



Quebec

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The recent media focus on various types of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls has made a significant contribution to raising awareness in Québec. More specifically, it has highlighted major sex-based discrimination issues, and the specific vulnerability of Indigenous women.

In recent years, Québec has taken action to shed light on and address these issues. On August 9, 2016, following the creation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NIMMIWG) at the federal level, the Québec government mandated the commission to investigate and report on systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Québec and make recommendations for concrete and sustainable actions that can be put in place to prevent situations of violence. This mandate allowed the NIMMIWG commissioners to conduct their work in areas under Québec's jurisdiction.

In addition, on December 21, 2016, the Québec government established the Commission d'enquête sur les relations entre les Autochtones et certains services publics au Québec (the Viens Commission) following allegations of sexual offences and violence committed by police officers in Val-d'Or against Indigenous women in circumstances of vulnerability.

On June 3, 2019, the NIMMIWG released its final report, applicable to all governments, and a specific report containing 21 recommendations for Québec.

A few months later, on September 30, the Viens Commission filed its own report, containing 142 recommendations. The government immediately committed to implement the recommendations. A process that meets the priorities of the Indigenous communities and takes into account the specific context in Québec has been set up to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the two inquiry commissions.

The Québec government is resolved, first, to combat various factors of vulnerability affecting Indigenous women and girls and, second, to promote full empowerment to allow them to contribute fully to the development of the communities and other environments of which they form an essential part. Québec can, in particular, cite the following achievements:

- ★ The release, in June 2017, of the *Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit 2017-2022*⁴⁹ which contains 26 measures to benefit Indigenous women and girls.

*Québec supports the shared objective of combating violence against Indigenous women and girls and, as indicated in this section, is implementing its own actions in its areas of jurisdiction. Québec also supports the idea of a pan-Canadian action plan, provided it is drawn up with input from all partners.

One of its key aims is to improve living conditions for Indigenous women. Specific measures address the following issues: sexual assault and spousal and family violence, complementarity between women and men as regards economic empowerment and social and political leadership.

- ★ The creation of an Indigenous women's working committee, bringing together organizations defending the rights of First Nations women and Inuit women in Nunavik and various government departments and bodies, with the goal of promoting joint action on issues specific to Indigenous women.
- ★ A measure in the 2018 budget to provide \$14.4 million in funding for measures to combat spousal and family violence affecting the First Nations and Inuit. Several partnership agreements have been signed with Indigenous partners to support projects to raise awareness and prevent spousal and family violence.
- ★ A measure in the 2020 budget to provide \$200 million over five years to implement the recommendations of the two inquiry commissions. Meetings with Indigenous chiefs and representatives have led to agreement on sixteen actions concerning, in particular, culturally-secure approaches in the health and social services system, improved training and methods for Indigenous police forces, awareness training on Indigenous realities for public service employees, the justice system,

assistance for the victims of crime, the prevention of violence against Indigenous women and families, and an awareness-raising campaign to fight racism and discrimination against Indigenous people. Other measures will be announced before the end of 2021.

- ★ The tabling in the National Assembly, on December 9, 2020, of Bill 79, *An Act to authorize the communication of personal information to the families of Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution*. The Bill is a response to call for justice no. 20 in the NIMMIWG report.

The Québec government sees Indigenous women as playing an essential role. They not only constitute, within their communities, a vulnerable group whose living conditions must be improved, but they are also social anchors for both their families and their communities, and this role must receive recognition. They offer enormous potential for change, which must be encouraged. The Québec government will continue to implement the NIMMIWG recommendations as part of the process it has established with its Indigenous partners, and will deploy a range of actions connected with prevention and intervention in the area of violence against Indigenous women and girls. Québec is determined to improve the living conditions and meet the specific needs of Indigenous women in Québec.

Ian Lafrenière
Ministre responsable des Affaires autochtones



Schedule

Public Inquiry Commission On Relations Between Indigenous Peoples And Certain Public Services In Québec And National Inquiry Into Missing And Murdered Indigenous Women And Girls

Measures announced on May 21, 2021 by the Québec government. An amount of \$200 million has been allocated by the Québec government to respond to the calls for action made by the two commissions of inquiry. Other announcements will follow.

Measures

Implementation of culturally-secure approaches in the health and social services sector, working with partners

Support for the implementation of two pilot projects for housing centres for Indigenous students (measure enriched in December 2020)

Intervention and training for Indigenous police forces in the area of domestic violence, sexual assault and intra-family violence

Cooperation, support and reinforcement for Indigenous police forces

Increased access to the First Nation Basic program in police patrolling for aspiring police officers hired by Indigenous police forces

Increased access to professional upgrading programs at the École nationale de police du Québec for more Indigenous police officers

Hiring of Indigenous liaison officers at the office of the Police Ethics Commissioner and the Laboratoire de science judiciaire et de médecine légale

Development and dispensing of training programs for correctional services employees

Financial support for prevention and intervention projects, organized by and for Indigenous women and girls, in connection with sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual violence

Development of specific modules on key issues to improve general online training on Indigenous realities for government employees in the public and parapublic sectors

Creation of an awareness-raising campaign to combat racism and discrimination against Indigenous people

Funding and support for the development of adapted interventions by CAVACs in Indigenous communities to ensure culturally relevant and secure services for victims of crime

Agreements with Indigenous organizations to train, accredit and hire Indigenous-language interpreters for the courts

Funding for parajudicial advisors (new agreements, improved conditions and increased remuneration)

Endnotes

- 1 Unless otherwise noted, all terms and definitions are taken from MMIWG Final Report, https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf.
- 2 Métis Nation Council (2021). About. Available at: <https://www2.metisnation.ca/about/>. Retrieved 2021 05 19.
- 3 Métis National Council (2021). Citizenship. Available at: <https://www2.metisnation.ca/about/citizenship/>. Retrieved 2021 05 19.
- 4 Throughout this National Action Plan, the term “community” is utilized in the broadest sense, referring to Indigenous communities or groups with diverse characteristics who may be linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and/or engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings.
- 5 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place: Executive summary of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive_Summary.pdf.
- 6 LFMO (2019). Métis perspectives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2S+ people. Available at: <https://en2.metiswomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/LFMO-MMIWG-Report.pdf>.
- 7 JUS (2019). Indigenous overrepresentation in the criminal justice system. Just Facts. Research and Statistics Division. Available at: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jf-pf/2019/docs/may01.pdf>.
- 8 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place: The final report of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Volume 1a. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf.
- 9 NWAC (2020). The Native Women’s Association fact sheet: Violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people in Canada. Available at: <https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/MMIWG-and-Violence-Fact-Sheet-Formatted-2021.pdf>.
- 10 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a.
- 11 Cotter, A. (2018). Violent victimization of women with disabilities, 2014. Juristat, Catalogue no. 85-002-X, ISSN 1209-6393. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54910-eng.pdf?st=qDgD1TnY>.
- 12 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a.
- 13 For example, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Sisters in Spirit campaign.
- 14 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a.
- 15 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a.
- 16 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 1a.
- 17 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). A legal analysis of Genocide. Supplementary Report. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Supplementary-Report_Genocide.pdf.
- 18 Stefanovich, O. (2019). UN Human Rights Office calls for examination of MMIWG inquiry’s genocide claim. Available at: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/stefanovich-un-national-inquiry-genocide-response-1.5174855>.
- 19 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place: Executive summary.
- 20 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place. Volume 2: A supplementary report of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls – Kepek – Quebec. Available at: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_2_Quebec_Report-1.pdf.
- 21 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). A legal analysis of genocide.
- 22 LFMO (2019). Métis perspectives.
- 23 PMO (2019). Prime Minister welcomes final report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Available at: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2019/06/03/prime-minister-welcomes-final-report-national-inquiry-missing-and>.
- 24 Government of British Columbia (2019). Premier’s statement on national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls final report. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019PREM0080-001132>.
- 25 ITK (2019). Resolution B19-06-02. ITK Board of Directors, June 27th. Available at: <https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/B19-06-02-ITKBoD-MMIWG.pdf>.
- 26 Pauktuutit (2019). Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada News release.
- 27 Henry (2019). MMIWG report a step in the right direction say local groups. Available at: <https://www.lakelandtoday.ca/bonnyville-news/mmiwg-report-a-step-in-the-right-direction-say-local-groups-1911201>.

- 28 AFN (2019). Resolution 67/2019. AFN General Assembly, June 23-25, Fredericton, New Brunswick. Available at: <https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-AGA-Resolutions.pdf>.
- 29 CAP (2019). Press statement on final report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Available at: <http://www.abo-peoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/June-3-Press-Statement.pdf>.
- 30 Narine, S. (2019). Chiefs push for federal government response to MMIWG inquiry report. Available at: <https://windspeaker.com/news/windspeaker-news/chiefs-push-federal-government-response-mmiwg-inquiry-report>.
- 31 CTV Winnipeg (2019). Manitoba leaders react to the MMIWG inquiry's final report. Available at: <https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/manitoba-leaders-react-to-the-mmiwg-inquiry-s-final-report-1.4449656>.
- 32 The term “wherever they are” is meant to be inclusive of wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people may live, reside, or may be.
- 33 Contributing Partners is used throughout the National Action Plan and includes the First Nations Sub-Working Group, the Inuit Working Group, the Métis Nation Sub-Working Group, the Sub-Working Group of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the Urban Sub-Working Group, the 2SLGBTQIA+ Sub-Working Group, the Data Sub-Working Group, and the Federal Sub-Working Group.
- 34 The term “wherever they are” is meant to be inclusive of wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people may live, reside, or may be.
- 35 United Nations General Assembly (2007). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Resolution/adopted by the General Assembly, 2 October 2007, A/RES/61/295. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/471355a82.html>.
- 36 The United Nations (1988). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Treaty Series, 1249, 13. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>.
- 37 United Nations Commission on Human Rights (1990). Convention on the Rights of the Child. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/crc.pdf>.
- 38 Note: the Constitution also uses the term Aboriginal.
- 39 United Nations General Assembly (2007). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 40 “Basic rights” as identified in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - United Nations General Assembly (2007).
- 41 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming power and place: The final report of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Summary of the Calls for Justice, at page 2. Available at: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Calls-Web-Version-EN.docx>
- 42 Ibid, at pages 2-3.
- 43 See Statistics Canada, “Aboriginal peoples in Canada: Key results from the 2016 Census”, (Published in The Daily. Catalogue No 11-001-X, 2017) Online: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171025/dq171025a-eng.htm>.
- 44 See Daniels v Canada (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development), 2014 FCA 101 at para 70, 371 DLR (4th) 725 [Daniels FCA].
- 45 Canada, “A Backgrounder on Poverty in Canada” (October 2016) at p 9-14. <online: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/backgrounder.html>>; Canada, Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division, Aboriginal Children’s Survey, 2006: Supporting Data Tables (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2006) at 137 <online: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-634-x/89-634-x2008005-eng.pdf>>.
- 46 Native Women’s Association of Canada. Fact Sheet: Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls at https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Fact_Sheet_Missing_and_Murdered_Aboriginal_Women_and_Girls.pdf.
- 47 CAP’s provincial and territorial affiliate organizations include: NunatuKavut Community Council, Native Council of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, Alliance Autochtone du Quebec, Native Council of Nova Scotia, Ontario Coalition of Indigenous People, Association of Métis, Non and Status Indians Saskatchewan, Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Manitoba, Aboriginal Congress of Alberta Association, North West Indigenous Council.
- 48 Although Québec did not endorse the Declaration for a Canada Free of Gender-Based Violence, it supports its general principles and will continue to be active in the fight against gender-based violence by prioritizing its own actions and measures. It also intends to continue to share information and best practices with other governments on this issue.
- 49 https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/conseil-executif/publications-dm/saa/administratives/plan_action/fr/plan-action-social.pdf?1605704439.