

Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women Terms of Reference

Background:

The Province of British Columbia wishes to work respectfully and in partnership with Aboriginal women, organizations and leadership to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women. Following the June 15 – 17, 2011 *Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum* and respecting the theme **x^wsimíwən ct ʔiʔ θəyθət ct** (We are courageous and we are healing ourselves), the province is committed to work with Aboriginal women and key informants to develop the necessary framework and support systems to address the risks and violence that many aboriginal women are currently exposed to. The overarching goal of the advisory council is to provide advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women across British Columbia. The establishment of the advisory council will support the successful implementation of this commitment and work to empower those women.

Members:

Core membership will include key British Columbia Aboriginal leadership, organizations and women, and other organizations or individuals based on their unique ability to contribute to the work of the council.

Goals:

1. Develop and review an inventory of current programs available to support Aboriginal women.
2. Identify outcomes needed to improve quality of life for Aboriginal women.
3. Develop targets to achieve outcomes of Goal 2.
4. Maintain the baseline and update outcomes annually.

Tasks:

1. Provide advice to government to ensure programs supporting Aboriginal women will respond to their needs, build on effective practices and success, and be supported by key partners.
2. Review, revise and help implement an engagement plan if required (e.g. co-hosting discussions with partners and communities).
3. Review, revise and maintain a progress report on outcomes.

Governance

- The council will report to government through the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.
- The Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will appoint the chair and council members.

- The council will consist of up to ten members, including one position designated for an Elder.
- The council will utilize a consensus decision making model founded on the principles of shared responsibility and cooperation.
- The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will provide administrative support for the council with support from a cross-ministry team.

Term

The term will be for up to two years and the Council will meet quarterly, or as determined by the chair, and at least twice a year with the minister.