



A Journey Towards Reconciliation

**Government of Prince Edward Island's 2023 annual status report on actions
taken towards reconciliation and honouring the Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Calls for Justice and Truth and
Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action**

Government
of Prince Edward Island
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A Pathway to Reconciliation: Introduction

This Status Report identifies the actions undertaken over the last year since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Final Report and the Calls in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in 2015 and 2019, respectively. The report describes actions, initiatives, and commitments undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island.

The MMIWG final report contained 231 Calls for Justice that were directed at all levels of governments, institutions, industry, and the public. The Calls for Justice were implemented to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit (2S) people. The report was a broad call to action for both governments at all levels as well as all Canadians to meaningfully address the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ community members.

The TRC included 94 Calls to Action. All levels of government were encouraged to work together to reform policies and programs to repair the harm caused by residential schools. The report also called on all levels of government, organizations, and residents of Canada, in general, to mend the legacy of the residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Government of Prince Edward Island has been providing annual reports on the TRC since 2019 and on MMIWG since 2020. This report combines those two reports and highlights progress that the government has made over the last year to advance positive outcomes for Indigenous People on Prince Edward Island.

Walking the Path Together: About this Report

Since the release of the MMIWG and TRC final reports, the Government of Prince Edward Island has taken active steps to reconcile and strengthen relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities. The Government of Prince Edward Island recognizes the importance of implementing the Calls and is committed to taking tangible steps to address them and working towards Reconciliation.

The structure of the 2023 MMIWG and TRC status report has been enhanced to offer a combined summary and detailed appendixes that provide specific responses to each Call to Justice or Call to Action that the Government of PEI is responsible for implementing. The TRC Calls to Action are organized by several major themes: education, language and culture, health, justice, museum and archives, commemoration, and business and reconciliation, The MMIWG Calls for Justice for First Nations includes: human and Indigenous Rights and governmental obligations, culture, health and wellness, human security, justice, and industries, institutions, services and partnerships (media and social influencers, health and wellness service providers, transportation Services and Hospitality Industry, police services, attorneys and law societies, educators, social workers and those implicated in child welfare, extractive and developmental industries, correctional services, and all Canadians).

In this report, emphasis has been placed on the ways in which departments may support these Calls in various ways. In 2024, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat (IRS) once again delivered Honouring the Calls training to all government departments. The purpose of the training is to help all civil servants better understand, appreciate, and relate to the impact of the work to advance Reconciliation by gaining a deeper insight and awareness about the purpose of the Calls and the principles that inform them.

An additional appendix titled “Other” has been added to the report this year to capture additional work completed over the past year that does not fall under specific Calls for Justice or Calls to Action. The summary also includes an overview of the Indigenous Relations Secretariat and a section that highlights initiatives that members of the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group accomplished in 2023 with annual funding provided by the Government of Prince Edward Island.

Finding a Way Forward Together: Stakeholder Engagement

The Government of Prince Edward Island is focused on supporting healthy, safe and sustainable Indigenous communities and working to achieve greater social justice and Reconciliation. Through the Indigenous Working Group, The Government of Prince Edward Island is actively listening to the concerns of Indigenous communities across the province and addressing those concerns with responsible initiatives and well-considered programs.

The MMIWG and TRC's Calls for Justice and Calls to Action set out a path towards Reconciliation. Active involvement and collaboration by all stakeholders with Indigenous peoples and communities in Prince Edward Island will build stronger relationships and respectful partnerships that benefit all Islanders. Twelve departments were involved in responding to the Calls.

Indigenous Relations Secretariat

The Indigenous Relations Secretariat coordinates the Government of Prince Edward Island's response to Indigenous matters within the province. In addition to offering a central point of contact for First Nations and Indigenous organizations, the Secretariat acts as both a catalyst and a conduit to promote inter-departmental communication and cooperation on governmental matters related to Indigenous Relations. The Secretariat supports work conducted under the Framework Agreement between the Government of Canada, the Government of PEI, and the PEI Mi'kmaq. It continues to participate in a contribution agreement with the Native Council of PEI and provides annual grant funding to the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI. The Secretariat represents Prince Edward Island at various inter-governmental tables.

The Indigenous Relations Secretariat (IRS) has three core functions:

SUPPORT – The Indigenous Relations Secretariat acts as a centralized advisory service for coordinating government's response to Indigenous matters within Prince Edward Island.

COORDINATION – The Indigenous Relations Secretariat develops and maintains public policy on the duty to consult and limits legal liability by advising departments, agencies, boards, and corporations on policy matters related to Aboriginal and treaty rights.

FACILITATION – The Indigenous Relations Secretariat fosters, maintains, and supports positive relationships with First Nations and Indigenous organizations and communities in Prince Edward Island.

Every year, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat coordinates with government departments to report on the Calls to Action and Calls for Justice. The annual report is a snapshot of some of the work underway or completed by government that is responsive to the Calls. The report is meant to be a 'working document' that will continue to be updated as work on the Calls to Action and Calls for Justice progress. The report lays out a pathway forward, to advance and strengthen reconciliation in a way that is meaningful, achievable, and measurable.

As in previous years, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat provided training to senior management teams in all twelve government departments. Training included the history of residential schools, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and reporting on TRC Calls to Action and MMIWG Calls for Justice. This training was intended to raise awareness, improve planning, and establish a process for developing annual status reports. Over 380 decision-makers and senior management are now better aware of the importance of working together across departments to implement the Calls.

Support for MMIWG Work in Communities

When *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* was published, the provincial government was called upon to create the Indigenous Working Group to inform the province's response to the MMIWG Calls for Justice.

A dedicated fund of \$500,000 is provided annually to support the Indigenous Working Group to engage and collaborate with the province on work related to gender-based violence and MMIWG and the Calls for Justice status report over the next four years. In 2023, funding in the amount of \$100,000 each was distributed to Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association.

The funding support provided by the Government of PEI has assisted members of the Indigenous Working Group to achieve many accomplishments in 2023. The five members shared their reports.

ABEGWEIT FIRST NATION

This report provides an overview of the activities conducted by Abegweit First Nation in relation to a \$50,000 grant received from the Province of Prince Edward Island. These activities focused on providing support to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S) family members and survivors in their healing journeys.

Abegweit First Nation is committed to addressing the urgent issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) within our community and across Prince Edward Island. In accordance with the ongoing efforts of our First Nation, this report is intended to provide insight into activities and an update on progress towards addressing this critical issue.

Awareness and Advocacy: Abegweit First Nation has intensified efforts to raise awareness about MMIWG through various community events, workshops, and educational sessions. These initiatives aim to foster a deeper understanding of the systemic issues that contribute to the vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls. They are also intended to empower community members to advocate for justice and change. Abegweit First Nation has been proactive in their efforts to raise awareness about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) issue, recognizing the importance of community engagement and education. By organizing various events such as community gatherings, workshops, and educational sessions, they're striving to deepen the understanding of the systemic issues contributing to the vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls. These initiatives not only shed light on the challenges faced by Indigenous communities but also empower individuals to advocate for justice and change.

One noteworthy aspect of their awareness and advocacy efforts is their collaboration with other campaigns like the National Moose Hide Campaign. This grassroots movement brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys to stand against violence towards women and children. By wearing a Moose Hide Pin, individuals symbolize their commitment to honor, respect, and protect women and children, pledging to work collectively to end violence in their communities.

The 12th annual Moose Hide Campaign Day on May 11th, 2023, was marked by a meaningful Sunrise Ceremony led by a Mi'kmaq Elder woman from Abegweit First Nation. This ceremony, which was videotaped, exemplifies the community's dedication to commemorating the day and raising awareness about the cause. Such ceremonies not only honor the victims but also serve as a powerful reminder of the ongoing commitment to create safer environments for Indigenous women and girls.

Community Support Services: In recognition of the importance of providing support to those affected by MMIWG, Abegweit First Nation has expanded its community support services. This includes culturally sensitive counseling programs, support groups, and outreach initiatives to ensure that survivors, families, and loved ones have access to the assistance they need during these challenging times.

Collaborative Partnerships: Abegweit First Nation continues to collaborate with local, provincial, and federal agencies, Indigenous organizations, and advocacy groups to develop comprehensive strategies for preventing violence against Indigenous women and girls. By fostering these partnerships, Abegweit First Nation aims to leverage resources, share knowledge, and implement effective interventions to address the root causes of MMIWG.

Cultural Preservation and Healing: Cultural revitalization and healing play integral roles in efforts to address MMIWG. Through the promotion of Indigenous languages, traditions, and ceremonies, Abegweit First Nation strives to instill a sense of pride and resilience within our community while also providing healing spaces for those impacted by intergenerational trauma.

Policy Advocacy: Abegweit First Nation is actively engaged in advocating for policy reforms at both the provincial and federal level to better protect Indigenous women and girls. This includes calling for improvements in law enforcement protocols, enhanced victim support services, and the implementation of recommendations put forth by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The implementation of the PEI Missing Person Act on September 7th, 2023 marks a significant milestone in these advocacy efforts. This legislation provides a crucial mechanism for obtaining data and coordinating efforts to locate missing Indigenous women on Prince Edward Island. By establishing clearer protocols and avenues for action, this act helps streamline the response to missing persons cases and enhances the chances of locating individuals promptly and safely.

Furthermore, Abegweit First Nation and other Indigenous organizations' involvement in advocating for such legislative changes underscores their dedication to ensuring that Indigenous women and girls receive the protection and support they deserve. Active engagement with policymakers for reforms contributes to creating a safer and more equitable environment for Indigenous communities.

In conclusion, Abegweit First Nation remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing the crisis of MMIWG. Through a multifaceted approach that encompasses awareness, support services, partnerships, cultural revitalization, and policy advocacy, Abegweit First Nation is dedicated to fostering safer communities where Indigenous women and girls can thrive without fear of violence or discrimination. Abegweit First Nation looks forward to continued collaboration with the Province of Prince Edward Island and other stakeholders to achieve meaningful and sustainable change.

ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF PEI

In March 2023, the Aboriginal Women's Association of Prince Edward Island (AWAPEI) hosted a Network Gathering to share information with partners regarding the organization and its activities. During the event, the two-eyed seeing approach to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was presented and gaps in services were identified.

On May 5, 2023, AWAPEI hosted the annual Red Dress event. May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for the prevention of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. This is a day of remembrance for those who have been murdered or gone missing. AWAPEI also hosted an annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil on October 4, 2023 to honor the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. At both events, speakers helped to educate those who may not be aware of such tragedies. Each year, both events continue to grow. AWAPEI is now seeing a significant increase in attendance of non-Indigenous people at these events.

In 2023, AWAPEI held multiple workshops exclusively for their membership with all workshops consisting of two components. The first component was focused on tradition. For example, traditional crafts (beading, dreamcatchers, ribbon skirts, drum making, etc.) or ceremonies/gatherings (talking circle, prayer ties, smudging protocols, forgiveness ceremony). The second component to the workshops focused on education/awareness such as the Safe Passage presentation. Safe Passage is an initiative created by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) that tracks cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people. This presentation was intended to educate the membership on the initiative as well as utilization of their website to report a potential missing Indigenous person. The activities noted above are some examples of the education/awareness work undertaken by the AWAPEI during the past year. AWAPEI has been working towards building capacity, maintaining current relationships, and evolving new ones. These efforts will continue.

LENNOX ISLAND FIRST NATION

During 2023, Lennox Island First Nation supported a request from the community to build sweat lodges. Elders from Lennox Island and other communities were engaged in the planning process to share their knowledge and provide logistical support for this initiative. It is anticipated that the lodges will be built in the spring.

During the past year, Lennox Island First Nation partnered with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island (MCPEI) to hold a women's retreat that focused on healing, health, and wellness. This partnership brought Indigenous women from on and off-reserve across PEI together to share stories and connect with other women. There was significant engagement and participation in the activities offered at the event including hand drums, quill art, cultural teachings, medicine wheels, personal pampering, and sharing circles. Participants have requested that a women's retreat become an annual event.

In 2023, there was a high level of engagement by members of the MMIWG working group in initiatives to advance the TRC Calls to Action and MMIWG Calls for Justice including:

- Representatives from Lennox Island were engaged by Innovation 7, an organization that builds reconciliation-focused partnerships, to discuss oversight mechanisms on the National Action Plan.
- Representatives from Lennox Island also participated in a review of Principles and Practices pertaining to Authentic Engagement with Indigenous Communities that was completed by the Canadian Police Network. Throughout the review process, a MMIWG lens was used. Representatives from Lennox Island also met with Community Legal Information to gather information on the development of two new programs that are available to Indigenous people from across the Island.
- Lennox Island First Nation has been conducting a review of the Calls for Justice to determine how the community can make changes as a direct result of the calls. A cultural awareness presentation was developed and delivered to a variety of groups, government departments, and agencies to continue raising awareness around the complex issues Indigenous people and, more specifically, the Mi'kmaq have endured over the course of our shared history.
- Lennox Island First Nation has participated in the Provincial MMIWG working group and the RCMP L Division Advisory committee. There is now a Prince Edward Island representative on the national RCMP Indigenous Advisory Committee which allows for cross-committee communication at both a provincial and national level.

During 2023, Lennox Island participated in several cultural events including the Red Dress event organized by the MMIWG working group. In August, about 20 Lennox Island First Nation members participated in a Conch Belt workshop facilitated by Jamie Metallic. The workshop took place just prior to the Annual Mawio'mi to allow participants the chance to wear their newly created items during the event. Lennox Island also hosted several cultural events throughout the year. These events focused on incorporating traditional ways of dealing with conflict, traditional healing methods, and other ceremonies that utilize the ways of the past to decolonize the future.

MI'KMAQ CONFEDERACY OF PEI

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island (MCPEI) would like to express its sincere thanks to the Provincial Indigenous Relations Secretariat (IRS) for working alongside the MMIWG Working Group, to advance the calls for Justice. It provides a safe space for our organizations to share our perspectives and ideas and to take a closer look at the Calls for Justice. It is through participating and hearing each other's stories that ways can be identified for working together collaboratively.

During this past year, the MCPEI Health Program has been working closely with First Nations community members both on and off-reserve across Prince Edward Island. MCPEI's goals are to address the impacts of the Indian Residential School, Indian Day School, and MMIWG. Below is a list of activities undertaken by MCPEI over the past year:

- MCPEI collaborated with other organizations on the Red Dress Event held at Victoria Park as well as on Reconciliation Days.
- During both community events, and one-on-one visits, MCPEI's Resolution Health Support Worker/Cultural Support (RHSW/CS) has provided emotional support to intergenerational family members who fell victim to domestic violence and other abuses.
- Training and building capacity are essential to help frontline workers in their work to address the impacts of trauma. The RHSW/CS has been working toward building capacity and, specifically, toward Trauma-Informed Approaches and conflict resolution certification. During the past year, the RHSW/CS also took the Conflict Resolution Certification course at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). The RHSW/CS was certified in February 2024.
- MCPEI invested in materials, cultural supplies, and ceremonial medicines and provided these resources to Elder/Spiritual knowledge keepers for ceremony.
- MCPEI recently invested into care packages for Indigenous women and provided them to our partner organizations to distribute to women in need. MCPEI also recently invested in care packages for men. This initiative was very well received by other Indigenous organizations that now want to partner with MCPEI to continue the program. MCPEI recognizes the needs of men as well as women and especially those who are a direct descendant of MMIWG.
- MCPEI's Health Program provides a safe creative environment to create, communicate, and heal through painting and other cultural activities. The program provides education and prevention information through presentations, art therapy, and medicine wheel teachings.
- MCPEI, in collaboration with the Lennox Island Cultural Centre, hosted a 2 day 'Positivity Through Culture Workshop'. Sixteen people participated in the workshops that included self-care presentations and cultural activities such as quill work and drum making.
- MCPEI's RHSW/CS collaborates with both Bands to offer support to descendants of the IRS, IDS and MMIWG2S through a trauma-informed approach such as providing self-care bags to both men and women and offering therapeutic art sessions to both individuals and groups.
- The RHSW/CS offers support to the provincial courts when requested.

- The RHSW/CS provides support to many events and organizations such as the Interministerial Women's Secretariat meeting that was held in July 2023.
- MCPEI welcomes the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively with the provincial MMIWG Working Group and organizations. It is through this collaborative approach that our organization can make a significant difference.

NATIVE COUNCIL OF PEI

The Native Council of PEI (NCPEI) MMIWG provides educational sessions to schools, government, and community groups as well as to the off-reserve Indigenous community on PEI. MMIWG works to promote healing among off-reserve Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples on PEI through quarterly meetings and regular activities.

Activities organized and hosted by NCPEI MMIWG include the following: healing circles, retreats, women's sweat groups, the making of ribbon skirts and shirts, dreamcatchers, medicine pouches, and drums, Kairos Blanket Exercise presentations as well as events for national and regional initiatives such as Red Dress Day. NCPEI MMIWG also provides client services to its members and routinely assists women with obtaining services, referrals to programs and accessing resources that address their needs.

NCPEI MMIWG has established community partnerships with other organizations, both Indigenous and allies, including the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre (MFRC), the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI (AWAPEI), Anderson House, and CLI Legal Information among others.

In 2023, NCPEI held three retreats: one for MMIWG, one focusing on Gender Based Violence in partnership with NCPEI's Men and Boys program, and a Youth Retreat in partnership with the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre (MFRC). The retreats are important for the community, as they provide participants with an opportunity to gather, discuss issues past and present, get helpful tips and learn about resources. The retreats are also useful in informing NCPEI's future direction for projects and for getting community feedback on policy papers, questionnaires, and other projects that may be in development.

In March 2023, a survey at the MMIWG retreat identified a need and desire for additional and ongoing support for victims, families, and friends of abuse or crime as well as mental health and wellness support. Survey respondents indicated that events such as the retreat described above are important to personal healing journeys. Respondents also indicated that these events are essential for building new, healthy relationships and a strong and resilient community.

NCPEI MMIWG has an active Advisory Committee comprised of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ members from across PEI. The committee meets regularly to learn, share, and understand the needs of clients throughout the province (notably rural/urban, and in the three NCPEI Zones which correspond to the three counties).

In addition to the activities above, the MMIWG Coordinator has acquired a seat on several community-based and government boards/committees:

- Board of Directors of PEI Family Violence Preventions Services, Inc.
- Child and Family Services Foster Care Recruitment Committee
- New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council: Looking Out for Each Other Committee
- Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) Table for MMIWG
- PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Since July 2023, NCPEI's MMIWG Coordinator has been collaborating with policy staff within the organization to develop an MMIWG Provincial Action Plan for NCPEI in the event of a missing Indigenous person. Unfortunately, there have been two missing persons cases on PEI this year in which NCPEI MMIWG has been involved. These have been learning situations for the Coordinator and Policy Analyst, who noted gaps in both service delivery and response actions. This information was used to develop the Provincial Action Plan. The plan includes a smaller but more community-oriented Safety Action Plan and once it is complete, the plan will be shared with stakeholders throughout the province for input. Women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ participants at the MMIWG retreat identified the need for further input from Indigenous men and boys as allies in addressing MMIWG. The Plan should be finalized by the end of Summer 2024.

Though NCPEI is grateful for the partnership of the province, it is important to note that without community partners and NCPEI MMIWG partnering with other NCPEI programs, most of these events could not take place. The events are costly to implement. Funding provided by the province for MMIWG primarily covers the MMIWG Coordinator's salary. The MMIWG Coordinator depends on other funding sources, such as funding for specific events and partnerships with other programs and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, to hold events. This has led to many exciting, productive and positive working relationships, but more consistent, solidified funding in the future for MMIWG is required since the program has such an important impact on the community's healing the wellbeing of the community moving forward.

Honouring the Calls

The following report is a narrative summary of some of the work that has been accomplished over the past year to advance reconciliation. The MMIWG and TRC's Calls for Justice and Calls to Action set out a path towards reconciliation by providing achievable and meaningful targets for governments to work towards. Twelve departments are involved in responding to the Calls.

The following are highlights from this year's Calls:

- A dedicated fund of \$500,000 is provided annually to support the Indigenous Working Group to engage and collaborate with the province on work related to gender-based violence and MMIWG and the Calls for Justice status report over the next four years.
- The Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning & Population provided \$50,000 of funding to Sierra Club Canada Foundation (Wild Child PEI) for Llika'Wksitqmuk, a program that aims to reconnect non-reserve Indigenous children back to the land using traditional teachings.
- The Department of Education & Early Years implemented a module called Allyship about Mi'kmaq culture and language as a provincially developed option. This module seeks to build intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect to continue the work of allyship.
- The Government of PEI provided \$97,250 in funding for a School Food Program at John J. Sark Memorial School in Lennox Island First Nation over the fiscal year.
- The Provincial Correctional Center Women's Unit was officially opened. The new unit has a designated area for practicing spirituality and allows for cultural ceremonies such as smudging.
- The Department of Transportation & Infrastructure worked with Abegweit to manage a \$4.3m project in Scotchfort called the Abegweit Connects. The Department also completed \$1m road project in that area to enhance road safety.
- Indigenous Tourism PEI partnered with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island to establish a 3-month pilot to develop a space to share culture, provide training, and sell authentic Indigenous Artwork. Innovation PEI contributed \$60,000 to the Storefront Pilot.
- The Interministerial Women's Secretariat provided the Native Council of Prince Edward Island \$37,500 in funding for a project to get a full and current picture of gender-based violence in the off-reserve Indigenous community so that future programs and projects can more accurately help the community where needed.
- The Department of Finance formally launched the *PEI Geographic Naming Program* in 2023. This program involves meaningful Indigenous engagement.
- The Government of Prince Edward Island signed an historic agreement with the Chiefs of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation for a housing project in Hillsborough Park, Charlottetown, that will provide land and opportunities to address the housing needs of First Nations urban community members and access to economic development.

- The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils and the Government of Prince Edward Island have signed a MOU for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to deliver Gladue Reports to the Courts to inform sentencing.
- Staff of the Chief Public Health Office engaged in training dedicated to the First Nations principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, Possession) including The Fundamentals of OCAP® online course, to support their work with First Nations community members and representatives.
- The Department of Environment, Energy & Climate Action executed a Collaboration Agreement with L'nuey in response to the PEI Energy Corporations proposed wind farm expansion in Eastern Kings.
- The Government of Prince Edward Island provided five \$1,000 John J. Sark Memorial Scholarships for Indigenous students on PEI.

Appendix A

MMIWG Calls for Justice

The Government of Prince Edward Island affirms its commitment to advancing the implementation of the MMIWG Calls for Justice to address the legacy of trauma, violence, and oppression that has been inflicted upon Indigenous people. Initiatives and activities implemented during the past year in response to the Calls are noted below. To see a complete list of the calls or to learn more about MMIWG, visit: mmiwg-ffada.ca.

- 1.1 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments (hereinafter “all governments”), in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people, as recommended in our Interim Report and in support of existing recommendations by other bodies of inquiry and other reports.⁶ As part of the National Action Plan, we call upon all governments to ensure that equitable access to basic rights such as employment, housing, education, safety, and health care is recognized as a fundamental means of protecting Indigenous and human rights, resourced and supported as rights-based programs founded on substantive equality. All programs must be no-barrier and must apply regardless of Status or location. Governments should:
- Table and implement a National Action Plan that is flexible and distinctions-based, and that includes regionally specific plans with devoted funding and timetables for implementation that are rooted in the local cultures and communities of diverse Indigenous identities, with measurable goals and necessary resources dedicated to capacity building, sustainability, and long-term solutions.
 - Make publicly available on an annual basis reports of ongoing actions and developments in measurable goals related to the National Action Plan.

- I. The Public Service Commission’s (PSC) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Office attended a series of meetings with departmental Senior Management Teams on implementing EDI Strategies. Comprehensive conversations were held with managers on Indigenous Peoples, cultural competency, eliminating barriers and creating inclusive workplace culture that is free from all forms of discrimination.

1.4 We call upon all governments, and in particular Indigenous governments and Indigenous representative organizations, to take urgent and special measures to ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are represented in governance and that their political rights are respected and upheld. We call upon all governments to equitably support and promote the role of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people in governance and leadership. These efforts must include the development of policies and procedures to protect Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people against sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and racism within political life.

- I. Government employees attended the 2023 PRIDE Parade to recognize and celebrate diversity in our workplace, in our community and to honor our employees and communities.
- II. Minister Jameson with Interministerial Women’s Secretariat (IWS) and Indigenous Relations Secretariat (IRS) represented the Province at the January Roundtable of Indigenous leaders and representatives, Government of Canada Ministers, and Provincial and Territorial Ministers. The purpose of the Roundtable was to provide Indigenous partners and federal-provincial-territorial governments a space to have a dialogue on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, with a focus on priority topics that will meaningfully contribute to the advancement of the Calls for Justice and ending the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- III. PEI hosted the 2023 FPT Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women meetings in Charlottetown. These meetings included a full day pre-meeting with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives. To ensure a trauma-informed approach in the meeting, a representative from the Mi’kmaq Confederacy of PEI was available to provide mental health/cultural support to delegates throughout the day. As part of the meeting, a panel of Indigenous leaders from Prince Edward Island shared their experience of creating a PEI film called The Ice Walk. The Ice Walk exposes the little told story of the treacherous journey across the ice from mainland Prince Edward Island, Canada, to Lennox Island reserve where the Mi’kmaq people were forced to settle. In 2021, the Lennox Island First Nation and ally settlers hosted a reconciliation event. Community Elders shared their stories and traumatic memories.

1.6 We call upon all governments to eliminate jurisdictional gaps and neglect that result in the denial of services, or improperly regulated and delivered services, that address the social, economic, political, and cultural marginalization of, and violence against, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people.

- I. To ensure inclusive and comprehensive hiring practices and a fair screening process, the PEI Public Service Commission (PSC) initiated a process of circulating job ads within wider communities, including Indigenous groups, service providing agencies, Indigenous employment assistance service agencies and other groups to ensure inclusive and comprehensive hiring practices as well as fair screening processes.
- II. The Department of Social Development & Seniors (DSDS) Seniors Navigators have met and communicated with the on-reserve Mi'kmaq Health System Navigators who provide navigational support for residents on reserve. By request, this support is also available to anyone living both on and off reserve.
- III. DSDS have provided the Seniors' Secretariat grant funding to the Native Council of PEI for their "Ribbons and Trails" project (2023-2024 funding). This project empowers Indigenous Elders to become actively involved in their Indigenous communities by reducing barriers to participation while promoting opportunities for them to transmit cultural teachings and practices to Indigenous youth and community members at each Powwow.
- IV. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat (IWS) provided \$15,000 to the Native Council of Prince Edward Island to fund a cultural retreat focused on addressing gendered violence and allowing for participants to contribute to NCPEI's proposed MMIWG Provincial Action Plan. Teachings will focus on the sacredness of gendered roles, land-based healing, healthy relationships, and supporting women and girls.
- V. IWS provided the Native Council of Prince Edward Island \$37,500 in funding for a research project that will provide a more comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence in the off-reserve Indigenous community so that future programs and projects can more accurately help the community where needed.
- VI. The IWS provided \$250,000 in funding to members of the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group (Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI, Abegweit First Nation, Lennox Island First Nation, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Native Council of PEI) through the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence funding.

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

- I. During 2023, the Department of Finance formally launched the *PEI Geographic Naming Program*. This program involves meaningful Indigenous engagement.
- II. As part of the naming process, a Geographic Naming Advisory Committee was struck to make recommendations on name change requests. This committee includes Indigenous representation.
- III. The Public Service Commission organized the 2023 Public Service Week and incorporated speeches and presentations from Indigenous Elders as well as representatives from Mi'kmaq communities.

3.1 We call upon all governments to ensure that the rights to health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples, and specifically of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, are recognized and protected on an equitable basis.

- I. The Primary Care Renewal Roadmap highlights several priority areas for action including enhanced and integrated community-based health services. As such, the Department of Health and Wellness has engaged with Lennox Island First Nation and is planning an Abegweit First Nation engagement to understand the Indigenous services offered and how we can work together to ensure Indigenous peoples have access and seamless transitions to culturally safe and effective supports. This new model of primary care is intended to positively impact their health outcomes of Indigenous peoples throughout the province.
- II. The Department of Health and Wellness's Contraception Program is under development. Although program design decisions haven't been made, early discussions are focused on respecting an individual's right to choose whether they use contraceptives and the type of contraception. Forced sterilization imposed on Indigenous women was highlighted as an example of a population health practice that has damaging repercussions.
- III. The implementation of the Health Strategy for Women and Islanders who are Gender Diverse is ongoing. Enhancing Indigenous cultural safety and humility is a key underpinning of the priority area related to creating welcoming environments.
- IV. The Primary Care Renewal Team participated in a planning session with Lennox Island First Nations and has had an initial meeting with Abegweit First Nations. Further sessions with

both Lennox Island and Abegweit, facilitated by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, are being planned. The Primary Care Renewal Team is listening and learning about Indigenous health needs within the province, the services currently provided and how we can work together to coordinate care and services between Patient Medical Homes and Community Partners to reach desired population health outcomes. Once actions are mutually identified, funding and support will be administered to coordinate, collaborate, and share responsibilities with a patient's medical home in order to provide comprehensive care to patients.

- V. Ongoing partnerships are being evolved with Indigenous community groups and on-reserve Wellness and Health Centres across PEI.
- VI. Ongoing partnerships are being evolved with other community groups that support Indigenous populations (e.g. Black Cultural Society of PEI).
- VII. Advocacy for health equity (and use of this lens) and addressing social determinants of health (e.g. racism, housing, food security) is ongoing.
- VIII. Collaboration between CPHO and Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nation Health Centres for communicable disease and vaccine preventable disease programs is ongoing.
- IX. Molecular COVID-19 testing at the Health Centres in Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nation was supported through the provincial supply of reagents for COVID-19 testing to help ensure access at First Nation Health Centres.
- X. Health data on COVID immunization rates was provided to the Health Centres in Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation to support their vaccine programs.
- XI. Through various initiatives (e.g. Live Well PEI, etc.) the Chief Public Health Office is amplifying the voices of Indigenous people—providing opportunities for engagement and support efforts to give voice to Indigenous groups.

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

- I. The Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) encourage Mi'kmaq communities to apply for Wellness Grants. Staff are available to support them in their application and implementation of projects. Consistently, Mi'kmaq communities apply and are successful in receiving wellness grants to implement health promotion interventions that impact and support the health of families and their communities.
- II. The Chief Public Health Office, along with Health PEI and IT Shared Services, is renewing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation for communicable disease and immunizations. The first MOA was signed in 2015 and the new MOA is currently with Treasury Board for approval. All parties have reviewed the Agreement, including L'nuey, the organization that represents the legal interests of First Nations on PEI. Once signed by all parties, the Agreement will be in effect for another 5 years (January 2029).

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

- I. Work is ongoing by the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) on policies to reduce harms from substances like alcohol, which are experienced more by populations who are susceptible to health inequities.
- II. The Chief Public Health Office has connected the Native Council of PEI (NCPEI), serving Indigenous Peoples off-reserve, with REACH Nexus' Community Link Project. This has resulted in NCPEI now acting as a distribution site for HIV self-test kits. This will increase access to Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections (STBBI) testing and follow-up care for Indigenous Peoples. The Chief Public Health Office has also connected both Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation with REACH Nexus.

- III. The Chief Public Health Office provided information resources (laminated cards, stickers) on two phone-based supervised consumptions services to many groups for distribution – including Lennox Island First Nation, Abegweit First Nation, and the Native Council of PEI. This will increase access to harm reduction services and foster connection to peer support.
- IV. The Aboriginal Women’s Association is a member of the Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. The mandate of the group is to enhance the coordination and impact of collective efforts in family violence prevention. Its primary role includes offering support to various initiatives, and nurturing a culture of information sharing, education, and collaboration in this vital area.

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

- I. The DSDS’s Summer Food Security Program for students was offered to those living on and off reserve across the province. Program information was sent to administrators at John J. Sark Memorial School as well as the Mi’kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Native Council of PEI and the Mi’kmaq Family Resource Centre. Family cultural identifiers were not included in the application for service; therefore, enrollment numbers are not available.

4.6 We call upon all governments to immediately commence the construction of new housing and the provision of repairs for existing housing to meet the housing needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This construction and provision of repairs must ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people have access to housing that is safe, appropriate to geographic and cultural needs, and available wherever they reside, whether in urban, rural, remote, or Indigenous communities.

- I. The PEI Housing Corporation’s capital and operating budgets account for expansion of supportive housing options which will be operated by community members, including those supporting the Indigenous community.
- II. The Government of PEI signed a historic agreement with the Chiefs of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation for a housing project in Hillsborough Park, Charlottetown, that will provide land and opportunities to address the housing needs of First Nations urban community members and access to economic development.
- III. The agreement allocates serviced land, including water, sewer and road access, to the PEI First Nations, to build housing amounting to 10 per cent of the total allowable housing units of the Hillsborough Park project. The Government of PEI is also providing financial support

of \$100,000 to L'nuey, the Mi'kmaq rights initiative under the authority of the two First Nations, to identify solutions for their unique housing needs on the parcels of land.

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

- Guaranteed ways to increase safe public transit;
- Ways to address the lack of commercial transit available; and
- Special accommodations for fly-in, northern, and remote communities.

- I. Service PEI has developed new delivery models for services/information offered by various departments within Government including the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, the Department of Health and Wellness and the Department of Agriculture.
- II. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure continued to coordinate projects with First Nations throughout 2023 that are funded through the provincial Active Transportation Fund.
- III. Dedicated staff within the Land and Environment Division of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure collaborated with L'nuey to project manage a \$4.3m initiative in Scotchfort (Abegweit Connects). This project included an underground pedestrian passage and a pedestrian trail system within the community. The Department also completed a \$1m road project in the area to enhance road safety.

- 5.6 We call upon provincial and territorial governments to develop an enhanced, holistic, comprehensive approach for the provision of support to Indigenous victims of crime and families and friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons. This includes but is not limited to the following measures:
- Guaranteed access to financial support and meaningful and appropriate trauma care must be provided for victims of crime and traumatic incidents, regardless of whether they report directly to the police, if the perpetrator is charged, or if there is a conviction.
 - Adequate and reliable culturally relevant and accessible victim services must be provided to family members and survivors of crime, and funding must be provided to Indigenous and community-led organizations that deliver victim services and healing supports.
 - Legislated paid leave and disability benefits must be provided for victims of crime or traumatic events.
 - Guaranteed access to independent legal services must be provided throughout court processes. As soon as an Indigenous woman, girl, or 2SLGBTQQIA person decides to report an offence, before speaking to the police, they must have guaranteed access to legal counsel at no cost.
 - Victim services must be independent from prosecution services and police services.

- I. PEI Victim Services created a *clinical therapist position*. This position offers mental health supports for victims of crime and their family members. Victim Services and the Family Law Centre, through funding provided by the federal government, has been working to improve service and supports for Indigenous and non-Indigenous families that experience domestic violence. This initiative has resulted in several training opportunities for staff as well as improved services within the Family Law Centre.
- II. In 2023, the Department of Justice and Public Safety entered into an amended Program Funding Agreement with the Government of Canada, for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025, Victim Services received approval which increased Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) funding. The FILU within Victim Services, established in 2017 provides centralized and coordinated support for families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls during and in follow up to the National Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. It acts as a liaison; and collaborates in providing culturally safe and trauma-informed assistance. The FILU is designed to complement existing mechanisms that assist families. The renewed agreement provides for an increased Cultural Support Fund that provides resources for counseling, culturally specific activities, and access to Elders and cultural advisors.
- III. Up to August 2023, the PEI Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) worked closely with 26 family members who have had specific family members involved in MMIWG cases.

Supports included travel costs, costs for counselling and other supports, headstones, cultural projects or healing activities, and supports to work with Elders. PEI FILU has also partnered with community individuals to provide supports within the community including Indigenous-led education and awareness activities with a focus on empowering Indigenous women and girls, raising awareness of MMIWG activities and providing a safe space to connect and heal together.

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

- I. The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils and the Government of Prince Edward Island have signed a MOU for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to deliver Gladue Reports to the Courts to inform sentencing. The renewed agreement ensures that justice system officials and the judiciary continue to increase their knowledge and consideration of the impact of colonialism in sentencing with Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system.

5.11 We call upon all governments to increase accessibility to meaningful and culturally appropriate justice practices by expanding restorative justice programs and Indigenous Peoples' courts.

- I. All three levels of Court in PEI held an Eagle Feather Ceremony wherein the Eagle Feather was introduced into the Courts for use. As part of the implementation, training sessions were held for all court staff and judiciary on its use and cultural significance.
- II. Launched in 2021, the Provincial Restorative Justice program for all residents continues to see an increase in cases. PEI, together with Justice Canada continues to fund the MCPEI Indigenous Justice Program which makes restorative processes available to indigenous people in PEI. The two programs continue to collaborate and are contributing to the development of national data collection practices to monitor impact.

5.21 We call upon the federal government to fully implement the recommendations in the reports of the Office of the Correctional Investigator and those contained in the Auditor General of Canada (Preparing Indigenous Offenders for Release, Fall 2016); the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015); the report of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, Indigenous People in the Federal Correctional System (June 2018); the report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, A Call to Action: Reconciliation with Indigenous Women in the Federal Justice and Corrections Systems (June 2018); and the Commission of Inquiry into certain events at the Prison for Women in Kingston (1996, Arbour Report) in order to reduce the gross overrepresentation of Indigenous women and girls in the criminal justice system.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continues to work with other federal, provincial and territorial governments in the development of the Pan-Canadian Strategy to reduce over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. It is supporting the development of a federal Indigenous Justice Strategy that included participating in regional engagement.

7.1 We call upon all governments and health service providers to recognize that Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, including 2SLGBTQQIA people – are the experts in caring for and healing themselves, and that health and wellness services are most effective when they are designed and delivered by the Indigenous Peoples they are supposed to serve, in a manner consistent with and grounded in the practices, world views, cultures, languages, and values of the diverse Inuit, Métis, and First Nations communities they serve.

- I. The Primary Care Renewal Team participated in a planning session with Lennox Island First Nation and has had an initial meeting Abegweit First Nation. Further sessions with both Lennox Island and Abegweit, facilitated by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, are being planned. Once actions are identified that fit within the Patient Medical Neighbourhoods and Communities Development Framework, funding and support will be administered to maintain Indigenous-led health and wellbeing services that coordinate, collaborate and share responsibilities with a patient's medical home to provide comprehensive care to Indigenous patients. Additionally, Indigenous partners including the Native Council of PEI, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre, Health Systems Navigators, Lennox Island Clinic, Abegweit Health Centre staff and the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI were invited to Patient Medical Neighborhood Engagement sessions to understand the unique needs of the Indigenous peoples these organizations serve as we build linkages between community partners and primary care providers. Voices from the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Mi'kmaq Health Systems Navigators and Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre were represented.

- II. The Primary Care Renewal Team has taken on engagement activities with Patient Medical Home and Patient Medical Neighbourhood partners including Indigenous partners. The Primary Care Renewal team recognizes the value in Aboriginal healing practices delivered by Aboriginal Healers and Elders and as such invited the perspectives of Native Council of PEI, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI), Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre, Health Systems Navigators, Lennox Island Clinic, Abegweit Health Centre staff and Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI to participate in the Patient Medical Neighborhood Engagement sessions. Their perspectives represented the voices and unique needs of the Indigenous peoples these organizations serve and contributed to the conversation focused on designing and building effective linkages between community partners and primary care providers.
- III. Bullets under 3.1.v-xi apply to this Call as well.
- IV. Bullets under 3.2.i-ii apply to this Call as well.
- V. The provincial Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections Advisory Committee includes Indigenous representatives from the Abegweit First Nation Health Centre. The Community Harm Reduction Steering Committee include members of Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations and the Native Council of PEI.
- VI. The Provincial Smoking Cessation Steering Committee is currently working with Indigenous communities to identify representatives for this committee. Ongoing support is offered to support smoking cessation programming and access to services for Indigenous people.
- VII. The Chief Public Health Office has senior level representation on the Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation Working Group (IRRWG). The IRRWG has a mandate to support the Public Health Network to address anti-Indigenous racism in public health and to take actions on specific foundational commitments to Indigenous peoples to advance an Indigenous led public health vision.
- VIII. The Canadian Network for Health in All Policies (CNHiAP), of which the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) is a member, is an important policy goal for CPHO. The Network is co-chaired by a First Nation representative. In addition, one of the four (cross-cutting) workstreams is *“exploring the best approach or approaches to ensuring that the Network’s activities are appropriate, respectful, and relevant for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis governments and organizations”*. A key priority for this coming year is *“to foster greater connections with First Nations, Inuit and Metis partners”*.
- IX. Bullets under 3.4.ii-iii apply to this Call as well.

7.2 We call upon all governments and health service providers to ensure that health and wellness services for Indigenous Peoples include supports for healing from all forms of unresolved trauma, including intergenerational, multigenerational, and complex trauma. Health and wellness programs addressing trauma should be Indigenous-led, or in partnership with Indigenous communities, and should not be limited in time or approaches.

- I. One of the actions in the Health Strategy for Women and Islanders who are Gender Diverse is to embed trauma-informed and culturally safe practices into healthcare settings. Planning for this work has been initiated, but not fully implemented.
- II. Bullet under 7.1.ii apply to this Call as well.
- III. Health Innovation is working with Community Health on an initiative to provide Virtual Care to all Islanders (this was part of the 2023 ministerial mandate letter). Part of this work is to ensure that virtual care services are equitable and accessible to all communities across PEI. This includes having adequate infrastructure in order to adopt Virtual Care services.
- IV. In addition to this, healthcare providing Virtual Care should demonstrate cultural competence by understanding and respecting the diverse and cultural practices, beliefs, and values within Indigenous communities – this includes recognizing the importance of traditional healing methods and integrating them into Virtual Care when appropriate. Establishing partnerships and collaborating with Indigenous communities to understand their unique healthcare needs and preferences is also important to establish trust and ensure cultural relevance and Virtual Care providers engaging on the platform should have cultural competency and sensitivity – understanding historical trauma, respecting traditional healing practices.
- V. DHW and Health PEI continues to collaborate on project planning with Lennox Island Health Centre. The Project Objective is to support the goals of the Cancer Care Strategy of Mi'kmaq Communities of PEI and Indigenous partners by strengthening relationship building, integration across cancer strategies and sustaining culturally safe cancer care.
- VI. The two-year project is a continuation of work initiated by Lennox Island Band to create a Cancer Strategy for Mi'kmaq Communities in PEI and is funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). Together we are creating the workplan that will hold gatherings between the Indigenous community and its representatives, health system staff and clinicians, and department planning and policy staff who contribute to cancer control and care. The Gatherings will aim to build relationships, collaboratively work to improve care delivery (priorities set by FN communities, e.g. cancer screening) and enhance cultural awareness and strengthen cultural humility of health care providers and leaders.

7.3 We call upon all governments and health service providers to support Indigenous-led prevention initiatives in the areas of health and community awareness, including, but not limited to programming:

- For Indigenous men and boys;
- Related to suicide prevention strategies for youth and adults;
- Related to sexual trafficking awareness and no-barrier exiting;
- Specific to safe and healthy relationships;
- Specific to mental health awareness;
- Related to 2SLGBTQQA issues and sex positivity.

- I. The Primary Care Renewal Team participated in a planning session with Lennox Island First Nation and has had an initial meeting with Abegweit First Nation. Further sessions with both Lennox Island and Abegweit, facilitated by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, are being planned. Once actions are identified that fit within the Patient Medical Neighbourhoods and Communities Development Framework, funding and support will be administered to maintain Indigenous-led health and wellbeing services that coordinate, collaborate and share responsibilities with a patient's medical home in order to provide comprehensive (including prevention initiatives in the areas of health and community awareness) care to Indigenous patients.
- II. In 2023, NCPEI used funding provided by the Government of PEI to fund their Walking in her Moccasins violence prevention resource for Indigenous Men and Boys.
- III. Bullet under 7.2.i apply to this call as well.
- IV. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat (IWS) provided \$15,000 to the Native Council of Prince Edward Island to fund a cultural retreat focused on addressing gendered violence and allowing for participants to contribute to NCPEI's proposed MMIWG Provincial Action Plan. Teachings will focus on the sacredness of gendered roles, land-based healing, healthy relationships, and supporting women and girls.
- V. IWS provided the Native Council of PEI \$37,500 in funding for a research project that will provide a more comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence in the off-reserve Indigenous community so that future programs and projects can more accurately help the community where needed.

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

I. Bullet under 3.2.i apply to this Call as well.

7.6 We call upon institutions and health service providers to ensure that all persons involved in the provision of health services to Indigenous Peoples receive ongoing training, education, and awareness in areas including, but not limited to:

- The history of colonialism in the oppression and genocide of Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples;
- Anti-bias and anti-racism;
- Local language and culture; and
- Local health and healing practices.

I. Bullets under 7.2.v-vi apply to this Call as well.

II. Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility are core principles of Midwifery Services. Midwifery staff are required to participate in training and education.

III. The Department of Health and Wellness organized a staff education session with the Indigenous Relations Secretariat on land acknowledgments and smudging practices.

IV. Staff of the Chief Public Health Office engage in webinars and other learning opportunities to better understand TRC and MMIWG and their Calls to Action and Calls for Justice as learning is generated from working with this population over time.

V. Staff of the Chief Public Health Office engage in training dedicated to the First Nations principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, Possession), including The Fundamentals of OCAP® online course as knowledge and understanding grows through working with First Nations community members and representatives. The Chief Public Health Office has embedded these principles in their chronic disease indicator work with PEI First Nation communities.

7.8 We call upon all governments and health service providers to create effective and well-funded opportunities, and to provide socio-economic incentives, to encourage Indigenous people to work within the health and wellness field and within their communities. This includes taking positive action to recruit, hire, train, and retain long-term staff and local Indigenous community members for health and wellness services offered in all Indigenous communities.

- I. The Department of Finance, Taxation and Property Records staff attended the Geographical Names Board of Canada annual general meeting. The meeting included sessions on derogatory naming, Indigenous naming, considerations in Indigenous orthography, and several presentations from Indigenous partners.
- II. The Public Service Commission designed, introduced and promoted a corporate Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Value Statement among departments that includes their mission to recognize broader diversity within the community (including Indigenous Peoples) and encouraged diverse of communities to apply for government jobs.
- III. The Public Service Commission held regular meetings with staff and clients from Indigenous organizations and employment services on their job search, interview preparations and guidelines on staffing process etc. Indigenous candidates were referred to various employment opportunities such as Internship, administrative support, service worker etc.

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

- I. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement section, partnered with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat and Truckers Against Trafficking, to provide Anti-Trafficking training for police and government personnel.

9.1 We call upon all police services and justice system actors to acknowledge that the historical and current relationship between Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and the justice system has been largely defined by colonialism, racism, bias, discrimination, and fundamental cultural and societal differences. We further call upon all police services and justice system actors to acknowledge that, going forward, this relationship must be based on respect and understanding, and must be led by, and in partnerships with, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

- I. Community and Correctional Services collaborated with several police organizations across Canada to develop an online course titled 2SLGBTQQIA+ that was facilitated by the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN). This course is now available to Community

and Correctional Services staff and is often included in onboarding training. It explores the history of harm with policing/public safety personnel and these communities. This introductory course provides an overview of the history of 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights in Canada. Content is intended to build upon understanding of diversity, the importance of respect for all people, and how to demonstrate inclusion, respect and dignity for all people no matter their identity. This training is a unique opportunity to challenge the lens with which individuals view Canada, their role within the public safety sector in Canada, and the way that individuals interact with people in their community.

- 9.2 We call upon all actors in the justice system, including police services, to build respectful working relationships with Indigenous Peoples by knowing, understanding, and respecting the people they are serving. Initiatives and actions should include, but are not limited to, the following measures:
- Review and revise all policies, practices, and procedures to ensure service delivery that is culturally appropriate and reflects no bias or racism toward Indigenous Peoples, including victims and survivors of violence.
 - Establish engagement and partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, communities, and leadership, including women, Elders, youth, and 2SLGBTQQIA people from the respective territories and who are resident within a police service's jurisdiction.
 - Ensure appropriate Indigenous representation, including Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, on police services boards and oversight authorities.
 - Undertake training and education of all staff and officers so that they understand and implement culturally appropriate and trauma-informed practices, especially when dealing with families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

- I. Authentic engagement with Indigenous communities is essential for Community and Correctional Services. Emphasizing this crucial aspect, the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN) and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) joined forces with the Vancouver Police Department to organize a conference on the 'Principles and Practices of Authentic Engagement with Indigenous Communities. The conference, held in December 2023, underlined the collective commitment to advancing genuine connections and understanding within the broader Canadian community. Four Community and Correctional Services employees attended the conference to expand their knowledge and share meaningful conversations, including: discussions and explorations of principles and practices aimed at nurturing authentic and positive engagement with Canada's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. The conference sought to establish a strong foundation for meaningful dialogue.
- II. In March 2023, Community and Correctional Services hosted staff from across Justice and Public Safety, Child and Family Services, and Mental Health and Addictions at a two-day workshop on Building Resilience and Trauma-Informed Approaches. A workshop was also held for the Community and Correctional Services Management team. The workshop

focused on lessons for understanding and building resiliency skills and trauma-informed strategies. The workshop focused on lessons for understanding and building resiliency skills and trauma-informed strategies into their work with clients and highlighted the importance of ensuring staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to also build resiliency for themselves. The workshop was presented by Dr. Michael Ungar, the founder and Director of the Resilience Research Center at Dalhousie University where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family, and Community Resilience.

- III. In 2023, Community and Correctional services continued working with the Indigenous Case worker and other members of the Indigenous community on the development of a course titled “History of Trauma in Indigenous Communities”. The course will cover material such as the impact of residential schools, the sixties scoop and other traumatic events that may have contributed to over-representation in the justice system and aids in understanding of reactions and offers insight into behaviors. Once completed, the course will be required training for certain positions in Community and Correctional Services and will be in the form of an online training session offered through the divisions Canadian Police Knowledge Network Learning Management System.

- 9.3 We call upon all governments to fund an increase in recruitment of Indigenous Peoples to all police services, and for all police services to include representation of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people, inclusive of diverse Indigenous cultural backgrounds, within their ranks. This includes measures such as the following:
- Achieve representative First Nations, Inuit, and Métis diversity and gender diversity within all police services through intensive and specialized recruitment across Canada.
 - Ensure mandatory Indigenous language capacity within police services.
 - Ensure that screening of recruits includes testing for racial, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation bias.
 - Include the Indigenous community in the recruitment and hiring committees/process.
 - In training recruits, include history of police in the oppression and genocide of Indigenous Peoples; anti-racism and anti-bias training; and culture and language training. All training must be distinctions-based and relevant to the land and people being served; training must not be pan-Indigenous.
 - Retain Indigenous officers through relevant employment supports and offer incentives to Indigenous officers to meet their unique needs as Indigenous officers serving Indigenous communities, to ensure retention and overall health and wellness of the service.
 - End the practice of limited-duration posts in all police services, and instead implement a policy regarding remote and rural communities focused on building and sustaining a relationship with the local community and cultures. This relationship must be led by, and in partnership with, the Indigenous Peoples living in those remote and rural communities.

- I. In August 2023, Community and Correctional Services, in collaboration with the Atlantic Police Academy, Skills PEI, and the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and

Population arranged for two intake sessions to the Correctional Officer Training Program. Twelve candidates were accepted into each session with a minimum of six fully funded applicants selected from the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) community. The first intake was in August 2023 and the second intake followed by a second intake session in January 2024. There is now an agreement to offer this program again next year with a minimum of twelve seats dedicated for the BIPOC community.

- 9.5 We call upon all police services for the standardization of protocols for policies and practices that ensure that all cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are thoroughly investigated. This includes the following measures:
- Establish a communication protocol with Indigenous communities to inform them of policies, practices, and programs that make the communities safe.
 - Improve communication between police and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people from the first report, with regular and ongoing communication throughout the investigation.
 - Improve coordination across government departments and between jurisdictions and Indigenous communities and police services.
 - Recognize that the high turnover among officers assigned to a missing and murdered Indigenous woman's, girl's, or 2SLGBTQQIA person's file may negatively impact both progress on the investigation and relationships with family members; police services must have robust protocols to mitigate these impacts.
 - Create a national strategy, through the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, to ensure consistency in reporting mechanisms for reporting missing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This could be developed in conjunction with implementation of a national database.
 - Establish standardized response times to reports of missing Indigenous persons and women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people experiencing violence, and conduct a regular audit of response times to monitor and provide feedback for improvement.
 - Lead the provincial and territorial governments to establish a nationwide emergency number.

- I. Bullet under 9.2.ii apply to this Call as well.

- 10.1 We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and Canadian law societies and bar associations, for mandatory intensive and periodic training of Crown attorneys, defence lawyers, court staff, and all who participate in the criminal justice system, in the area of Indigenous cultures and histories, including distinctions-based training. This includes, but is not limited to, the following measures:
- All courtroom officers, staff, and employees in the judicial system must take cultural competency training that is designed and led in partnership with local Indigenous communities.
 - Law societies working with Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people must establish and enforce cultural competency standards.
 - All courts must have a staff position for an Indigenous courtroom liaison worker that is adequately funded and resourced to ensure Indigenous people in the court system know their rights and are connected to appropriate services.

- I. Justice Canada, Department of Justice and Public Safety (JPS) and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) continue to support the Indigenous Justice Program and court work services. JPS and Justice Canada fund the MCPEI Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) in its efforts to develop sustainable justice supports that address the inequalities experienced by Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous persons in the PEI justice system. The IJP is administered by MCPEI and advised by an Indigenous Justice Advisory Committee made up of representatives appointed by the Lennox Island First Nation, Abegweit First Nation, and the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI. Representatives from the RCMP, Charlottetown Police Services, and both federal and provincial Governments also sit on the Advisory Council. The IJP has improved and strengthened mutual understanding of Indigenous people and the justice system through both training and cross-cultural sharing and continues to work to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in contact with the justice system.
- II. In 2023, The Government of PEI and Epekwitk Assembly of Councils Inc. operating as the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI renewed an Indigenous Court Work Services Agreement for MCPEI to deliver the Indigenous Courtwork Program. The objective of the Indigenous Courtwork Program is to facilitate and enhance access to justice by assisting Indigenous persons, adults and youth, charged with an offence under any federal or provincial statute, municipal or band by-law, or otherwise involved in the justice system to obtain fair, just, equitable and culturally relevant treatment. Services provided through the Indigenous Courtwork Program include culturally responsive supports for Indigenous people, regardless of their status or where they live.

11. We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.

- I. The Department of Education & Early Years (DEEY) partners with the Indigenous Relations Secretariat and L'nuey to develop a treaty education workplan.
- II. The DEEY supported their internal Treaty Education Advisory Committee to promote teaching and learning about reconciliation in Island classrooms.
- III. The DEEY implemented a renewed grade 7 social studies program that focuses on an understanding of the culture, traditions, and worldviews of the Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous Peoples.
- IV. The new CIV421A – Civics and Citizenship course allows students to demonstrate an understanding of the culture, traditions, history, and practices of Indigenous governance.
- V. Work continues related to the DEEY integrated elementary curriculum with a focus on Mi'kmaq culture for grade 5.
- VI. A renewed grade 8 social studies course will allow students to evaluate the impact of government policies and the legacy of historical injustices in Canada and the role of reconciliation.
- VII. The concept of Netukulimk was introduced in the pilot Intermediate Life Skills Foods curriculum recognizing the Mi'kmaq cultural value and respect extended to food, and the resources necessary to produce it. The Indigenous worldview emphasizes responsibility and relationships through actions of not taking more than is needed and leaving a place better than a person found it. This curriculum was a natural area to authentically embed and honor Mi'kmaq knowledge.
- VIII. The DEEY Intermediate Exploratory Module, Allyship through Mi'kmaq Culture and Language was implemented across the system as a provincially developed option. This module seeks to build intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect to continue the work of allyship.

12.1 We call upon all federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize Indigenous self-determination and inherent jurisdiction over child welfare. Indigenous governments and leaders have a positive obligation to assert jurisdiction in this area. We further assert that it is the responsibility of Indigenous governments to take a role in intervening, advocating, and supporting their members impacted by the child welfare system, even when not exercising jurisdiction to provide services through Indigenous agencies.

- I. The DSDS Child and Family Services Division's Indigenous Services Team connected with the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre to begin relationship building and sharing cultural crafts with the team in the coming year to engage in cultural education.
- II. The DSDS's Cultural Connection Plan is required to be completed by social workers who are working with Indigenous children. This is currently being reviewed as part of the pilot Quality Improvement Project which will enable analysis of usage and policy requirements.

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

- I. *The Child, Youth, and Family Services Act (CYFSA)* was passed in November 2023 and is being implemented in 2024. This legislation aligns with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (Federal Act) that emphasizes prevention and collaborative approaches. The *Adoption Act* regulations and policies' will be updated to align with the CYFSA.

12.6 We call upon all governments and child welfare services to ensure that, in cases where apprehension is not avoidable, child welfare services prioritize and ensure that a family member or members, or a close community member, assumes care of Indigenous children. The caregivers should be eligible for financial supports equal to an amount that might otherwise be paid to a foster family, and will not have other government financial support or benefits removed or reduced by virtue of receiving additional financial supports for the purpose of caring for the child. This is particularly the case for children who lose their mothers to violence or to institutionalization and are left behind, needing family and belonging to heal.

- I. Bullet under 12.3.i apply to this Call as well.

- II. DSDS developed online training, including video content for the Federal Act – *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children and Families* (Federal Act) training for all Child and Family Services staff.
- III. When a safety plan is required for a child, child protection staff explore least intrusive options, including family members.
- IV. The DSDS has a number of Indigenous foster homes who can provide care and support to children and youth.

12.7 We call upon all governments to ensure the availability and accessibility of distinctions-based and culturally safe culture and language programs for Indigenous children in the care of child welfare.

- I. The Department of Social Development and Seniors provided \$97,250.00 in funding for a School Food Program at John J Sark School in Lennox Island First Nation over the fiscal year to support the provision of a school food program focused on providing healthy meals to students. This program includes menu items that are a part of Indigenous culture and support cultural learning for students.

12.11 We call upon all levels of government and child welfare services for a reform of laws and obligations with respect to youth "aging out" of the system, including ensuring a complete network of support from childhood into adulthood, based on capacity and needs, which includes opportunities for education, housing, and related supports. This includes the provision of free post-secondary education for all children in care in Canada.

- I. The DSDS Youth Extended Services (YES) Program received approval and developed training last year. This program supports youth transitioning out of care by helping them develop networking skills, core skills and community connections. The YES Program provides individualized supports to help children in care transition to adulthood.

12.12 We call upon all child and family services agencies to engage in recruitment efforts to hire and promote Indigenous staff, as well as to promote the intensive and ongoing training of social workers and child welfare staff in the following areas:

- History of the child welfare system in the oppression and genocide of Indigenous Peoples.
- Anti-racism and anti-bias training.
- Local culture and language training.
- Sexual exploitation and trafficking training to recognize signs and develop specialized responses.

- I. The DSDS completed the final draft of a Compliance Guide for Social Workers to support practice when working with Indigenous children, youth and families. The document was

reviewed by the Indigenous Relations Secretariat and additional external Indigenous stakeholders.

- II. The DSDS's Cultural Connection Plan policy and document was updated and reviewed with the Indigenous Relations Secretariat prior to implementation with all social workers in child protection and child in care services.
- III. Staff from the division and the DSDS took part in two training sessions on the TRC and MMIWG recommendations through the Indigenous Relations Secretariat.

13.1 We call upon all resource-extraction and development industries to consider the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, as well as their equitable benefit from development, at all stages of project planning, assessment, implementation, management, and monitoring.

- I. The Department of Environment, Energy & Climate Action (DEECA) executed a Collaboration Agreement with L'nuey in response to the PEI Energy Corporations proposed wind farm expansion in Eastern Kings. The Agreement provides annual funding and training to Indigenous peoples of PEI.
- II. The PEI Energy Corporation's Community Renewable Energy Generation (CREG) Fund provides funding for renewable energy projects, with specific program funding limits for Indigenous applicants. More information is available at: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/community-renewable-energy>.
- III. efficiencyPEI (ePEI) continued work on two special projects with Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations to address energy efficiency opportunities in their communities. In both cases, the communities determined the direction of these projects within the parameters of funding partners and capacity.
- IV. In 2023, the Climate Adaptation Section (CAS) funded Indigenous-led initiatives through the Climate Challenge Fund, including:
 - Abegweit First Nation – Explore a Path to Energy Self Sufficiency
 - Native Council of PEI – Climate Hazards: Preparing for our Future
 - Lennox Island First Nation – Lennox Island Energy Demands
 - Dr. Patrick Augustine, IKERAS - UPEI – Siawa'tmnej L'ney Kjjijitaqn Project
- V. The DEECA's hydrogeologist provided technical advice on groundwater supply and well development for Abegweit band at Scotchfort. A 300-gpm high capacity well was successfully developed by the band for irrigation on the band's blueberry fields which will increase productivity benefitting the bands economic capacity providing jobs for band members.

13.2 We call upon all governments and bodies mandated to evaluate, approve, and/or monitor development projects to complete gender-based socio-economic impact assessments on all proposed projects as part of their decision making and ongoing monitoring of projects. Project proposals must include provisions and plans to mitigate risks and impacts identified in the impact assessments prior to being approved.

- I. Divisions within the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure will continue to respect the process of reconciliation through opportunities to engage with the Indigenous population of PEI on matters pertaining to land transfer, climate adaptation and the sustainability of infrastructure.

14.8 We call upon Correctional Service Canada to ensure its correctional facilities and programs recognize the distinct needs of Indigenous offenders when designing and implementing programming for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women. Correctional Service Canada must use culturally safe, distinctions-based, and trauma-informed models of care, adapted to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people.

- I. The Provincial Correctional Center Women's Unit, which was designed using the direct supervision model, officially opened in January 2024. It is now housing all adult women who are incarcerated in the province, including those who are sentenced, remanded, and serving intermittent sentences. The new unit has a designated area for practicing spirituality and allows for cultural ceremonies such as smudging.

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

- I. In 2023, an online Reconciliation Training course was made mandatory for all Information Technology Shared Service (ITSS) Director Performance Appraisals in 2023.
- II. Beyond the naming program, Department of Finance staff were encouraged to participate in the various reconciliation themed learning webinars such as "Moving Towards Reconciliation" and "Indigenous Awareness".
- III. The Public Service Commission's Equity Diversity Inclusion (DEI) Office delivered a series of training sessions on valuing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the Workplace as part of their Pathways to Learning. All sessions included information and resources on Indigenous history, culture, traditions and participants were provided with information on Indigenous special days, initiatives, Mawi'omis and other local and regional Indigenous festivities.

- IV. The Department of Agriculture provided funding for the Farm Fresh Food for All project to improve access to locally grown, nutritious food within the Lennox Island First Nation Community.
- V. The Department of Agriculture provided funding to the Mi'kmaq Heritage Actors for the project Wissukwaian Season 2 – If I Cook. The mission of this project was to promote healthy traditional and sustainable food for children and their parents and to strengthen and empower Indigenous families. The project used multimedia to showcase five different traditional meals cooked by respected Elders in the community.
- VI. Twelve staff from the Department of Agriculture participated in the Indigenous Awareness training.
- VII. The Department of Agriculture Senior Management Team took part in the MMIWG/TRC Status Reports training in January 2023 as well as in the Honouring the Calls training in November 2023.
- VIII. In January 2023, Department of Agriculture staff participated in training on Policy Lenses, including Indigenous considerations and implications.
- IX. In December 2023, senior management within the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure participated in the MMIWG/TRC Departmental Training session provided by the Indigenous Relations Secretariat to review the reporting framework and provide awareness on the importance of incorporating the Calls into yearly workplans and budgets.
- X. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat (IWS) Gender and Diversity Analysts were part of a group of subject-matter experts in government who developed comprehensive, half-day training sessions to help PEI government departments increase their awareness and skills in applying policy lenses when reviewing & developing policies, programs, and procedures including Anti-Racism, Gender and Diversity, and Climate Action lenses as well as how to approach Indigenous considerations and responsibilities, and IT implications.

15.3 Develop knowledge and read the Final Report. Listen to the truths shared and acknowledge the burden of these human and Indigenous rights violations, and how they impact Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people today.

- I. The Public Service Commission's Diversity Consultant assisted with the Treaty Education Initiative and provided input on training delivery within the civil service.

15.4 Using what you have learned and some of the resources suggested, become a strong ally. Being a strong ally involves more than just tolerance; it means actively working to break down barriers and to support others in every relationship and encounter in which you participate.

- I. Bullet under 13.1.iv apply to this Call as well.
- II. Bullets under 15.2.vi-viii apply to this Call as well.

15.7 Create time and space for relationships based on respect as human beings, supporting and embracing differences with kindness, love, and respect. Learn about Indigenous principles of relationship specific to those Nations or communities in your local area and work and put them into practice in all of your relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

- I. Bullets under 15.2.vi-viii apply to this Call as well.

15.8 Help hold all governments accountable to act on the Calls for Justice, and to implement them according to the important principles we set out.

- I. Bullets under 15.2.vi-viii apply to this Call as well.

18.1 We call upon all governments and service providers to fund and support greater awareness of 2SLGBTQQIA issues, and to implement programs, services, and practical supports for 2SLGBTQQIA people that include distinctions-based approaches that take into account the unique challenges to safety for 2SLGBTQQIA individuals and groups.

- I. The Anti-Racism Office provided funding to Abegweit First Nation's Mi'kmaq Wellness Center to assess circumstances and the resulting outcomes of Abegweit First Nation encounters with systemic discrimination within PEI's health care system.

18.21 We call upon federal and provincial correctional services to engage in campaigns to build awareness of the dangers of misgendering in correctional systems and facilities and to ensure that the rights of trans people are protected.

- I. Bullet under 9.1.i apply to this Call as well.

18.26 We call upon health service providers to educate their members about the realities and needs of 2SLGBTQQIA people, and to recognize substantive human rights dimensions to health services for 2SLGBTQQIA people.

- I. The Department of Health and Wellness is working on new website to build awareness of the issues that impact the health and well-being of women and gender diverse people. This site will feature a section on the health of Indigenous women and gender diverse people and will reference the impact of historical policies on current health outcomes.

18.28 We call upon all governments to fund and support, and service providers to deliver, expanded, dedicated health services for 2SLGBTQIA individuals including health centres, substance use treatment programs, and mental health services and resources.

- I. Bullet under 3.1.iii apply to this Call as well.
- II. Bullet under 7.2.i apply to this Call as well.

Appendix B

TRC Calls to Action

The Government of Prince Edward Island affirms its commitment to advancing the implementation of the Calls to Action and moving forward on the journey to reconciliation. Below is the Government of PEI's response to TRC's Calls to Action which has been implicated. To see a complete list of the calls or to learn more about TRC visit their website at nctr.ca.

- 1 We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:
 - Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
 - Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.
 - Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.
 - Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.
 - Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.
- I. The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* (CYFSA) was passed in November 2023 and is being implemented in 2024. This new Act aligns with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (Federal Act) that emphasis prevention and collaborative approaches. The *Adoption Act* regulations and policies will also be updated to align with changes in the new CYFSA.
 - II. The DSDS developed online training, including video content, for *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* for all Child and Family Services staff.
 - III. DSDS completed the final draft of a Compliance Guide for Social Workers to support practice when working with Indigenous children, youth and families. The guide was reviewed by the Indigenous Relations Secretariat and external Indigenous stakeholders.
 - IV. The DSDS Indigenous Program Analyst assisted with Indigenous Services Team Core training of new staff as part of the Child Protection Social Worker delegation process.
 - V. DSDS's Cultural Connection Plan is required to be completed by social workers who are working with any Indigenous Children and is part of the pilot Quality Improvement Project. This project will facilitate a fulsome review and analysis of usage of the policy and its use.

- VI. The DSDS posted a position for a Senior Child Protection Social Worker for Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations. Qualifications included: extensive knowledge of the PEI Child Protection Act and *An Act respecting First Nation, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families (Federal Act)*, as well as experience working in a First Nation community and knowledge of historical trauma due to colonization, residential schools and 60s scoop.
- VII. The need to improve Indigenous cultural identifiers to be consistent on forms in Child and Family Services will enhance data collection and accuracy. The Project charter has been drafted followed by conversations at Task Force to ensure Gender Equality.
- VIII. The DSDS Residential Services Review project conducted stakeholder engagement to review current options for out of home care for children that included workshops with Indigenous community stakeholders.
- IX. The DSDS Youth Extended Services (YES) Program received approval to develop training that supports youth transitioning out of care and develop connections and networks within the community.
- X. The DSDS Cultural Connection Plan policy and document were updated and reviewed with the Indigenous Relations Secretariat for implementation by all social workers in Child Protection and Child in Care services.
- XI. The DSDS Indigenous Services Team invited a guest speaker to discuss being mindful of traumatic histories while working with Indigenous people. The speaker's research work as a psychologist within Indigenous communities was shared as part of the discussion.
- XII. The DSDS Indigenous Services Team connected with the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre to begin relationship building and sharing cultural crafts with the team in the coming year.
- XIII. The DSDS Indigenous Services Team Supervisor has ongoing collaboration meetings with both Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation to discuss collaborative approaches in working with the best interests of Indigenous children and families.
- XIV. DSDS Social workers presented to staff at John J. Sark Memorial School on Lennox Island First Nation, regarding reporting, assessment and the work done by social workers on the Indigenous Services Team does. The presentation included information concerning mandatory reporting, meaning of a report and what constitutes as a child protection report. This work provided an educational opportunity and facilitated community building.
- XV. Some Indigenous Services Team members presented to students at Holland College on Indigenous history and what the Indigenous Services Team does to support Indigenous communities.

2 We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.

- I. Quarterly Conversation Circles were held with external Indigenous stakeholders to update project and program progress within Child and Family Services, to answer questions, and provide context to the work being done.

7 We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

- I. The Department of Environment, Energy & Climate Action executed a Collaboration Agreement with L'nuey in response to the wind farm expansion in Eastern Kings proposed by the PEI Energy Corporation. The Agreement provides annual funding and training to Indigenous peoples of PEI.

18 We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.

- I. The Department of Health and Wellness developed a new website to build awareness of the issues that impact the health and well-being of women and gender diverse people. This site will feature a section on the health of Indigenous women and gender diverse people and will reference the impact of historical policies on current health outcomes.

19 We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.

- I. The Chief Public Health Office's First Nations Health Status Reports ongoing collaboration and membership in the Health Policy and Planning Forum (HPPF) eHealth Working Group,

that has the mission to strengthen partnerships and facilitate integration of Provincial initiatives related to data sharing which will contribute to access and improved health outcomes for the PEI First Nations communities and advance the TRC Calls to Action #19. Initial work is ongoing and focused on chronic diseases indicators.

- II. The Chief Public Health Office is collaborating with the PEI Cancer Registry to develop a project that, if funded, will: 1) enable the routine collection of race, ethnicity, and Indigenous (REI) identity data within PEI's health system for monitoring purposes; and 2) create a governance structure that includes Indigenous people to oversee the collection, access, storage, analysis, interpretation, and use of REI data.
- III. The Chief Public Health Office, along with Health PEI and ITSS, is renewing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation for communicable disease and immunizations. The first MOA was signed in 2015 and the new MOA is currently with Treasury Board for approval. All parties have reviewed the Agreement, including L'nuey, representing the First Nations legal interests. Once signed by all parties, the Agreement does not need to be renewed until January 2029.

22 We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.

- I. The Chief Public Health Office's Primary Care Renewal Team has taken on engagement activities with Patient Medical Home and Patient Medical Neighbourhood partners including Indigenous partners. The Primary Care Renewal team recognizes the value in Aboriginal healing practices delivered by Aboriginal Healers and Elders and as such invited the perspectives of the Native Council of PEI, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI), the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre, Health Systems Navigators, Lennox Island Clinic, Abegweit Health Centre staff and the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI to participate in the Patient Medical Neighborhood Engagement sessions. Their perspectives represent the voices and unique needs of the Indigenous peoples these organizations serve and have contributed to the conversation about designing and building effective linkages between community partners and primary care providers.

23 We call upon all levels of government to:

- Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.
- Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.
- Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals.

- I. Women and Gender Diverse People’s Health – one of the actions in the Health Strategy for Women and Islanders who are gender diverse is to embed trauma-informed and culturally safe practices into healthcare settings. Planning for this work has been initiated, but not fully implemented.
- II. Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility are core principles of Midwifery Services. Midwifery staff are required to participate in training and education.
- III. The Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) organized a staff education session with the Indigenous Relations Secretariat on smudging practices.
- IV. DHW and Health PEI continues to collaborate on project planning with Lennox Island Health Centre. The Project Objective is to support the goals of the Cancer Care Strategy of Mi’kmaq communities of PEI and Indigenous partners by strengthening relationship building, integration across cancer strategies and sustaining culturally safe cancer care.
 - The two-year project is a continuation of work initiated by Lennox Island Band to create a Cancer Strategy for Mi’kmaq Communities in PEI and is funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). Together we are creating the workplan that will hold gatherings between the Indigenous community and its representatives, health system staff and clinicians, and department planning and policy staff who contribute to cancer control and care. The gatherings will aim to build relationships, collaboratively work to improve care delivery (priorities set by First Nation communities, e.g. cancer screening) and enhance cultural awareness and strengthen cultural humility of health care providers and leaders.
- V. Health Innovation is working with Community Health on a DHW initiative to provide Virtual Care to all Islanders (this was part of the 2023 ministerial mandate letter).
 - i. This includes having adequate infrastructure to adopt Virtual Care service.
 - ii. In addition, health care providing Virtual Care should demonstrate cultural competence by understanding and respecting the diverse and cultural practices, beliefs, and values within Indigenous communities. This includes recognizing the importance of traditional healing methods and integrating them into Virtual Care when appropriate. Establishing partnerships and collaborating with Indigenous communities to understand their unique healthcare needs and preferences is also important to establish trust and ensure cultural relevance. Virtual Care providers engaging on the platform should have cultural competency and sensitivity. They should understand historical trauma and respect traditional healing practices.
- VI. Staff of the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) engage in webinars and other learning opportunities to better understand TRC and MMIWG and their Calls to Action and Call for Justice as learning is generated from working with this population over time.

- VII. Staff of the Chief Public Health Office engage in training dedicated to the First Nations principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, Possession), including The Fundamentals of OCAP® online course, knowledge and understanding grows through working with First Nations community members and representatives. The Chief Public Health Office has embedded these principles in our chronic disease indicator work with PEI First Nation communities.

30 We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continues to contribute to work with other federal, provincial and territorial governments in the development of the Pan-Canadian Strategy to reduce over-representation of Indigenous People in the criminal justice system. It is supporting the development of a federal Indigenous Justice Strategy, that includes regional engagement.

55 We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:

- iv. Promote public dialogue, public/private partnerships, and public initiatives for reconciliation.

- I. Bullet under 19.ii apply to this Call as well.

57 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

- I. The Department of Education and Early Years French Education updated their internal Truth and Reconciliation document that is used to record initiatives that have been undertaken to address various Calls to Action.
- i. The Department of Education and Early Years French Education offered a virtual professional development session “Laissez-nous raconter” (tou.tv). This included a series of videos from Indigenous Peoples who tell us, from their own point of view, their visions of the world, their values and ways of life, their spiritualities, their myths and legends, their wounds and their hopes. The goal was to enrich the collective history, decolonize history and contribute to the future of Mother Earth.

- ii. Participated in a Kairos Blanket Exercise – all personnel in French programs.
 - iv. All members of French programs have taken the virtual Reconciliation training that was offered through the Public Service Commission’s Pathways for Learning program.
- II. An online Reconciliation learning series was launched during Mi’kmaq History Month to educate public servants on Indigenous awareness and Reconciliation. The training is available for government employees at their own pace and is now incorporated as part of the onboarding package for all new employees.

- 62 We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:
- Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.
 - Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.
 - Provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
 - Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.

- I. The Department of Education & Early Years (DEEY) partners with the Indigenous Relations Secretariat and L’nuey to develop a treaty education workplan.
- II. The DEEY supported their internal Treaty Education Advisory Committee to promote teaching and learning about reconciliation in Island classrooms.
- III. In November 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Epekwitk Assembly of First Councils and the Government of Prince Edward Island. The MOU commits both organizations to work collaboratively to develop a comprehensive Treaty Education workplan. The Government of Prince Edward Island has provided funding to L’nuey for a Treaty Education Lead and progress is being made to move forward on this important initiative. A Treaty Education Implementation Committee (TEIC) has been established.

63 We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment Aboriginal education issues, including:

- Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the
- history and legacy of residential schools.
- Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
- Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
- Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.

- I. The DEEY implemented a renewed grade 7 social studies program that focus on an understanding of the culture, traditions, and worldviews of the Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous Peoples.
- II. The new CIV421A – Civics and Citizenship course allows students to demonstrate an understanding of the culture, traditions, history, and practices of Indigenous governance.
- III. Work continues on the development of DEEY integrated elementary curriculum for grade 5 with a focus on Mi'kmaq culture.
- IV. A renewed grade 8 social studies course will allow students to evaluate the impact of government policies and the legacy of historical injustices in Canada and the role of reconciliation.
- V. The concept of Netukulimk is introduced in the pilot Intermediate Life Skills Foods curriculum recognizing the Mi'kmaq cultural value and respect extended to food, and the resources necessary to produce it. The Indigenous worldview emphasizes responsibility and relationships through actions of not taking more than is needed and leaving a place better than you found it. This curriculum was a natural area to authentically embed and honor Mi'kmaq knowledge.
- VI. The DEEY Intermediate Exploratory Module, Allyship through Mi'kmaq Culture and Language was implemented across the system as a Provincially developed option. This module seeks to build intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect to continue the work of allyship.
- VII. The Department of Education & Early Years French Education updated on the following programs and services:
 - Public School Branch (PSB) and Commission scolaire de langue française (CSLF) teachers now have posters of the Seven Sacred Teachings in French for their schools.

- The grade 7 Social Studies (French Immersion and French First Language) committee is piloting lessons around the Seven Sacred Teachings.
- *Étrangère chez moi*, a novel about residential schools was purchased for grade 7 as a pilot.
- The Seven Sacred Teachings book was purchased for grades 4 and 7 social studies.
- Orange Shirt Day was promoted with access to French resources for teachers and students.

VIII. The Climate Adaption Section (CAS) co-funded inland flood mapping at Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation, through Natural Resources Canada's Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) in 2023. In 2023, the CAS secured an additional allocation from the NRCan's FHIMP funding for 2024-2028 specifically for projects of priority for First Nations.

80 We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

- I. To recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Government of Prince Edward Island invited Mi'kmaq leaders, members of the Indigenous community, and the public to the Provincial Administration Building to observe a moment of reflection before the lowering of flags at the building in Charlottetown to remember those who never returned home.

83 We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.

- I. In the Summer of 2023, Indigenous Tourism PEI partnered with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island to establish a 3-month pilot to develop a space to share culture, provide training, and sell authentic Indigenous Artwork. An Indigenous PEI storefront was developed and opened in June 2023. Innovation PEI contributed \$60,000 to the Storefront Pilot.
- II. An Indigenous Artisans Christmas Market at the Confederation of Arts featured the work of over 50 artists from across the Island. Innovation PEI contributed \$15,000 to put on the event.

87 We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

- I. The Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture’s Division of Sport Recreation and Physical Activity provided funding to the Epekwitk Assembly of Council to support the following objectives: (1) To develop a plan for sport development and activities for Indigenous people on PEI. (2) To identify gaps, challenges, barriers, and solutions to increasing sport participation by Indigenous people. (3) To engage and develop partnerships with provincial and regional sport and recreation organizations within PEI. (4) To plan, organize, promote and deliver sport programs. (5) To work with the First Nations communities on PEI to enhance sport and physical activity programming. (6) To create and begin the planning for the Road to NAIG 2027. (7) To support Indigenous Coach/Leadership Development Program to increase volunteer coach pool for North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), Canada Games and grass roots programs. (8) To create sport development plans with provincial sport organizations to provide opportunities for youth to try, participate and compete in new sports. (9) To implement results of the National Indigenous Sport Strategy. (10) To partner with other Aboriginal Sport Circles Branches in the region to explore opportunities to host and attend friendly competitions/jamborees/training sessions.
- II. The PEI Sports Hall of Fame has three Indigenous Athletes inducted into it and they are prominently displayed in Hall of Fame at the Credit Union Place in Summerside (Michael Thomas/John Paul/Barney Francis). During the week of recognition last year, the Sports Hall of Fame highlighted all three athletes through their social media posts and websites. They also helped promote the book “Warriors and Nations” authored by Jean Miso during her book tour on the Island.

88 We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

- I. Bullets under 87.i-ii apply to this Call as well.

89 We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.

- I. Bullets under 87.i-ii apply to this Call as well.

- 90 We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:
- In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
 - An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
 - Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
 - Anti-racism awareness and training programs.

- I. Bullets under 87.i-ii apply to this Call as well.

- 91 We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.

- I. As part of Festival of Small Halls and the 2023 Canada Games, Mi'kmaq Heritage Actors performed on stages across Prince Edward Island.

- 92 We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following:
- Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.
 - Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.
 - Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

- I. The PEI Energy Corporation's Community Renewable Energy Generation (CREG) Fund provides funding for renewable energy projects, with specific program funding limits for Indigenous applicants. More information is available at:
<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/community-renewable-energy>.
- II. efficiencyPEI (ePEI) continued work on two special projects with Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations to address energy efficiency opportunities in their communities. In both cases, the communities determined the direction of these projects within the parameters of funding partners and capacity.
- III. The Land and Environment Division within the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure manages the department's Duty to Consult Program with L'nuey. All department projects and activities are considered for consultation including land transfers and projects or work activities involving climate adaptation and the assurance of sustainability of infrastructure. Each year, approximately 70 projects are initiated after consulting with the Abegweit First Nation and the Lennox Island First Nation through L'nuey.

Appendix C

Other Work toward Reconciliation

A path to reconciliation requires ongoing commitment, action and reflection. The Government of Prince Edward Islands understands this and has a genuine desire to build and strengthen its relationship with Indigenous people. The Government has made significant movement in implementing some of the Calls and is committed to a process of reconciliation. Below is a comprehensive list of critical work that was completed over the past year but does not fall under specific Calls to Justice or Calls to Action:

- The Chief Public Health Office’s Wellness Grant Program, Alcohol Policy Forum, Live Well PEI, PEI Smoking Cessation Program, all advance healthy public policies in specific areas of healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco and vaping, low-risk alcohol use, as well as policies that impact the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous people and communities (social determinants of health, such as housing, food security, education, income, etc.)
- The *Computers for Success Program*, which is delivered through Information Technology Systems and Services (ITSS), refurbishes and distributes computers, equipment and software to not-for-profit organizations and groups. It provided the following number of computers to Indigenous and BIPOC groups below in the 2023 calendar year:
 - Indigenous - 1
 - BIPOC USHR - 12
 - Indigenous Consultant - 2
 - Native Council of PEI - 2
 - Immigrant & Refugee Services Association (IRSA) PEI - 190 & 60
 - Nigerian-Canadian Association of PEI - 4
 - Abegweit First Nation - 10
 - Native Council of PEI - 10
 - Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI - 10
 - Black Cultural Society of Prince Edward Island - 2
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), which the Department of Agriculture is working with on a federal-provincial-Territorial funding partnership, added Indigenous knowledge keepers/Elders to the information that is collected for reporting on their funding program. Prior to this, AAFC collected data on the number of Highly Qualified Personnel (defined as students in or graduates from Masters, PhD and post-doc programs) working on a research project, but the number of Indigenous knowledge keepers/Elders was not collected.
- Using Education Service Agreement reinvestment funds, the Reinvestment Fund Joint Committee, the Department of Education & Early Years, Public Service Branch and First Nations bands approved funding for the following positions to support Indigenous students during the 2023-24 school year:

Abegweit:

- Continued Indigenous Resource staff (1.0 FTE) at Mount Stewart Consolidated
- Continued Indigenous Resource staff (1.0 FTE) at Morell Consolidated
- Continued Indigenous Resource staff (1.0 FTE) at Morell Regional (New)

Lennox Island:

- Continued implementation of an 'Off-Reserve Student Assistance' program
 - Continued the Mi'kmaq language and culture position at Hernewood (0.5 FTE)
 - Continued Indigenous Resource staff (1.0 FTE) at Westisle High School
- The Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning & Population (DWALP) Continues to make efforts to support Indigenous communities for better social and economic performance, as well as to fill in the identified gaps and challenges that the Indigenous groups have experienced.
 - The DWALP consulted with appropriate government departments and resources, such as the Indigenous Relations Secretariat, and external groups (e.g., Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI) as to listen to the needs and barriers faced by clients who want to access or enter learning and skill development programs.
 - The DWALP continuously provides various programs and services to support Indigenous communities in areas of advocacy, including Indigenous Culture and Traditions, employment opportunities, and up-skilled training. Most programs and services provided by the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning, and Population have been developed and implemented for all eligible Islanders.
 - The DWALP continued to train staff to build a better understanding of implementing the Calls and using Indigenous lenses:
 - Staff received two department-specific training sessions for staff from the Indigenous Relations Secretariat under the TRC calls to action and MMIWG Calls for justice.
 - Staff attended sessions focused on assisting them with applying various policy lenses to their work. These included Gender and Diversity, Anti-Racism, and Indigenous lenses.
 - Staff attended events and ceremonies such as the University of Prince Edward Island's gathering for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
 - The DWALP provided \$7,500 of funding to the UPEI Mawi'omi Centre to re-engage Indigenous youth in Ceremony.
 - The DWALP provided \$50,000 of funding to Sierra Club Canada Foundation (Wild Child PEI) Llika'Wksitqmuk, a program that aims to reconnect off-reserve Indigenous children back to the land using traditional teachings.
 - The DWALP provided funding to Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour United for Strength, Home, Relationship (BIPOC USHR) to support the non-profit organization in providing advocacy and support to communities by offering one-on-one services, identifying needs, and/or making referrals for specialized services with community partners.
 - The DWALP hired a Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Specialist to implement the Department's Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion strategy, including delivering positive outcomes for Indigenous groups and people.

- The DWALP provided funding support to the DiverseCity Festival 2023 in five different communities across the Island. Indigenous communities were invited and showcased their culture and traditions at every event.
- The DWALP provided funding support for the Faculty of Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island.
- The DWALP partnered with Abegweit First Nations and Lennox Island First Nation to assist with coordinating the SEAM (Skills Enhancement and Mentoring) and STAR (Start to Apply, Right) Projects. The initiatives provided indoor and outdoor classroom opportunities to assist youth in developing essential work skills.
- The DWALP provided funding support to the Lennox Island Development Corporation to provide valuable mentorship and employment opportunity for an individual as a Development Coordinator to work with the manager of the Green House & Garden Centre in Lennox Island.
- The DWALP provided funding support to Lennox Island First Nation to provide a valuable mentorship and employment opportunity to a recent graduate in the position of Renewable Energy Coordinator.
- The DWALP provided funding support to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI for the Workplace Essential Skills project to engage Indigenous participants in classroom programming where they create individualized educational and career plans. This includes working towards GED attainment, business management, cultural writing for publication and post-secondary exploration and preparation.
- The DWALP provided funding support to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI for the Social Enterprise Project to support Indigenous participants in various employment opportunities linked to social enterprises and local businesses. Clients had the opportunity to be mentored by skilled tradespersons and industry experts within supportive work environments. These experiences influence skill development, capacity building, essential skills development and overcoming gaps in the local labour markets in industry areas such as construction, tourism and aquaculture.
- The DWALP developed and implemented the Abegweit First Nations Project to provide mentorship opportunities for three individuals within the community to improve their management skills.
- For Abegweit First Nation, efficiencyPEI provided energy audits on all residential structures, free energy upgrades, the Winter Warming service, and a free air sealing program. Abegweit First Nation was focused on building capacity within the community and had members job shadow the Energy Auditor who performed the energy audits. A trained community member trained coordinated and completed some of the air sealing work provided under the Winter Warming program and created a band-owned construction company to implement the upgrades in the community. efficiencyPEI has provided technical and advisory support to Abegweit on various commercial new construction projects they have been pursuing.

- For Lennox Island First Nation, efficiencyPEI did a similar program for their residential buildings and commercial energy audits on all their non-residential buildings that, has culminated into the creation of a community energy plan.
- Following discussing with both First Nation communities, the Department of Environment, Energy & Climate Action's Sustainability Division has included Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations as special components under their submission to the federal governments Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program to complete residential fuel switching activities that were carried out under the special projects listed above.
- The Climate Adaption Section (CAS) has met with Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Lennox Island First Nation, and Abegweit First Nation to discuss the climate hazard information that is currently publicly available or under development to better understand how the CAS can utilize federal funding to support projects that are of interest to the First Nations.
- Lennox Island First Nation, The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and the CAS co-developed a proposal for Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Climate Resilient Coastal Communities to fund the development of a shoreline management plan for Lennox Island.
- In November 2023, staff from CAS attended the Muiwatmnej Etuaptmumk Conference in to better understand the concept of Two-Eyed Seeing and its relevance to climate adaptation work.
- The CAS section has made a commitment to onboarding training and ongoing training in reconciliation.
- The Forest, Fish and Wildlife (FFW) Division partnered with L'nuey, Parks Canada, Island Nature Trust, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada on the Pitumkek Working Group. This project will see Pitumkek (Hog Island Sandhills) become a National Park Reserve co-managed by Canada and the First Nations of PEI.
- As part of the Pitumkek project, FFW are arranging to transfer three parcels of public land managed by the Division to Canada for inclusion in the National Park Reserve.
- FFW provided on-the-ground botanical surveys and training to the 2023 Pitumkek Conservation Team (four members of the Lennox Island First Nation, led by a retired Parks Canada ecologist). This work resulted in several significant botanical finds, as well as the discovery of a new colony of Common Terns.
- Related to the Pitumkek project is discussion of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) incorporating the lands south of the Cascumpec Narrows. FFW are involved in those discussions.

- FFW have a funding agreement with the Abegweit First Nation that provides support for the fish hatchery as well as for increased forest management capacity leading to meaningful and sustainable economic development. At the request of the First Nation, the funding level was increased in 2023 and the agreement was extended from an annual agreement to a three-year agreement (\$640K total from FY2023/24 through FY2025/26).
- FFW provided two hunter safety courses at the Lennox Island First Nation (fall 2023) and one firearms safety course at the Abegweit First Nation (spring 2023).
- FFW require pre-harvest forest management plans for all work done on public lands. Each plan is sent to L'nuey for review and comment before implementation.
- Following Hurricane Fiona in fall 2022, FFW needed to implement some emergency forest salvage work for public safety reasons. FFW ensured that the Duty to Consult was carried out, and it engaged with L'nuey before the work was implemented.
- FFW are proposing some regulatory changes related to Wildlife Management Areas and have engaged L'nuey to ensure that First Nations interests are understood and supported to the extent possible.
- FFW partnered with the Abegweit First Nation and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) to grow Black Ash (a tree of cultural importance) at the J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery. In total, approximately 1,000 seedlings were given to the Abegweit First Nation, 1,000 to MCPEI, and 400 to MacPhail Woods (to grow to a larger size before planting).
- FFW are part of a Black Ash Conservation Committee headed by the Abegweit First Nation.
- In February 2023, FFW launched a Forestry Commission to undertake a review of forestry programs and policies. FFW's planning for this included communicating with MCPEI about ways to meaningfully engage the Indigenous community. From the outset, FFW wanted to ensure that this was not just an assigned representative, but someone who was willing and able to work with the two First Nations and engage them in culturally appropriate ways. An experienced and knowledgeable individual was assigned the role, and the Commission has developed a plan to involve both First Nations in its work.
- A representative from the Department of Justice and Public Safety participated in Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) Working Groups on the Indigenous Justice Program and the Tripartite Indigenous Courtwork program. The representative attended in-person meetings of both working groups in Ottawa in October 2023. Best practices are shared among FPT governments and Indigenous led court work services.

- The *Justice of the Peace Act* was proclaimed in 2023. The Act requires that the advisory committee, who recommend Judicial Justices of the Peace appointments, to establish criteria for the selection of candidates including “sensitivity to and understanding of gender, racial equity and issues affecting Indigenous peoples”.
- The *Victims of Crime Act* was updated in the Spring session of the legislature 2023 and the regulations were updated this fall. These changes offer increased protection for the personal information of victims and survivors of crime. The changes also increase capacity at the Victim Services Advisory Committee and increase the maximum amounts permitted for Criminal Injury Compensation Awards.
- PEI Victim Services, through funding made available from the federal government, now offers a program that facilitates independent legal representation for victims of sexual assault during specific court hearings where the victim’s personal information may be used in the criminal court process. This provides victims with additional support and representation during a very difficult time. PEI Victim Services has completed several information sessions with various community agencies and government departments to outline the role of the program. This has resulted in improved collaboration and timelier referrals to the program.
- The Provincial Human Trafficking Committee offered Human Trafficking 101 in-person training on September 25th & 26th, 2023. Both presenters belong to the Truckers Against Trafficking organization. The training session had good attendance from individuals across the civil service and partnering agencies. Additionally, RCMP from Nova Scotia held a workshop for law enforcement on the basics of Human Trafficking to spread awareness. The Department of Social Development and Seniors was a partner for the event.
- PEI Victim Services and the Family Law Centre provided a two-day workshop on Understanding Domestic Violence, the Lethal Risk Factors, the Impact on Adult and Child Victims, and How Collaborative Community Responses Can Help Ensure Safety for Victims. The workshop was held October 17th-18th, 2023.
- The Department of Justice and Public Safety announced a new therapeutic court focused on domestic violence cases was developed and launched in January 2024. In appropriate cases, the court offers participants an opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions and an opportunity to address underlying issues at the heart of the violence with an aim to reduce reoccurrence or escalation of the behaviour. The court will facilitate access to the Indigenous Justice Program services in appropriate cases.
- Employees of the Department of Justice and Public Safety participated in a Trauma Informed Care workshop offered by the Interministerial Women’s Secretariat on November 28th & 29th, 2023. The workshop was funded through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. The workshop aimed to provide theoretical and practical strategies to assist those working with survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

- The division of Community and Correctional Services was recently approved for Youth Justice Funding for a 2-year funding agreement that began in April 2024. Funding included a one 2-year temporary position for a Marginalized Youth Outreach Worker, training, consultation budget for community partner engagement, development of training materials and an evaluation component.
- Victim services sits on two Sexual Assault review committees that conduct reviews of Island police agency's sexual assault files for quality assurance and oversight.
- The Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture's Rural & Regional Development Division supports rural communities and non-profit organizations to enhance the quality of life for residents through the Rural Growth Initiative program. Although programs are not specifically targeted towards Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals they are also certainly supported through these programs. In 2023 Rural Development provided funding to Abegweit First Nations to complete an energy plan.
- The Rural Community Council is an advisory group that will provide advice to Government on a wide range of topics and themes such as people, communities, wellness, and the environment. The council is made up 12 people. The council also has a representative from both Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations.
- Senior management of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure participated in the *Honouring the Calls* training offered by the Indigenous Relations Secretariat to advance reconciliation.
- Senior staff of the Land and Environment Division participated in the "Reconciliation Training" offered by the Public Service Commission.
- Staff within the Department of Housing, Land and Communities (DHLC) participated in a variety of events related to learning more about Indigenous culture including making dreamcatchers and participating in a KAIROS Blanket Exercise.
- Members of the DHLC also participated in Duty to Consult training, training on Advancing Reconciliation, and a briefing on the calls to action for MMWIG and TRC.
- The Province held virtual weekly lunch and learn sessions during Mi'kmaq History Month to share knowledge about Mi'kmaq history and culture on PEI. The Province also provided weekly "Did You Know" email bulletins to educate public service employees on Mi'kmaq history and culture.
- To recognize Treaty Day, every year the province collaborates with L'nuey in a ceremony that includes official remarks from the Premier and Chiefs, a gift exchange, and raising of the Grand Council flag in the courtyard.
- The Government of Prince Edward Island provides Five (5) \$1,000 John J. Sark Memorial Scholarships for Indigenous students on Prince Edward Island who attend either UPEI or Holland Collage.