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We respectfully acknowledge the CRCVC office is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Omàmiwininiwag (Algonquin peoples) Nation.

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This edition of the newsletter could not have been done without the help of CRCVC Board Members, [Shelley Trevethan](#) and [Michael Tansey](#).

2022 Progress Report on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan

organizations have highlighted the alarmingly high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) people in Canada. According to a recent report, more than six in ten Indigenous women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime (compared to 45% of non-Indigenous women),^[1] and the homicide rate for Indigenous women is five times that of non-Indigenous women.^[2] Further, it has been found that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are 12 times more likely to be missing or murdered than non-Indigenous women, although the exact number is unknown as thousands of these deaths or disappearances have been unreported or mis-reported.^[3]



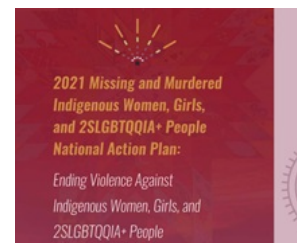
Tracey Dunnigan prepares a smudge during the national Sisters in Spirit Vigil that takes place annually across Canada. Regina, Saskatchewan October 4, 2021.



Following numerous calls for an inquiry into the deaths and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls,^[4] the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) was launched in 2016 with a mandate to examine the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada, including the underlying root causes of violence and particular vulnerabilities. The final report, *Reclaiming Power and Place*, was released in June 2019, with 231 Calls for Justice (CFJ). A report by Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO), entitled *Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People*, was also released in June 2019 with 62 Calls for Miskotahâ (the Michif word for change) which focus on Métis women and girls.

CFJ 1.1 of the National Inquiry calls upon federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments, in partnership with Indigenous people, to develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Further, the Inquiry report said that annual reports of ongoing actions and developments should be made available. At the closing ceremony of the National Inquiry, the [Prime Minister committed to developing a National Action Plan](#) to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and turning the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice into real and meaningful Indigenous-led action.

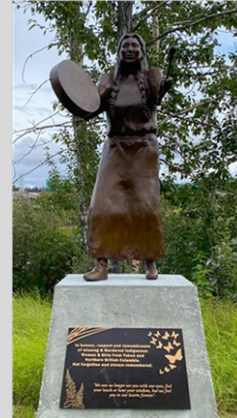
On June 3, 2021, the [2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#) was released. Families and survivors, Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ leaders, and government partners came together to create the National Action Plan to address the CFJ from the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) and the Calls for *Miskotahâ* from the LFMO Report. The Action Plan identified common short-term priorities and immediate next steps that must be taken by governments, organizations, industries, institutions, and communities across the country to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



On June 3, 2022, the first annual [Progress Report on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan](#) was released. The Progress Report identifies the actions undertaken by governments (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal, Indigenous), Indigenous representative and service organizations, and other partners over the year since the release of the National Action Plan. The following outlines the findings from the Progress Report.

Findings from the 2022 Progress Report

In the year since the release of the National Action Plan, the Progress Report identified some activities underway which respond to the goals identified in the National Action Plan. For instance, over the last year, federal and provincial/territorial governments have made various funding commitments meant to directly support initiatives to help survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people or to address the root causes of race- and gender-based violence. These include funding relating to shelters/transitional houses, violence prevention programs, and direct support for survivors and families, as well as



“Finding Peace” Memorial in Yukon to raise the ongoing issue of MMIWG in Yukon and northern British Columbia and honour the victims and their families (photo credit: Michael Tansey)



Tungasuvvingat Inuit’s Najakulugit (Beautiful Sisters) project aims to improve the healing and well-being of families and friends of missing and murdered Inuit women, girls, and 2LGBTQQIA+ living in Ontario. It will provide increased access to peer and social support; reduced sense of isolation and loneliness; increased access to culturally based healing activities; and increased ability to navigate and access the resources and services available to them.

There have also been specific on-the-ground activities, such as public awareness campaigns and commemorations, some trauma-informed training for individuals who work with Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and some new and expanded healing and support programs. Other initiatives focus on addressing the broader root causes of violence, such as access to adequate housing, improved child and family services for Indigenous children and youth, access to cultural knowledge, and improved internet services in rural and remote Indigenous communities.

Although these are promising first steps, the Progress Report found some major gaps towards achieving the goals of the National Action Plan and ending the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. One major gap is that, although meant to be established within the first year of the Action Plan, neither an independent national committee nor implementation plan have been created. Therefore, there has been a lack of coordination and information-sharing on the National Action Plan among governments, Indigenous organizations, and other partners, and families and survivors have not had an opportunity to be involved in work on the National Action Plan. Further, no action on developing broad overall accountability mechanisms relating to the CFJ and Calls for Miskotahā was identified.

Another noticeable gap relates to support services for survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Importantly, there are little to no services specifically designed for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. There is also a need for greater focus on the broad root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Finally, although the creation of an Independent National Indigenous Human Rights Ombudsperson and/or Tribunal to investigate and address complaints was identified as an important immediate next step, no advancement on this body was found.

Based on the findings of the Progress report, it is clear that more action is needed to implement the recommendations from the National Inquiry and the LFMO reports.

To view the rest of this article, please visit the PDF on our website by clicking on the link below.



Ka Ni Kanichihk (those who lead in Ininew-Cree) is an Indigenous-led organization in downtown Winnipeg that provides prevention and intervention programs that help children, youth, women, men, and families heal, succeed, and become leaders. Ka Ni Kanichihk provides cultural and social leadership development for Indigenous girls and Two-Spirit youth, job-skills training, and support for women and families. We walk with people on their path of recovery from trauma.

[Click Here](#)

[1] Heidinger, L. (2022). "Violent victimization and perceptions of safety: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada." *Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X*. Available at <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00004-eng.htm>.

[2] Armstrong, A., & Jaffray, B. (2021). *Homicide in Canada, 2020*. *Juristat. Statistics Canada*. Available at <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00017-eng.pdf?st=-uVWy1q>.

[3] *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a*. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-fada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf

[4] For example, the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and the *Sisters in Spirit* campaign.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Homicide Support Group

Our **Homicide Support Group** is for family members, friends and close loved ones of homicide victims and is intended to offer peer support to those dealing with violent loss. This support group is offered nationally meaning that we can connect with and support survivors from across the country. *English only*.

When: October 27th at 6:30 pm EST

Where: Virtually

To RSVP: email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca or call us at 1-877-232-2610



Online Auction in Support of Victims of Crime

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting an online auction throughout the month of November! Make sure to follow us on our socials to ensure that you stay up to date with the announcements of prizes that we will be auctioning off.

When: November 8 - November 29

Where: Virtually

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Charitable Registration #13552 8701 RR0001

