



Moving Forward Together: A Path Towards Reconciliation

Government of Prince Edward Island's 2024 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
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A Path Towards Reconciliation: Introduction

This Status Report summarizes the actions taken by the Government of Prince Edward Island in response to the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Final Report and its Calls to Action, published in 2015, and the Calls for Justice outlined in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), published in 2019. The report details initiatives, commitments, and efforts made by the Government of Prince Edward Island to address these Calls.

The TRC's report outlines 94 Calls to Action and urges all levels of government to collaborate in reforming policies and programs to repair the harm caused by residential schools. It also calls on all Canadians—governments, organizations, and individuals—to address the legacy of residential schools and contribute to the reconciliation process between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Government of Prince Edward Island has been submitting annual status reports regarding TRC since 2019 and on MMIWG since 2020. This report combines these two updates to highlight the progress made by the provincial government in advancing positive outcomes for Indigenous Peoples on Prince Edward Island in 2024.

Walking the Path Together: Overview of this Report

Since the release of the MMIWG and TRC final reports, the Government of Prince Edward Island has made significant efforts to reconcile and strengthen relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities. The government recognizes the importance of addressing the Calls for Justice and Calls to Action and is committed to taking concrete steps toward reconciliation.

The 2024 annual status report has been updated to include a summary as well as detailed appendices that outline the government's response to each Call for Justice and Call to Action for which it is responsible. The MMIWG Calls for Justice focus on human and Indigenous rights, culture, health, wellness, justice, and the role of various industries and service providers, including media, health providers, police, educators, and others. The TRC Calls to Action cover areas such as education, language and culture, health, justice, museums and archives, commemoration, and business reconciliation. This report highlights how different departments support the Calls.

In 2024, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat provided training to all government departments. This training helps civil servants to better understand the importance of, and opportunities for, reconciliation in their work and the principles behind the Calls. This training was also provided to provincial civil servants in 2023.

An "Other" appendix has been added to include additional work completed over the past year that does not fall under specific Calls for Justice or Calls to Action. The summary also provides an overview of the Indigenous Relations Secretariat and highlights initiatives carried out in 2024 by the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group that is funded by the Government of Prince Edward Island.

Charting a Shared Path: Engaging Partners

The Government of Prince Edward Island is committed to supporting Indigenous communities in achieving health, safety, and sustainability while working towards greater social justice and reconciliation. The government recognizes the importance of fostering meaningful relationships and is dedicated to addressing the unique needs and concerns of Indigenous peoples across the province.

Through the Indigenous Working Group, the Government of Prince Edward Island has established an open dialogue of communication with Indigenous communities, actively listening to their perspectives and working collaboratively to implement initiatives and programs that address concerns. By focusing on responsible and thoughtful actions, the government aims to create lasting, positive change that promotes the well-being of Indigenous peoples.

The Calls for Justice from the MMIWG and the Calls to Action from the TRC provide a clear roadmap for reconciliation. The Government of Prince Edward Island recognizes that achieving these goals requires active involvement and collaboration with all Indigenous people and communities as well as the broader population. By working together, stronger, more respectful relationships and partnerships can be built that will benefit all Islanders.

In responding to the Calls, the efforts of twelve government departments have been instrumental in moving them forward. Each department has contributed to advancing the important work of reconciliation, ensuring that the needs of Indigenous communities are prioritized, and that actions are taken to create a more inclusive and just society for everyone.

Indigenous Relations Secretariat

The Indigenous Relations Secretariat coordinates government'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 provides a means by which to promote inter-departmental communication and cooperation on governmental matters related to Indigenous Relations. The Secretariat supports work conducted under the Partnership Agreement with the PEI Mi'kmaq and Canada, continues to participate in a contribution agreement with the Native Council of PEI, and provides annual grant funding to the Aboriginal Women's Associate of PEI.

Indigenous Relations Secretariat's strategic priorities focus on centralizing the management and coordination of Indigenous Relations, ensuring effective leadership in this area. A key priority is fostering and maintaining positive relationships with First Nations and Indigenous organizations by building strong partnerships. Additionally, the government aims to collaborate with all levels of government, including First Nations, to reduce the socio-economic gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Islanders, improving life outcomes for Indigenous

Islanders. Another priority is providing general information about the Mi'kmaq and Indigenous organizations to enhance public understanding. Lastly, the development and maintenance of public policy on the duty to consult and advising on matters related to Aboriginal and treaty rights are central to ensuring responsible and informed decision-making.

Each year, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat collaborates with government departments to produce a report on the progress of the Calls to Action and Calls for Justice. This annual status report provides a snapshot of the work that has been initiated or completed by the government in response to these Calls. It serves as a "working document," one that will be regularly updated as efforts toward fulfilling the Calls continue to evolve. The report outlines a clear path forward, aimed at advancing and strengthening reconciliation in a way that is not only meaningful but also achievable and measurable.

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, it called on all levels of government to take immediate and effective action in response to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). In response, the provincial government of Prince Edward Island made significant strides by forming the Indigenous Working Group to ensure that the implementation of the MMIWG Calls for Justice is led by Indigenous communities.

The Indigenous Working Group includes representatives from the Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI, with leadership from the government. This group was formed with the specific purpose of informing and guiding the province's actions in relation to the MMIWG Calls for Justice, ensuring that the voices of Indigenous communities were centered in any subsequent policies or initiatives.

To facilitate the work of the Indigenous Working Group, the provincial government committed to providing a dedicated fund of \$250,000 annually. In 2024, these funds were matched using a portion of the provincial allocation from the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence. This funding is designed to support the group's ongoing engagement with the province by focusing on critical issues such as gender-based violence, and the safety of Indigenous women and girls. This funding will be available over the next three years and will enable the group to address systemic challenges and work collaboratively with both the government and community to make real progress in these areas.

The Government of PEI's funding support has enabled the Indigenous Working Group members to make significant progress on key initiatives in 2024. The funds were also directed toward supporting the local initiatives and programs of these groups that work directly with Indigenous communities to address issues related to MMIWG and gender-based violence as well as to promote healing and cultural events. Progress and achievements of each key Indigenous organization is reported in the following pages.

ABEGWEIT FIRST NATION

The Abegweit Healing Centre addresses Abegweit First Nation's community needs related to mental health and addictions. In 2024, the Healing Centre was staffed by two full-time Clinician's and an additional Support Counsellor who cared for community members during open walk-in and who also provided Grief training and support. Abegweit Healing Centre staff who work on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) matters as well as other staff members think that it is vital to ensure that there is a space for community members to connect with one another to spend time talking and eating together and share in cultural revitalization activities. Such activities included lunch-and-learn sessions and other events desired to provide women with the knowledge to keep them safe while enhancing community connection and encouraging healing.

During 2024, a wide variety of workshops were organized for women in the community including: grief training, bath bomb making, vision board creation, financial literacy, pumpkin carving, candle making, ADHD education, beading workshops, regalia design, and sewing. The cultural workshops were delivered over several weeks so that all participants had time to complete their projects. Feedback from the workshops was positive. Some topics for future workshops were suggested by participants including Bannock and jam-making, quillwork training and sewing, as well as traditional language lessons.

In May 2024, twenty community members participated in a silent walk through Abegweit First Nation during Family Violence Prevention Week.

At various times throughout the year, MMIWG matters were represented at the community pow wow and Elder's tent by community members.

ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF PEI

The Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI (AWAPEI) Partnered with the Native Council of PEI (NCPEI), the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI), L'nuey, and both Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nation to create a safe and welcoming space to commemorate Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and Two-spirited Peoples on May 5, 2024. The event featured an Honour Walk, featuring impactful guest speakers, and a gathering of women who came together with their hand drums to sing the Strong Women's Song in unity. This collaboration showed the power of collective strength and a shared commitment to honouring our families and communities.

AWAPEI held its inaugural Vigil Honour Walk in memory of the loved ones of our membership. Going forward, this event will become an annual tradition to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. This meaningful occasion embodies AWAPEI's ongoing dedication to remembrance and advocacy.

AWAPEI staff attended a conference on human trafficking held in New Brunswick. During their visit, they engaged with local universities and Indigenous mentors to explore programs and

support for Indigenous students. Upon returning to PEI, AWAPEI staff developed a plan to share the knowledge they gained during the conference by presenting it to local businesses, schools, and other organizations.

AWAPEI staff also attended the MMIWG National Summit hosted by the Urban Indigenous Action Group. At the Networking event, AWAPEI's MMIWG Planner shared her advocacy work for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and provided valuable insights to attendees to increase awareness on this crucial issue.

During the AWAPEI Annual General Assembly (AGA), a dedicated booth was set up to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals to reinforce continuous commitment to this cause.

AWAPEI facilitated workshops that equipped members with tools and resources to enhance safety and well-being. As part of these sessions, participants received a "Safe Passage" to further support their involvement.

Throughout the year, AWAPEI demonstrated its unwavering commitment to advocacy, education, and cultural preservation. These initiatives reflect AWAPEI vision of holistic healing, individual and collective well-being, and violence prevention to ensuring that the voices of Indigenous women remain central to the efforts in empowering families and communities.

LENNOX ISLAND FIRST NATION

The foundation of the Lennox Island First Nation Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Annual Workplan focuses on providing awareness and education on the history of Indigenous people and how each aspect of that history impacts members of the Mi'kmaq community in various ways.

The creation of cultural awareness presentations is an ongoing activity designed to meet the needs of the group being educated and although the delivery tools may change, the content of these presentations does not. During the past year, 20 members from the First Nations communities in Epekwitk received KAIROS training and are now certified to provide the Blanket Exercise, including members from Lennox Island First Nation. In 2024, Lennox Island First Nation trainers delivered 17 KAIRO Blanket Exercises to a wide variety of agencies, organizations and government departments. Across the province, approximately 350 people participated in this powerful and profound learning exercise.

The teaching of Mawi'omi for students and staff at the John J Memorial School is an important part of ongoing education initiatives that are developed and delivered by Lennox Island First Nation. The teaching of Mawi'omi is held annually to ensure that community youth have an opportunity to learn about their culture and heritage to help create a sense of pride in who they are as Mi'kmaq people. With the help of a local drum group and dancers, students from K4 to grade 6 learned the importance of traditional ceremonies connected to Mawi'omi. This event also allowed for intergenerational sharing of Traditional Knowledge between the students and

Mi'kmaq Elders. The MMIWG annual workplan prioritizes culture and ceremony as a form of healing for community members. This is achieved by celebrating community achievements, providing mental health support, creating healing opportunities, and ensuring the availability of culturally safe spaces that promote conversation and connection.

During the past year, Lennox Island First Nation established a Community Safety Committee to increase safety within the community. The MMIWG project lead was able to create a partnership with Public Safety Canada to secure support for the creation of a Community Safety Plan. The Committee worked with a First Nations consultant to create a plan that will be brought forward for leadership ratification in 2025. Upon approval, the committee will work to secure funds to implement each component of the plan over the coming years.

Participation by Lennox Island representatives on a variety of boards and committees is ongoing. Representatives from Lennox Island First Nation participate in both the RCMP "L" Division Indigenous Advisory Committee and the National Commissioners Indigenous Advisory Committee. The role of these representatives is to bring forward information from the community for discussion so that the relationship between the RCMP and Lennox Island First Nation can continue to improve.

MI'KMAQ CONFEDERACY OF PEI

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island (MCPEI) Health Program is dedicated to addressing the systemic issues related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Through culturally relevant programming, advocacy, and community engagement, the MCPEI Health Program works to promote healing, raise awareness, and drive action. This report highlights the key activities and achievements over the past year.

In 2024, the Health Program focused on several important initiatives to raise awareness, provide healing, and support advocacy efforts in addressing MMIWG and GBV. One of the most significant activities was the National Day of Awareness (Red Dress Day). Events and ceremonies were organized to honour MMIWG, including a community walk, red dress displays, and storytelling sessions to foster reflection and unity. Additionally, educational workshops and presentations were delivered in collaboration with local organizations, to address the root causes of GBV and emphasize the importance of community-led solutions. Support for the Sisters in Spirit gathering was also provided to ensure that the needs of participants were met.

Cultural healing and support services were at the heart of the Health Program's efforts. Healing Circles were facilitated, incorporating traditional practices such as smudging, drumming, and sharing circles that offered participants a safe space for emotional and spiritual healing. Culturally safe, trauma-informed counselling services were also provided to individuals affected by MMIWG and GBV. In addition, the Health Program offered a variety of group activities including drum-making, medicine wheel creation, and drumming circles to promote collective healing through cultural practices.

The MCPEI Health Program collaborated with provincial and federal governments to advance the implementation of the National Inquiry into MMIWG's Calls for Justice. Partnerships were strengthened with local organizations including the two First Nations Band's Health Centres and Healing Centres, as well as law enforcement, to ensure that responses to GBV were coordinated and culturally competent.

In partnership with the Mental Wellness lead, the Health Program explored new opportunities to enhance support services including the provision of care bags containing personal hygiene items for those in need. Integrated support services were a key area of focus with close collaboration among Support Workers, Addiction Services, and mental health workers to provide holistic care for individuals affected by GBV and MMIWG.

A series of empowerment workshops for young women and girls was developed in collaboration with the Sports Circle that focused on empowerment and resilience. Similarly, an educational series for boys and young men was created in partnership with First Nations communities to foster respect, understanding, and healthy relationships. The program also worked closely with the MCPEI Justice Program to identify high-risk, vulnerable community members and victims to ensure that tailored programming and support services were available to meet their needs.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the survivors, families, Elders, community members, and partners who have contributed their voices and wisdom to these efforts. Together, we honor the spirits of those lost and work toward a future of safety, justice, and healing.

NATIVE COUNCIL OF PEI

The Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) hosted an Elder's Two-Spirit (2S) Circle. This event was a collaboration with the Engaging Men and Boys program that provided a space for Two-Spirit Elders to share their experiences and knowledge.

NCPEI hosted a "No More Stolen Siblings: Vigil for Nex Benedict," to honour the memory of the Oklahoma teen. Nex Benedict, a non-binary teen of Indigenous heritage, died in 2024 by suicide following an altercation in a school bathroom. The death of the teen has become symbolic of the fears expressed by 2SLGBTQ+ people.

Approximately 20-25 people attended the event including partners from the PEI Transgender Network and PEERS Alliance. A feast was held, during which a spirit plate was prepared to honour Nex. Attendees engaged in creative expression using paints, markers, and clay to process their grief and show their support.

Hosted by the Indigenous Working Group, the NCPEI 2SLGBTQIA+ Safety and Inclusion Staff Day, was held at the NCPEI Program Office. This event focused on knowledge sharing regarding policies and legislation that protect the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples. The event included discussions on workplace policies, safety, language, pronoun use, and trust-building. It concluded with a Two-Spirit Fire and Water Ceremony, followed by a talking circle about inclusion.

NCPEI organized the Healthy Masculinity Workshop. Initiated by the White Ribbon Campaign, this event aimed to engage the community in discussions on masculinity and mindfulness. Participants gathered around a fire with a BBQ, while a knowledge Keeper led a conversation on mental health and the importance of healing for men and boys. The informal and welcoming atmosphere encouraged open dialogue and reflection. The event highlighted the effects of toxic masculinity on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, Indigenous women and girls, and how toxic masculinity contributes to gender-based violence.

The Indigenous Working Group hosted Queering Consent, a workshop that explored the intersections of consent, gender-based violence, and queer relationships. Held at the Guild in Charlottetown, the event featured presentations and discussions led by representatives from PEERS Alliance, PEI Family Violence Prevention Services, and the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre. The workshop focused on the unique aspects of consent within queer contexts, and emphasized strategies for positive interactions, setting and respecting boundaries, and handling consent violations. Participants engaged in focus groups to collaboratively explore ways to foster safer, more respectful interactions within queer and Indigenous communities.

The NCPEI Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Coordinator partnered with the Two-Spirit Coordinator to facilitate healing sessions that included beading exercises as part of the activities.

The GBV Coordinator worked alongside the Environmental Coordinator to deliver a program focused on readiness to respond to preparedness for emergency climate conditions. This event was held across the three zones and included arts and coloring activities as well as discussions on climate preparedness.

The GBV Coordinator also organized two discussion sessions: one on understanding trauma and the other on understanding gender-based violence. Each session featured a Knowledge Keeper who shared personal stories. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to take part in an evening workshop to create a dream catcher.

Honouring the Calls

The following report provides a summary of the progress made over the past year in advancing reconciliation. The MMIWG Calls for Justice and the TRC Calls to Action outline a clear path toward reconciliation, setting achievable and meaningful goals for governments to work toward. A total of twelve provincial government departments are involved in responding to these Calls, each contributing to the collective effort.

The following are highlights from 2024:

- An Indigenous Education Consultant was hired to provide guidance on integrating Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and ways of knowing into curriculum.
- The Indigenous Working Group funding was doubled to \$500,000 to focus on gender-based violence and the safety of Indigenous women and girls.
- A new exploration module was developed for grades 7-9 that introduces the Mi'kmaw way of life known as Netukulimk.
- The Department of Health and Wellness engaged with Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations to better understand Indigenous health priorities.
- Two pop-up sites were set up to offer in-person licensing and registration services to Indigenous individuals.
- Innovation PEI invested \$442,000 to support Indigenous-led initiatives & events including the acquisition of artworks by Indigenous artists for the PEI Art Bank.
- Abegweit First Nation received \$70,000 from Innovation PEI to support the design and delivery of immersive storytelling technology and other educational resources.
- The Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Project was developed to bring together partners, including Indigenous, to co-develop climate resilience in coastal communities and businesses.
- John J Sark Memorial School received \$97,250.00 in funding for a School Food Program.
- The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* (CYFSA) came into force. This legislation aligns with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.
- Child and Family Services expanded the Indigenous Services Team by adding two new positions (one permanent and one temporary).
- The Native Council of Prince Edward Island received \$75,000 in funding to focus on supportive workshops for Indigenous women and girls.
- The Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI (AWAPEI) received \$72,600 in project funding to support the Pathways to Peace project.

- AWAPEI received \$85,225 in funding support to the Sukwis'im Healing Lodge.
- Five John J. Sark Memorial Scholarships were provided to support Indigenous students in their pursuit of higher education.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and the Province to deliver Gladue Report Services to the Courts was renewed.
- A Diverse and Inclusive Outreach Worker was hired in the Department of Justice and Public Safety to review policy and program development to enhance supports for clients from Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- A scholarship fund was established to encourage Indigenous candidates to pursue careers in law enforcement on Prince Edward Island.
- The province is working to embed trauma-informed and culturally safe practices into healthcare settings.
- The Faculty of Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) received \$775,000.00.
- The Native Council of Prince Edward Island's annual funding was doubled to \$100,000 to support the off-reserve Indigenous population in PEI.
- The annual budget for Anti-Racism Grants was increased to \$375,000.

Appendix A

MMIWG Calls for Justice

The Government of Prince Edward Island reaffirms its commitment to advancing the implementation of the MMIWG Calls for Justice, working to address the ongoing legacy of trauma, violence, and oppression faced by Indigenous Peoples. Below are some of the initiatives and activities that have been undertaken in 2024 in response to these Calls. For 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 Government of Prince Edward Island has developed the provincial Anti-Racism Action Plan to address systemic racism in the province. Led by the Anti-Racism Office, the implementation of this plan is ongoing.

- 1.3 We call upon all governments, in meeting human and Indigenous rights obligations, to pursue prioritization and resourcing of the measures required to eliminate the social, economic, cultural, and political marginalization of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people when developing budgets and determining government activities and priorities.

- I. Policy Analysts within the Interministerial Women's Secretariat applied gender and diversity analysis to all newly proposed budget initiatives in departmental management plans to highlight the impacts of funding decisions on diverse populations including Indigenous people.

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. The Minister of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population who also has the responsible for the Status of Women represented the Government of Prince Edward Island at the Indigenous/Federal/Provincial Territorial MMIWG meeting in February 2024. The Minister was supported during the meeting by the Director and staff of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat and the Indigenous Relations Secretariat.
- II. The Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population is a member of the Indigenous Relations Secretariat's MMIWG Indigenous Working Group and Coordinating Committee. The work of these groups is ongoing.
- III. The Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat is a member of the MMIWG Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group. The work of this group is ongoing.

1.5 We call upon all governments to immediately take all necessary measures to prevent, investigate, punish, and compensate for violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

- I. The Sustainability Division collaborated with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat; Justice & Public Safety – Emergency Measures Office; the Anti-Racism Office; and Municipal Affairs, to develop a gender-based violence prevention action plan. The work was developed in conjunction with First Nation communities and Indigenous organizations on Prince Edward Island.

1.8 We call upon all governments to create specific and long-term funding, available to Indigenous communities and organizations, to create, deliver, and disseminate prevention programs, education, and awareness campaigns designed for Indigenous communities and families related to violence prevention and combatting lateral violence. Core and sustainable funding, as opposed to program funding, must be provided to national and regional Indigenous women's and 2SLGBTQIA people's organizations.

- I. The Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population is a member of the National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives (NILR) Working Group through the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Status of Women Forum. This work includes providing ongoing support to senior government officials participating in meetings with NILRs.
- II. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat provided \$75,000 in funding to the Native Council of Prince Edward Island to focus on supportive workshops for Indigenous women and girls to help them move forward in their lives through skill development and confidence building.
- III. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat provided \$250,000 in funding to the Indigenous Relations Secretariat (IRS), through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence funding. This funding supports the work of MMIWG Indigenous Working Group.
- IV. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat provided \$85,225 in funding support to the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI (AWAPEI) through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence funding, for the Sukwi'sim Lodge to help support programming and sustainability of this new initiative.
- V. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat provided \$31,100 in funding to Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour United for Strength, Home, Relationship (BIPOC USHR) for the Thriving in Colour (TIC) project. TIC seeks to provide safe, supportive spaces where BIPOC women, femme-identifying, and gender diverse individuals can gather, connect, and feel empowered. It addresses the prevention of violence against women by fostering community connections and providing strength-based/skills-based activities that enhance self-advocacy and support for participants.
- VI. The Native Council of Prince Edward Island's annual funding was doubled to \$100,000 to support the off-reserve Indigenous population in PEI. This funding will focus on health and wellness, affordable housing, and economic development, specifically addressing the needs of Native Council of PEI members.

1.9 We call upon all governments to develop laws, policies, and public education campaigns to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence.

- I. In 2024, the Department of Justice and Public Safety, the Department of Health and Wellness, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat launched the 'Let's Change the Story' campaign, that aims to strengthen public awareness of different forms of sexual violence, consent, safe intervention, and local support resources for survivors.

2.3 We call upon all governments to ensure that all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people are provided with safe, no-barrier, permanent, and meaningful access to their cultures and languages in order to restore, reclaim, and revitalize their cultures and identities. These are rights held by all segments of Indigenous communities, from young children to Elders. The programs and services that provide such access should not be tied exclusively to government-run cultural or educational institutions. All governments must further ensure that the rights of Indigenous children to retain and be educated in their Indigenous language are upheld and protected. All governments must ensure access to immersion programs for children from preschool into post-secondary education.

- I. The Population and Settlement Division within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population provided \$50,000 in funding support to the Sierra Club Canada Foundation (Wild Child PEI) for their Llika' Wksitqumuk/Walk the Earth project. This project brought approximately 45 children, aged 2-13, together for an outdoor learning experience focused on connection with land, Indigenous traditions, and Indigenous practices through activities led by Indigenous people.
- II. The Anti-Racism Office participated regularly in cultural awareness and diversity training for all provincial government employees through the Public Service Commission (PSC). Working collaboratively with the PSC, the Anti-Racism Office has helped to educate government employees about the legacy and lasting impact of discriminatory government practices and policies that contribute to systemic racism in Canada. The ongoing training initiatives offered by the Anti-Racism Office for government employees are intended to educate policy makers to ensure greater equity in new and existing government policies.
- III. New grade four and five curriculum was developed with a focus on Mi'kmaq culture.
- IV. The grade six curriculum, which has a focus on Mi'kmaw culture, was implemented in the 2024-25 school year.
- V. A new intermediate French immersion social studies program teaches Indigenous history and rights, the legacy of the Indian Residential School System and the *Indian Act*. It also raises awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.

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 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.
- II. Development of a Contraception Program is ongoing. An educational campaign will also be developed. The educational campaign will be informed by the principles of Indigenous cultural safety and humility.
- III. The Chief Public Health Office continued to build partnerships with Indigenous community groups and on-reserve Wellness and Health Centres across PEI.
- IV. The Chief Public Health Office continued to build partnerships with other community groups that support Indigenous populations (e.g. Black Cultural Society of PEI).
- V. Advocacy work is ongoing by the Chief Public Health Office for health equity and use of an equity lens to address the social determinants of health (e.g. racism, housing, food security).
- VI. Work is ongoing to deliver the *Smoking Cessation Program*. Universal access to support quitting commercial tobacco is done jointly with nurses working in health centres across Prince Edward Island and in Indigenous communities.
- VII. Collaboration is ongoing between the Chief Public Health Office and Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nation Health Centres for communicable disease and vaccine preventable disease programs.
- VIII. The Chief Public Health Office supported molecular COVID-19 testing at the Health Centres in Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation through the provincial supply of reagents in order for COVID-19 testing to be able to be accessed at First Nation Health Centres.
- IX. The Chief Public Health Office provided health data on COVID immunization rates to the Health Centres in Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation to support their vaccine programs.
- X. The Department of Health and Wellness engaged with Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations to better understand Indigenous health priorities and ways to work together to ensure that Indigenous peoples have access and seamless transitions to culturally safe and effective supports that positively impact their health outcomes.
- XI. Discussions are ongoing regarding a team-based primary care model in Lennox Island First Nation under the parameters of the Patient Medical Home model to meet the unique health needs of the community. This initiative aligns with the call for sustainable, accessible services and is centered on the strengths of Mi'kmaw culture.

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. Bullet under 1.8.V apply to this Call as well.
- II. Bullets under 3.1.III-IX apply to this Call as well.
- III. The Chief Public Health Office continued to encourage Mi'kmaq communities to apply for the *LIVE WELL PEI* Wellness Grant Program. Staff are available to support applications and implementation of projects. Applications from Mi'kmaq communities continue to be consistent and they are often successful in receiving wellness grants to implement health promotion interventions that impact and support the health of families and the community.
- IV. The Chief Public Health Office, Health PEI, and Information Technology Support Services renewed a Memorandum of Agreement with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation related to communicable disease and immunizations. The first Memorandum of Agreement was signed in 2015, and a renewed five-year Memorandum of Agreement was approved in 2024.
- V. Bullets under 3.1.X-XI apply to this Call as well.

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. The Chief Public Health Office continues to work on policies to reduce harms from substances like alcohol that are experienced more by populations who are susceptible to health inequities.
- II. The Chief Public Health Office partnered with Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations, and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island as distribution sites for the *Take Home Naloxone Program*.

III. Bullets under 3.1.X-XI apply to this Call as well.

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 Department of Social Development and Seniors delivered the Children's Summer Food Program which was offered to children living in Indigenous communities or in other areas.
- II. The Department of Social Development and Seniors provided \$97,250 in funding for a School Food Program at John J Sark Memorial School. The program focuses on providing healthy meals to students. This program includes menu items that are a part of Indigenous culture to support student learning about their culture.

4.2 We call upon all governments to recognize Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the pursuit of economic social development. All governments must support and resource economic and social progress and development on an equitable basis, as these measures are required to uphold the human dignity, life, liberty, and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. All governments must support and resource community-based supports and solutions designed to improve social and economic security, led by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This support must come with long-term, sustainable funding designed to meet the needs and objectives as defined by Indigenous Peoples and communities.

- I. Innovation PEI invested \$442,000 to support Indigenous-led initiatives and events including: Mawi'omi events, Indigenous artist grants, the PETAPAN 2024 First Light Symposium, the Indigenous Tourism Association of PEI, and the acquisition of artworks by Indigenous artists for the PEI Art Bank. Mi'kmaq cultural connectors were also recognized through the PEI Arts Awards program.
- II. By continuing to fund initiatives that directly contribute to reconciliation, the Anti-Racism Office supports the safety, dignity and empowerment of Indigenous Women and Girls. The Prince Edward Island Anti-Racism grants play an important role in supporting the MMWIG Calls for Justice and the TRC Calls to action by funding initiatives that address racial inequities and promote social justice. The Anti-Racism grants provide opportunities to address historical injustices and continued marginalization of Indigenous communities, and assist with creating an environment of understanding, respect and restorative practices. In 2024-2025, the total amount of Anti-Racism grants was increased to \$375,000 annually.

4.4 We call upon all governments to provide supports and resources for educational, training, and employment opportunities for all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. These programs must be available within all Indigenous communities.

- I. Bullet under 4.2.I apply to this Call as well.
- II. In partnership with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, Innovation PEI provided financial support for the creation and dissemination of artistic projects. The aim of these projects was to increase public awareness of the impact of gender-based violence and promote prevention. In total, \$27,000 went to three Indigenous artists for projects that focused on violence prevention for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- III. In June 2024, Innovation PEI honoured Indigenous History Month by creating a special exhibition that highlighted Indigenous knowledge, arts, and crafts. A total of 10 works created by PEI-based Indigenous artists were presented as part of this publicly accessible exhibit. The aim of the event was to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures, traditions and art.
- IV. The Anti-Racism Office worked with the Department of Justice and Public Safety and other partners including Indigenous organizations and marginalized groups to modernize provincial policing standards. Part of the modernization process includes the implementation of cultural training. This training is provided to new recruits of the Atlantic Police Academy and is also part of ongoing professional development for all police officers.

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 increased investment and opportunity for supportive housing options operated by community organizations including Indigenous organizations.
- II. The Government of Prince Edward Island also committed to \$100,000 in financial support to the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq to identify solutions for the unique housing needs of Indigenous people living in urban areas. In 2024, the rezoning process was initiated with the City of Charlottetown and the installation of services will begin in Spring 2025.

4.7 We call upon all governments to support the establishment and long-term sustainable funding of Indigenous-led low-barrier shelters, safe spaces, transition homes, second-stage housing, and services for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people who are homeless, near homeless, dealing with food insecurity, or in poverty, and who are fleeing violence or have been subjected to sexualized violence and exploitation. All governments must ensure that shelters, transitional housing, second-stage housing, and services are appropriate to cultural needs, and available wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people reside.

- I. All shelters and supportive housing for women and women and children on Prince Edward Island are available for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Additionally, the PEI Housing Corporation provides ongoing funding support directly to the Chief Mary Bernard Memorial Women's Shelter on Lennox Island to assist women and children who access shelter services.
- II. In 2024, the PEI Housing Corporation continued to meet regularly with Indigenous organizations across the province. The Native Council of Prince Edward Island is a member of the Task Force for the System of Care for Complex Populations, the Community Advisory Committee, the Community Advisory Board, and the HIFIS Governance Committee. The Native Council of Prince Edward Island also participated in ongoing biweekly Case Conferencing meetings with the PEI Housing Corporation.
- III. In 2024, Housing Navigators continued to work collaboratively with the Chief Mary Bernard Memorial Women's Shelter, the Winter Street Shelter, the Native Council of PEI's Housing Coordinator, and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to assist in finding housing options and resources for those staying in shelter.

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:

- 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. The Executive Director of the Lennox Island Development Corporation was invited to present information at Prince Edward Island's 2024 Active Transportation Summit. Current and planned active transportation initiatives in Lennox Island First Nation were highlighted.

- II. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure provided funding to two Indigenous communities to develop active transportation projects.
- III. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's Highway Safety Division and Service PEI developed a collaborative and community-focused approach to service delivery. This resulted in two pop-up sites in PEI (Charlottetown and Lennox Island) that offered in person licensing and registration services to Indigenous individuals.

5.5 We call upon all governments to fund the provision of policing services within Indigenous communities in northern and remote areas in a manner that ensures that those services meet the safety and justice needs of the communities and that the quality of policing services is equitable to that provided to non-Indigenous Canadians. This must include but is not limited to the following measures:

- With the growing reliance on information management systems, particularly in the area of major and inter-jurisdictional criminal investigations, remote communities must be ensured access to reliable high-speed Internet as a right.
- Major crime units and major case management must be more accessible to remote and northern communities on a faster basis than the service is being delivered now.
- Capacity must be developed in investigative tools and techniques for the investigation of sexualized violence, including but not limited to tools for the collection of physical evidence, such as sexual assault kits, and specialized and trauma-informed questioning techniques.
- Crime-prevention funding and programming must reflect community needs.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety provided a \$20,000 grant to Abegweit First Nation to complete a culturally informed crime prevention needs assessment. This project engaged Elders, community members, local police services, educators, and health services to develop community-driven safety strategies.

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 2SLGBTQIA 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. A new five-year agreement is being finalized to expand the Victim Services Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) program. FILU provides centralized and culturally informed support for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. FILU also partners with community members to organize Indigenous-led education and awareness events that focus on empowering Indigenous women and girls and creating safe spaces for connection and healing.
- II. In 2024, a retreat led by the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI at Sukwi'sim Lodge, was held for MMIWG families. The retreat featured three Elder-led workshops. These workshops incorporated cultural activities, education, and increased awareness of available support through FILU, and other community-based services and cultural supports.

- 5.7 We call upon federal and provincial governments to establish robust and well-funded Indigenous civilian police oversight bodies (or branches within established reputable civilian oversight bodies within a jurisdiction) in all jurisdictions, which must include representation of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, inclusive of diverse Indigenous cultural backgrounds, with the power to:
- Observe and oversee investigations in relation to police negligence or misconduct, including but not limited to rape and other sexual offences.
 - Observe and oversee investigations of cases involving Indigenous Peoples.
 - Publicly report on police progress in addressing findings and recommendations at least annually.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continues to participate in the Sexual Assault Investigation Review Committees for both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Charlottetown Police Services to review sexual assault files that do not result in charges. Their involvement ensures a victim-centered approach, promotes accountability, and helps identify areas for improvement in investigations. Both Committees include representation from Indigenous organizations.

- 5.8 We call upon all provincial and territorial governments to enact missing persons legislation.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continues implementation of the *Missing Persons Act* through regulations. Consultation is in progress on draft regulations to clarify annual reporting requirements for police and redrafting of Emergency demand application forms.

- 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 Prince Edward Island continue to offer the option of an Eagle Feather for use in the court system.
- II. The Indigenous Justice Program provided by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI held a KAIROS Blanket Exercise with Justices of the Appeal, Supreme, and Provincial Court.
- III. Since launching in 2021, the provincial Restorative Justice Program continues to see cases increasing. The Department of Justice and Public Safety together with Justice Canada, continues to fund the Indigenous Justice Program provided by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI. The Indigenous Justice Program makes restorative processes

available to Indigenous people in PEI. Both the provincial Restorative Justice Program and Justice Canada continue to collaborate and are contributing to the development of national data collection practices to monitor impact.

5.13 We call upon all provincial and territorial governments to expand and adequately resource legal aid programs in order to ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people have access to justice and meaningful participation in the justice system. Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people must have guaranteed access to legal services in order to defend and assert their human rights and Indigenous rights.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continued work on establishing a Community Legal Clinic to increase access to justice including legal representation.
- II. The Department of Justice and Public Safety added a position for a Vulnerable Person's Lawyer. The position will provide a range of legal services including representation for persons who are vulnerable because of physical, emotional, or intellectual disability in civil areas not previously covered by Legal Aid.

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 Department of Justice and Public Safety and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI renewed a Memorandum of Understanding Respect to the Delivery of Gladue Report Services by MCPEI to the Courts to inform sentencing. The renewed MOU 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.

5.21 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 contribute to work with other federal, provincial and territorial governments in the development of a federal Indigenous Justice Strategy that which includes participation in regional engagement initiatives coordinated by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI.

7.1 We call upon all governments and health service providers to recognize that Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, including 2SLGBTQIA 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 Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI continue to collaborate with community leaders and staff with the Lennox Island Health Centre to implement the Cancer Action Plan. This project, funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, focuses on advancing culturally safe care close to home, particularly for the First Nation communities in Prince Edward Island. This project partnership will support the following objectives:
 - Co-create, promote and co-implement culturally appropriate training programs for healthcare providers in collaboration with First Nations health partners.
 - Eliminate barriers to equitable and culturally safe cancer care by integrating First Nations culture and community participation.
 - Facilitate collaboration among First Nations communities, government, and Health PEI by establishing partnership tables to work collaboratively on shared goals on cancer strategies.

The project will involve community members and Elders who wish to participate in various activities including communication activities (e.g. stories, pictures, spokespeople, feedback); project activities (e.g. reviewing materials, participating in events, smudging ceremonies); as well as input, planning and delivery of education events and collaborative planning activities to design/improve cancer programs.
- II. Bullets under 3.1.III-IX apply to this Call as well.
- III. 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 First Nation, Lennox Island First Nation, and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.
- IV. The Chief Public Health Office has senior level representation on the Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation Working Group. This group has a mandate to support the Public Health Network to meet its obligations to uphold the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples by identifying and arresting systemic white supremacy and anti-Indigenous

- racism in public health. The Working Group also has a mandate to take actions on specific foundational commitments to Indigenous peoples to advance a distinctions-based, Indigenous-led public health vision.
- V. Bullets under 3.1.X-XI apply to this Call as well.
 - VI. The Department of Health and Wellness engaged with Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations to better understand Indigenous health priorities and ways to work together to ensure that Indigenous peoples have access and seamless transitions to culturally safe and effective supports that positively impact their health outcomes.
 - VII. Discussions are ongoing with Lennox Island First Nation to explore options to meet the unique health needs of the community *through a team-based primary care model*. This initiative aligns with the call for sustainable, accessible services and is centered on the strengths of Mi'kmaw culture.
 - VIII. Bullet under 3.2.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. Abegweit First Nation received funding in the amount of \$70,000 from Innovation PEI to support the design and delivery of immersive storytelling technology and other educational resources. The “It’s Okay to Cry” project explored the lasting impact of residential schools in ways that were intended to minimize re-traumatization to survivors.

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 2SLGBTQQIA issues and sex positivity

- 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. An extensive resource toolkit was developed in 2024. Principles related to Indigenous safety and humility are embedded in this toolkit. Planning for this work has been initiated, but the resource toolkit was not fully implemented in 2024.

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.III 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; Related to suicide prevention strategies for youth and adults;
- anti-bias and anti-racism;
- local language and culture; and
- local health and healing practices.

- I. Bullet under 7.3.I apply to this Call as well.
- II. The Department of Health and Wellness organized a learning event on Indigenous health considerations that was open to government, Health PEI staff, and community partners. The session was facilitated by one of the Mi'kmaq Health System Navigators. A comprehensive resource was produced from the session and was shared with participants. The resource is also posted on the Women and Gender Diverse People's Health Hub. The Health Hub features an article related to Indigenous health that was vetted by key partners.

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 Highway Safety Division is a member of PEI's Anti-Human Trafficking Committee. The Committee exists to help raise awareness of sexual exploitation and human trafficking within the trucking industry.

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. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continues to offer the 2SLGBTQQIA+ online training course, that was developed by Community and Correctional Services in collaboration with police organizations across Canada. The course is facilitated by the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN) and available to Community and Correctional Services staff. It is often included in onboarding training. This course explores the history of harm between policing/public safety personnel and 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities, providing an overview of 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights in Canada. It aims to enhance understanding of diversity, inclusion, and respect while encouraging staff to reflect on their role in public safety and community interactions.

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. The Department of Justice and Public Safety engaged with Indigenous partners, Knowledge Keepers, and representatives from diverse communities to help shape a cultural and diversity awareness training program for Island police officers. A new online training course is intended to help to reduce bias, promote respectful interactions, and strengthen police relationships with Indigenous and diverse communities.
- II. All police cadets attending the Atlantic Police Academy received trauma-informed training through the Academy. This training is intended to increase awareness of the ways in which trauma affects individuals and communities, especially in their interactions with police and the justice system. This training seeks to enhance officer sensitivity and reduce the risk of re-traumatization for those impacted by trauma.
- III. The Department of Justice and Public Safety developed new Provincial Police Standards that include an emphasis on inclusivity, fairness, and cultural competency. These standards require the adoption of evidence-based community policing strategies that are responsive to the unique needs of Indigenous and diverse populations.
- IV. The Department of Justice and Public Safety staff, across several divisions, participated in trauma-informed training to understand how trauma impacts individuals and communities. The training promoted more empathetic and sensitive interactions with individuals and communities including Indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.
- V. The Department of Justice and Public Safety established a new Minister's Advisory Committee on Crime Prevention and Policing to strengthen partnerships and to give members, including the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, a platform to discuss important and emerging issues in their communities.

- VI. Police across Prince Edward Island received training on the use of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) tool to assess the risk of intimate partner and domestic violence. This tool is intended to enhance the ability to provide a more informed, sensitive response by recognizing risk factors for potential or further domestic violence. The tool is currently being implemented.
- VII. A Diverse and Inclusive Outreach Worker was recently added to The Department of Justice and Public Safety. This role provides case management and crisis response to clients of Correctional Community Programs, specifically racialized and marginalized youth involved in the Youth Justice System. Funded through the Justice Canada Youth Justice Fund, the Diverse and Inclusive Outreach Worker will review policy and program development to enhance supports for clients from Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- VIII. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continued developing the web-based training course, *History of Trauma in Indigenous Communities*. The training explores the history and impact of residential schools, the Sixties Scoop and colonial trauma that has contributed to overrepresentation in the Canadian criminal justice system. The training is being developed to enhance Community and Correctional Services staff education and programming. Content was reviewed for accuracy and cultural relevance by a researcher at UPEI's Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies Faculty and the Indigenous Relations Secretariat.
- IX. In October 2024, representatives from across the Department of Justice and Public Safety attended the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI's Indigenous Justice Gathering. The event focused on systemic challenges faced by Indigenous women and girls in the criminal justice system. The gathering provided an important opportunity for authentic engagement between justice professionals and the Indigenous community.
- X. To support the 2024 Indigenous Justice Forum, the Department of Justice and Public Safety and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat provided a \$25,000 grant to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI through provincial funding and the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

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 2SLGBTQQIA 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. The Department of Justice and Public Safety established a scholarship fund to encourage Indigenous candidates as well as candidates from diverse groups to attend the Atlantic Police Academy and pursue careers in law enforcement on Prince Edward Island. This initiative aims to increase diversity within provincial police services and promote inclusive representation in policing to foster trust and stronger community connections.
- II. Community and Correctional Services, in partnership with the Atlantic Police Academy and Skills PEI, delivered two Accelerated Correctional Officer Training Programs. Full government funding was available to cover program costs for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) applicants who were accepted into the program.

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. The Department of Justice and Public Safety, Justice Canada, and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI continue to support the Indigenous Justice Program and court work services. The Department of Justice and Public Safety and Justice Canada fund the Indigenous Justice Program provided by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to support its efforts to develop sustainable justice supports that address the inequalities experienced by Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous persons in the criminal justice system.
- II. Lawyers within Legal and Legislative Services are completing *The Path*, an Indigenous cultural awareness program, created by NVision Insight Group, a majority Indigenous-owned company. The program was developed with First Nations, Inuit and Métis advisors and reviewers for the Canadian Bar Association. *The Path: Your Journey through Indigenous Canada*, is a six-module Indigenous cultural awareness course will help lawyers better understand Indigenous issues in the legal profession.
- III. The Department of Justice and Public Safety has an agreement with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to deliver the Indigenous Courtwork Program.
- IV. As part of the Department of Justice and Public Safety, an Indigenous Caseworker is available to provide culturally appropriate services for Indigenous clients before, during, and after court. The Indigenous Caseworker also offers important education and training to colleagues, service providers, and judicial personnel on Indigenous issues. The Indigenous Caseworker also educates on the unique circumstances of Indigenous people to address the root and promote community-based solutions over incarceration for Indigenous peoples.

11.1 We call upon all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions and education authorities to educate and provide awareness to the public about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people, and about the issues and root causes of violence they experience. All curriculum development and programming should be done in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, especially Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people. Such education and awareness must include historical and current truths about the genocide against Indigenous Peoples through state laws, policies, and colonial practices. It should include, but not be limited to, teaching Indigenous history, law, and practices from Indigenous perspectives and the use of Their Voices Will Guide Us with children and youth.

- I. The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee was established to provide guidance, recommendations, and insights to the Department of Education and Early Years on policies, programs, and initiatives that support Indigenous students. The Committee also provides guidance and recommendations on the incorporation of Indigenous perspectives into the education system. The work of the Committee is ongoing.
- II. A renewed grade seven and grade eight social studies curriculum has been implemented across Prince Edward Island. This renewed curriculum allows students to evaluate the impact of government policies, the legacy of injustices to Indigenous peoples in Canada, and the role of reconciliation. A grade nine curriculum was piloted in 2024.
- III. In collaboration with Abegweit First Nation, grade 8 social studies teachers received professional development for resources designed to teach the legacy of intergenerational trauma as a result of the Indian Residential School System.
- IV. A new exploratory module, *The Beauty of Nature* was developed for grades 7-9 to introduce the Mi'kmaw way of life known as Netukulimk. This land-based education module encourages students to build reciprocal and respectful relationships with the natural world. It also explores Mi'kmaw names for natural species.
- V. The new grades 7-9 Life Skills-Foods curriculum includes an outcome on sustainability related to the concept of Netukulimk.
- VI. All schools across Prince Edward Island participated in Reconciliation Week activities that were supported by the Department of Education and Early Years and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- VII. The grade 12 Biology course encourages students to appreciate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the current understanding of biodiversity classification, and conservation. This course is ongoing.
- VIII. All Social Studies teachers have received the picture book, *Little Red Dress* for use in the classroom. The book aims to raise awareness of Missing and Murdered Women and Girls in Canada.

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* came into force. This legislation aligns with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* that emphasizes prevention, collaborative approaches, and ensuring that any significant measures relating to an Indigenous child are first relayed to the First Nation. Any decision made under the Act must be made with the child as the most important consideration which aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

12.4 We call upon all governments to prohibit the apprehension of children on the basis of poverty and cultural bias. All governments must resolve issues of poverty, inadequate and substandard housing, and lack of financial support for families, and increase food security to ensure that Indigenous families can succeed.

- I. The Department of Social Development and Seniors initiated development of a new Poverty Elimination Strategy. The *Poverty Elimination Strategy Act* mandates that Indigenous Peoples and 2SLGBTQIA+ persons be considered as part of the strategy development due to their increased risk of experiencing poverty.
- II. The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* came into force. This legislation is superseded by *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. As such, an Indigenous child must not be removed solely because of their socio-economic conditions, including poverty, lack of adequate housing or infrastructure or the state of health of their parent or the care provider.

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. Child and Family Services continued recruitment and retention efforts for Indigenous foster and alternative care providers for Indigenous children and youth in need of protection. Child and Family Services has 11 Indigenous foster homes where Indigenous focused care and support is provided to children and youth who are in foster care.
- II. The Department of Social Development and Seniors facilitated monthly Caregiver Circles for Indigenous foster care providers in collaboration with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI. These Caregiver Circles allow foster parents to gain information and training. It also provides a forum for them to share experiences and support.

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 Department of Social Development and Seniors staff attended various Public Service Commission training sessions to inform their work and further their understanding of the issues faced by Indigenous Peoples.
- II. Social Program staff presented their Targeted Basic Income initiative at a social policy workshop. This workshop included representatives from Abegweit First Nation and Indigenous Services Canada.

- III. The Department of Social Development and Seniors developed online training for *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. The training session was delivered to all Child and Family Services staff.
- IV. Child and Family Services staff engaged in Parent Resource, Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) training from the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI.
- V. Child and Family Services staff attended the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI's Indigenous Justice Gathering on the unique systemic challenges faced by Indigenous women and girls in the criminal justice system.
- VI. Child and Family Services and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI co-facilitated a Caregivers Gathering training day for Indigenous foster care providers. The training included information on lived experiences and trauma-informed care.
- VII. Senior leaders from Child and Family Services and Indigenous Services Team staff completed training delivered by Indigenous community members on their lived experiences. This included training on the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, that is being implemented as entry-level training for new social workers joining Child Protection Services.

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

- I. The Sustainability Division within the Department of Environment, Energy & Climate Action has been working with both Lennox Island First Nation and the Abegweit First Nation regarding their priorities in the development of Prince Edward Island's Shoreline Management Plan.
- II. The PEI Energy Corporation worked with Lennox Island First Nation and Indigenous Services Canada's - Atlantic Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative to develop and implement two locally sustainable clean energy projects.
- III. The Drinking Water/Wastewater Management Section had discussions with Abegweit First Nation regarding a new housing development at Rocky Point, Prince Edward Island. The development involves lands owned by Abegweit First Nation.

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. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure included a component that highlights various policy lens screening tools available for projects in its project management templates. This includes a gender and diversity lens.

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 Department of Justice and Public Safety opened the Provincial Correctional Center Women's Unit in January 2024. The unit includes a spiritual room designed to provide a safe and inclusive space for spiritual practices and cultural ceremonies, such as smudging. An Indigenous Case Worker is also available to help maintain connection between Indigenous women within the facility, Elders and the Indigenous community.

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. As part of the Pituamkek Project, the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division is representing provincial interests on the newly announced National Park Reserve at Pituamkek (Hog Island Sandhills). The Pituamkek Project is a partnership between the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, L'nuey, Parks Canada, Island Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The Pituamkek Project will be co-managed by Canada and the Prince Edward Island Mi'kmaq. It will contribute to Prince Edward Island's growing network of protected and conserved areas. Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division continues to work with the Indigenous community in moving forward the important effort of establishing the Pituamkek National Park Reserve.
- II. Department of Finance staff participated in an online training session called "Honouring the Calls." The training delivered by the Indigenous Relations Secretariat focused on tools departments can use when implementing the Calls.
- III. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat's Gender and Diversity Analysts provide ongoing comprehensive training, along with other subject-matter experts in the provincial public service to help government departments learn to apply various policy lenses when reviewing or developing policies, programs, and procedures. These policy lenses include Indigenous considerations and responsibilities, Anti-Racism, gender, diversity, and climate action lenses as well as information technology implications.
- IV. Bullet under 2.3.I apply to this Call as well.

- V. Department of Agriculture staff participated in professional development initiatives to increase awareness and understanding of Indigenous matters including reconciliation training and the Duty to Consult Process.
- VI. Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture provided \$35,000 financial assistance to the Indigenous Tourism Association of PEI (ITAPEI) to support Indigenous tourism-based product development (i.e., festival and events). Additionally provided a \$1,500 Hosting Grant to offset costs for the ITAPEI Atlantic Indigenous Tourism Summit.
- VII. Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture supported the participation of a member of Abegweit First Nations as well as the Executive Director and a Board Member of Indigenous Tourism PEI to attend the Indigenous Tourism Best Practice Mission to New Zealand. This mission was to foster cross-cultural learning, enhance intergovernmental relationships, and strengthen Indigenous tourism development. This was a joint venture between the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's (ACOA) Tourism Atlantic and Tourism PEI and organized by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC).

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 15.2.I apply to this Call as well.
- II. Bullet under 15.2.V apply to this Call as well.

15.6 Protect, support, and promote the safety of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people by acknowledging and respecting the value of every person and every community, as well as the right of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people to generate their own, self-determined solutions.

- I. Bullet under 1.5.I apply to this Call as well.
- II. Bullet under 4.4.II apply to this Call as well.
- III. The Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI is a member of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. The Committee's mandate 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. The work of the Committee is ongoing.
- IV. As a member of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI advocated for the creation of a working group to

address family violence prevention through a lens focused on Indigenous women, immigrants, refugees, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The Culture and Diversity Working Group had its first meeting in October 2024.

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. Throughout 2024, Interministerial Women's Secretariat staff attended a variety of events, such as the Red Dress Day Walk, hosted by various Indigenous groups.
- II. SkillsPEI within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population works continuously to foster and maintain strong, respectful and valued partnerships with Indigenous communities across Prince Edward Island, including those with Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations through the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI. SkillsPEI staff maintain a presence through community visits, participating in client open houses, roundtables and project events, workshops, meet-and-greets, and partner conferences. SkillsPEI is dedicated to meaningful collaboration and works to support community-driven initiatives including within Indigenous communities throughout the province.
- III. Bullet under 15.2.V 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. Bullet under 15.2.V 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. Bullet under 1.8.VI apply to this Call as well.

18.2 We call upon all governments and service providers to be inclusive of all perspectives in decision making, including those of 2SLGBTQQIA people and youth.

- I. Through the Rural Growth Initiative, the Division of Rural and Regional Development supports rural communities and non-profit organizations to enhance the quality of life for residents including Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals.

18.4 We Call upon all governments, service providers, and those involved in research to modify data collection methods to:

- Increase accurate, comprehensive statistical data on 2SLGBTQQIA individuals, especially to record the experiences of trans-identified individuals and individuals with non-binary gender identities.
- Eliminate "either-or" gender options and include gender-inclusive, gender-neutral, or non-binary options - for example, an "X-option" - on reporting gender in all con-texts, such as application and intake forms, surveys, Status cards, census data and other data collection.
- Increase precision in data collection to recognize and capture the diversity of 2SLGBTQQIA communities: for example, the experiences of Two-Spirit women/ lesbians, and differentiations between Two-Spirit and trans-identified individuals and between trans-masculine and trans-feminine experiences.

- I. In 2024, work continued to collect information that will help inform the future delivery of programs and services. All shelters on Prince Edward Island utilize the Government of Canada's Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) for the informed consent collection of information of vulnerable individuals on Prince Edward Island. Information including Indigenous status and gender identification are captured through the intake process. Both the Chief Mary Bernard Memorial Women's Shelter and the Native Council of PEI are designated access points for HIFIS.

18.9 We call upon First Nations, Métis, and Inuit leadership and advocacy bodies to equitably include 2SLGBTQQIA people, and for national Indigenous organizations to have a 2SLGBTQQIA council or similar initiative.

- I. Bullet under 4.4.II apply to this Call as well.
- II. Bullet under 4.4.III apply to this Call as well.

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. The Department of Justice and Public Safety has continued its review of correctional services policies and procedures, integrating a gender and diversity lens into the process. Policies are being updated to incorporate more inclusive language, enhance support for self-identification, and ensure greater equity for people within correctional systems.

18.24 We call upon all governments to address homelessness, poverty, and other socio-economic barriers to equitable and substantive rights for 2SLGBTQQIA people.

- I. One hundred and thirty new social housing units were opened on Prince Edward Island. All shelters, supportive housing and social housing for women and women and children on Prince Edward Island are available for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- II. Ten new shelter beds opened in Summerside PEI. Emergency Shelters operated by the PEI Housing Corporation are designed to be gender inclusive.
- III. The Department of Social Development and Seniors initiated development of a new Poverty Elimination Strategy. The *Poverty Elimination Strategy Act* mandates that Indigenous peoples and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons be considered as part of the strategy development due to their increased risk of experiencing poverty.

18.25 We call upon all governments to build safe spaces for people who need help and who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, which includes access to safe, dedicated 2SLGBTQQIA shelters and housing, dedicated beds in shelters for trans and non-binary individuals, and 2SLGBTQQIA-specific support services for 2SLGBTQQIA individuals in housing and shelter spaces.

- I. One hundred and thirty new social housing units were opened on Prince Edward Island in 2024. All provincial shelters, supportive housing and social housing for women and women and children are available for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- II. In partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation through the National Housing Strategy, the PEI Housing Corporation launched the Survivors of Gender-Based Violence Housing Benefit. This is a direct-to-household benefit that provides financial assistance to support qualifying individuals who are escaping abusive situations by helping to cover their monthly housing expenses. The benefit can also secure new housing opportunities by providing funding to cover damage deposits.

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. Bullet under 7.3.I apply to this Call as well.
- II. Bullet under 7.6.II apply to this Call as well.

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

- I. In 2024, the Department of Health and Wellness collaborated with the Department of Housing, Land and Communities to ensure that the new space for the Community Outreach Centre, located in Charlottetown, was constructed to Health PEI standards for the delivery of clinical and mental health services for all clients.

Appendix B

TRC Calls to Action

The Government of Prince Edward Island reaffirms its commitment to advancing the implementation of the Calls to Action and progressing on the path to reconciliation. Below is the Government of PEI's response in 2024 to the TRC's Calls to Action. For a complete list of the Calls or to learn more about the TRC, please 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 Department of Social Development and Seniors staff attended various Public Service Commission training sessions to inform their work further their understanding of the issues faced by Indigenous people.
- II. Child and Family Services reviewed its process and purpose for collecting cultural identifiers to ensure alignment with the best practices of Statistics Canada.
- III. The Department of Social Development and Seniors increased collaboration with First Nations on Jordan's Principle and Parent Resource, Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) to streamline supports for families, increase advocacy, and remove barriers to obtaining supports.
- IV. Child and Family Services approved and implemented the Cultural Connection Plan policy. The Cultural Connection Plan is required when working with Indigenous children in need of protection to support a positive cultural identity, while maintaining and engaging with their community connections.
- V. Child and Family Services implemented a compliance guide to the *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* to support practice when working with Indigenous children, youth and families.

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 Post-Secondary and Continuing Education Division within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population provided funding for one seat annually (out of 11) for an incoming Indigenous student at the Atlantic Veterinary College.
- II. The Post-Secondary and Continuing Education Division worked in collaboration with the University of Prince Edward Island/Memorial University of Newfoundland to reserve one seat annually (out of 20) for an incoming Indigenous student in the Faculty of Medicine.

12 We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

- I. The Population and Settlement Division within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population provided \$50,000 in funding support to the Sierra Club Canada Foundation (Wild Child PEI) for their Llika' Wksitqumuk/Walk the Earth project. This project brought approximately 45 children, aged 2-13, together for an outdoor learning experience focused on connection with land, Indigenous traditions, and Indigenous practices through activities led by Indigenous people.

14 We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:

- Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
- Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.
- The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal- language revitalization and preservation.
- The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.
- Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.

- I. The Climate Adaptation Section worked with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and the University of Prince Edward Island to incorporate Mi'kmaq place names in the new Climate Hazard & Risk Information System.

- 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 continues to collaborate and participate in the Health Policy and Planning Forum eHealth Working Group. This group has the mission to strengthen partnerships and facilitate integration of provincial initiatives related to data sharing that will contribute to access and improved health outcomes for First Nations communities. Initial work is ongoing and is focused on chronic diseases indicators.
- II. The Chief Public Health Office, Health PEI, and Information Technology Support Services renewed a Memorandum of Agreement with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation related to communicable disease and immunizations. The first Memorandum of Agreement was signed in 2015, and the current five-year Memorandum of Agreement is due for renewal in 2026.

- 21 We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety provided a \$90,000 grant to the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI to support Sukwi'sim, a cultural healing space offering Indigenous women and girls access to Elder-care, ceremonies, land-based healing, language learning, professional development, and culturally based healing in a safe, nurturing environment.
- II. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat provided \$72,600 in project funding to the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI (AWAPEI) to support the Pathways to Peace proposal. This project was intended to provide comprehensive support to Indigenous women by fostering meaningful collaborations at cultural events across Prince Edward Island. It would also support workshops at the Sukwi'sim Lodge as well as promote awareness and education on key community issues.

- 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 Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI continue to collaborate with community leaders and staff with the Lennox Island Health Centre to implement the Cancer Action Plan. This project, funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, focuses on advancing culturally safe care close to home, particularly for the First Nation communities in Prince Edward Island. This project partnership will support the following objectives:
- Co-create, promote and co-implement culturally appropriate training programs for healthcare providers in collaboration with First Nations health partners.
 - Eliminate barriers to equitable and culturally safe cancer care by integrating First Nations culture and community participation.
 - Facilitate collaboration among First Nations communities, government, and Health PEI by establishing partnership tables to work collaboratively on shared goals on cancer strategies.
- The project will involve community members and Elders who wish to participate in various activities including communication activities (e.g. stories, pictures, spokespeople, feedback); project activities (e.g. reviewing materials, participating in events, smudging ceremonies); as well as input, planning and delivery of education events and collaborative planning activities to design/improve cancer programs.

- 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. Bullet under 11.II apply to this Call as well.
- II. 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. An extensive resource toolkit was developed in 2024. Principles related to Indigenous safety and humility are embedded in this document. Planning for this work has been initiated, but the resource toolkit was not fully implemented in 2024.
- III. Bullet under 22.II apply to this Call as well.

27 We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes 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. Lawyers within Legal and Legislative Services are completing *The Path*, an Indigenous cultural awareness program, created by NVision Insight Group, a majority Indigenous-owned company. The program was developed with First Nations, Inuit and Métis advisors and reviewers for the Canadian Bar Association. *The Path: Your Journey through Indigenous Canada*, is a six-module Indigenous cultural awareness course will help lawyers better understand Indigenous issues in the legal profession.

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 worked with Statistics Canada through the Disaggregated Data Action Plan (DDAP) to improve data collection in Community and Correctional Services related to Indigenous and diverse population groups.

31 We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.

- I. As part of the Department of Justice and Public Safety, an Indigenous Caseworker is available to provide culturally appropriate services for Indigenous clients before, during, and after court. The Indigenous Caseworker also offers important education and training to colleagues, service providers, and judicial personnel on Indigenous issues. The Indigenous Caseworker also educates on the unique circumstances of Indigenous people to address the root causes of offences and promote community-based solutions over incarceration for Indigenous peoples.

36 We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.

- I. The Sustainability Division collaborated with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat; Justice & Public Safety – Emergency Measures Office; the Anti-Racism Office; and Municipal Affairs, to develop a gender-based violence prevention action plan. The work was developed in conjunction with First Nation communities and Indigenous organizations on Prince Edward Island.
- II. In 2024, for the first time, the Department of Justice and Public Safety applied an Indigenous lens to an adult sexual offence assessment and treatment group facilitated by Clinical Services. Developed by the Clinical Services Indigenous Case Worker and the Sexual Offence Assessment & Treatment Specialist, the program addressed sex offending risk factors while incorporating social history, culturally relevant teachings, and participation by an Indigenous Elder. With four clients and three facilitators (including a Lennox Island Health Centre staff member), it provided a more culturally appropriate approach to treatment.
- III. An Indigenous Case Worker participated in assessments for Indigenous clients in the Clinical Services *Turning Point Program*, enhancing culturally appropriate intimate partner violence intervention for Indigenous men.

38 We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.

- I. A Diverse and Inclusive Outreach Worker was recently added to The Department of Justice and Public Safety. This role provides case management and crisis response to clients of Correctional Community Programs, specifically racialized and marginalized youth involved in the Youth Justice System. Funded through the Justice Canada Youth Justice Fund, the Diverse and Inclusive Outreach Worker will review policy and program development to enhance supports for clients from Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) and 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities.

39 We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.

- I. The Department of Justice and Public Safety provided a \$20,000 grant to Abegweit First Nation to complete a culturally informed crime prevention needs assessment. This project engaged Elders, community members, local police services, educators, and health services to develop community-driven safety strategies.

40 We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

- I. A new five-year agreement is being finalized to expand the Victim Services Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) program. FILU provides centralized and culturally informed support for families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. FILU also partners with community members to organize Indigenous-led education and awareness events that focus on empowering Indigenous women and girls and creating safe spaces for connection and healing.
- II. In 2024 a retreat, led by the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI at Sukwi'sim Lodge, was held for MMIWG families. The retreat featured three Elder-led workshops. These workshops incorporated cultural activities, education, and increased awareness of available supports through FILU, and other community-based services and cultural supports.

52 We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and the courts to adopt the following legal principles:

- Aboriginal title claims are accepted once the Aboriginal claimant has established occupation over a particular territory at a particular point in time.
- Once Aboriginal title has been established, the burden of proving any limitation on any rights arising from the existence of that title shifts to the party asserting such a limitation.

- I. There is active dialogue taking place at the negotiation table under the Mi'kmaq-PEI-Canada Framework Agreement (FWA), to advance and reconcile rights-based matters, including Aboriginal title.

- 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:
- The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children—in care, compared with non- Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.
 - Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.
 - The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non- Aboriginal people.
 - Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health 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.
 - Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.
 - Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.
 - Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.

I. Bullet under 19.I 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 Public Service Commission hosted a professional development day for the Government of Prince Edward Island Internship Program in partnership with the Native Council of Prince Edward Island. This event was designed to advance understanding and awareness for public servants on the history of Indigenous Peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights.
- II. Bullet under 7.6.II apply to this Call as well.

- III. Senior staff in the Land and Environment Division of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure participated in government training on reconciliation.
- IV. During Mi'kmaq History Month, an online Reconciliation learning series was promoted to raise awareness among public servants about Indigenous issues and Reconciliation. The training is accessible to government employees at their own pace and has now been integrated into the onboarding package for all new hires.

- 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 Reinvestment Fund Joint Committee is comprised of representatives from the Department of Education and Early Years, the Public Schools Branch, and both First Nations Bands. During the 2023-2024 school year, funding was approved for 5.5 positions to support Indigenous students. Funding support was provided through an Education Service Agreement.
- II. The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee was established to provide guidance, recommendations, and insights to the Department of Education and Early Years on policies, programs, and initiatives that support Indigenous students. The Committee also provides guidance and recommendations on the incorporation of Indigenous perspectives into the education system. The work of the Committee is ongoing.

- 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 Sustainability Division engaged with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and L'nuey to develop a Traditional Knowledge Study for inclusion in the Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Project. The Project brings together partners from all levels of government, the private sector, Indigenous communities, academia, and non-governmental organizations to co-develop climate resilience in coastal communities and businesses.
 - II. The Climate Adaptation Section secured an additional allocation from the federal Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program for projects of priority to First Nations. The projects focus on improving hazard preparedness for First Nation communities. Hazard assessments were conducted for homes and related infrastructure. An awareness campaign was also undertaken that included individual home visits.
 - III. The Post-Secondary and Continuing Education Division within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population provided \$775,000 to the Faculty of Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) for operational costs.
 - IV. A renewed grade seven and grade eight social studies curriculum has been implemented across Prince Edward Island. This renewed curriculum allows students to evaluate the impact of government policies, the legacy of injustices to Indigenous peoples in Canada, and the role of reconciliation.
 - V. In collaboration with Abegweit First Nation, intermediate social studies teachers received professional development for resources designed to teach the legacy of intergenerational trauma as a result of the Indian Residential School System.
 - VI. A new grade 5 curriculum was developed with a focus on Mi'kmaq culture.
 - VII. The Department of Education and Early Years continues to support classroom libraries by purchasing Indigenous resources.
 - VIII. Grade 7-12 science teachers participated in a professional development activity called "Reflecting on Indigenous Science". The intent of activity was to increase understanding about the connections between Indigenous ways of knowing and being and Western science.

- IX. A new exploratory module was developed for grades 7-9 *The Beauty of Nature*, introduces the Mi'kmaw way of life known as Netukulimk. This land-based education module encourages students to build reciprocal, respectful relationships with the natural world. It also explores Mi'kmaw names for natural species.
- X. The new 7-9 Life Skills-Foods curriculum includes an outcome on sustainability related to the concept of Netukulimk.
- XI. Visual arts teachers collaborated with Mi'kmaq artisans to learn more about traditional Mi'kmaq art-making techniques.
- XII. The Public Library Service continues to add new materials and resources to its Indigenous Collection. This collection includes materials that are written by First Nations peoples as well as resources that focus on Indigenous history, culture, heritage, and residential schools. The collection includes titles for all ages in a variety of genres, formats and languages.
- XIII. The Public Library Service offers a variety of online, and in-person displays as well as free public programming throughout the year that celebrate and promote Indigenous history and culture. These displays and programs are often delivered during important Indigenous commemorative months, weeks, and days. For example, Red Dress Day, National Indigenous Peoples Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, National Indigenous History Month, and Mi'kmaq History Month.
- XIV. All schools across Prince Edward Island participated in Reconciliation Week activities that were supported by the Department of Education and Early Years and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- XV. The Public Schools Branch Board of Trustees has an appointed member from the Indigenous community to provide an Indigenous perspective on governance and policy matters.
- XVI. Student Services has established a learning site that allows school board staff to engage in ongoing professional development related to reconciliation.
- XVII. All French division staff participated in the Kairos Blanket Exercise. Staff participation in professional development opportunities that are focused on Indigenous perspectives and experiences is ongoing.
- XVIII. A new intermediate French immersion social studies program teaches Indigenous history and rights, the legacy of the Indian Residential School System and the *Indian Act*. It also raises awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.
- XIX. The grade 12 Biology course encourages students to appreciate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the current understanding of biodiversity classification, and conservation. This course is ongoing.
- XX. All 10-12 French Language School Board and Immersion Social Studies teachers have received the picture book, *Little Red Dress* for use in the classroom. The book aims to raise awareness of Missing and Murdered Women and Girls in Canada.
- XXI. An Indigenous Education Consultant was hired to support increased collaboration with the curriculum team. The Indigenous Education Consultant provides guidance on

integrating Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and ways of knowing. This position provides leadership and consultative services to education authorities and schools on matters related to Indigenous education.

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 commemorate National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Government of Prince Edward Island welcomed Mi'kmaq leaders, Indigenous community members, and the public to the Provincial Administration Building in Charlottetown. There, they gathered for a moment of reflection before the flags were lowered in honour those who never returned home.

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. Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture provided \$2,500 funding support to the “Stick Together” program. This program promotes diversity and inclusion through ball hockey activities and events that aim to foster friendships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth and facilitate greater awareness of Indigenous history and culture.

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. Bullet under 87.I 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. Bullet under 87.I apply to this Call as well.

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 Workforce Development Division within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population provided funding support to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI for a Social Enterprise Project to support Indigenous participants in various employment opportunities linked to social enterprise and local businesses. Clients had

the opportunity to be mentored by skilled tradespersons and industry experts within supportive environments. Their learning experiences included skills development, capacity building, essential skills development, and overcoming gaps in the local labour markets in areas such as construction, tourism and aquaculture.

Appendix C

Other Work toward Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a journey that demands continuous commitment, action, and reflection. The Government of Prince Edward Island recognizes this and is deeply committed to building and strengthening its relationship with Indigenous peoples. Significant progress has been made in implementing several of the Calls, and the Government remains dedicated to the ongoing process of reconciliation. Below is a comprehensive list of important work completed over the past year that does not fall under specific Calls for Justice or Calls to Action:

- The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division launched a Forestry Commission to review forestry programs and policies. The Commission arranged information sessions with staff of L'nuey; the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Lennox Island First Nation, Abegweit First Nation, and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.
- The Active Transportation Fund provided funding to the Native Council of Prince Edward Island to develop a recreational trail system through its Wildlife Management Area in St. Chrysostome.
- Work is ongoing by Natural Resources Canada and the PEI Energy Corporation to develop a regional Collaboration Framework with input from Indigenous communities. The Collaboration Framework is hoped to further advance opportunities for self-determination and Indigenous economic inclusion in emerging clean energy and resource sectors. The Framework is anticipated to be released in 2025.
- The Community Renewable Energy Generation program funded a 58.8KW Solar project at the Abegweit Connects Building in Scotchfort, Prince Edward Island. This is a cost shared project between the Government of Prince Edward Island and Indigenous Services Canada's - Atlantic Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative.
- The Province's Net Zero Advisory Committee included representation from Lennox Island First Nation. The Net Zero Advisory Committee has a legislated mandate to provide advice to the Minister of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action on matters respecting climate change. For further information, visit <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/net-zero-advisory-committee>
- The Climate Adaptation Section worked with Lennox Island First Nation to select a consultant to develop the Climate Resilient Coastal Communities – Pilot Shoreline Management Plan.
- The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division provided on-the-ground botanical surveys and training to the 2024 Pituamkek Conservation Team. The team was composed of four members of Lennox Island First Nation, led by a retired Parks Canada ecologist. This work resulted in several significant botanical finds as well as a preliminary inventory of edible and medicinal plants.
- The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division provided Geographic Information System data relating to the Pituamkek Project Team's research into World War II unexploded ordnance on the Hog Island Sandhills.

- The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division was involved in discussions to develop an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area incorporating the lands south of the Cascumpec Narrows, Prince Edward Island.
- The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division developed a funding agreement with Abegweit First Nation to provide support for its fish hatchery. It also provided advice regarding sustainable forest management. At the request of Abegweit First Nation, the funding level was increased, and the agreement was extended to three years.
- The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division 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. This work is ongoing.
- The Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division is part of a Black Ash Conservation Committee headed by Abegweit First Nation. The Committee supports conservation efforts for Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) across the greater landscape of Prince Edward Island. This work is ongoing.
- Staff from the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division met with Lennox Island First Nation to present information on 'FireSmart Canada' and to offer resources and training to the community. FireSmart Canada is a national organization, designed to help Canadians understand and mitigate wildfire risks around their homes and on their property.
- Thirty-five refurbished computers, as well as other equipment and software were distributed to Indigenous organizations across Prince Edward Island through the Computers for Success Program. This program is administered by Information Technology Systems and Services.
- The Department of Finance continued rolling out the PEI Geographic Naming and Renaming Program, which was formally launched in 2023, to provide a process for the public, including the government, to name or rename a location in the provinces or to modify the geographical area covered under an existing place name. Activities for 2024 included program development and worksheets for the committee members to assess a community renaming request.
 - As part of the naming process, a Geographic Naming Advisory Committee has been established to make recommendations on name change requests. Activities for 2024 included training and orientation of committee members.
 - This advisory committee includes one dedicated position for Indigenous representation. The current makeup of the committee has two Indigenous members.
 - The Department of Finance, Taxation, and Property Records Division staff hosted the Geographical Names Board of Canada's annual general meeting. The meeting included sessions on derogatory naming, Indigenous naming, presentations from Indigenous partners, a welcoming ceremony and closing ceremony from a Mi'kmaq Knowledge Keeper as well as a tour of the Skmaq-Port-la-Joye-Fort Amherst National Historic Site.
- The Population and Settlement Division provided \$7,500 to the Mawi'omi Indigenous Student Centre at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) to support the creation of

the Indigenous Student Ceremony Bursary. This bursary helps Indigenous students attending UPEI to attend ceremony by reducing cost barriers, increasing access, and supporting efforts to re-engage youth in ceremony.

- The Workforce Development Division within the Department of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population partnered with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation to assist with coordinating the SEAM (Skills Enhancement and Mentoring) and STAR (Start to Apply, Right) Projects. These initiatives will provide indoor and outdoor classroom opportunities to assist youth in developing essential work skills.
- The Workforce Development Division provided funding support to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI for the Workplace Essential Skills Project. This project engages Indigenous participants in classroom programming where they create individualized educational and career plans. This includes working towards their Canadian Adult Education Credential, business management, cultural writing for publication, and post-secondary exploration and preparation.
- In 2024, the Public Service Commission (PSC) delivered a series of training sessions on diversity and inclusion, cultural understanding, and cultural competency. These sessions included information and resources on Indigenous history, culture, and traditions. Participants were provided with information on Indigenous special days, initiatives, Mawi'omi ceremonies and other local and regional Indigenous festivities.
- The PSC organized 2024 Public Service Week cultural celebration and incorporated speeches and presentations from Indigenous Elders and invited employees and representatives from Indigenous organizations.
- A group of Government employees attended the 2024 PEI PRIDE Parade as a way of recognizing and celebrating diversity in our workplace and in the community including 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- The PSC continued to promote the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Value Statement in all job postings and on its website to recognize the diversity of communities, including Indigenous peoples, within the province. The EDI Value Statement also promotes diversity related to the application process for government job postings.
- Regular meetings were held with staff and clients from Indigenous organizations. The PSC provided employment information, alternative career options and practical tips on job search, interview preparations, and guidelines on staffing processes etc.
- The PSC Diversity and Inclusion office continued to share job postings with community groups and service providing agencies representing diverse groups, including Indigenous organizations. This process has been highly recognized by community groups and academic institutions.
- The PSC 2024 Diversity Theme Calendar featured multicultural events, local, regional, national and international days/ months and years and significant cultural events such as Indigenous festivities, celebrations, and Mawi'omi ceremonies.
- The theme for the 2024 Government of Prince Edward Island Policy Hackathon was "Climate Adaptation". The kick-off for the event was held at the new Climate Lab located at the University of Prince Edward Island and was facilitated in partnership with the

Indigenous Relations Secretariat. Participants attending the opening ceremony took part in smudging ceremony where they learned about the process of smudging and its significance. Participants in the Policy Hackathon were encouraged to find solutions that were respectful of the land, and Indigenous ways of knowing.

- In 2024, the Department of Agriculture continued to collect demographic information on all program applicants, including Indigenous groups, to better understand the demographic profile of clients and how to best support them.
- The Department of Housing, Land and Communities provided funding support to the Community Legal Information Association of PEI for employment of two Project Managers to assist renters, including Indigenous renters, with tenancy issues.
- Lennox Island Health Centre's Transitional Housing Project received a Community Housing Fund grant, administered through the Canadian Mental Health Association, for \$50,000 to support the preliminary project planning and design for a new Transitional Housing Building on Lennox Island. The Community Housing Fund is a collaboration between the Canadian Mental Health Association, PEI Division and the Province of Prince Edward Island to develop sustainable affordable housing.
- Abegweit First Nation received a Community Housing Fund grant to aid in the construction of 12 new homes to address affordability, overcrowding and homelessness for First Nation Members. Along with creating meaningful employment for First Nation members, these energy efficient homes will enable community members to live and work in the community.
- The Department of Housing, Land and Communities hosted the Kings County Community Partners Workshop. This workshop brought diverse groups together including the Native Council of Prince Edward Island to address the issue of homelessness. This event provided a valuable platform for exchanging knowledge. It emphasized the crucial role of local engagement and organizational collaboration to address homelessness both as an individual and systemic issue. The information arising from the meeting resulted in plans to open a light-touch 12-unit supportive housing unit in Montague in 2025. These units will be available for those in need of housing including Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- The Department of Social Development and Seniors' Minister and Deputy Minister held meetings with First Nations leaders to discuss a range of issues including the delivery of child protection services.
- Child and Family Services initiated development of a smartphone app to help staff monitor and determine the most appropriate placement for Indigenous children coming into care.
- Child and Family Services expanded the Indigenous Services Team by adding two new positions (one permanent and one temporary). The Indigenous Services Team works directly with children and youth living in Indigenous communities. This is part of an ongoing commitment from the Department of Social Development and Seniors to support the important work of the Indigenous Services Team.
- Child Protection Services collaborated with PEI First Nations to ensure representation in services that impact Indigenous people. Examples include the development of culturally relevant programs, policies, job candidate interviewing, and assessment tools.

- The Director of Child Protection and delegated staff participated in monthly collaboration meetings with PEI First Nations. This provided Indigenous communities with the opportunity to have their views, and voices heard regarding *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. The Director of Child Protection continues to maintain protocol agreements between First Nations and Child Protection Services, whereby Child Protection Services engages with on-reserve support services and offers this support to all on-reserve Child Protection Services interventions.
- Department of Social Development and Seniors staff engaged in quarterly conversation circles with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island to improve communication and sharing of program information.
- Through the work of the Provincial Human Trafficking Committee, the Department of Justice and Public Safety provided information sessions to the hospitality industry to raise awareness to the risks of potential harms to vulnerable people through both sexual exploitation and labour exploitation.
- The Department of Justice and Public Safety partners with other governments in the Atlantic Domestic Homicide Review Network, contributing to a 10-year review of domestic homicides in Atlantic Canada. These efforts help address domestic violence and identify risk factors impacting vulnerable populations including Indigenous persons to improve responses.
- The Department of Justice and Public Safety is collaborating with Indigenous Services Canada, Lennox Island First Nation, and Abegweit First Nation on a multilateral agreement to support the development and management of emergency plans, resources, and support for future adverse events such as hurricanes.
- In January 2024, The Department of Justice and Public Safety launched a *Therapeutic Court* program, with a specialized domestic violence court. In appropriate cases, the court offers participants an opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions, address underlying risks and identify needs contributing to violence. The program aims to reduce recurrence or escalation of the behaviour. The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Indigenous Justice Program Court worker is an ad hoc member of the case management table.
- The Department of Justice and Public Safety held a two-day training workshop on coercive control, funded through the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program that focused on enhancing coercive control assessment and response in family violence cases. Staff from Justice and Public Safety, Child Protection, Mental Health & Addictions, Family Violence Prevention Services, and others attended.
- To celebrate the rich history of Indigenous art and culture, the Anti-Racism Office collaborated with the PEI Art Bank to display Indigenous art in select government buildings.
- The Anti-Racism Office facilitated community discussions with Indigenous representatives through the Anti-Racism Table. Topics of discussion included leadership roles at the Table by Indigenous representatives and the journey towards reconciliation.
- Service PEI is working to deliver the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program to Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation.

- The Public Works and Planning Division of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is an active participant in the restoration of Province House. Upon restoration, Province House will display exhibits that include the history of Mi'kmaq people in Prince Edward Island.
- The Public Works and Planning Division of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is leading government housing initiatives on the Hillsborough Park Community Development Plan. This development plan includes an agreement between the Government of PEI and the Chiefs of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation to address housing needs for Indigenous urban community members.
- The Rural Community Council includes representatives from both Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations. The Council is an advisory group that provides advice to the Government on a wide range of topics such as people, communities, wellness and the environment. The work of the Council is ongoing.
- Throughout Mi'kmaq History Month, the Province hosted virtual weekly lunch-and-learn sessions to educate employees about Mi'kmaq history and culture on PEI. Additionally, weekly "Did You Know" email bulletins were sent out to further inform public service employees about Mi'kmaq history and culture.
- Every year, in recognition of Treaty Day, the province collaborates with L'nuey to hold a meaningful ceremony that honours the significance of the day. The event includes official remarks from both the Premier and the Chiefs, highlighting the importance of the treaty relationship and ongoing efforts toward reconciliation.
- The Government of Prince Edward Island offered five John J. Sark Memorial Scholarships, each valued at \$1,000, to support Indigenous students in their pursuit of higher education. These scholarships are specifically available to Indigenous students who are residents of Prince Edward Island and are enrolled at either the University of Prince Edward Island or Holland College.
- The Government of Prince Edward Island has developed the provincial Anti-Racism Action Plan to address systemic racism in the province. Led by the Anti-Racism Office, the implementation of this plan is ongoing.
- The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has a Duty to Consult process with a dedicated Indigenous Consultation Coordinator. This program reviews all department projects for consultation needs, including land transfers and work activities involving climate adaptation and the sustainability of infrastructure. Over 60 consultation projects were initiated following discussion with Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation through L'nuey.
- Senior staff in the Land and Environment Division of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure participated in government training on the importance of land to Mi'kmaq communities.