initiative in 2025-2026 funded 57 projects that enhance community safety and well-being Indigenous organizations and communities (30 First Nations, nine Inuit, seven Métis, and 11 urban Indigenous). Along with Indigenous policing programs, infrastructure funding, and prevention initiatives, these initiatives collectively contribute to safer, more community-rooted responses. These measures are significant because they recognize that safety cannot be addressed through policing alone and that Indigenous communities require access to self-determined, culturally grounded approaches that include prevention, mental health supports, traditional knowledge, and community-based safety planning.

In the area of police accountability, investigations, and family response, the federal government reported a range of concrete measures intended to improve consistency, communication, and public confidence. In 2025-2026, the RCMP continued its work to develop of distinctions-based and specific Community Profiles in collaboration with Indigenous communities in order to deliver culturally responsive policing services and support detachment onboarding. The RCMP has also continued work on national coordination on missing

persons and unidentified remains, centralized investigative oversight, national crime linkage analysis and publication of family guides for victims of homicide and missing persons. Overall, these efforts seek to address longstanding gaps that have left Indigenous families without timely information or effective public response when loved ones go missing. These measures help improve transparency, emergency response, and family-centred communication.

This year, progress was also reported for families, survivors, and victims navigating the justice system. In 2025-2026, the Supporting Victims of Crime initiative, led by Justice Canada, continued funding to 44 Indigenous organizations to improve access to Indigenous-led, culturally safe, survivor-centred services and supports, at the community level, for Indigenous people who are victims and survivors of crime. This initiative is complemented by federal initiatives such as Community Support and Healing for Families that enables Indigenous-led organizations to design and deliver programs and initiatives that assist families of missing or murdered loved ones with the grief and trauma of their loss. In 2025-2026, continued funding supported 27 Indigenous-led projects across the country, including 12 First Nations-specific or -led projects, two Métis projects, one Inuit project, and 12 pan Indigenous (non-specific) projects. In addition, Justice Canada launched a Community of Practice to connect funded projects, promote shared learning, and strengthen good practices in supporting families. In addition, the Family Violence Prevention Program that continue to enable Indigenous-led organizations to provide healing circles, land-based healing, counseling with Elders, emotional support, child advocacy services, safe housing, and other wraparound supports. These initiatives are especially important because they respond to the needs of families and survivors not only as participants in justice processes, but as people living with grief, trauma, violence, and long-term harm.

The federal government also reported concrete progress in expanding Indigenous-led justice practices and culturally relevant alternatives to incarceration. Community-based justice programs, Gladue reports, Gladue aftercare, diversion, restorative justice, mediation, reintegration supports, and community justice services all help reduce reliance on mainstream systems that have too often criminalized and failed Indigenous people. In 2025-2026, Correctional Service Canada continued to advance the Anijaarniq Holistic Inuit Strategy, which guides its approach to Inuit corrections through healing, reintegration, and strengthened cultural connections. Correctional Service Canada also installed 11 operational body scanners at federal institutions, three of which are women offender institutions to provide more humane and trauma-informed correctional practices. In correctional contexts, distinctions-based programming for Indigenous women, Inuit-specific strategies, community reintegration funding, healing lodge support, and research on gender-diverse offenders also contribute to more trauma-informed and culturally relevant supports for people in custody and on release.

Progress towards transformational systemic change

Beyond immediate action and service delivery, federal progress in 2025-2026 points to longer-term systemic change across governance, culture, health, human security, and justice. Key examples include implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*; the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*; the Indigenous Justice Strategy; distinctions-based and Indigenous-led funding and service delivery; Indigenous-led language and cultural initiatives; health system transformation; community-based justice, safety, housing, and healing models; and stronger data, coordination, and oversight functions through the MMIWG2S+ Secretariat. Together, these measures reflect gradual movement away from imposed federal models and toward Indigenous-led, culturally grounded, and distinctions-based systems that better support safety, self-determination, accountability, and cultural continuity of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

At the same time, much work remains. While important foundations for change are being laid, the deeper structural conditions identified by the National Family and Survivors Circle Inc., including systemic discrimination, socio-economic marginalization, service gaps, and accountability, will require sustained action and investment at all levels and continued advancement of Indigenous-led solutions.

2025-2026 Highlight report: First Nations

Introduction

In response to the National Inquiry's Final Report and Call for Justice 1.1, the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan](#) (National Action Plan) was released on June 3, 2021. The [Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#) represents the Government of Canada's contribution to the National Action Plan. As a partner of the National Action Plan, the Assembly of First Nations developed its distinctions-based action plan, [Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice \(PDF\)](#), outlining First Nations priorities and actions.

This report outlines federal actions undertaken in 2025–2026 to advance the Calls for Justice in the following areas identified as key priorities by the Assembly of First Nations:

- justice reform
- safety, housing and infrastructure
- child welfare reform and family support
- health and wellness
- language and cultural revitalization

Justice reform and policing

The Assembly of First Nations' Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice identifies policing and justice reform as urgent priorities. In 2025–2026, the federal government supported distinctions-based justice programs and community-led policing initiatives aimed at addressing systemic racism, strengthening accountability, and creating space for the co-existence of Indigenous and Canadian legal systems.

In 2025–2026, Justice Canada began implementing the [Indigenous Justice Strategy](#) (released on March 10, 2025). Early implementation is being addressed through existing justice-focused collaborative tables that bring together First Nations, provinces, territories, and the federal government to support regional priority-setting and the development of regional implementation plans, grounded in priorities identified by First Nations partners. This aligns with Calls for Justice 1.4, 5.1 through 5.25, 9.1, and 9.2.

Negotiations on administration of justice agreements continued across multiple regions, advancing First Nations-led justice systems that integrate traditional legal practices. Engagement to date has focused on revitalization, enforcement, and formal recognition of First Nations laws within Canada's broader legal framework. Key areas of progress include defining models of legal coexistence, strengthening community capacity, advancing First Nations-led law enforcement approaches, and developing community-based justice mechanisms that prioritize prevention, healing, and accountability. \$3.4 million has supported this foundational work with First Nations. This aligns with Calls for Justice 1.4, 1.6, 5.1, and 5.11.

Implementation of Gladue principles continues to reinforce community-based, culturally grounded approaches to justice. Post-sentence Gladue aftercare funding, largely delivered through the Indigenous Justice Program community justice programs, supports Indigenous individuals, including First Nations, in meeting sentencing conditions and implementing Gladue Report recommendations. These direct services and referrals to community resources strengthen reintegration outcomes and align with Calls for Justice 5.11, 5.15 and 5.16, as well as broader First Nations justice reform objectives.

Justice Canada has advanced several initiatives that strengthen victim, survivors and family supports and improve access to culturally safe justice services for victims of crime. The [Family Information Liaison Units](#) continued to assist First Nations families across Canada in accessing up to date information about their missing or murdered loved ones from multiple government sources and connecting them to services and supports, responding to Call for Justice 5.6.

The [Community Support and Healing for Families](#) initiative, also led by Justice Canada, enables First Nations-led organizations to design and deliver programs and initiatives that assist families of missing or murdered loved ones with the grief and trauma of their loss. This responds to Calls for Justice 3.3 and 5.6. In 2025-2026, continued funding supported 12 First Nations specific projects across the country. In addition, Justice Canada launched a Community of Practice to connect funded projects, promote shared learning, and strengthen good practices in supporting families.

Through the [Supporting Indigenous Victims of Crime](#) initiative, Justice Canada increased access to Indigenous-led, culturally safe, and survivor-centred victim services at the community level, while reinforcing partnerships among Indigenous organizations, governments, and justice agencies to reduce the harms Indigenous victims and survivors experience within the criminal justice system. This aligns with Call for Justice 5.6.

Additionally, Justice Canada's [Indigenous Justice Program](#) has funded First Nations-led civil and family mediation services, offering alternatives to court processes that emphasize helping families remain together, and are grounded in reconciliation, and community-based healing. These initiatives respond to Calls for Justice 1.8 and 5.11.

Public Safety Canada continued to work closely with First Nations, police services, and provincial and territorial partners on improving how it supports First Nations policing. In 2025-2026, the focus was on distributing sustainable funding for existing First Nations police services, modernizing program delivery structures, and supporting collaborative, tripartite funding negotiations with relevant First Nations, and provincial and territorial partners. This work aligns with Call for Justice 5.4.

Community-led safety

Federal investments in 2025–2026 reflected a wide-ranging First Nations-led approach to physical safety. Programming emphasized culturally grounded prevention, locally governed service delivery, and safe physical environments for Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Through Indigenous Services Canada's [Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities initiative](#), focused community-led infrastructure investments continue to directly support physical and mental safety and well-being in First Nations communities, and is responding to Call for Justice 5.4. For example:

- \$1 million supported Bearskin Lake First Nation to repair its Youth Wellness Centre and Daycare, addressing interior hazards and restoring exterior play structures to provide safe and secure spaces for children to learn and grow

- \$732,372 supported Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation to support the Dagugicebi (Good Relatives) / Alexis Community Elder-Led Safety Project, a Nakota-led initiative centering Elders and responding to rising concerns related to mortality, violence, and crime

Community safety is further improved through culturally grounded alternatives to incarceration and reintegration supports under Public Safety Canada's [Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative](#). For example, in 2025–2026, \$280,812 funding was allocated to Pelican Lake First Nation to establish a culturally grounded justice team through specialized training, mentorship with neighbouring communities, and partnership development. The community is leading a Wholistic Restorative Action Prevention Plan tailored to local customs and traditions, strengthening community-led responses to harm and enhancing public safety from within. This aligns with Call for Justice 14.6.

Public Safety Canada's [Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative](#) supports First Nation communities and organizations to design and implement community-driven safety strategies. In 2025-2026, a national gathering in Edmonton, Alberta, "Our Voices, Our Safety: Crafting Resilient Strategies from Within", brought together interested communities to share best practices in Indigenous-led safety planning, youth engagement, and volunteer recruitment. In 2025-2026, 11 communities successfully completed and submitted their community-led Community Safety Plans, with 35 additional communities remaining in ongoing processes. Aligning with Calls for Justice 3.4, 3.5, and 5.5iv, these initiatives integrate culture, language, land-based skills, and community responsibility into practical safety solutions. Projects funded by this initiative include:

- Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council received \$285,749 for their Pathways to Healthy Lifestyles Program, addressing root causes of safety challenges across the four Maskwacis Nations (violence prevention, healthy relationships, personal safety, positive social activities, language, nutrition, and cultural engagement)
- Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government received \$167,240 for a youth leadership program across traditional Mi'gmaq territory (Gespegawagie) to build cultural pride and pro-social engagement among youth
- Woodstock First Nation received \$112,025 to address increased criminal activity and high traffic from non-community members by installing enhanced solar-powered street lighting and surveillance cameras. By improving visibility and coverage, the project seeks to create a safer environment for community members and strengthen long-term resilience

Violence prevention efforts are supporting family and community well-being. Through the Preventing Family Violence Program led by the Public Health Agency of Canada, an investment of \$786,287, over four years, is enabling the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi to implement and evaluate Kaskinomasowin, a culturally adapted sexual abuse prevention and healthy relationships promotion program tailored to Atikamekw communities. The program is also providing over \$1.1 million over four years to support the Council of Yukon First Nations to develop, deliver, and test a violence prevention program designed by and for Yukon First Nations. This responds to Calls for Justice 1.9 and 7.3.

These initiatives reflect a well-rounded approach to community-led First Nations safety, youth engagement, and violence prevention into a connected and community-centered framework.

Housing and infrastructure

Housing and infrastructure play a critical role in improving the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. In 2025–2026, investments were made to improve access to housing and shelters, and develop infrastructure.

Programs led by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation allocated \$229.3 million in 2025–2026 to First Nations housing, contributing to improved living conditions, through the construction and repair of housing units. This aligns with Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.6, 4.7, 12.4, 18.24, and 18.25. Jointly-led by Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada, and Indigenous Services Canada, the [Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative](#) provides funding towards the construction of new shelters and transitional homes, as well as ongoing operational funding. As part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy and the [National Housing Strategy](#), the Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative is a \$723.1 million initiative delivered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Indigenous Services Canada. This includes \$420 million in program dollars for the construction of shelters and transitional homes through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. As of December 31, 2025, approximately \$396 million has been committed toward 38 new shelters and 42 transitional homes, and funds had been used towards 46 First Nations-led projects to ensure First Nations women, children and 2SLGBTQI+ people escaping gender-based violence have access to these essential supports and services. This aligns with Calls for Justice 1.8, 3.1, 3.4, 4.7, and 7.3.

Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada continued to increase access to safe and affordable housing, which also prevents family separation and child apprehension linked to poverty and housing insecurity, aligning with Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.7, 12.4, 18.24, and 18.25. In 2025–2026, [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#) allocated \$26.1 million to 37 First Nations projects to meet distinct needs of First Nations people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The [Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy](#) provides funding to First Nations and other partners to establish and sustain distinctions-based, Indigenous-led, low-barrier shelters, safe spaces, and second-stage housing. These resources serve Indigenous people, including women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or fleeing violence. Funds for Modern Treaty and Self Governing First Nations and First Nations in the Territories are being delivered by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, while funds for First Nations on-reserve are being delivered through Indigenous Services Canada.

Food security infrastructure is also being strengthened. Through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's [Local Food Infrastructure Fund](#), \$30.4million over two years was approved in 2025–2026 to 234 projects, 118 of which self-identified as Indigenous and account for approximately 50% of newly allocated funding. Aligning with Calls for Justice 4.1, and 12.4, these investments support culturally appropriate nutrition, and build community self-sufficiency. Funded projects include:

- Woodstock First Nation received \$275,542 over two years to enhance garden infrastructure, food processing equipment, cold storage, and transportation capacity, strengthening local production and distribution
- Huu-ay-aht First Nation received \$401,074 to establish a hydroponic farm, processing hub, and cold storage facility, increasing food production and enhancing food sovereignty

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada allocated \$7 million to the Self-Governing and Modern Treaty First Nations Housing Investment in 2025–2026. This funding is focused on community-identified housing needs by supporting the construction and purchase of new homes, renovating existing properties, and providing rent subsidies. This work aligns with Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.6 and 4.7.

These initiatives reflect a commitment to improving and increasing access to stable and culturally appropriate housing, safe infrastructure, and food sovereignty.

Child welfare reform and family support

In 2025–2026, federal initiatives supported the advancement of First Nations-led child and family service laws, the expansion of wraparound supports for survivors, and efforts to reduce systemic harms experienced by families affected by violence and loss. Efforts focused on transferring authority to Indigenous communities, dismantling colonial systems of family separation, and strengthening community-based models of care.

A central component is the implementation of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, led by Indigenous Services Canada. As of March 31, 2026, 280 First Nations Indigenous Governing Bodies have advanced jurisdictional development and supported preparations for coordination agreement discussions through capacity-building funding. 15 coordination agreements with First Nations have been signed, with additional agreements anticipated and 26 active discussion tables underway. An increasing number of First Nations communities have signaled their intention to exercise jurisdiction under the Act. This work responds to Calls for Justice on the recognition of Indigenous self-determination in child and family services, and ending discriminatory systems that separate children from their families and communities, including Calls for Justice 12.1 and 12.2.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada supported family healing through the [Support for the Wellbeing of Families and Survivors of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People Contribution Program](#). In 2025–2026, over \$1.5 million supported eight First Nations projects. These projects focused on supporting Indigenous survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, including celebrations of life and legacy, resource centres, and navigation services to help families access culturally relevant supports. This aligns with Calls for Justice 3.7 and 5.6.

Prevention-focused efforts have also been advanced through the Public Health Agency of Canada's Preventing Family Violence Program. This program supports Indigenous-led initiatives that prevent and address the health impacts of family violence, aligning with Call for Justice 7.3. In 2025–2026, two First Nations-focused prevention projects reached First Nations children, youth, families, and service providers through initiatives aiming to prevent and address child maltreatment and youth dating violence.

Health and wellness

Federal health and wellness investments are advancing the Calls for Justice by addressing systemic inequities, ending anti-Indigenous racism in health systems, and supporting First Nations-led health governance and service delivery. These initiatives recognize that improving the health of First Nations people requires structural change, cultural safety, and the restoration of community-based models of care grounded in First Nations knowledge and self-determination.

Indigenous Service Canada's Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Canada's Health Systems supports First Nations-led projects which are shaped by community priorities. Aligning with Calls for Justice 3.2 and 3.4, this work aims to enhance cultural and patient safety, improve access to culturally appropriate care, and increase First Nations representation within the health workforce. In 2025–2026, this initiative made significant investments in reproductive health and midwifery projects. As a result of this funding:

- the National Council of Indigenous Midwives is strengthening cultural continuity, supporting family wellness, and advancing First Nations health sovereignty, by training 13 Indigenous midwifery students across eight communities
- the First Nations University of Canada is expanding access to certificate programs and micro-credentials in Indigenous birth support, sexual and reproductive health, and end-of-life care, effectively strengthening long-term First Nations capacity in community health services

- the Innu Round Table Secretariat's Innu Midwifery Program is training four student midwives and expanding community-based clinical services

Beyond maternal health, Indigenous Service Canada's Indigenous Health Equity Fund is supporting First Nations communities to design and implement their own approaches to culturally safe health services. Implementation is underway across regions, with a focus on strengthening community-driven planning, improving accountability, and reporting on progress in ways that reflect First Nations priorities and outcomes. These efforts align with Call for Justice 7.1.

Indigenous Services Canada's Health Services Integration continues to support collaborative planning and projects aimed at better meeting the healthcare needs of First Nations, and advancing First Nations self-determination, aligning with Call for Justice 7.1. Examples of funded projects include:

- Anishnabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians) received funding to support for Tripartite health transformation to undertake community engagement on the creation of an Anishinabek Health Authority and develop health governance models
- Onion Lake Cree Nation received funding for a Primary Health Care Integration Project to develop service agreements with Saskatchewan Health and the provincial government for the devolution of chronic illness management services, health promotion and education, and mental health services to Onion Lake Cree Nation
- First Nations technical services advisory group [Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic] was supported in creating remotely delivered psychological and psychoeducational assessments, youth-specific programming targeted toward mental wellness and suicide prevention, and integrated support for young adults aging out of services

Structural reform in medical education is being advanced through the [National Circle for Indigenous Medical Education](#), which works with national medical organizations to promote Indigenous-led systemic change and eliminate racism in medical education and professional standards. These efforts respond to Call for Justice 7.1.

Health Canada's [Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund](#) contributes to equitable access to community-based services for First Nations women, youth, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, by funding evidence-based initiatives related to sexual and reproductive health, including improved access to abortion care, family planning, clinical practice guidelines, and gender-affirming and fertility care. In 2025–2026, \$362,717 was allocated to the Centre for Wise Practices in Indigenous Health, a project led in partnership between the Canadian Association of Science Centres, the Partnership for Women's Health Research, and Ganawishkadawe. This project will co-develop culturally relevant sexual and reproductive health resources with Indigenous communities to be shared through social media campaigns and at in-person community events that will help to address barriers created by stigma, misinformation, and systemic inequities. This work aligns with Calls for Justice 3.1 and 3.2.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund supported First Nations communities and organizations to deliver culturally safe prevention, education, testing, and treatment initiatives, while strengthening local capacity and access to culturally appropriate testing, care, and social supports. This aligns with Call for Justice 7.3.

Mental wellness and suicide prevention efforts remained urgent priorities. Since launching in November 2023, the [9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline](#) has responded to more than 850,000 calls and texts, providing 24/7 suicide prevention crisis support to people across Canada, in English and in French. This aligns with Call for Justice 7.3.

The [2024-2027 National Suicide Prevention Action Plan](#) (the Action Plan), led by the Public Health Agency of Canada, promotes collaborative action while respecting Indigenous rights to self-determination including recognizing existing First Nations and community-led suicide prevention/life promotion initiatives. The Action Plan does not seek to replace but rather, complement these initiatives for greater impact. The Public Health Agency of Canada has established a Suicide Prevention Science Advisory Table that will seek to include First Nations suicide prevention experts, ensuring that distinction-based knowledge informs national suicide prevention and life promotion efforts. This aligns with Call for Justice 7.1.

Addressing substance use and overdose remains essential to improving safety and wellness. The [Emergency Treatment Fund](#), led by Health Canada, provides funding to support community-informed responses to urgent and immediate needs for a total of 43 First Nations-led projects and over \$27 million in funding as of March 31, 2026. For example, the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation received \$1,175,970 to implement a comprehensive Community Health and Safety Initiative. The initiative combined harm reduction, naloxone training and distribution, family-centered education and support, and youth engagement. Importantly, this approach emphasizes prevention, health promotion, and early identification, along with treatment options that are grounded in cultural safety and traditional healing practices, supported by comprehensive aftercare planning. This aligns with Call for Justice 3.2.

Through the [Substance Use and Addictions Program](#), Health Canada continued to fund provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, as well as community-based, Indigenous, and non-profit organizations, to advance innovative, evidence-based initiatives at every stage of the continuum of care. These initiatives emphasize prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. For example, \$484,920 was allocated to All Nations Hope Network's spâ yâ w (it is long lasting): Resourcing and sustaining Awasiw, a harm reduction drop-in space. This service is the first and only of its kind in Regina, Saskatchewan, offering support to individuals from surrounding First Nations communities, and bridging gaps in service by expanding staffing, introducing a peer outreach training program, and working with harm reduction specialists to better connect clients to The Place of Hope. This aligns with Call for Justice 3.2.

Language and cultural revitalization

Language and cultural reclamation are essential to safety, belonging, and healing. In 2025-2026, Canadian Heritage continued to support the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, notably through the [Indigenous Languages Program](#), which provides Indigenous communities and organizations with funding to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen Indigenous languages. Aligning with Calls for Justice 2.2ii, 2.3, and 2.4, the program also provides First Nations partners with greater autonomy, long-term funding, and improved responsiveness to their unique needs and language revitalization priorities. In 2025-2026:

- Approximately \$45.1 million was allocated to the First Nations regionally designated organizations who partnered with First Nations communities and organizations in their regions to implement language revitalization initiatives based on their own priorities
- Approximately \$1.9 million was allocated to the Cree Nation Government to implement their language revitalization strategy

Canadian Heritage's [Museums Assistance Program](#), continued to support the preservation and presentation of Indigenous cultural heritage, while promoting cultural awareness. This aligns with Calls for Justice 2.1, 2.5, and 2.7. Examples of funded projects include:

- Adams Lake Indian Band received \$30,000 for the Cultural Heritage Repatriation Project to research, document, and develop a methodology for the eventual repatriation of Secwépemc belongings held in national and international museum collections and institutions

- Société d'histoire et d'archéologie de Mashteuiatsh received \$123,224 to develop a trilingual (English, French, and Nulueun) travelling exhibition on the fur trade between First Nations and Euro-Quebec populations, along with educational activity designed for youth
- Epekwit Assembly of Council's Inc. received \$86,902 for L'nuey Exhibition to create a permanent exhibition in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, presenting a Mi'kmaq perspective of Epekwitnewag Mi'kmaq history

The [Indigenous Screen Office](#) is an independent, Indigenous-led non-profit that supports First Nations screen creators across Canada. With the financial assistance of Canadian Heritage, the organization funds film, television, podcasts, and video games to ensure Indigenous stories are told by Indigenous voices, advancing narrative sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and community-driven storytelling. For example, \$55,000 was allocated to Rezolution Pictures (Mask) Inc.'s *So Surreal: Behind the Masks*, a feature documentary focused on the cultural, artistic, and spiritual significance of Indigenous mask-making, exploring how contemporary creators and performers reclaim narrative and identity through their work. These projects align with Calls for Justice 2.7 and 6.1.

Indigenous Service Canada's [First Nations and Inuit Cultural Education Centres Program](#) allocated \$8 million to First Nations projects in 2025–2025. Funded projects include:

- Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve No. 26 (Wikwemikong Heritage Organization) received \$121,192 to conduct community-based cultural, historical, traditional arts and Anishinaabemowin Language programming
- Woodland Cultural Centre received \$609,620 to protect, promote, interpret and present Onkwehón:we and Anishnaabe history, intellect and cultural heritage

Early childhood initiatives are also advancing cultural revitalization. Through [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care](#) investments, led by Employment and Social Development Canada, distinctions-based, Indigenous-led investments support the advancement of culturally-appropriate early learning and child care. In addition to distinctions-based funding, more than \$10 million has been allocated to First Nations Quality Improvement projects in 2025-2026. For example, \$589,895 was allocated to Qualicum First Nation to create 331 Indigenous-themed culture kits for early years programs across British Columbia. These kits will be distributed to 42 Child Care Resource and Referral sites, and accompanied by workshops, educator training sessions, and specialized tools to support staff working with children with special needs. This aligns with Calls for Justice 2.3 and 3.1.

Progress toward transformational systemic change

Through distinctions-based approaches, negotiated agreements, community supports, and legislative reform, federal efforts are advancing systemic change that strengthens First Nations authority, improves justice outcomes, and enhances community safety, laying the foundation for a more self-determined and culturally grounded justice system. This work shifts authority, resources, and decision-making to First Nations while addressing root causes of violence, poverty, and overrepresentation in the justice system.

Investments in housing, infrastructure, and First Nations-led prevention strategies support safer, more equitable communities. Long-term funding for healing services, Indigenous-led justice alternatives, housing, and prevention programs is transforming child and family services through First Nations-designed systems and kinship care, while transferring jurisdiction and addressing challenges such as homelessness and intergenerational trauma.

Investments supporting First Nations-led child and family services, and wraparound services provided trauma-informed, culturally grounded services while advancing child welfare reform, supporting the transfer of jurisdiction to First Nations governments, and strengthening family unity through prevention and healing-focused strategies.

Federal actions are also driving structural change in health by addressing anti-Indigenous racism, strengthening governance, and expanding culturally grounded, First Nations-led models of mental wellness and substance use care.

2025-2026 Highlight report: Inuit

Introduction

In response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and its Call for Justice 1.1, the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan](#) was launched on June 3, 2021. The [Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#) is the Government of Canada's contribution to this plan and outlines its commitment to ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

The federal government recognizes the urgent need for distinctions-based, Inuit-informed action. Inuit communities continue to face unique challenges, including persistent overcrowding and inadequate housing, limited access to shelters and culturally safe services, economic insecurity, harms to language and cultural continuity, and barriers to health and wellness. Guided by the Calls for Justice and priorities identified in the [National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people \(PDF\)](#) (National Inuit Action Plan), jointly published by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Pauktuutit, the 2025-2026 Inuit Highlight Report summarizes federal progress made towards Inuit-identified priorities and Inuit-specific Calls for Justice that aim to advance the safety, economic security, self-determination, language and culture preservation, health and well-being of Inuit women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people.

This highlight report outlines federal action in 2025-2026 that advances Calls for Justice 16.1 to 16.46 across four priority areas:

- shelters, housing and infrastructure
- economic security
- language and culture preservation
- health and wellness

These priority areas reflect Inuit-identified needs and show both the immediate impacts and the longer-term systemic changes resulting from federal investments, partnerships, and distinctions-based program delivery.

Shelters, housing and infrastructure

As outlined in the National Inuit Action Plan and the Calls for Justice, access to safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing is important to the safety, health and well-being of Inuit. The longstanding housing crisis in Inuit Nunangat directly contributes to overcrowding, housing insecurity, increased violence, and poor health outcomes. Limited access to shelter leaves many Inuit women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people with few options when fleeing violence. Infrastructure gaps across Inuit Nunangat further increase the cost of living and limit access to many services, often forcing Inuit to make difficult decisions between remaining in their home communities without necessary supports or relocating to urban centres far from family, culture, and language. The federal government is committed to addressing the urgent need to close these gaps and improving access to housing, shelters, and critical infrastructure to improve the safety and well-being of Inuit women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people.

The [Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy](#) provides funding to First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners to establish and sustain distinctions-based, Indigenous-led, low-barrier shelters, safe spaces, and second-stage housing. Distinctions-based funding for Inuit partners is delivered through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and in 2025-2026, this funding continued to support Inuit-led, distinctions-based housing solutions. Funding was provided directly to Inuit partners to advance culturally informed approaches to building and repairing homes, as well as to expand shelter and transitional housing capacity in urban, rural, and northern communities. By prioritizing strong partnerships, sustained investments, and Indigenous self-determination, the strategy supports long-term efforts to reduce housing disparities and promote safe, stable, and dignified homes for Indigenous peoples across Canada. This aligns with Calls for Justice 4.6 and 4.7.

The [National Housing Strategy](#) continued to address the needs of Indigenous peoples, including Inuit, through an approach to housing that invests to reduce chronic housing crises, overcrowding, substandard housing, and address a lack of essential services, among other barriers that have historically marginalized Indigenous populations. Through programs delivered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the National Housing Strategy, supported the construction of new houses and renovation of existing homes in Inuit Nunangat and with Inuit partners. These investments address urgent housing needs and align with Calls for Justice emphasizing the importance of safe, secure, and adequate housing as a foundation for safety and healing, in particular Calls for Justice 4.6 and 4.7.

In 2025-2026, [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#) allocated \$9.2 million to five Inuit projects to meet distinct needs of Inuit experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

As part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy and the National Housing Strategy, the \$723.1 million [Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative](#) is delivered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Indigenous Services Canada. This includes \$420 million in program dollars for the construction of 38 shelters and 50 transitional homes through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. As of December 31, 2025, 18 Inuit-specific projects were underway. These investments in new builds increased access to culturally appropriate, Inuit-led housing and supports for Inuit women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people fleeing violence. This work responds to Calls for Justice that identify safe, accessible housing and shelters as essential to preventing violence and enabling individuals to leave unsafe situations, particularly Call for Justice 4.7.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's Inuit Housing Investment continued to provide Inuit-specific funding to all four Inuit Treaty Organizations. In 2025-2026, \$51.6 million was allocated to new and improved housing across the four regions of Inuit Nunangat. This initiative is designed to help Inuit communities meet both their immediate and long-term housing priorities. This work aligns with Calls for Justice 16.1, 16.18, and 16.19 by providing distinctions-based funding supports for the full housing continuum, from construction of new homes to major repairs and renovations, ensuring that Inuit communities can advance long-term, self-determined housing priorities and increase access to safe, adequate, and culturally informed homes across Inuit Nunangat.

Economic security

As the National Inuit Action Plan highlights, economic insecurity places Inuit women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people at higher risk of violence, particularly those living in Inuit Nunangat where the cost of living remains significantly higher than the rest of Canada. Limited economic opportunities can undermine safety by restricting individuals' ability to leave unsafe situations and contribute to food insecurity, housing instability, and poor physical and mental health. Recognizing the interconnected elements of safety and security, along with ongoing challenges, the federal government is committed to improving Inuit economic security. In 2025-2026, federal investments continued to support Inuit-led economic priorities and respond to Calls for Justice emphasizing the importance of increased and equitable employment, training and education opportunities.

Employment and Social Development Canada continued to implement the [Indigenous Skills and Employment Training](#) program, providing \$32.6 million in Inuit-specific funding to support training, skill development, and the wraparound supports needed to seek long-term, meaningful employment. Complimentary investments through the [First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy](#), helped Inuit youth gain essential skills and work experience, and explore potential career opportunities, responding to Call for Justice 4.2, which highlights the importance of equitable access to economic and social development resources.

Indigenous Services Canada continues to support post-secondary educational attainment through the [Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy](#) launched in 2019 and developed in partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Inuit Treaty Organizations. In 2025-2026, approximately \$14.2 million was allocated to support Inuit learners through the Strategy, which reflects the Government's commitment to a renewed relationship with Inuit, one that is framed by principles of reconciliation, including recognitions of rights, respect, cooperation, partnership and self-determination. This transformational approach includes direct financial supports for Inuit students, complementary programs and services, and governance capacity to support service delivery. Closing the post-secondary attainment gap through increased access to post-secondary education strengthens Inuit employment opportunities and long-term economic security. This aligns with Calls for Justice 4.2, 4.4, and 12.11, which emphasize the importance of equitable access to education.

Economic development across Inuit Nunangat continued to be supported by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency through the [Northern Indigenous Economic Opportunities Program](#), which promotes greater Inuit participation in northern communities and businesses by supporting employment, entrepreneurship, access to capital, and economic research and knowledge development. Similarly, through the [Inclusive Diversification and Economic Advancement in the North](#), additional departmental investments in infrastructure, sector development, and capacity building further strengthened northern economic ecosystems, supported Inuit-owned businesses, and advanced long-term economic diversification. These efforts align with Calls for Justice 4.2, and 16.1, which highlight the importance of economic and social development.

Language and culture preservation

The National Inuit Action Plan and the Calls for Justice state access to Inuit culture as a right, and emphasize the importance of the preservation and transmission of Inuit culture as essential to safety, identity, and well-being. In 2025-2026, the federal government continued to invest in Inuit language and cultural preservation.

Through engagement with over 20 federal departments and agencies and in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Canadian Heritage is currently in the process of determining the capacity of the federal government to provide services in Inuktitut in Nunavut and identify opportunities to further enhance services. A 'What We Heard' engagement report was completed and has been shared with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, with the intent to release publicly in Summer 2026. Building on the report findings, Canadian Heritage is working to identify opportunities to enhance access to federal services in Indigenous languages and inform the co-development of formal agreements and/or regulations.

To support the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, Canadian Heritage continued to deliver the [Indigenous Languages Program](#), which provides long-term, distinctions-based funding to Inuit organizations to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen Inuit languages. In 2025-2026, as part of five-year agreements totaling \$92.1 million, approximately \$17.1 million supported Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation, and the Nunatsiavut Government to implement their respective Inuktitut language revitalization strategies, ensuring responsive, predictable and flexible resources for Inuit designed language priority projects. This work aligns with Calls for Justice 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 16.2, and 16.25.

Aligning with Calls for Justice 2.7 and 6.1, Canadian Heritage's [Indigenous Screen Office](#) program strengthened narrative sovereignty and supported cultural renewal by funding Inuit-led storytelling across screen-based media, across film, television, podcasts, and video games, ensuring that Inuit stories are created and shared by Inuit voices. Funded projects include:

- 5984 NUNAVUT INC. (formerly Kingulliit Productions Inc.) received \$225,000 for Qirngaqtuq — Fierce Prayer, an eight-part documentary series led by Zacharias Kunuk, that traces Inuit spiritual life and history through community testimony, land-based filmmaking, and archival storytelling
- Mixtape VR Inc. received \$30,000 for Franklin: The Missing Ships That Weren't, an investigative podcast from Mixtape VR Inc., led by Inuk creator Nyla Innuksuk, that centres Inuit perspectives and re-examines the Franklin expedition through Inuit oral histories, Arctic expertise, and new research to challenge the myth of "missing ships"

The [Museums Assistance Program](#), led by Canadian Heritage, continued to support the preservation and presentation of Inuit cultural heritage, and promote cultural awareness. This work aligns with Calls for Justice 2.1, 2.5, and 2.7. Funded projects include:

- Kitikmeot Heritage Society received \$90,000 to develop an Innuinaqtun exhibit at the May Hakongak Community Library and Cultural Centre that interprets Innuinait material culture through oral tradition, using objects from its collections and loans from the Canadian Museum of History, with QR code-linked audio and video resources to expand community access and strengthen engagement with the Innuinaqtun language

Indigenous Services Canada continued to deliver the [Inuit Cultural Education Centres Grant Program](#), supporting Inuk and Inuit communities to express, preserve, develop, and promote Inuit culture and cultural awareness. This included \$35,061 for Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to expand the Inuvialuktun Website to introduce three Inuvialuktun dialects as a way to help learn the language and dialects, as well as update and reprint the revised Uummarmutin Dictionary. Similarly, through the complementary [First Nations and Inuit Cultural Education Centres Program](#), over \$1 million supported Inuit education centres to preserve and strengthen Inuit culture, including \$100,642 for Piruvik Preschool Society to work with specialized manufacturers to create and pilot culturally grounded, durable Inuktitut learning materials that strengthen early language learning and development, and cultural identity. These programs align with Call for Justice 16.25.

Health and wellness

As outlined in the National Inuit Action Plan, limited availability of accessible, culturally safe healthcare services continues to slowdown efforts to address the root causes of violence against Inuit women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people. As a result, Inuit must travel long distances to urban centres to receive care, disrupting connections to family, culture and community. Improving Inuit health and wellness remains a federal priority. In 2025-2026, the federal government advanced Inuit-led health priorities through investments aimed at strengthening culturally grounded services, increasing access to care, and supporting Inuit self-determination in healthcare.

Mental health and substance use programs continue to expand across Inuit Nunangat and are having a direct impact on Inuit communities. A central component of this is Aqqusariaq, the Inuit-led trauma healing and substance use treatment centre in Nunavut being developed in partnership with the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and Indigenous Services Canada. Construction is currently underway with operations commencing in fall 2026. Aqqusariaq will offer land-based healing, trauma-informed treatment, and in-community supports delivered by an emerging Inuit health workforce, significantly improving access to culturally safe mental wellness services, aligning with Calls for Justice 7.5 and 16.28.

Complementing these efforts, Health Canada's [Substance Use and Addictions Program](#) continued to fund evidence- and community-informed projects such as the Kitikmeot Friendship Society's Nuna Buddies Youth Addictions Program in Nunavut, which received \$233,000 in 2025-2026. The program provides counselling, group therapy, and recreational activities for Inuit youth aged 12 to 19 years, supporting early intervention and culturally grounded mental health care, and responding to Call for Justice 3.2. Additionally, the Emergency Treatment Fund supported urgent responses to the overdose crisis for Inuit communities, such as the Nunatsiavut Government's Harm Reduction Hub, which received \$248,710 in 2025-2026, to create a low-barrier harm reduction hub that provided culturally appropriate substance use services for Labrador Inuit. As of March 31, 2026, two Inuit-led projects have received a total of \$354,922 in funding.

The [2024-2027 National Suicide Prevention Action Plan](#) (the Action Plan), led by the Public Health Agency of Canada, recognizes Inuit self-determination and Inuit-led suicide prevention efforts underway. The Action Plan does not seek to replace but rather, complement this work for increased impact. As part of the Action Plan, the Public Health Agency of Canada established a Suicide Prevention Science Advisory Table that will seek to include an Inuk expert, in recognition of the importance of distinctions-based approaches to inform suicide prevention and life promotion initiatives.

Family and community wellness initiatives continued to strengthen supports for Inuit children, youth and families through focused investments in prevention and support programs. Through the Preventing Family Violence program, the Public Health Agency of Canada invested in Inuit-led projects that address child maltreatment and youth dating violence. Notable projects in Nunavut include:

- Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society is receiving \$1.35 million over five years to develop a culturally appropriate dating violence prevention program for Inuit youth with disabilities across Nunavut
- Ilitaqsiniq is receiving \$1.66 million over five years to deliver family strengthening programs across six communities, aiming to equip 192 children and caregivers with essential parenting, communication, and relationship skills to enhance family resilience

Health Canada's [Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund](#) supported Inuit-led, culturally safe access to family planning, abortion services, gender-affirming care, fertility services, and provider training, aligning with Calls for Justice 3.1 and 3.2. Complementary programming, through the [Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections Program](#) provided prevention, education, and culturally safe testing and treatment services tailored to the needs of Inuit communities, ensuring equitable access to essential sexual and reproductive health care. This responds to Call for Justice 7.3.

Systemic change in Inuit health is also being advanced through long-term change in health education and governance. The [National Circle for Indigenous Medical Education](#), developed in partnership with the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, College of Family Physicians of Canada, Medical Council of Canada, and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, continued to support Indigenous-led reforms in medical education, that strengthen cultural safety, works to end racism in healthcare, and expand Inuit representation across health professionals. This aligns with Call for Justice 7.1.

Indigenous Services Canada's Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Canada's Health Systems initiative further advanced culturally safe patient care by expanding Indigenous midwifery and doula services, increasing Inuit representation in health professions, and embedding Inuit knowledge across health systems. This included funding to the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services to strengthen the region's internationally renowned Inuit midwifery services in Nunavik through community-based training and birth

support programming, aligning with the National Inuit Action Plan's call to revitalize Inuit midwifery. Federal investments are helping to reduce systemic barriers, rebuild trust, and ensure care reflects the values and priorities of Inuit communities it serves. This work advances Calls for Justice 3.2, 3.4, 7.6, and 7.7.

Progress toward transformational systemic change

Federal investments are supporting long-term systemic change by strengthening housing and infrastructure across Inuit Nunangat, expanding Inuit-led safety systems, and increasing access to culturally relevant, trauma-informed supports. Distinctions-based, flexible, multi-year funding shifts decision-making to Inuit partners, enabling coordinated systems of shelters, transitional, and permanent housing while addressing the structural drivers of violence against Inuit women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people. They also advance Inuit self-determination in economic and education systems by supporting Inuit-designed programs aligned with regional priorities. Investments in post-secondary education, workforce development, and economic diversification help reduce socio-economic inequities. Language and cultural initiatives reinforce linguistic rights and support long-term revitalization through Inuit-led strategies, media, storytelling, and early childhood language development, strengthening identity, wellbeing, and cultural continuity. Finally, in health, federal investments are embedding Inuit governance, knowledge, and practices into care systems while building a sustainable Inuit health workforce through medical education and midwifery programs. These efforts lay the foundation for more equitable, culturally grounded, and self-determined systems across Inuit communities.

2025-2026 Highlight report: Métis

Introduction

Métis survivors, families, organizations and communities have consistently emphasized that distinctions-based, self-determined approaches are essential to addressing the systemic factors contributing to violence and inequities as they are critical to effectively addressing the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people (MMIWG2S+). [Weaving Miskotahâ: The Métis Nation's Journey to Ending Missing and Murdered Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ \(PDF\)](#) affirms that meaningful and lasting change must be grounded in Métis governance, cultural identity, and community-defined solutions.

This highlight report outlines federal action in 2025–2026 that respond to Calls for Justice 17.1 to 17.29 and Calls for Miskotahâ, as identified in [Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People \(PDF\)](#). These actions focus on four priority areas:

- justice and policing reform
- health and wellness
- economic and housing security
- language and culture preservation

Together, these priority areas reflect Métis-identified needs and show how federal investments, partnerships and distinctions-based program delivery are supporting both immediate safety longer-term systemic changes.

Justice and policing reform

The Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice emphasize the need to transform justice and policing systems so that Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people are safe, supported, and treated with dignity. Reflecting Weaving Miskotahâ Thread 6 - Justice and Policing, this section outlines federal efforts to support Métis-led, community-based justice approaches that are culturally grounded and responsive to trauma and MMIWG2S+.

The Community-Based program, Civil and Family Mediation, delivered through the Indigenous Justice Program by Justice Canada, supports Indigenous-led mediation services that provide culturally grounded alternatives to mainstream court processes. These programs offer restorative approaches such as healing circles, family conferencing, and civil or family mediation, to provide more culturally grounded services for family and civil conflicts. In 2025–2026, the program continued to support 34 civil and family mediation projects across the country. By supporting culturally responsive conflict resolution and helping families address disputes, the program responds to both Calls for Justice 1.8, 5.11 and Calls for Miskotahâ 19, 20 and their emphasis on Indigenous-led justice solutions, and culturally relevant services for Métis people involved in the justice system and community-based supports that address trauma, family conflict, and violence prevention.

Indigenous Justice Program Community-Based Justice Fund, led by Justice Canada, continues to strengthen Métis-led justice initiatives across Canada by funding community programs that provide restorative justice and reintegration services. In 2025–2026, \$728,687 was allocated to Métis projects. These initiatives draw on Métis legal traditions and focus on healing, helping to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in custody. This work addresses Call for Miskotahâ 41, which calls for the elimination of overrepresentation of Métis people in the criminal justice system and ensures culturally relevant supports for offenders and victims. This work also responds to Calls for Justice 1.8, 5.6, 5.11, 5.16, and 17.27 by supporting trauma-informed services, community-based justice models, and culturally grounded alternatives to incarceration that address the systemic factors contributing to violence against Métis women and girls.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police delivered a number of initiatives aimed at modernizing police services and improving relationships with Indigenous people. The Métis Liaison Officers program funded four full-time positions to support, build, and strengthen relationships with Métis communities by recognizing and protecting Métis customs and traditions and advances Calls for Justice 9.2 and 9.3. Through the Path of Reconciliation, which advances Calls for Justice 9.1 and 9.3, the national rollout of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Indigenous Community Outreach and Engagement Tool is underway. This tool will track non-operational, non-investigative interactions with Indigenous communities, and will establish a national baseline of qualitative and quantitative data to support reporting on outreach and engagement activities.

Justice Canada advanced several initiatives that strengthen and improve access to culturally safe victim services for Métis victims and survivors of crime. Throughout 2025-2026, the [Family Information Liaison Units](#) Program across Canada continued to assist families in learning more about their missing or murdered loved ones from multiple government sources and connecting family members to services and supports. The [Community Support and Healing for Families](#) initiative, also led by Justice Canada, supported two Métis projects which enabled Métis governments, organizations and agencies to design and deliver programs and initiatives that assist Métis families of missing or murdered loved ones with the grief and trauma of their loss. Through the [Supporting Indigenous Victims of Crime](#) initiative, Justice Canada has also increased access to Métis-led, culturally safe, and survivor-centred victim services at the community level, while reinforcing partnerships among Métis organizations, governments, and justice agencies to reduce the harms Métis victims and survivors experience within the criminal justice system.

Health and wellness

Métis communities understand health and wellness as holistic, encompassing physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural well-being. The Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice emphasize health and wellness as human rights and that Métis must have access to culturally safe, trauma-informed, and Métis-led health and wellness services that respond to Métis-identified needs and priorities. These priorities also align with Threads 3 and 5 of Weaving Miskotahâ, which call for holistic distinctions-based wellness approaches. Federal investments in Métis health and wellness reflect the government's continued commitment to address systemic racism, improve access to equitable, culturally safe care, and support healing for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Led by Indigenous Services Canada, the Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Canada's Health Systems initiative continues to support Métis-led and community-informed projects that promote and strengthen cultural and patient safety, expand access to culturally relevant healthcare, and increase Métis representation in the health workforce. Funded activities include health system navigators, patient advocates, culturally safe training for providers, and education pathways for Indigenous learners. This work responds to Calls for Miskotahâ 6 and 19 and Calls for Justice 1.8, 3.2, 3.4, 7.4, 7.6, 7.7, and 17.7 that identify systemic racism as a critical barrier to equitable healthcare and demand meaningful, Métis-led reform. In 2025-2026, Indigenous Services Canada invested in Métis-led projects, including:

- Métis Nation of Ontario to hire and retain full time supports to develop health system partnerships, train staff on various elements of palliative care, improve staff training to improve client outcomes, and provide information and workshops to Métis Nation of Ontario community members on health topics
- Manitoba Métis Federation to retain staff and providing continuing education for staff to obtain and maintain patient care navigator competencies
- Métis Nation Saskatchewan for the development of a Métis midwifery education and training program
- Métis Nation of Alberta to provide wraparound supports for expectant Métis families in Alberta provided and coordinated by Aunties

Supported by funding from Health Canada, the [National Circle for Indigenous Medical Education](#) continues to promote Métis-led reform in medical education and embedding cultural safety, anti-racism, and Métis health competencies into physician training. This work responds to Calls for Miskotahâ 56, 57, and 58 which call for medical and nursing schools to incorporate Métis health needs, history, and rights into their curricula. By strengthening trauma-informed care, addressing systemic racism in healthcare, and recognizing Métis health as a human right, this work also responds to Call for Justice 7.1, 7.7, and 7.8. The National Circle for Indigenous Medical Education contributes to the systemic transformation of medical education and delivery of high-quality healthcare that is better equipped to service Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ patients with respect and understanding.

Health Canada's [Emergency Treatment Fund](#) supports culturally grounded, trauma-informed, and evidence-based substance use and mental wellness projects led by Métis communities. As of March 31, 2026, a total of 4 Métis-led projects have received over \$2 million in funding. This work responds to Call for Justice 3.2 by supporting urgent community-identified needs related to the overdose crisis and systemic inequities. Funded projects include:

- Métis Nation of British Columbia received \$1,021,000 for Moonchikanihtaahk aen paykiiwayhk (Homecoming) - Métis Substance Use and Addictions Support Program to provide culturally grounded harm reduction and wellness services to 2,000 Métis individuals across six cities in British Columbia, offering peer support, harm reduction education, and culturally specific guidance to strengthen Métis identity, resilience, and wellness
- Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement received \$350,955 for Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement Overdose Emergency Response Initiative to establish a culturally grounded, community-led substance use response framework in Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement, to address opioid-related overdoses and fatalities, providing locally accessible addiction and mental health services, including naloxone distribution and training, counseling, support groups, educational resources, a mobile health unit, and a public awareness campaign to reduce stigma

Access to sexual and reproductive health services for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals is also being advanced through Health Canada's [Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund](#). These investments supported community-based initiatives to improve access to abortion care, family planning, gender-affirming care, and fertility services. This Fund advances Calls for Justice 3.1, and 3.2.

As outlined in the Calls for Miskotahâ 53 and the Calls for Justice 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 7.2, 7.3, and 17.4, mental health and wellness also remain a priority for Métis communities. Indigenous Services Canada's Mental Wellness Program provides funding for community-based mental health services, crisis supports, and trauma-informed cultural and emotional assistance for Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors of colonial sources of trauma, and supports Métis individuals impacted by violence and systemic harm. The program also offers

funding for community-based Cultural and Emotional Support Workers and mobile Mental Wellness Teams, and flexible funding to ensure programming aligns with the communities' unique cultural and language priorities and needs.

The [2024-2027 National Suicide Prevention Action Plan](#), led by the Public Health Agency of Canada, strengthens collaboration across jurisdictions while recognizing Métis rights to self-determination. The establishment of a Suicide Prevention Science Advisory Table that seeks to include Métis experts will ensure that Métis knowledge, lived experience, representation and distinction-based approaches inform suicide prevention and life promotion strategies, which emphasizes representation and distinction-based approaches. By embedding Métis self-determination, representation, and distinction-based expertise into national suicide prevention and life promotion strategies, this strategy addresses both Calls for Miskotahâ 20 and 57, and Call for Justice 7.1.

Economic and housing security

Reflecting Threads 4 and 5 of Weaving Miskotahâ, the federal government continues to advance distinctions-based approaches to economic and housing security for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. These efforts are supported through several initiatives that align with the Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice, recognizing that economic stability, housing access, and culturally grounded supports are fundamental determinants of safety, well-being, and long-term resilience.

The [Northern Indigenous Economic Opportunities Program](#), delivered by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, enhances participation of Métis communities and businesses in the territorial economies through investments that promote entrepreneurship, improve access to capital, support workforce participation, and strengthen economic research. This work aligns with Call for Miskotahâ 23 and Call for Justice 4.2. Complementary programming under Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's [Inclusive Diversification and Economic Advancement in the North](#) provides further investments in infrastructure development, sector growth, and capacity building to diversify northern economies. These programs advance economic self-determination and resilience by supporting Indigenous-owned businesses and reducing reliance on external economic drivers as set out in Call for Miskotahâ 23 and Call for Justice 4.2. By strengthening local economic ecosystems and creating employment and income opportunities, these investments support the goals of the Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice related to economic security, community well-being, and the long-term safety and prosperity of Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

The [National Housing Strategy](#) continued to address the unique needs of Indigenous peoples through an approach to housing that invests to reduce chronic housing crises, overcrowding, substandard housing, and address a lack of essential services, among other barriers that have historically marginalized Indigenous populations. Programs led by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the National Housing Strategy further strengthen housing security in Métis communities through long-term investments to improve housing affordability and stability. Programs such as the Affordable Housing Fund, and Rapid Housing Initiative support the construction and repair of Métis-led shelters, transitional housing projects, and other community-driven housing solutions. These investments reflect Calls for Miskotahâ 23 and 25 by prioritizing safe housing, transitional supports, and Métis-led interventions that reflect community knowledge and cultural and social realities. The National Housing Strategy also responds to Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.6, 4.7, 12.4, and 17.20 by supporting Métis self-determination in housing policy. Access to stable, culturally appropriate housing contributes to the safety, dignity, and long-term well-being of Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

As part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy and the National Housing Strategy, the \$723.1 million [Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative](#) is delivered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation with the support of ISC and serves as a critical response to the need for safe and culturally informed shelters and housing for Métis women, children, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals fleeing gender-based violence. Overall, \$420 million in program dollars has been allocated for the construction of shelters and transitional homes through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. As of December 31, 2025, approximately \$396 million has been committed toward 38 new shelters and 42 transitional homes, and funds had been used to ensure Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQI+ people have access to these essential supports and services. In 2025-2026, the initiative supported nine Métis-specific projects, located in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, as well as in the urban centre of Winnipeg.

These facilities provide immediate safety while supporting healing and long-term stability through culturally grounded services delivered by Indigenous organizations and communities. Indigenous Services Canada allocated a further \$34.9 million in 2025–2026 for Métis-specific housing through the federal Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy. These investments support culturally grounded service delivery and expanded safe shelter options, and align with Calls for Miskotahâ 23 and 25, and Calls for Justice 1.8, 3.1, 3.4, 4.1, 4.7, 7.3, and 17.20, focused on accessible shelter and housing, key measures to prevent violence against Indigenous women and gender-diverse people.

Complementing these housing initiatives, [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#), led by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, provides funding to prevent and reduce homelessness through community-based responses across Canada. Through the Distinctions-based Approaches stream, Métis organizations received \$10.6 million in 2025–2026 to support individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. By addressing housing instability through culturally grounded supports, Reaching Home contributes to several Calls for Miskotahâ 8, 18, 23, 25 and 26 and Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.7, and 12.4, related to coordinated responses to homelessness, improved access to safe housing, and community-driven Métis-led supports.

Similarly, the [Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy](#), builds on this work by reducing disparities in housing conditions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous households in urban, rural, and northern regions and by supporting Indigenous-led housing solutions that are culturally relevant and community driven. Distinctions-based funding for Métis partners is delivered by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. This strategy responds to Calls for Miskotahâ 19, 23 and 25, and Call for Justice 17.20 through direct partnerships with Métis organizations. By embedding wraparound services and supports, the strategy ensures that individuals and families benefit from holistic housing solutions that are culturally relevant, and grounded in Métis knowledge and priorities.

Language and culture preservation

The Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice emphasize the importance of supporting Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people in restoring, revitalizing, and sustaining their culture, language and identity.

In 2025–2026, Canadian Heritage supported the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act*, through investments under the [Indigenous Languages Program](#). As part of 5-year agreements totaling \$61.4 million, approximately \$11.4 million was allocated to the Métis Nations British Columbia, Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Métis Nation of Ontario. These investments support the development of language resources, delivery of language instruction, organizational capacity building, and regional and local language planning. By enabling community-driven reclaiming and revitalization of Michif and other Métis languages, these initiatives align with Thread 3

of Weaving Miskotahâ and Calls for Justice 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4, advancing cultural revitalization, community healing, and Métis-led approaches to restore identity and improve the well-being of Métis women and communities.

Through the [Museums Assistance Program – Indigenous Heritage Component](#), Canadian Heritage continues to support projects that preserve, manage and present Indigenous cultural heritage. For example, the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia received \$70,000 for the Decolonizing Point Ellice House Project, which is revising the museum's narratives to reflect Métis perspectives. Through community engagement, archival research, and the development of display panels, audio guides, and guided tour materials in English and French, the project ensures Métis histories and knowledge are accurately and meaningfully represented in cultural spaces. This aligns with Métis-identified priorities under the Thread 3 of Weaving Miskotahâ and Calls for Justice 2.1, 2.5, and 2.7 by strengthening cultural identity and challenging colonial narratives.

Canadian Heritage is also supporting Métis storytelling through screen-based media. The [Indigenous Screen Office](#) program continued to provide funding for audiovisual projects that amplify Métis voices. In 2025–2026, \$17,000 was allocated to Our Storytellers Media Inc Our Storytellers Podcast, a series which preserves and celebrates Métis oral history. Guided by Elders, knowledge keepers, artists, and community members, the podcast weaves cultural teachings, lived experiences, and contemporary realities into compelling narratives. By supporting Métis stories and strengthening intergenerational knowledge transfer, this initiative directly supports cultural revitalization recommendation sets out in Calls for Justice 2.7 and 6.1.

The [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care](#) initiative, led by Employment and Social Development Canada continues to invest in early childhood education projects that honour Métis culture, language, traditions, values and customs. The initiative's Quality Improvement Projects funding component reflects Calls for Miskotahâ 18, 21 and 23, and Calls for Justice 2.3, 3.1, 17.7, and 17.26 to ensures that Métis children experience their languages, culture, and traditions from the earliest stages of development, strengthening cultural pride, fluency, and long-term sustainability. Examples of projects funded in 2025–2026 include:

- Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak received \$546,940 for Enriching Métis Early Learners and Creating Métis-Specific Early Learning Tools, to develop accessible and high quality culturally-relevant and tools and resources for Métis early learners and Indigenous early learning and child care staff
- Gift Lake Métis Settlement Association received \$354,149 for Gift Lake Aboriginal Head Start Improvement Initiative, supporting new Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care programming, including the establishment of language nests, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics learning, culturally sensitive learning environments, and expanded land-based learning initiatives

Progress toward transformational systemic change

The initiatives outlined this report demonstrate continued federal progress toward implementing the priorities identified in the Weaving Miskotahâ Threads, Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice. Longer-term initiatives, including the Indigenous Justice Strategy, support systemic transformation by embedding distinctions-based approaches in federal policy and deepening collaboration with Métis partners. By recognizing Métis legal traditions, advancing self-determination, and addressing systemic discrimination and overrepresentation in custody, these efforts align with the Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice while fostering a more culturally responsive justice system.

Across health systems, initiatives are supporting structural change by addressing anti-Indigenous racism, reforming provider training, increasing Métis representation, and expanding access to culturally safe, trauma-informed care. Distinctions-based approaches and Métis-led wellness models reinforce health as a human right and advance shared reform goals.

Investments in housing and economic development strengthen Métis leadership and governance by embedding Métis knowledge and priorities into policy. This approach addresses root causes of housing insecurity and violence while supporting sustainable, culturally grounded housing and economic opportunities for future generations.

Distinctions-based funding also advances language revitalization and cultural preservation by enabling Métis communities to lead long-term strategies. Métis-led frameworks, strengthened cultural capacity, and expanded access to Michif are building the foundation for language survival, identity, and belonging, supporting lasting change in line with the Weaving Miskotahâ Threads, Calls for Miskotahâ and the Calls for Justice. Through continued partnership, investment, and accountability, these efforts contribute to the broader goal of addressing the root causes of violence and advancing lasting safety, well-being, and self-determination for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

2025-2026 Highlight report: Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people in urban centres

Introduction

In response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' [Final Report and Call for Justice 1.1, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan](#) was released on June 3, 2021. The [Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People](#) is the Government of Canada's contribution to the National Action Plan and reflects its ongoing commitment to addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Families and survivors living in urban environments continue to emphasize that the needs and priorities of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people living in urban centres requires focused and flexible action that is grounded in the urban context. The Calls for Justice recognize that improving safety and well-being requires addressing interconnected social, cultural, and structural challenges. These challenges are often particularly acute in urban settings, where housing insecurity, homelessness, limited access to culturally safe services, and disconnection from culture and language can increase vulnerability and create barriers to support. As a result, the Calls for Justice highlight the urgent need for culturally grounded and Indigenous-led approaches that strengthen community safety, wellness, restore cultural identity, and address systemic inequities in the urban context. The priorities identified by the [Urban Sub-Working Group](#) and the [National Action Plan \(PDF\)](#), developed by the Congress of Aboriginal People, both emphasize that federal efforts to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people in urban environments must centre the voices and leadership of urban Indigenous communities and include ongoing federal investments.

This report highlights federal initiatives that respond to priorities identified by the Urban Sub-Working Group and the Congress of Aboriginal people, focusing on the following key areas:

- housing, shelters, and homelessness
- community safety
- culture and language revitalization

Housing, shelters, and homelessness

As outlined in the Urban National Action Plan and reinforced in the Calls for Justice, access to safe, stable, and culturally appropriate housing is recognized as a human right by the Government of Canada through the *National Housing Strategy Act* and it a critical priority for urban Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. Housing insecurity and homelessness are key factors that lead to greater risk of violence, particularly in urban settings, where many Indigenous individuals experience disproportionate rates of poverty, homelessness, unsafe housing, and limited access to culturally safe supports. In response, federal housing initiatives continue to advance Indigenous-led, community-driven solutions that provide stability, safety, and culturally appropriate services.

The [National Housing Strategy](#) includes programs led by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation-led programs support efforts to expand safe and affordable housing for Indigenous people living in urban areas. Recognizing the longstanding housing crisis affecting Indigenous and northern communities, the strategy invests in projects designed to meet the unique housing needs of urban Indigenous families and individuals through programs such as the Affordable Housing Fund, the Rapid Housing Initiative, and other housing investments. In 2025-2026, approximately \$56.7 million supported 23 urban housing projects, contributing to the development of safe, affordable, and sustainable housing options for Indigenous peoples. Since program launch in 2018, the Affordable Housing Fund has committed \$25 million to repair 572 existing units in the urban Indigenous community housing stock, improving housing quality and safety, and maintaining essential affordable units for Indigenous residents. These investments advance the Calls for Justice 4.1, 4.6, and 4.7 by addressing inadequate housing, homelessness, and overcrowding – key parts of a broader strategy to reduce violence and improve safety for Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people living in urban communities.

Additional efforts to narrow housing disparities affecting urban Indigenous people are supported through the [Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy](#). This strategy aims to reduce longstanding inequities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous households across urban, rural, and northern regions. By prioritizing those experiencing the most acute housing needs, the strategy strengthens Indigenous-led housing providers and organizations and supports the expansion of affordable and culturally appropriate urban housing options. This work aligns with the Calls for Justice 4.6 and 4.7, by improving access to safe housing, and addressing systemic inequities that add to higher levels of vulnerability and violence faced by urban Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Preventing and reducing homelessness is another key component of these efforts. [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#), delivered by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, uses a community-based approach that enables urban centres, Indigenous organizations and partners, and regional partners to identify their own priorities and implement programs tailored to local needs. Through the [Indigenous Homelessness Stream](#), the program supported Indigenous-led programming in 30 urban communities and seven regional areas across the country, specifically focused on off-reserve and urban Indigenous populations. In 2025–2026, over \$111 million was allocated to more than 250 projects aimed at preventing and reducing Indigenous homelessness. These initiatives may include emergency housing supports, transitional housing programs, outreach services, and culturally appropriate wraparound supports. These efforts advance Calls for Justice 4.7, 16.19, 18.24, and 18.25, by supporting community-driven housing solutions and improving access to safe, culturally grounded housing for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people living in urban communities.

Federal investments continue to support Indigenous women and gender-diverse individuals fleeing violence. The \$724.1 million [Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative](#) jointly delivered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Indigenous Services Canada, funds the construction and operation of shelters and transitional housing for Indigenous communities. In 2025-2026, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation flowed more than \$31.6 million to support the creation of new shelters and transitional housing for urban Indigenous housing projects. These new shelters and transitional housing units expanded access to safe, culturally informed in urban regions. These facilities provide safe, culturally appropriate housing and support services for Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals in urban areas who are fleeing gender-based violence. These investments respond to Calls for Justice 4.7 and 16.19, by strengthening culturally safe shelter networks and ensuring Indigenous women and families experiencing violence have access to secure housing and holistic supports.

Community safety

Federal efforts to advance community safety in urban settings continue to prioritize Indigenous-led, culturally grounded approaches that address the root causes of violence and strengthen safety, healing and well-being for urban Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. Consistent with the Urban National Action Plan and Calls for Justice, these initiatives recognize that culturally informed healing, trauma-informed support, and community-led programming is needed to prevent violence and support resilience in urban Indigenous communities, including addressing the distinct needs of 2SLGBTQI+ Indigenous communities. The [Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities](#) initiative, led by Indigenous Services Canada supports Indigenous-designed projects that promote healing, trauma-informed supports, culturally competent services and safer environments for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. In 2025–2026, funded projects included:

- 2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations received \$204,525 to strengthen services and address systemic marginalization for urban Indigenous Two-Spirit youth in Thunder Bay. This project supported a youth mental health conference and the purchase of a vehicle to increase the organization's ability to provide direct services and outreach. This work created spaces where Two-Spirit youth could access culturally safe mental health support and community connections.
- Tu Cho Cultural Camp, operated by the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society in the Kaska region, received \$1,000,000 to support Phase 3 construction of an off-grid wellness camp that delivered programming and a space for urban Indigenous people in the region to connect to land and culture. Activities offered included land-based programming, language revitalization, cultural teaching, and healing for survivors of residential schools and families affected by violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Public Safety Canada's [Northern and Indigenous Crime Prevention Fund](#) continued to support community-based, culturally responsive crime prevention initiatives that aim to strengthen community safety in Indigenous and northern communities. By focusing on Indigenous-led projects and promoting community knowledge sharing, the program ensures that prevention strategies reflect the realities and priorities of the communities they serve. In 2025–2026, \$287,242 was allocated to the Montreal Indigenous Community Network to adapt and implement the Strengthening Families Program for the urban Indigenous community in Montreal, providing culturally informed and evidence-based program supports for families with youth aged 10 to 14 that strengthen protective family processes and reduce risk factors associated with violence, conflict, and substance use. This work aligns with Call for Justice 5.5iv, calling for culturally appropriate prevention programs and family strengthening supports.

Through the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy – [Family Violence Prevention Program](#), Indigenous Services Canada funded more than 400 Indigenous-led initiatives across Canada that provide emergency shelters, second-stage housing, and culturally grounded supports and prevention programming. These investments reflect Calls for Justice 1.8, 4.7, and 7.3 by strengthening cultural safety and community-based services for Indigenous women and families. Funded projects include:

- The Dudes Club Society was funded in 2025-2026 for the family violence prevention project Bridging Generations: Intergenerational Conversations and Support for Violence Prevention, which focuses on creating safe spaces for open dialogue between elders, adults, and youth about family violence and its root causes
- FOXY (Fostering Open eXpression among Youth) was funded in 2025-2026 for Capacity Building to Prevent Family Violence Among Indigenous Youth in the Territories, which supports trauma-informed programs for youth aged 12-19 in Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, by equipping youth with tools to address conflict, build resilience, and engage with culturally grounded support systems

The [Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative](#), led by Public Safety Canada, further advanced restorative and community-based justice approaches through culturally grounded alternatives to incarceration and reintegration supports. Projects funded through the initiative will offer culturally grounded supports such as trauma counselling, addiction recovery, life-skills coaching, family reunification services, and traditional healing practices. In 2025-2026, this included support for the Indigenous Restorative Justice Worker project led by the City of Campbell River, which is intended to expand the capacity of the community's restorative justice program. Working in partnership with We Wai Kai Nation, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, Homalco First Nation, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and local service providers, the program will assist service providers to deliver culturally aware and trauma-informed responses to conflict and crime. These efforts align with Call for Justice 14.6, which highlights the importance of wide-ranging incarceration and reintegration supports. The program also emphasizes the importance of restorative justice, community-based corrections, trauma-informed approaches, and culturally relevant justice practices.

The [Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples](#) initiative, delivered by Indigenous Services Canada, continued to support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals living in or transitioning to urban centres by offering culturally safe services that address systems barriers contributing to homelessness, poverty and violence, which disproportionately affect Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. The program also continued to work with the National Association of Friendship Centres and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres to better understand urban Indigenous needs and support services that promote cultural safety and well-being for Indigenous people in cities. In 2025–2026, more than \$56.2 million was invested in urban Indigenous programming across Canada. Examples of funded projects include:

- Sex Trade Resources, Educating and Empowering Together Program received \$48,000, led by the Creating Hope Society of Alberta, which engages with at-risk Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQI+ people to provide education and safety resources related to sex trafficking, safe relationships, and personal protection
- Chez Doris Women's Shelter in Montreal received \$59,947, which provides cultural activities, meals, hygiene supplies, and sharing circles for Indigenous women and families, including spaces specifically for those affected by missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls
- Piqatigiitsiarniq received \$135,714, delivered by the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families, which provides holistic wrap-around supports for Inuit families living in urban environments, including housing support, legal advocacy, mental health counselling, income assistance navigation, children and youth programming, and help replacing lost identification

Culture and language revitalization

Urban Indigenous culture and language revitalization remain central to advancing safety, identity, and well-being, as emphasized in the National Inquiry and the Calls for Justice. The federal government recognizes that access to culture and language is a protective factor against violence and that urban Indigenous effort that emphasize restoring culture, language, and identity are essential foundations for safety and well-being.

The [Indigenous Languages Program](#), led by Canadian Heritage, continued to support Indigenous language reclamation and revitalization in line with the *Indigenous Languages Act*. In 2025-2026, approximately \$6.1 million supported multi-distinction and urban Indigenous language initiatives through multi-year funding agreements, enabling sustained programming in urban and mixed-community contexts. Through the program, organizations such as the National Association of Friendship Centres deliver Indigenous language programming for Indigenous people living in cities by supporting community-based language learning opportunities and facilitating knowledge sharing among urban Indigenous organizations. These

investments align with Calls for Justice 2.2ii and 2.3, by supporting the restoration, protection and transmission of Indigenous languages and cultures as essential foundations for safety, well-being, community connections, and identify of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Early childhood education programming remains a critical avenue for promoting culture and language revitalization in urban environments. Through the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Quality Improvement Projects fund, Employment and Social Development Canada provided \$649,187 to the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres to develop a governance model that defines high-quality Indigenous early learning and strengthens culturally grounded licensing service standards. This work supports Indigenous-designed early learning environments where Indigenous children and families can engage with culture and language from an early age, advancing Calls for Justice 2.3, 16.25, 17.7, and 17.26.

Similarly, the Public Health Agency of Canada's [Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities](#) program continued to foster the holistic development of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children aged 0 to 6 living in urban and northern communities. The program integrates six key components to foster well-being and strengthen cultural identity among young children and their families:

- culture and language
- education and school readiness
- health promotion
- nutrition
- parental involvement
- social support

In 2025–2026, approximately \$70 million supported 136 urban and northern sites across the country and advanced collaborative work with the National Aboriginal Head Start Association of Canada to strengthen Indigenous-led governance models and to develop community-defined indicators of success.

Cultural revitalization efforts were further supported through heritage and public education initiatives such as the [Museums Assistance Program – Indigenous Heritage Component](#), led by Canadian Heritage, which funds projects that preserve, promote and share Indigenous histories, knowledge, and artistic expression. In 2025–2026, \$121,878 supported *Parcours muséal intégré au Centre d'amitié autochtone de Val-d'Or*, led by Centre d'amitié autochtone de Val-d'Or to develop a museum-style exhibition in partnership with La Boîte Rouge VIF and Indigenous artist Chantal Simard Nattaway. The project will display artifacts and artworks from the Centre's collection and involve community members in curating and presenting the exhibit. By creating accessible community-based spaces for cultural expression and intergenerational learning, these initiatives advance Call for Justice 2.1 by strengthening cultural pride and ensuring Indigenous cultures and histories are meaningfully reflected in urban environments.

Progress towards transformational systemic change

These initiatives contribute to transformational systemic change by addressing long-standing structural inequities that have historically contributed to violence and marginalization experienced by Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people in urban environments. Federal investments in Indigenous-led strategies grounded in community priorities, Indigenous knowledge and distinctions-based approaches are helping to reduce systemic barriers, strengthen culturally safe services, and expand access to safe affordable housing and community supports. Over time, these investments advance the broader vision of the Calls for Justice by fostering more equitable, culturally responsive systems that uphold the safety, well-being, and self-determination of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, and by supporting the long-term transformation of urban service systems to better reflect Indigenous leadership, priorities, rights, and perspectives.

2025-2026 Highlight report: Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ people

Introduction

Indigenous Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and additional people (2SLGBTQI+) experience heightened marginalization as a result of colonialism, racism, homophobia, and transphobia. These intersecting forms of discrimination contribute to higher rates of violence, exclusion, and barriers to accessing culturally grounded supports. As partners to the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ People National Action Plan](#), the 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee contributed their own action plan tailored to the specific needs and priorities of Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ people while also emphasizing the need for governments to address the systemic, social, and cultural factors that contribute to violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

This 2025-2026 Highlight Report outlines federal initiatives that support priorities outlined by the 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee's Final Report and Calls for Justice 18.1 to 18.32. These include investments in Indigenous-led programming, culturally grounded services and housing, and national efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence, and improvements to distinctions-based and disaggregated data. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how federal actions are contributing to immediate safety and well-being while contributing to longer-term systemic change for Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Improving safety and wellbeing

The MMIWG 2SLGBTQIA+ National Action Plan and the Calls for Justice emphasize the urgent need to improve the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ people, recognizing that colonialism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia have created compounding barriers that increase vulnerability to violence. In response, federal initiatives continue to support Indigenous-led, culturally grounded, trauma-informed programming and services that improve safety, stability, and access to culturally appropriate care.

The [Family Violence Prevention Program](#), led by Indigenous Services Canada, continued to support Indigenous-led and community-driven efforts to prevent and respond to family violence, prioritizing services for First Nations, Inuit, Métis, urban Indigenous, and 2SLGBTQI+ communities. Strengthening community supports and improving access to resources contributes to increased safety and security for survivors of gender-based violence. In 2025-2026, this included funding for projects such as From Harm to Healing: Education, Prevention, and Safe Spaces for 2-Spirits, Indigiqueer, and Transgender Individuals Affected by Family Violence, which provided education, prevention programming, and safe spaces for individuals affected by family violence. These initiatives integrate trauma-informed approaches and support capacity-building and skills development, including employment readiness training for Two-Spirit and transgender individuals.

Improving access to safe and stable housing remains essential to preventing violence and supporting well-being. The [National Housing Strategy](#) places significant emphasis on addressing the housing needs of populations with unique needs, these populations include 2SLGBTQI+ communities and Indigenous peoples. Through the National Housing Strategy, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation-led programs have committed 178 new units and 7 repair units for 2SLGBTQI+ communities. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provides funding through the [Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative](#) to build new shelters and transitional homes for Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. In 2025-2026, \$28.85 million was committed to support the construction of new shelters and transitional housing for 2SLGBTQI+. As of December 31, 2025, other National Housing Strategy initiatives such as the Federal Lands Initiative, the Rapid Housing Initiative, and the Affordable Housing Fund supported the creation of 181 new units and the repair of

seven housing units specifically for 2SLGBTQI+ communities. These improvements ensure that individuals at risk of homelessness or violence have access to safe, supportive, and culturally informed housing options, reflecting Calls for Justice 18.24 and 18.25.

Federal efforts also supported culturally grounded early learning and care as a pathway to long-term safety and well-being. Through the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care initiative's Quality Improvement Projects fund, led by Employment and Social Development Canada, \$649,187 was provided to 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations to develop a Two-Spirit-specific resource guide and to train for caregivers and early childhood educators. These initiatives help ensure that Two-Spirit children and their caregivers have access to culturally appropriate, trauma-informed care and early learning environments that strengthen identity and belonging.

Creating safer and more inclusive public spaces is another key component of supporting Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ safety and well-being. Public Services and Procurement Canada oversaw the inclusion of gender-neutral washrooms in federal workplaces. These changes increase spaces where Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ individuals can access workplaces and buildings safely and with dignity, reflecting Call for Justice 18.11. In 2025–2026, Public Services and Procurement Canada updated its guidance to further support the inclusion of universal washrooms. This guidance forms part of a new washroom section in the Government of Canada's *GCworkplace Accessibility and Inclusivity Guide*, reinforcing the importance of inclusive design in federal workplaces and building projects and contributing to the safety and well-being of Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ public servants.

Justice Canada has advanced several initiatives that strengthen victim, survivors and family supports and improve access to culturally safe justice services for victims of crime including for Family Information Liaison Units which continued to assist 2SLGBTQI+ families, and families of 2SLGBTQI+ people across Canada in accessing up to date information about their missing or murdered loved ones from multiple government sources and connecting them to services and supports.

Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan

Improving the safety, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people requires coordinated, distinctions-based action to address gender-based violence and the systemic inequalities that drive it.

The [Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan](#) and the [National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence](#) are key parts of this broader effort. Led by Women and Gender Equality Canada, the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence provides a 10-year framework to coordinate federal, provincial, and territorial action aimed at building a Canada free of gender-based violence. By strengthening prevention, enhancing supports for victims and survivors, improving the accessibility and responsiveness of the justice system, enhancing social infrastructure, and reflecting the importance of implementing Indigenous-led approaches, the framework advances Calls for Justice that call for long-term strategies to prevent violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people and to improve the systems that support them, including Calls for Justice 1.5 and 1.6.

Complementing this work, Women and Gender Equality Canada continues to deliver the [Increasing the Capacity of Indigenous Women's and 2SLGBTQI+ Organizations](#) program, which helps Indigenous women's and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations to better lead culturally informed, community-driven responses to gender-based violence. Through this program, Indigenous not-for-profit organizations are supported in expanding programming, building partnerships, and developing culturally grounded violence prevention strategies. In 2025-2026, funded projects included:

- 2 Spirits in Motion Society received \$246,980 to build organizational capacity to prevent and address gender-based violence affecting Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people by hiring dedicated cultural and prevention coordinators and expanding programming that centres Indigenous healing and community connection. Activities such as seasonal gatherings, the harvesting and sharing of traditional medicines, and cultural practices including ceremonies and storytelling help strengthen cultural identity while providing safe and supportive spaces for community members
- Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres received \$188,677 to implement the Healing Our Sisters initiative, strengthening provincial Friendship Centres capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through outreach campaigns, culturally grounded training for staff and volunteers, public gatherings that bring together experts, community leaders, and survivors, and the development of policies, procedures, and partnerships that improve and sustain support for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people accessing Friendship Centre services
- Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan received \$369,350 to advance the Honouring Her Spark: Safe Space Strategy, improving safety for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQI+ people—particularly in northern communities—through community engagement, education workshops, and awareness campaigns that inform a province-wide Safe Space Strategy to better reflect culturally appropriate prevention efforts and safety responses across Friendship Centres
- Aboriginal Women's Organizing Network Society received \$179,322 to implement the Restoring the Balance of Power in Indigenous Women's Lives initiative, supporting Indigenous women involved in the sex trade and mothers navigating the child welfare system by doing research, community engagement, partnership development, and strengthened advocacy, support services, and long-term organizational capacity

Progress toward transformational systemic change

These efforts contribute to transformational systemic change by ensuring federal policies, programs, and decision-making is guided by Indigenous leadership, culturally grounded approaches, and intersectional data. By strengthening Indigenous-led organizations, advancing coordinated national strategies to end gender-based violence, and expanding inclusive and culturally safe infrastructure, these initiatives address the root causes of violence identified in the Calls for Justice. Together, they help shape a more equitable, responsive federal system and support long-term improvements in safety, well-being, and self-determination for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people across Canada.