



New Brunswick

Introductory Statement

Statement from the Hon. Tammy Scott-Wallace, Minister responsible for Women's Equality

New Brunswick will forever honour the memory of all missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. They will not be forgotten. Their truths will live on through the deliberate and thoughtful steps we take together to end violence.

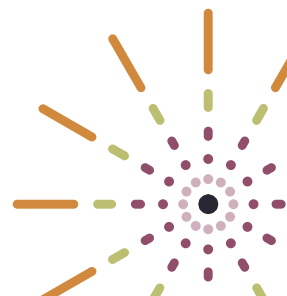
We also celebrate the strength, power and resilience of Indigenous persons, Indigenous culture and values. The New Brunswick Advisory Committee on Violence Against Aboriginal Women is composed of individual Aboriginal women representing communities and organizations who exemplify this strength and resilience. Their wise council has and will continue to inform New Brunswick's response. They keep our collective work grounded in the truths and realities of Indigenous women.

New Brunswick is committed to improving the safety, security and well-being of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Through collaborative work and engagement, we are creating the foundation for working in partnership with First Nations communities and Indigenous peoples to prevent future violence, and envision a future where survivors, families, and communities affected by violence, have the opportunity to heal and move forward.

Current Progress

The government of New Brunswick is developing its response to help improve outcomes for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. That response will build on positive actions underway, as part of the government's commitment to address violence against Indigenous women and girls and the Calls for Justice in the area of safety, justice, culture, wellness and economic opportunity. The following examples highlight some of the work underway:

- ★ The New Brunswick Silent Witness project video documentary "Silent Witness Journey: Two women's stories" creates greater awareness of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls. [The Silent Witness Journey: Two Women's Stories - YouTube](#)
- ★ The Indigenous Domestic Violence Outreach Pilot Program, an Indigenous led and culturally sensitive service, is making a difference in supporting women living in or leaving abusive relationships in three First Nations communities and off-community in the Miramichi region.
- ★ The New Brunswick Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Centre of Excellence has developed and launched a unique model called "Dreamcatcher", which ensures a culturally appropriate delivery of services to First Nations clients and families.

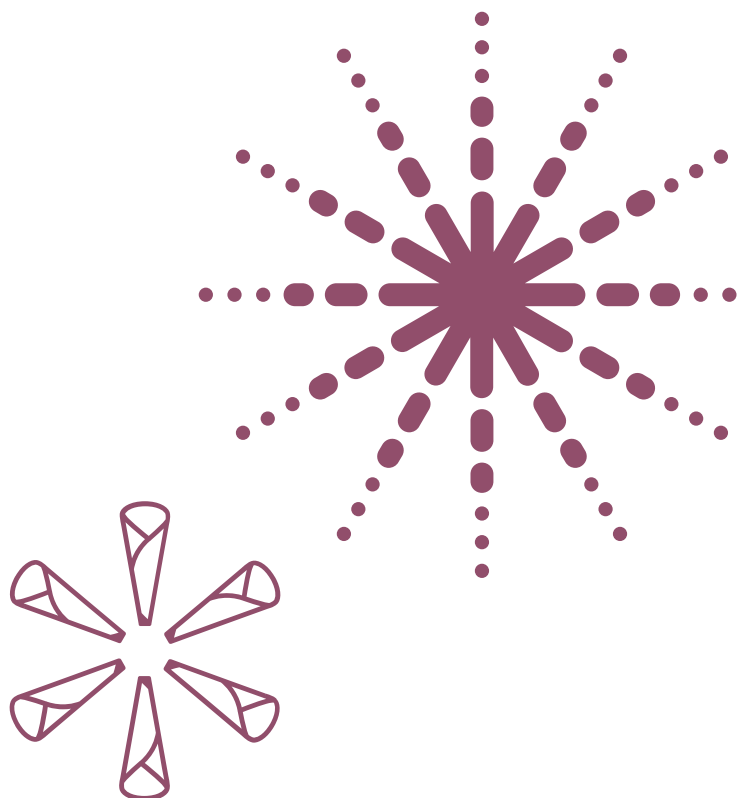


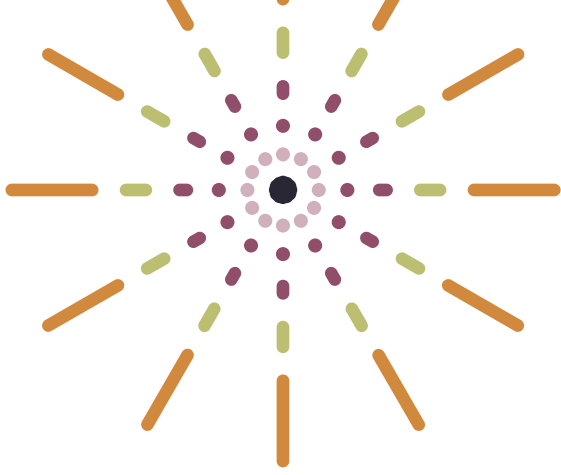
- ★ The Awakening Cultural Identity and Spirit program connects Indigenous justice-involved clients (offenders) with Traditional Elders to provide healing, spiritual and cultural teachings.
- ★ The NB Public Library Services has established a Strategic Plan for Indigenous Library Services focused on: building vibrant collections that are shaped by Indigenous voices; sharing stories and building knowledge of local Indigenous histories, cultures and languages; creating welcoming and trusted places for Indigenous peoples; reaching out and supporting Indigenous community development.
- ★ Future Wabanaki, is an experiential education initiative aimed at ensuring equal access for Indigenous university students wanting to benefit from meaningful work experiences while studying.

To build on these initiatives and identify new areas of much needed focus, New Brunswick held engagement sessions with the NB Advisory Committee on Violence against Aboriginal Women and several First Nation communities, Indigenous partners, organizations and communities. They identified as critical needs: a focus on youth, the provision of culturally safe and appropriate supports, addressing gender inequality, mental health and addictions, and increasing meaningful opportunities. They also identified the uniqueness of each community and the diverse realities of Indigenous persons depending on whether they live in community or off, rural or urban.

Engagement also led to the identification of key principles through which all partners can and must work together to affect change and improve the safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. They are:

- ★ Indigenous Woman Centered
- ★ Valuing culture
- ★ Working in partnership
- ★ Building trusting relationships
- ★ Family participation and peer support
- ★ Respect, dignity and compassion
- ★ Interdisciplinary systemic approach
- ★ Co-creation





Priorities and Next Steps

New Brunswick's Path Forward

The government of New Brunswick will formulate its own response to the National Inquiry by the fall of 2021. The development of New Brunswick's path forward will respect the principles for change identified in partnership with the Advisory Committee, build on the perspectives learned through engagement and improve on current initiatives to create measurable change. New Brunswick's response will be based on reflection and learning with a view towards advancing reconciliation, righting historical wrongs and ending violence. It is rooted in the sharing of personal truths, with Elders, communities and family members. We will take an interdisciplinary systemic approach to leading change.

Closing Statement

An effective National Action Plan will be one where all governments, federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous, work together to make change happen.

Priorities for a National Action Plan must be informed by the voices of Indigenous women, nationally, but also at the local level. It is why in New Brunswick we have been engaging with Indigenous communities, the NB Advisory Committee on Violence against Aboriginal Women as well as government departments, service providers and community partners to inform areas of priority for our province. New Brunswick's approach to improving outcomes, relationships and equality for Indigenous people, will be first and foremost informed by Indigenous people. Continued dialogue, partnership and engagement will be critical.

