



Nunavut

Introductory Statement

Nunavut's implementation of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls requires in addition to a whole of Government approach, it requires engagement and ongoing collaboration with Nunavut Inuit organizations and other territorial and community stakeholders.

Of the 231 Calls for Justice, 46 are Inuit-specific. The Inquiry's Final Report distinguishes the violence experienced by Inuit in time and place, including the unique Inuit experience of colonialism much later than in First Nations and Métis communities. It also recognizes the realities of Inuit who experience health and social issues at much higher rates than non-Inuit, particularly in terms of chronic conditions, but who are perpetually underserved in terms of health and social resources within their own communities. This relates to some of the challenges of life in remote and northern communities and the way these geographical realities shape the root causes of violence.

Current Progress

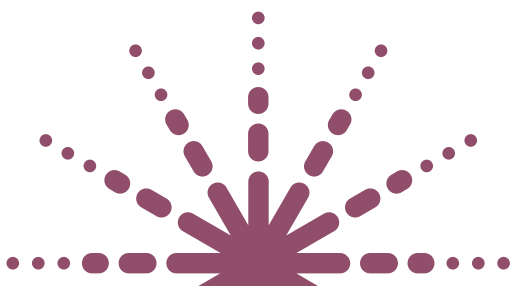
Many Government of Nunavut (GN) programs and services already address some of the components for the Calls for Justice.

Culture:

- ★ Nunavut leads the country in Indigenous language recognition. Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun are recognized as official languages in Nunavut through the *Official Languages Act and Inuit Language Protection Act*. The *Inuit Language Protection Act and Education Act* acknowledge, recognize, and protect the rights of Inuit to their culture and language as constitutionally protected inherent rights.

Health & Wellness:

- ★ The GN is committed to ensuring services are Inuit-centred and community-based, as evidenced by the Nunavut Wellness Agreement, its trauma, strength-based and gender-informed practices, and community-based programming for survivors of trauma and violence.
- ★ The GN's Quality of Life Committee, or Inuusivut, was created to provide overall management, support and leadership in suicide prevention and implement the GN's Suicide Prevention Strategy – which includes men's wellness and child abuse prevention training. It provides guidance and leadership on many activities related the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice.
- ★ The GN, NTI and federal government signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on funding commitments for the construction and operation of a Recovery Centre in Nunavut as part of a three-pillar approach to trauma and addiction treatment in Nunavut.



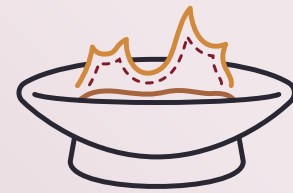
- ★ The GN also works with community-based organizations to provide on the land healing camps.
- ★ The GN has incorporated gender identity and gender expression into its *Human Rights Act*. In addition, with support from federal funding, the GN announced funding to support gender equality. There are already plans develop and implement transgender health policies and procedures.

Safety & Human Security:

- ★ The GN is actively working to build safe and caring schools for Nunavut students that discourage all forms of violence (Safe and Caring School Framework). The department also provides training programs on many topics such as Health Relationships and Bullying Prevention.
- ★ The GN is participating in the federal government's process to enshrine the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People into federal legislation.
- ★ To support the coordination of programs and to better support vulnerable Nunavummiut the GN has implemented a new initiative - *Community Coordination for Women's Safety*. This will allow for the strengthening of community level prevention services and coordinate initiatives to improve women's safety.

Justice:

- ★ The GN's Victim Services Unit disseminates public education campaigns to raise awareness on issues faced by victims of crime and MMIWG, and the Calls for Justice have been a focus of this initiative. The Victim Services Unit has also developed workshops and information sessions to educate front-line service providers about trauma-informed approaches to decrease revictimization.



The establishment of priorities and development of a strategy to implement the Calls for Justice must be based on all eight principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit:

- ★ **Inuuqatigiitsiarniq:** respecting the survivors and families, partner organizations and others;
- ★ **Tunnganarniq:** fostering good spirit among Nunavummiut and organizations;
- ★ **Pijitsirniq:** serving and providing for victims, their families, and all Nunavummiut by implementing and monitoring the Calls for Justice;
- ★ **Aajiiqatigiinni:** decision-making through discussion and consensus with all territorial partners to ensure successful implementation of a territory-wide response to the Calls for Justice;
- ★ **Pilimmaksarniq or Pijariuqsarniq:** development of the personal, community and systemic skills required to improve attitudes toward and incidents of violence against Inuit women through effort and action;
- ★ **Qanuqtuurniq:** territorial partners should be innovative and resourceful in their work to develop a strategy for meeting the Calls for Justice; and
- ★ **Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq:** respect and care for the environment and Inuit cultural and land-based practices ensure the future success of implementing a strategy.



Priorities and Next Steps

The Final Report characterizes the Calls for Justice as legal imperatives, based on a solid foundation of evidence and law, that arise from international and domestic human and Indigenous rights including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Constitution, and the Honour of the Crown. Requirements to successfully implement the Calls for Justice include:

- ★ Efforts that are more focused on preventative measures than reactive ones to adequately address the root causes of violence;
- ★ Sufficient political will;
- ★ The need for governments to prioritize and resource solutions to end violence;
- ★ Real partnerships between Governments and Indigenous peoples that support self-determination and decolonization.

Closing Statement

The Government of Nunavut is uniquely placed to advance the Calls for Justice over time, especially the Inuit-specific ones, because its programs, policies and initiatives are envisioned and implemented for a population that is 85% Inuit.

It is important that new and ongoing work is continued over the short, medium and long term, and that we are held accountable for implementing the work required to answer the Calls for Justice. The extent of these efforts, however, takes time to implement, and we must also recognize the significant work already being done to address this national priority.

