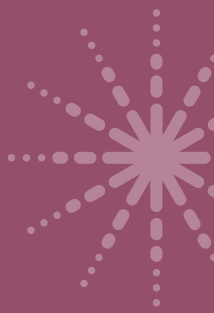




# Saskatchewan

## Introduction

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to contribute to the National Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The Final Report of the National Inquiry provided a voice for the families of MMIWG and survivors of violence. Understanding that government has a responsibility to address this tragic issue, Saskatchewan has developed and advanced a number of initiatives, policies and programs in partnership and through engagement with Indigenous peoples. The following provides a brief overview of Saskatchewan's efforts to create lasting change.



## Culture

The Government of Saskatchewan identifies cultural inclusion and diversity as a priority and builds partnerships through engagement with Indigenous peoples. Understanding Indigenous history and culture is crucial in addressing the challenges Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people face. As such, all Government of Saskatchewan employees are required to participate in Aboriginal Awareness Training and Respect in the Workplace. Other training and education programs made available are: Culturally Responsive Training, the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, 4 Seasons of Reconciliation, and Canadian Indigenous Culture.

The guidance of Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous Advisors guide program development, working group meetings, and symposiums to ensure an Indigenous lens is applied.

Across the province, sponsorship and grants provide Indigenous organizations and community the opportunity to advance initiatives for cultural activities, events, and projects that enhance awareness, education initiatives, and professional development opportunities.

## Health and Wellness

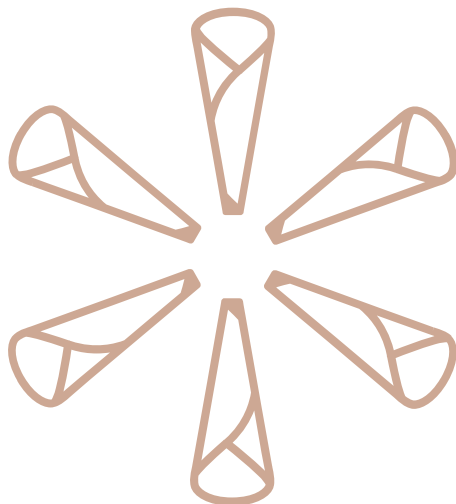
Health and wellness are imperative to the overall needs of Indigenous peoples. The government provides funding for and works with local organizations to develop health and wellness training, education and programs to address violence and abuse, and to provide culturally-safe and trauma-informed programs and services. Community wellness and suicide prevention initiatives are supported by government and focus on preventative measures for suicide related to the causes of people going missing and becoming victims of violence.

The Traditional Pathways Program is one example of a unique, culturally responsive initiative that provides access to traditional medicine supports and services to First Nations and Métis patients.

As of February 1, 2021, Saskatchewan discontinued the practice known as birth or maternity alerts. This decision aligns with the National Inquiry recommendations and acknowledges the concerns raised by various Indigenous partners and community stakeholders across Saskatchewan about this practice. The government, along with its partners, continue to ensure supports and services are available to expectant mothers.

### **Human Security**

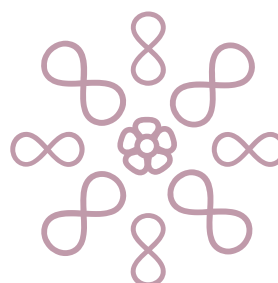
The importance of ensuring and promoting the safety and security of Indigenous peoples is paramount; this includes a focus on economic reconciliation. The Government of Saskatchewan works in partnership with Indigenous people and communities to increase the economic stability and security of women and families, which contributes to greater safety.



In 2020-21, the government invested in Indigenous post-secondary institutions and programs throughout the province to increase the success of Indigenous students, including women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. Investments were also made to provide resources for educational training and employment opportunities to ensure continued growth in the economy through Indigenous participation. Funding was provided to the Indigenous and community-led Honouring Her Spark project that creates opportunities for participation in the economy, cultural and traditional knowledge access, healing and learning.

Funding is provided for safe shelters, programs, and services across the province, and includes Indigenous organizations that provide wrap-around services to clients with complex needs. The Government of Saskatchewan also partners with First Nations and Métis housing authorities to provide housing for those in need.

A multi-year public awareness campaign was released in November 2020 with a focus on addressing the behaviours, beliefs, and culture that surround interpersonal violence and abuse. Additionally, the province enacted The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) in 2020, and focuses on initiatives such as Indigenous Family Violence programs and Missing Person Liaisons.



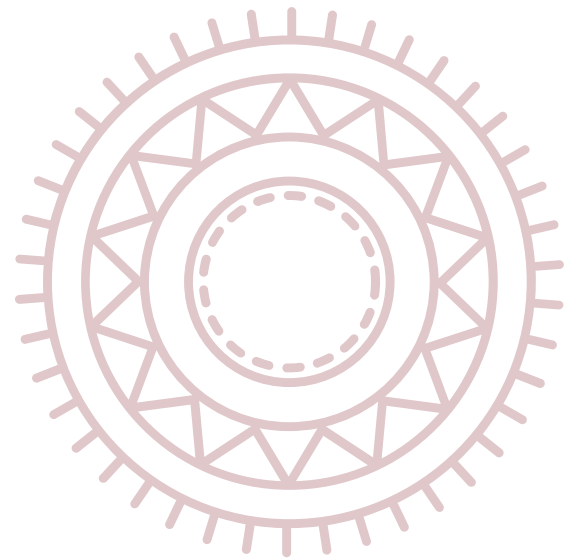
## Justice

Supports for culturally appropriate justice programs delivered by or in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations include a province-wide restorative justice initiative with 20 community-based agencies and four school-based programs.

Since January 2018, the Province has appointed five self-declared Indigenous judges to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, three of whom are women.

To enhance civilian oversight of policing in the province, Saskatchewan introduced *The Police (Serious Incident Response Team) Amendment Act, 2021*. This change implements a civilian-led independent Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) to investigate all matters of sexual assault, domestic assault, serious injury, or death while in the custody of the police or as a result of the actions of on- or off-duty police officers. The SIRT includes Indigenous representation by requiring a First Nations or Métis community liaison to coordinate with the victim and/or their families, advise investigators on community interactions and publicly report a summary of investigations.

Additionally, annual funding is provided for community groups and community police boards to create crime prevention and reduction strategies in First Nations, Métis and non-status Indigenous communities.



## Conclusion and Next Steps

The Government of Saskatchewan remains committed to working with Indigenous peoples and organizations to implement the Calls for Justice in a responsible, timely and accountable manner. The government continues to engage with Indigenous partners and communities to increase security and safety for women and girls in our province. For more information on government programs and initiatives, please see:



<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/112884>.

