



# National Family and Survivors Circle

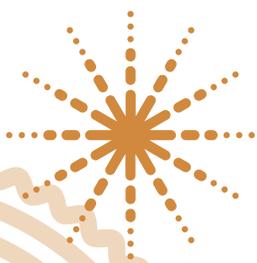
## Key Highlights

In April 2021, the NFSC issued a news release recognizing the significance of the investment of the \$2.2 Billion towards the National Action Plan. Since the Budget was released, the NFSC advocated to ensure that federal funding be aimed at the continual race- and gender-based violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and addressing the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The NFSC advocated for other governments and institutions to implement the Calls for Justice to end race- and gender-based violence.

NFSC members have worked to create pathways for MMIWG2S+ families and survivors of gender-based violence through regional initiatives and outreach including:

- Constant advocacy for families and survivors to be at tables
- Participating in regional planning committees, municipal roundtables, and other forums (provincial and national) to address the 231 Calls for Justice – including promoting best practices to engaging families and survivors
- Collaborating with families, survivors, and partners on commemoration events and activities (e.g., vigils, rallies, marches, monuments, etc.) and other dates of significance (e.g., Take Back the Night, Women’s Memorial March, etc.)
- Communication – with families, grassroots, organizations, governments, and various partners
- Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with services providers and leadership
- Sharing of regional initiatives – e.g., Yukon Accountability Forum 2022, Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik, City of Saskatoon “Coming Home” Implementation and consultations on development and implementation of the Office of the Matriarch
- Presentations to education on the 231 Calls for Justice – including encouraging youth to become involved
- Media interviews
- Conducting training on victim-centred approaches
- Self-education
- Providing frontline services, e.g., Food Sovereignty Program, providing updates to MMIWG2S+ families who are homeless
- Attending and presenting at various conferences – including advocating for the inclusion of families and survivors



NFSC worked on high level and strategic internal documents and processes on its interim operations and governance. Based on the NFSC guiding principle of “Nothing About Us, Without Us”, the NFSC is seeking resources to support a national virtual engagement and survey process for the inclusion of families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (MMIWG2S+) and survivors of gender-based violence across Canada to be included in the development of a National Family and Survivors Circle independent, legally incorporated, and non-profit entity.

## Progress/Successes

Developed a 2021-2022 NFSC Work Plan guided by the NFSC Vision and Mission and Four Pillars – Inclusion, Interconnectedness, Accountability, and Impact.

Promoted the NFSC Pillar of **Inclusion** by providing collective advice to federal government departments on various common short-term priority items within the Federal Pathway to promote best practices for engaging MMIWG families and survivors of gender-based violence in barrier-free processes that are funded and include supports (e.g., trauma-informed, wrap-around, etc.).

Adopted motions to establish an independent, legally incorporated, and non-profit National Family and Survivors Circle entity and to direct the NFSC Technical Team to undertake actions to implement the motion including retaining professional services. Legal reservation of the “National Family and Survivors Circle, Inc.” name with the Manitoba Companies Branch, Province of Manitoba.

Promoted the NFSC Pillar of **Interconnectedness** by building the foundation for partnerships with Federal/Provincial/Territorial/Indigenous (FPTI) tables and federal government departments, and through meetings with the new Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. The NFSC identified the need for long-term investments to be linked to specific Calls for Justice and clearly identified the requirement for reporting on the benefits, successes, and impacts. The NFSC advocated that all funding for initiatives be clearly identified as existing, realigned, enhanced, new, and distinctions-based, remaining within federal departments, outgoing to communities and partners, on-reserve/off-reserve, etc. The NFSC provided consistent messaging on the importance of transformative change where impact is felt on the ground by developing a strategy and implementation of the National Action Plan and the Federal Pathway.

In an April 8, 2022, news release, the NFSC highlighted the missed opportunities in Budget 2022 to specifically reference how affected families, communities and survivors of gender-based violence would benefit. For example, Budget 2022’s commitment to help Indigenous communities mitigate the on-going impacts of COVID-10 could have referenced the “shadow pandemic” of increased gender-based violence during the pandemic.

Promoted the NFSC Pillars of **Accountability** and **Impact** through consistent messaging and advocacy that the MMIWG2S+ issue remain at the forefront of investments and actions; for all governments and contributing partners to clearly identify investments, actions with clear timelines, sharing of results and impacts on the ground, and demonstrating MMIWG families, survivors of gender-based violence, and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are involved; and for the immediate implementation of Call for Justice 1.7 establishment of a National Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudsperson and a National Indigenous and Human Rights Tribunal.

On March 19, 2022, the NFSC issued a news release calling on all governments, including Indigenous governments, agencies, institutions, and all Canadians to urgently act on implementing the 231 Calls for Justice as legal imperatives. NFSC Chair, Hilda Anderson-Pryz, stated, “The ultimate goal must be to end all forms of gender-based violence.”

In a March 24, 2022 news release, the NFSC called on all governments, organizations, agencies, and institutions to collectively take action, speak out, and stand together against all forms of gender-based violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people regardless of residency, to include the following immediate actions: independent mechanisms for disclosures; establishing and funding victim-centred and self-determined crisis and healing supports; safe spaces for programs and services; creating and implementing rights-based policies for prevention and safety; and all core and project funding agreements must demonstrate prevention and protection against gender-based violence in terms and conditions.



## Next Steps/Priorities

The NFSC is working towards establishing an independent, legally incorporated, and non-profit National Family and Survivors Circle entity through:

- Immediately seeking resources to conduct an independent national virtual engagement and survey with families of MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ People and survivors of gender-based violence.

The NFSC is developing a 2022-2023 NFSC Workplan to:

- Secure sustainable core funding for the independent NFSC entity – operations, management, and infrastructure. Continue engagement of MMIWG families and survivors of gender-based violence.
- Continue promotion of the NFSC Four Pillars and contribution to the NAP.
- Continue advocacy and strengthening relationships with all governments and contributing partners.

## Reports/Publications

NFSC Contribution to the 2022 NAP: <https://familysurvivorscircle.ca/2021/06/02/nap-contribution>

NFSC website: <https://familysurvivorscircle.ca>

NFSC Facebook: @familysurvivorscircle

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