



A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.

June 2026 Impact Report



Ministry of
Public Safety and
Solicitor General

TAKING CARE

This report includes discussion of homicide, missing persons, and violence. Some readers may wish to consider this before reading further. Support resources are listed at the end of the report.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Government of British Columbia acknowledges with respect and gratitude that this Impact Report was produced on the unceded territories of the ɫə́kʷəŋən (Songhees & Esquimalt) and ƵSÁNEĆ (Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tseycum, Malahat, and Tsawout) Peoples, whose deep connections with this land continue to this day.

Some of the work outlined in this report predates the Provincial application of the Distinctions-Based Approach. Where a Distinctions-Based Approach can be represented, it has been, but some references to “Indigenous people(s)” remain where data does not allow writers to disaggregate.

The Province also acknowledges with respect that the B.C. Public Service operates throughout B.C. on the traditional lands of 204 First Nations.

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Minister's Message



Across British Columbia, communities continue to bear heavy burdens – the impacts of ongoing grief, the strain on frontline workers, systemic barriers, and the cumulative effects of violence, both seen and unseen. In this context, the leadership of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, families, survivors, and communities remains a source of strength and direction. Their voices continue to guide the work reflected in this Path Forward Impact Report.

This year's report highlights clear progress, particularly through Indigenous-led, community-defined approaches supported by the Path Forward Community Fund. These initiatives demonstrate that safety grows when communities have the resources, time, and autonomy to carry out work grounded in culture, ceremony, healing, and connection. From crisis response planning to youth empowerment, justice navigation, trauma-informed care, and land-based programming, communities are building pathways that reflect their own teachings and lived realities.

I am deeply grateful to the survivors, families, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community organizations whose guidance continues to shape this work. Their leadership makes it clear that a safer, more just future is possible, and that the path forward is one we must continue to walk together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nina Krieger', written over a horizontal line.

Honourable Nina Krieger
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

About the Path Forward Impact Report

Background and Progress on the Path Forward and Key Actions

On the second-year anniversary of the release of ***Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (the Inquiry) and the 231 Calls for Justice***, June 3, 2021, B.C. released its response to the Inquiry, [A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.](#) (the Path Forward). The Province's participation in the ***National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*** was foundational to the context of developing the Path Forward, along with research, review of historic reports and recommendations, and engagements with Indigenous leadership, survivors, family members and community organizations in 2019 and 2021.

The key priority identified across all community engagement sessions in the development of the Path Forward was the need for increased capacity for Indigenous people to create and implement their own culturally safe and appropriate solutions to the systemic issues resulting in violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Twenty-eight key mandate commitments were also identified that align early strategies to community priorities that address the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and make up the Path Forward. Six of the 28 mandate commitments are complete and all others are substantially underway. As of 2026, more than \$20 million of federal and provincial funds have been invested in the Path Forward Community Fund to support Indigenous-led initiatives addressing gender-based violence.

Moving Forward and Consideration of New Priorities and a New Approach

The 2021 Path Forward established a foundation for the Province to report annually on progress on the provincially relevant Calls for Justice. In 2026, this will be the Province's fifth update report.

The Path Forward commitments are more than five years old and are at a natural point to be refreshed. An updated set of key actions would better reflect the current MMIWG2S+ related priorities of Indigenous Peoples, and extensive engagement that has taken place, for example related to *Safe and Supported, B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan*, the Métis Justice Plan and the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan. To reflect the transition, this year's report has been renamed the "Impact Report". Consideration of an alternative reporting approach may also be undertaken.

We remain committed to working with Indigenous people, especially survivors, families, Elders and communities, to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender diverse people in B.C.

Path Forward Community Fund

Summary

The Path Forward Community Fund is a provincial initiative funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the federal government and administered by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC). The Fund supports Indigenous-led, community-defined approaches to addressing gender-based violence through safety planning, healing, and capacity building.

Grounded in Indigenous self-determination, the Path Forward Community Fund recognizes that violence cannot be separated from the impacts of colonization, systemic racism, intergenerational trauma, and the ongoing disruption of Indigenous family, governance, and cultural systems.

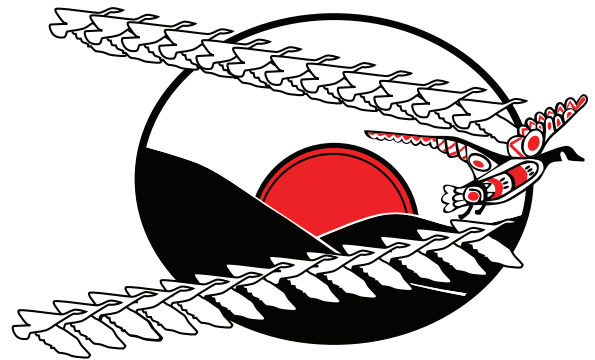
Round Four of the Path Forward Community Fund awarded \$6,335,076 to 35 Indigenous-led projects across British Columbia in February 2025, with grants ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000 over 18- or 24-month terms. A defining feature of this funding round was its emphasis on capacity-building. Thirteen initiatives received renewed funding, allowing communities and organizations to maintain momentum, retain experienced staff, strengthen relationships, and continue work that has already demonstrated results and relevance at the community level. This approach reduced administrative burden and supported long-term planning and services rather than short-term, project-based delivery.

Funded initiatives are guided by an Indigenous-led Adjudication Committee representing diverse Nations, regions, and lived experiences, including Elders, youth, Indigenous men and boys, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ community members. This governance structure ensures funding decisions reflect Indigenous priorities, community realities, and culturally grounded understandings of safety.

Round Four recipients are demonstrating strong alignment with the Path Forward Community Fund's eligible uses and core pillars. Across projects, funding has supported capacity building through the hiring and training of frontline workers,

outreach staff, coordinators, and facilitators; the development of long-term training and certificate programs; and improvements to physical spaces that enable culturally safe healing and programming.

Many communities emphasized that building internal capacity is foundational to sustained safety planning and effective violence prevention.



BCAAFC logo

Engagement and facilitation activities remain central to the work. Communities are hosting culturally grounded gatherings, sharing circles, youth and men's groups, conferences, and land-based activities that create space for dialogue, learning, and collective responsibility.

These gatherings support relationship-building and trust, particularly when addressing sensitive and often silenced experiences of gender-based violence.

Support for crisis response planning and safety planning is a key area of progress. Several projects are developing community-defined crisis action plans, personalized safety plans, and coordinated response pathways, including plans specific to MMIWG2S+. These efforts strengthen readiness and improve coordination among community supports and external systems while ensuring responses reflect Indigenous values and ways of caring for one another.

Path Forward funding has also supported the development of communication materials and public awareness initiatives. Projects include community resource toolkits, crisis resource maps, workshops, books, and large-scale public awareness

campaigns that increase visibility, share information, and encourage community-wide responsibility for preventing violence. These materials are designed to be accessible, culturally relevant, and grounded in lived experience.

Justice navigation and public safety work continues to be a significant focus. Many recipients are supporting individuals and families in navigating interactions with police, courts, child welfare, and other public safety systems, while also advancing Indigenous-led public safety strategies, bylaws, and advocacy efforts. This work responds directly to systemic barriers and racism that Indigenous people continue to face when seeking safety and justice.

Culturally appropriate safety training, healing, and support are woven throughout funded initiatives. Communities are leading healing and prevention work through ceremony, land-based healing, Elders' teachings, Knowledge Keeper guidance, and intergenerational mentorship. These approaches recognize healing as relational and collective, and position culture as a protective factor that strengthens identity, resilience, and community well-being.

Recipients also identified consistent challenges that shape the pace and delivery of this work. Communities continue to navigate profound grief, loss, and high levels of trauma due to violence, overdoses, missing persons, and other crises. Programs are frequently required to pause or adapt out of respect for cultural protocols and community needs. Systemic barriers within health, justice, and child welfare systems, combined with racism and stigma, place additional advocacy burdens on frontline staff. Recruitment and retention of qualified staff, rising operational and travel costs, and the time required to build trust and meaningful engagement remain an ongoing challenge.

Despite these realities, Round Four projects demonstrate strong progress in Indigenous-led approaches to gender-based violence prevention and response. Across British Columbia, communities are strengthening safety, restoring cultural roles, and building the conditions necessary for long-term healing and prevention. In response to recipient evaluation feedback, BCAAFC is planning an online learning summit to bring Path Forward recipients together to share successes, challenges, and key learnings. This gathering will support peer learning, collaboration, and continued growth across funded initiatives.

Overall, Round Four affirms that sustained, low-barrier investments in Indigenous-led safety planning, capacity building, and culturally grounded healing are essential to addressing Indigenous-specific and systemic causes of gender-based violence. The work underway reflects the strength, leadership, and knowledge already present within Indigenous communities and underscores the importance of continued support for community-defined solutions.



Round Four Recipients by Region

Round Four Recipients

Below are some examples of both renewed and new projects funded this Round (see full list in Appendix):

Organization	Initiative	Amount
Nuu-chah-nulth Family and Child Services (NOFCS)	Fathers Support Program: The Fathers Support Program provides targeted support for fathers and their children as they work toward healthier relationships with their families. The project delivers relationship-based training programs for fathers and men, including anger awareness, healthy relationships, and attachment-based parenting education. By strengthening emotional awareness, parenting capacity, and relationship skills, the program promotes family wellness and contributes to the prevention of gender-based and family violence.	\$200,000
Métis Nation Greater Victoria	Walking in Wahohtowin - Continuing Our Work in a Good Way: The project centres on intentional, culturally grounded gatherings that strengthen connection, healing, and collective responsibility through traditional healing practices (sweat lodges, smudging, sharing circles, and land-based activities, self-defense education, and men's gathering). An Elders' Table provides ongoing guidance, cultural teachings, and a safe, supportive space for those seeking wisdom and direction.	\$150,000
Support Network for Indigenous Women & Women of Colour	Pathways to Safety - Empowering Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA2S+ Communities Against Gender-Based Violence: This project creates clear and accessible pathways to safety for Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in Duncan by developing a comprehensive crisis resource map and personalized crisis response plans. Participants gain timely access to supports, services, and safety planning tools. The initiative delivers bi-monthly legal rights workshops, peer-led advocacy training, and survivor-led support groups.	\$175,436
T'sasala Cultural Group	Community Voices Honouring Sacred Roles and Reclaiming Safety: A community-driven initiative led by the T'sasala Cultural Group in Alert Bay, British Columbia. The project addresses gender-based violence by revitalizing traditional Indigenous knowledge and restoring sacred roles within the community, including through the completion of a graphic novel manuscript.	\$142,360
Kathleen Lounsbury, PhD Candidate	Indigenous Birthing Sovereignty: This phased dissertation project explores Indigenous Birthing Sovereignty and its role in strengthening families and communities through access to cultural teachings and practices. It examines how gender-based violence, obstetrical violence, and intimate partner violence impact Indigenous families during pregnancy, birth, and early parenting.	\$200,000
Tears to Hope Society	In Their Mocs and in Her Moccasins Training and Online Education Series: This two-day prevention-based workshop focuses on empowering girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth by strengthening self-worth, confidence, and self-acceptance. The workshop meets youth where they are, supporting them to recognize their inherent value, build resilience, and make healthier choices rooted in self-confidence and personal empowerment.	\$200,000

How Round Four Recipients are Addressing Gender-Based Violence

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Building organizational capacity through staff training in gender-based violence prevention and response.
- Hiring frontline staff to work with individuals impacted by violence.
- Certificate and long-term training programs in gender-based violence prevention and healing.
- Facility renovations enabling culturally safe healing and programming spaces.
- Opening housing for those impacted by violence.

CULTURALLY GROUNDED HEALING AND PREVENTION

- Culturally grounded healing gatherings and traditional ceremonies, including sweat lodges, smudging, sharing circles, and land-based healing.
- Elders' Tables, Panels, and Knowledge Keeper-led teachings providing cultural guidance and intergenerational mentorship.
- Land-based and outdoor healing programs reconnecting participants to culture and territory.
- Healing events and community reconciliation initiatives supporting families impacted by violence.
- Community-led research and knowledge development exploring Indigenous approaches to safety and well-being.

DIRECT SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS AND DIRECT PREVENTION FOR VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

- One-on-one trauma-informed counselling in shelters, housing units, and healing centres.
- Group counselling and wellness workshops.
- Wraparound wellness supports, including referrals to justice, legal, housing, and health services.
- Development of crisis response plans and personalized safety planning tools.
- Community resource centres and crisis resource maps improving access to supports.



Photo courtesy of Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Violence prevention workshops addressing healthy relationships and communication.
- Community-based conferences and gatherings.
- Public awareness campaigns, including large-scale billboard installations.
- Self-defense, healthy relationships, and personal boundary education.

JUSTICE NAVIGATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Indigenous-led legal tools, bylaws, and culturally grounded public safety frameworks that reflect community values.
- Integration of anti-violence curriculum into youth, men's, and women's peer groups.
- Justice outreach and systems navigation support, assisting community members in navigating Ministry of Children and Family Development, policing, courts, and child protection systems.
- MMIWG2S+ Crisis Action Plans to guide prevention, response, and coordinated community support.
- Community safety and emergency response planning initiatives.
- Advocacy efforts to address systemic barriers, harmful stereotypes, and policies that impede access to justice.
- Community needs assessments to inform public safety strategies and identify risks.
- Harm reduction strategies and substance use supports that address root causes linked to violence.

YOUTH, MEN'S AND 2SLGBTQQIA+ FOCUSED SERVICES

- Men's healing initiatives and perpetrator prevention programs focused on accountability, emotional awareness, and breaking cycles of violence.
- Father and parenting education programs, including attachment-based parenting, anger awareness, and healthy relationships training.
- Youth empowerment workshops and conferences focused on self-worth, leadership, and resilience.
- 2SLGBTQQIA+ specific programming, including survivor-led support groups, advocacy training, and culturally safe peer spaces.



Photo courtesy of Wachiay Friendship Centre

Featured Success Stories from Round 4

SQUAMISH NATION (RENEWED FUNDING)

With Path Forward support, the Squamish Nation Public Safety Task Force is advancing Recommendation 9 of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which calls for Indigenous-led programming to address violence against Indigenous women and girls. Squamish Nation is working towards this through the establishment of a trauma-informed Community Safety Team. The team was launched in Fall 2023, and has since grown to include full time, part time, and casual staff, all of whom live in Squamish communities.

A key success has been the launch of the Public Safety Phone Line in January 2024. The phone line captures all service requests received from Squamish people, whether they live within or outside the community. This has improved tracking, monitoring, and reporting of incidents, while strengthening planning and capacity building. For the first time, Public Safety has a clearer picture of the types of concerns being raised and the support most frequently requested.

Through this work, the Community Safety Team has responded to a wide range of safety concerns, including incidents of domestic abuse, stalking, harassment, and violence within homes and families. Staff provide trauma informed support, safety planning, and referrals to police or external services when appropriate. Community members are increasingly accessing these supports, reflecting growing trust in the team.

The team is improving documentation practices related to the Public Safety Phone Line so that gender-based violence related incidents are clearly recorded to strengthen data informed planning and targeted responses moving forward

Between February 2024 and February 2025, several additional milestones strengthened the broader safety framework. The approval of the Trespass and Nuisance Bylaw in July 2024 introduced a structured penalty system beginning at fifty dollars per infraction per day, with fines up to five hundred dollars for repeated violations. Fourteen Community Safety Team members completed bylaw compliance training, and a ticketing and collections procedure was developed to support consistent enforcement. A Drug and Alcohol Zones Bylaw was also drafted to create safer spaces for families and Elders on Squamish lands.



Photo courtesy of Squamish Nation



Photo courtesy of Squamish Nation

Our Community Safety Team (CST) is committed to keeping Squamish communities safe.

Every day our team:

- Patrols Nation lands, observing and reporting concerns
- Liaises with police, ambulance, and fire services
- Controls traffic and monitors speeding
- Ensures safety at community events
- Connects Squamish People to Nation services
- Helps keep our Elders safe
- Supports responsible pet ownership in the community
- Assists during evacuations and weather emergencies



CST Hours:

NORTH SHORE:
9:00am to 2:30am
7 nights a week

SQUAMISH VALLEY:
9:00am to 1:00am
7 nights a week



We are here for you.

Together we keep our community strong and safe.

Looking ahead, the project is focused on building stronger capacity through specialized gender-based violence training for frontline staff and deepening partnerships with Indigenous-led and community-based organizations working in this area. The establishment of the Community Safety Team, combined with improved tracking systems and strengthened bylaws, represents meaningful progress toward a coordinated, trauma-informed approach to community safety.

DUDES CLUB SOCIETY (RENEWED FUNDING)

With support from the Path Forward Community Fund, DUDES Club Society (DCS) has expanded its work to address gender-based violence through culturally grounded programming for men and youth across British Columbia. Central to this effort is the delivery of workshops that examine the colonial roots of violence and support participants in reclaiming their roles within family and community.

In 2025, DCS introduced Paddling Backwards into the Future: A Two-Eyed Journey on Ending Violence in Community. Delivered in communities including Vancouver, Snuneymuxw, Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en, and Prince George, the workshop invites Indigenous men to look inward and confront the inherited impacts of colonization. Using a Two-Eyed Seeing framework, participants explore how colonial systems disrupted identity, balance, and traditional teachings – contributing to cycles of harm that continue today.

The “paddling backwards” metaphor reflects a return to cultural foundations to move forward with accountability and renewed purpose. Through guided reflection, discussion circles, and cultural teachings, more than 30 men have participated to date. Each participant concluded the workshop by making a personal commitment to end violence within themselves. As facilitators emphasize, understanding that the violence many men carry was never theirs to begin with can be a powerful starting point for change. From this place of reflection and responsibility, participants are encouraged to walk forward as protectors, truth-tellers, and healers within their families and communities.

Recognizing that experiences of gender-based violence vary across communities, the workshops are adapted to reflect local contexts and priorities. Sessions close with reflection and blessings, reinforcing that healing – particularly healing rooted in culture – is an act of resistance and restoration.

In addition to engaging adult men, DCS has strengthened its youth initiative, neXup, to further address gender-based violence prevention. Through workshops and facilitated talking circles, youth participants examine gender stereotypes, identify



Photo courtesy of DUDES Club Society

harmful behaviours, and discuss strategies for responding to violence in their own environments. These sessions create space for honest dialogue while supporting young people to develop practical tools for navigating difficult situations and challenging harmful norms among peers.

Path Forward funding has also supported DCS to strengthen internal capacity. Recognizing that those who facilitate conversations about trauma require support themselves, the organization has engaged an Indigenous, trauma-informed therapist to provide one-on-one counselling for staff. Team capacity-building workshops have also focused on examining patriarchal norms and challenging harmful patterns within the workplace. This internal work ensures that staff are supported and that programming is delivered from a foundation of accountability and care.

Overall, the initiative reflects a comprehensive approach to addressing gender-based violence – engaging men in self-reflection and cultural reconnection, supporting youth in prevention efforts, and strengthening organizational practices. By centering healing, responsibility, and community leadership, DCS is contributing to long-term efforts to end violence and restore balance across generations.

PRINCE GEORGE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE (RENEWED FUNDING)

Renewed funding through the Path Forward Community Fund has strengthened the Prince George Native Friendship Centre's coordinated response to gender-based violence. The program continues to prioritize immediate safety, long-term stability, and integrated healing supports for individuals and families experiencing violence.

In one high-risk case, staff accompanied a client who was facing death threats to Vancouver, where she was admitted into a residential treatment centre. This intervention, carried out in collaboration with a sister program, ensured the client's safe relocation and access to intensive supports. In another case, a young woman who had attempted multiple times to leave an abusive situation was supported through coordinated inter-agency efforts. Transportation and safe accommodations were secured outside of her community, and she was reunited with a distant relative. She continued counselling services virtually to maintain continuity of care.

The Centre's approach addresses both those who have experienced harm and those seeking to change harmful behaviours. Counsellors have provided offender counselling focused on accountability, behavioural change, and prevention of future violence. This dual approach contributes to broader community safety outcomes.



Photo courtesy of Prince George Native Friendship Centre

Strong partnerships remain central to service delivery. The Centre collaborates closely with Carrier Sekani Family Services, Association Advocating for Women and Community (AWAC), Connective, Northern Health, Elizabeth Fry, RCMP, Victim Services, Family Law Advocates, Soonats'ooneh (formerly Central Interior Native Health Society [CINH]), and First Nations Health Authority. These referral relationships improve service coordination and reduce barriers to accessing housing, legal advocacy, health services, and culturally grounded supports.

One notable outcome involved a woman who initially entered the program while staying in a shelter. With support, she transitioned into second-stage housing where she engaged in programming and stabilization services. She has since secured private market housing, achieved eight months of sobriety, obtained part-time employment, and enrolled in a post-secondary social work program. Her progress reflects the impact of sustained, wraparound support.

Program participation has expanded over time. While services initially focused on women, the program now offers educational groups and counselling to all individuals impacted by gender-based violence. Adult counsellors and addictions specialists co-facilitate trauma therapy and addictions groups, strengthening integrated service delivery. Community engagement remains a priority. Staff participated in the Pride Picnic alongside the Northern BC Queer Connection Society, reinforcing the Centre's commitment to inclusive and culturally responsive mental health supports.

Client feedback underscores the importance of accessible, trauma-informed care. As one participant shared, *"I'm grateful you listened. I'm glad you're here. I wouldn't be if you weren't."* This statement reflects the critical role of safety, trust, and consistent support in promoting individual well-being.

LOUD VOICE SOCIETY, KAMLOOPS

The Path Forward Community Fund has supported the growth and expansion of a deeply community-rooted response to gender-based violence, grounded in healing, cultural safety, and peer leadership. Through this support, staff have strengthened their ability to provide community linkages, outreach, program coordination, case management, and group facilitation for individuals who have experienced gender-based violence.

At the heart of the initiative are the sharing circles and workshops that take place three times per week within Rediscovery House #1 and #2, as well as twice monthly at partner agencies. These spaces foster connection, accountability, and hope. As one staff member reflected, *"Our workshops are more than programming – they are places where people feel seen and heard. When individuals share their stories and realize they are not alone, you can feel the shift in the room. That's where healing begins."*



Photo courtesy of Loud Voice Society

Peer inclusion has also been a defining strength of the project. By providing honoraria to participants with lived experience of gender-based violence, the program has created meaningful leadership opportunities and increased engagement. Participants are not only attending – they are guiding discussions, mentoring others, and reclaiming their roles as mothers, fathers, leaders, and valued community members.

***“Being trusted to help facilitate and support others changed how I see myself,”
shared one resident.***

Recognizing that many of the most vulnerable individuals are Indigenous people impacted by intergenerational trauma, homelessness, and substance use, Rediscovery House #1 opened on March 1, 2025, followed by Rediscovery House #2 on August 1, 2025. Since opening, the houses have provided culturally grounded, bed-based recovery for men and LGBTQQIA+ individuals.

***“I’m not just someone who’s been through harm.
I’m someone who can help.”***

With a 70% retention rate – well above average – the program has supported individuals often considered “unhelpable” by other systems of care.

Cultural teachings are central to this success. An Elder regularly visits both houses to share knowledge, Indigenous teachings are integrated into all gender-based violence workshops and circles, and residents participate in a monthly sweat lodge. This decolonized approach reframes setbacks not as failures, but as opportunities for growth. One resident has since secured employment, returned to school, stepped into a house leadership role, and reconnected with his son – a testament to the transformative power of compassion and accountability. The impact extends beyond the houses. External agencies consistently report that the workshops are meaningful and powerful, with many requesting additional sessions.

YUNESIT’IN GOVERNMENT, CARIBOO REGION

The Yunesit’in community-led initiative has strengthened local capacity to acknowledge, address, and prevent gender-based violence through culturally grounded, holistic approaches to healing. Rooted in the understanding that violence cannot be separated from historical and systemic impacts, the program has focused on addressing the underlying conditions that contribute to harm while restoring connection, resilience, and self-determination.

Programming has engaged community members both on and off reserve through grief circles, support groups, and culturally grounded gatherings centered on safety and prevention. Elders and local facilitators have played a central

role in guiding activities, ensuring that the work reflects Yunesit’in values, teachings, and lived realities. This leadership has reinforced that healing encompasses mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being, and that it is an ongoing journey rather than a single intervention.



Photo courtesy of Yunesit’in Government

Participation has remained steady, with engagement increasing as trust in the program has grown. One of the most significant outcomes to date has been the establishment of safe and welcoming spaces where individuals feel comfortable seeking support without fear of judgment. Grief circles and support groups report consistent attendance, with participants returning regularly and encouraging family members and peers to attend.

Community feedback highlights the importance of this environment. As one participant noted, *“The engagements feel welcoming, which makes it easier to participate.”* Another shared, *“I love that this is now available for our members without judgement and we are able to bring our families.”*

Beyond individual healing, the initiative has strengthened relationships across the community. Increased collaboration among Elders, facilitators, and participants has fostered greater openness and collective responsibility in addressing gender-based violence. By centering cultural education, community-led healing, and capacity building, the program has contributed to a stronger foundation for prevention across generations.

The project demonstrates that when culturally resonant solutions are led by the community itself, meaningful engagement follows. The result has been not only increased access to support, but a renewed sense of connection and shared commitment to safety and well-being within Yunesit'in.

MOWACHAHT-MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION, NOOTKA SOUND

This project advances community driven safety planning that responds directly to Indigenous specific and systemic causes of gender-based violence. Through facilitated engagement sessions, community members, leadership, and service providers come together to identify gaps in existing safety responses and co-develop culturally appropriate crisis response and community safety plans. These plans prioritize the safety of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people while strengthening coordination between community-based supports and external systems such as justice and public safety services.

A key success has been the creation of culturally safe spaces where community members feel supported to speak openly about safety, healing, and violence. Participation has remained strong, including from individuals who were initially hesitant to engage. Over time, participants

have become more active contributors, helping to shape community safety priorities and response pathways.

One participant shared, *“This is the first time I've felt comfortable speaking openly about safety in our community without fear or shame. Being able to talk together and be heard makes a difference.”*

Another participant reflected on the importance of self-determination in the process: *“I appreciate that this work is being done our way. We're not being told what safety should look like; we're defining it ourselves.”*

Cultural grounding has also been central to the project's impact. As one participant noted, *“Bringing culture and language into these conversations helps with healing. It reminds us that we already have knowledge and strength in our community to address violence.”*

In addition to meaningful dialogue, the project has strengthened relationships between community members, leadership, and frontline staff. There is now greater clarity around roles, supports, and coordinated pathways for responding to safety concerns. These early outcomes reflect increased trust, shared responsibility, and strengthened local capacity.

TAKLA FIRST NATION

In response to multiple profound losses and ongoing safety concerns, Takla First Nation has utilized the Path Forward Community Fund grant to make concrete steps to strengthen its ability to respond when a community member goes missing. A formal identification system has been established to ensure that critical information can be accessed quickly and efficiently. This includes the creation of a voluntary DNA database for members who wish to participate in enhanced safety protocols.

Staff are being fully trained in the proper storage, handling, and protection of this information. Clear data retention and security measures are being implemented to ensure the program operates responsibly and continues indefinitely. Training manuals are in place so that all future staff and personnel receive up to date instruction, supporting long-term sustainability and consistency.

The recent murder of a young mother and Nation member remains fresh in the hearts of many. The community has also faced a high number of deaths from natural causes and overdoses.

Navigating this project alongside families who are grieving has required care, patience, and respect. At times, activities and engagement sessions have been postponed to honour those who have passed and to allow families space to heal. Moving slowly and thoughtfully has been intentional.

While the project remains in the engagement phase and formal participant stories are still forthcoming, early discussions have been positive.

This initiative reflects a proactive and community-led approach to safety. By putting systems in place now, the Nation is strengthening its ability to respond quickly and effectively in times of crisis, while ensuring the work is carried out with care and dignity.

Summary of Challenges from Round 4 Recipients

With successes come challenges, and several consistent themes emerged in what organizations and communities reported. BCAAFC staff aim to support all organizations as they navigate these challenges and remain flexible and adaptable when they arise. Below are some examples of challenges noted by Path Forward Round Four recipients.

PROGRAM INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO DEATH, HIGH COMMUNITY NEED AND COMPLEX TRAUMA CONTEXTS

Communities continue to experience ongoing grief due to murder, deaths, violence, and other traumatic events. In some cases, highly visible tragedies have required programs to pause activities out of respect and cultural protocol. Facilitators also navigate complex group dynamics when participants' trauma histories intersect, requiring careful, trauma-informed approaches and adequate and qualified staffing to maintain safety. Projects are operating in environments where gender-based violence intersects with addiction, suicide, missing persons, child welfare involvement, housing instability, and acute mental health crises. Programs frequently balance prevention and long-

term healing work with urgent crisis response.

Gender-based violence prevention and healing cannot be separated from broader trauma realities. Flexible timelines, sufficient staffing, and trauma-informed capacity are essential.

SYSTEMIC BARRIERS, RACISM, AND POLICY CONSTRAINTS

Many participants reported challenges in navigating systemic racism within health, justice, and child welfare systems. These barriers delay access to culturally appropriate supports and increase the advocacy burden placed on frontline teams. Participants suggest policy shifts, particularly those affecting harm reduction, have created additional challenges for organizations supporting families impacted by substance use. Stigma and racial bias further undermine access to services and contribute to distrust of external systems.

CAPACITY AND STAFFING

Recruitment and retention of qualified staff, particularly those with specialized cultural knowledge, remains an ongoing challenge. Several projects experienced turnover in leadership and key roles or small planning teams managing significant workloads. Leadership transitions, elections, and governance processes also affected timelines for approvals, bylaws, and strategic direction. While these are natural parts of Nation-based governance, they can slow milestone progression.

FUNDING CHALLENGES

Funding pressures were widely reported. Limited funding affected honoraria for Elders and Knowledge Keepers, operational costs, guest speakers, travel expenses, equipment, and food provision. Travel costs were sometimes underestimated, particularly for families traveling long distances to participate. Environmental emergencies, including one wildfire evacuation, further disrupted programming and damaged cultural spaces essential for land-based healing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TRUST BUILDING

Relationship-building and trust development takes time, particularly when addressing gender-based violence. Participation often grows gradually as community members feel safer accessing services. Scheduling gatherings that align with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, leadership, and families can be complex. Youth engagement presents additional challenges due to school, work, and family responsibilities. Programs have adapted with flexible scheduling, drop-in models, and pacing that prioritizes meaningful engagement over rigid timelines.

Looking Ahead

Projects from Round Four show strong progress across British Columbia in Indigenous-led violence prevention and response, particularly through culturally grounded healing, direct supports, justice navigation, and capacity building. Across 35 projects, communities and organizations are implementing a wide range of strategies that strengthen safety and trust.

Together, these local initiatives contribute to stronger responses to violence in Indigenous communities.

Many current recipients have expressed how valuable it would be to bring funded communities together to share success stories, challenges and key learnings. Creating an opportunity for this kind of exchange would allow projects to learn from one another's experiences, strengthen their approaches and further improve the impact of their services. In response to this feedback, BCAAFC is planning to host an online summit that will bring together recipients from both Round 4 and Round 5 of the Path Forward Community Fund. The gathering aims to create a space for communities and individuals to connect, share practical insights from their projects, and build relationships that support ongoing learning and collaboration.

Round 5 received the highest number of applications to date, with 84 submissions from Indigenous-led communities and organizations across British Columbia. This strong response demonstrates the continued growth of the Path Forward Community Fund and the significant demand for resources that support services addressing gender-based violence in Indigenous communities.

Province-wide Strategies and Initiatives

Update on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan

On March 30th, 2022 the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation introduced a [five-year Declaration Act Action Plan](#) (the Action Plan) to achieve the objectives of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration). The Action Plan is a legislative commitment in the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act) and is also referenced as an early priority action in the Path Forward. Together the Declaration Act and Action Plan set important context for the work related to Indigenous Peoples that is proceeding across government.

The 89 priorities of the Action Plan were identified in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples across the Province. They are aligned with many of the Path Forward early actions and updates outlined in this report and are consistent with provincially relevant Calls for Justice held in the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. The Action Plan articulates actions every Ministry in government is committed to undertake between 2022-2027 to create a better province for Indigenous Peoples in B.C.

The [2024-25 Declaration Act Annual Report](#) highlights efforts across government to build a better future and details work underway on 78 of 89 specific actions between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025. Some of these actions include launching a new co-government structure with 17 First Nations and Canada to protect and conserve marine wildlife and habitats in the Great Bear Sea; creating partnerships between Indigenous knowledge holders and the Province on cultural and prescribed fires; putting a new graduation requirement in place that ensures all students complete Indigenous-focused coursework before they graduate from the K-12 system; and ensuring children have the best start by supporting the creation of 483 Métis-led child care and 2,200 free Aboriginal Head Start child care spaces across B.C.

The Province continues to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples across the province to implement the Action Plan and will provide another Annual Report in 2026. Work is underway to review the current action plan to evaluate progress and highlight lessons learned.

Indigenous Women's Justice Plan

The [Final Draft](#) of the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan (IWJP) was released in 2024 and was intended to be a living document shaped by ongoing dialogue, reflection and commitment to advance justice, safety, and healing for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people across British Columbia.

A revised draft of the plan was released on March 31, 2025, to reflect insights gathered since the initial release. Rooted in the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+, the 2006 Highway of Tears Symposium, and the Red Women Rising Report, the IWJP outlines 15 strategy areas and 42 lines of action aimed at systemic transformation at ending all forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples.

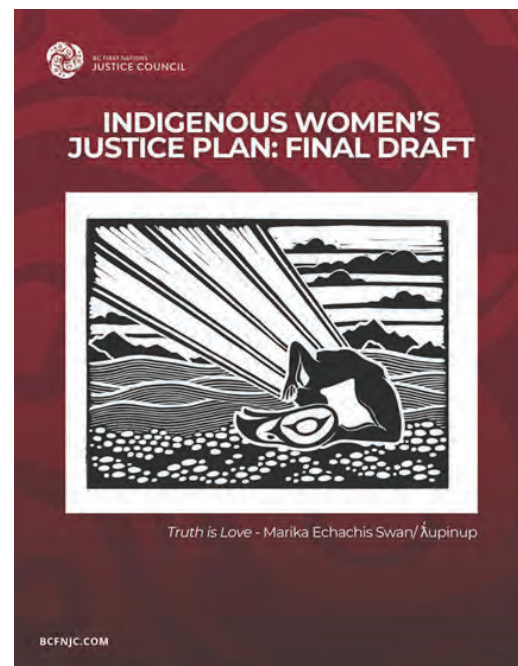
Developed by Indigenous women for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, the IWJP is grounded in the lived realities, voices, and stories shaped through 20 engagements held across British Columbia in the fall of 2023. It calls for accountability through an Indigenous-led oversight team, a dedicated MMIWG2S+ Task Force, and transparent public reporting. The plan highlights the need for prevention strategies focused on sustainable Indigenous-led funding, poverty reduction, and community-led safety initiatives. Expanded access to justice is prioritized through Indigenous Justice Centres, legal aid services, culturally-grounded First Nations Courts, and strengthened Gladue processes.

The IWJP also addresses critical safety issues such as policing reform, corrections transformation, crisis response, transportation and connectivity gaps, man camps and resource extraction impacts, and child well-being and a distinct 2SLGBTQIA+ strategy that recognizes intersectional needs. Overall, the IWJP seeks structural change through self-determination, revitalized Indigenous legal traditions, and legislative alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In spring 2025, the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) Women’s Team prioritized three key strategies from the IWJP after determining that fully implementing all 15 strategies and 42 lines of action was not feasible due to limited time, staffing, funding and other constraints.

Using “Coyote’s Version” (a strategic framework grounded in storytelling, sustainability, accountability, transparency, collaboration, self-determination, and effective communication) the team organized priorities into “The Berry Patch of Justice,” distinguishing short, medium, and long-term actions. Three strategies emerged as high-impact, high-readiness priorities: Strategy 8 – Man camps, Resource Extraction and Land Exploitation; Strategy 9 – Crisis Response; and Strategy 15 – Legislation and Policy as it relates to implementing Strategies 8 and 9.

These strategies were chosen because they align strongly with community guidance, partner engagement, and the potential for meaningful progress during 2025-2026. They target urgent safety concerns facing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, particularly those linked to land-based and gender-based violence and systemic failures in emergency response. The prioritization process ensures that the Plan’s implementation focuses on areas where transformative change is both urgently needed and where there was the most potential for meaningful impact in the near term. Over the coming year, cross-sector government and BCFNJC working groups will be formed to advance this important work.



Métis Justice Strategy

Endorsed by Cabinet in June 2024, the [Métis Justice Strategy](#) (the “Strategy”) contains 12 recommendations that seek to address the urgent need to overcome the significant challenges that Métis people face in the justice system. The Strategy is focused on a Métis-specific approach that recognizes Métis as a unique Indigenous Peoples and looks to create policies and services that are inclusive and safe.

The Strategy is grounded in five principles with 12 key recommendations that, when implemented, will help reduce harm for Métis people through all stages of the justice system and create culturally safe services and supports. The recommendations are:

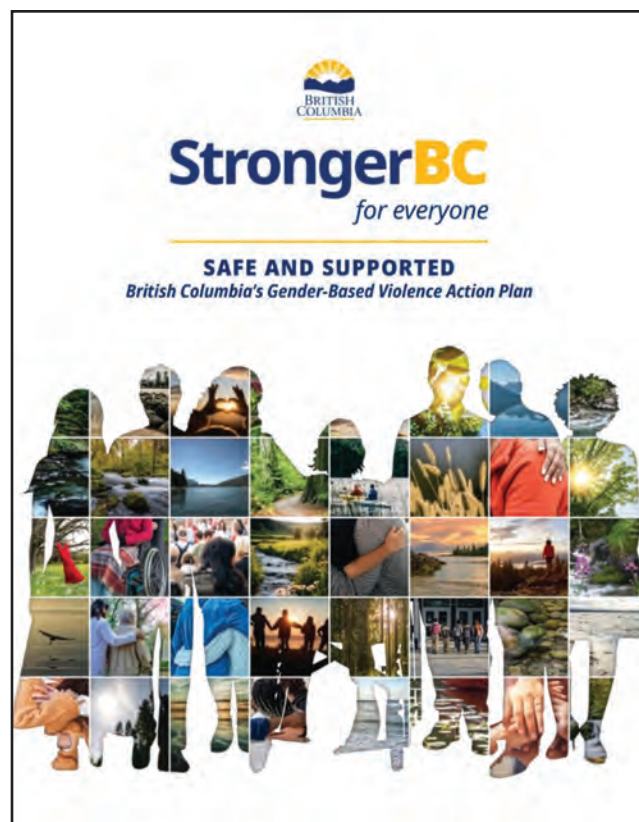
1. Legislative Analysis – Policy and Procedure Review
2. Auditing existing Indigenous/Aboriginal Services to Assess Métis Eligibility
3. Métis-Specific Training for Government, Non-Profit Organizations, and Other Partners
4. Develop Trauma-Informed Cultural Engagement Programming and Supports for all Métis Involved in the Justice System
5. Investment in the Supportive Métis Elders Program
6. Métis Metrics
7. Métis-Specific Training for Gladue Reports and Submissions for Métis in B.C.
8. Métis Restorative Justice
9. Metis Nation BC (MNBC) Participation in the Operation and Establishment of Indigenous Justice Services
10. Ongoing Commitment to Métis-Partnership and Relationship Building
11. Ongoing Issues Related to MMIWG in B.C.
12. Métis Youth Justice

MNBC and Government are co-developing a Métis Justice Strategy Implementation Plan which is expected to be finalized in 2026. The Implementation Plan will enable collaborative work between the Province and MNBC to advance the recommendations of the Métis Justice Strategy.

Safe and Supported: B.C.’s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan

Launched in December 2023, [Safe and Supported: British Columbia’s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan](#) is a three-year plan to guide and coordinate action across government to prevent, address and respond to gender-based violence.

Safe and Supported was informed by engagements in 2022 and 2023, including focused consultation with participants from First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and urban and rural, on- and off-reserve communities. Actions continue to be shaped by ongoing dialogue with the Gender-Based Violence Action Plan Advisory Committee.



One of the plan’s four priorities areas is “Lifting Up Indigenous-led Approaches” which responds directly to advice and recommendations from Indigenous partners to support self-determination by putting resources in the hands of First Nations and Indigenous communities and organizations to determine their own priorities in a way that best meets the needs of Indigenous people.

Since the launch of *Safe and Supported*, the Province has provided more than \$25 million to support Indigenous-led initiatives with funding through the Canada-British Columbia four-year agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence:

- More than \$13 million is supporting work under the **Path Forward**, including through grants to support community safety planning and capacity building through the Path Forward Community Fund.
- \$1.65 million is supporting the **BC First Nations Justice Council** to advance the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan, support the Indigenous Justice Centre Aunties Program pilot, and develop training for Council staff and others working in the justice system to respond to intimate partner violence.
- The **First Peoples Cultural Council** is receiving \$4 million to support First Nations cultural practices and coming of age ceremonies as a way to celebrate the roles, relationships and responsibilities within a community, helping to create a sense of belonging and build relationships to take action against gender-based violence.
- **Métis Nation BC** is receiving \$4 million for gender-based violence initiatives for Métis women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, such as expanding access to counselling, supporting community healing, and providing basic necessities and comfort kits for individuals fleeing violence.
- And \$2.5 million is funding grants through the **Giving Voice Project**, a program overseen by the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) to support community-led projects that provide opportunities for healing.

Throughout the implementation of *Safe and Supported*, the Province will continue to support Indigenous-led approaches that centre Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, justice systems and structures, and Indigenous-led healing and well-being for survivors and their families.

Update on the systemic review of the legal system's treatment of sexual and intimate partner violence in B.C.

In May 2024 the Attorney General appointed Dr. Kim Stanton to conduct an independent review of the Province's treatment of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in the legal system, and to propose improvements. Dr. Stanton released her Final Report (the "Report") in June 2025.



The Report provides a clear roadmap containing 21 recommendations as well as several insights to address systemic and legal barriers to improving access to justice. It also makes clear that any efforts to address intimate partner and sexual violence must align with the many Indigenous-led reports and recommendations related to gender-based violence.

Government is committed to following the roadmap that Dr. Stanton provided to improve the ways that the justice system addresses intimate partner and sexual violence. Government is committed to working alongside Indigenous partners, particularly Indigenous women, to align with and amplify existing Indigenous-led strategies, plans, and initiatives. The Ministry of Attorney General is leading government's response to the Report, and is working with partner ministries, Indigenous partners, justice system actors, and anti-violence sector representatives.

In December 2025 the Province released the Fall Update outlining steps taken to date and identifying three priority action areas:

- The establishment of a new comprehensive provincial policy framework that offers clear guidance to all actors within our legal system to help them better respond to intimate partner violence and sexual violence.
- As an early area of focus of the policy framework, we will be exploring timely, appropriate, and standardized screening, risks assessment, and safety planning in and outside of criminal and family court processes. These assessments will centre survivor safety across all actors in British Columbia's legal system.
- The creation of an ongoing internal government mechanism to monitor the implementation of our reforms, and to drive our coordinated efforts to ensure that the persistent and pervasive issues of intimate partner and sexual violence are addressed in the short, medium, and long term.

Twentieth Anniversary of the Highway of Tears Symposium

Carrier Sekani Family Services hosted the 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the 2006 Highway of Tears Symposium on April 7-10, 2026, at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre. The event was open to MMIWG family members and the public.

The 2006 Symposium, hosted by families of missing and murdered Indigenous women from along the Highway of Tears, together with Carrier Sekani Family Services

and several other organizations, was organized to raise public awareness and create a call for action. Thirty-three recommendations arose from the meeting covering four key areas: victim prevention; emergency readiness; victim family support; and community development. One of the recommendations gave rise to the formation of the Highway of Tears Governing Body which advocated for implementation of the Symposium recommendations and more recently, the 231 Calls for Justice of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

The Anniversary Commemoration in April 2026 brought together MMIWG family members, advocates, Elders, community members, RCMP, and all levels of government including the B.C. Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Nina Krieger and Federal Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree to discuss and reflect on the 2006 Symposium recommendations. With the theme "Where We Have Been, Where We Are Now, and Where We Are Going," participants provided input into the success and challenges of the recommendations and discussed ways to create safety for Indigenous people in northern B.C..



The Honourable Nina Krieger speaking at the Twentieth Anniversary of the Highway of Tears Symposium.

The closing ceremony of the Commemoration event included the unveiling of the Pillar of Hope, situated at Cottonwood Island Park in Prince George – a place where families and friends of those lost to the Highway of Tears can gather to remember loved ones and find comfort.

Carrier Sekani Family Services Commemorative Pillars Project on Highway 16

Members of the Highway of Tears Governing Body and Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS), funded in part by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, are leading the creation and installation of carved pillars in Prince George and Prince Rupert to commemorate the women and girls who have been lost along the Highway and honour their families. The Pillar of Hope and the Pillar of Strength will serve as important awareness markers and peaceful visiting places for rest and remembrance for the families and the broader community. Each pillar will be made up of four rounded cedar panels. Original art designs by local Indigenous artists will be sandblasted onto each panel along with painting in certain portions.

The Prince George pillar was unveiled April 10, 2026, at the Cottonwood Island Park at the confluence of the Nechako River and the Fraser River as part of the closing of the 20th anniversary of the Highway of Tears Symposium.

The artist Clayton Gauthier, a local Carrier artist, was hired to design the four cedar panels. The panels include faces of grandmothers with a feather motif over them to represent the missing and murdered loved ones. A motif of salmon runs along the bottom.

The Lax Kw'alaams Nation has donated a piece of their territory in the Prince Rupert harbour for the Pillar of Strength, and fundraising to initiate that project is ongoing.



Part of the team working on the project, including representatives from the City of Prince George. Photo courtesy of Carrier Sekani Family Services.



© Clayton Gauthier
2026

"PILLAR OF HOPE PROJECT"

Clayton Gauthier's design, courtesy of Carrier Sekani Family Services.

Victim Services

Civil Forfeiture Grants Program

Civil Forfeiture Grants Program: Indigenous Healing Stream – The program funds community led projects that promote healing from the impacts of intergenerational trauma, crime or victimization. In 2025, 32 Indigenous Healing projects totalling over \$1.2 million were funded, including projects to support the safety and healing of Indigenous women and girls. In 2026, the program was improved by training grant reviewers in Indigenous Gender-based Analysis+.

Examples of funded projects include:

Rise Up Indigenous Wellness Society - Empowering Through Culture

This project will address intergenerational trauma and reduce violence against Indigenous women by engaging approximately 50 Indigenous youth, ages 13-19, in northern B.C. communities in culturally-grounded activities including facilitator-led workshops, cultural teachings, mindful practice.

Community Builders Benevolence Group - Indigenous Women's Wellness Worker

This project will deliver free, low-barrier counselling and cultural programming, including Indigenous teachings and ceremonies, to Indigenous women and gender diverse individuals living in shelters and supportive housing sites.

Peers Victoria Resources Society - Sacred - By and For Indigenous People in Sex Work

This project will deliver a peer-based program by and for Indigenous folks in and from the sex trade by providing healing and community-building space and connection with knowledge keepers/healers from local and Island nations.

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations - ƷaƷoatƷa Ʒan's baƷwamƷale' - Healing Language Intensive

This project will deliver a land-based summer BaƷwamƷala language six-week intensive course for 10 participants from the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations.

WISH Drop-In Centre Society - Indigenous Health and Safety Program

This project will deliver a small cohort group healing program, an Indigenous-peer-led drop-in program called Sex Worker Circle, low-barrier peer-led cultural workshops, and the Indigenous Inreach worker who offers one-to-one support with needs like housing and health care.

Ahousaht First Nation - Urban Healing Through Cultural Initiatives

This project will target women, men, and 2SLGBTQQA+ individuals who have been inflicted with intergenerational trauma through healthy healing workshops that reflect Ahousaht's culture and support participants in learning how to balance their emotional, spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing.

Family Information Liaison Unit

Part of the Community Safety and Victim Services Branch, PSSG, the Family Information Liaison Unit continued its deeply meaningful work supporting families of missing and murdered Indigenous people. FILU serves as a single point of contact for families seeking information about their loved one's case, work that requires patience, cultural humility, and a profound respect for the emotional and spiritual impacts of loss. In 2025, the team supported families by gathering and explaining information from police, the criminal justice system, social services, and community organizations. Many requests involved investigation updates, available services, and information about the Coroner's Service. When information could not be shared due to legal or privacy constraints, the team communicated openly and compassionately, helping families understand the reasons and navigate next steps.

FILU also provided direct supports, including referrals to grief and trauma counselling, cultural supports, assistance with family gatherings, and in-person support at court proceedings and memorial events. These moments of connection, often quiet and often heavy, reflect the heart of the team's work.



Interjurisdictional challenges were a significant focus this year. Many families have loved ones whose cases span multiple regions or provinces, and FILU worked closely with partners across B.C. and beyond to reduce delays and confusion. Strengthening relationships with the RCMP, BC Coroners Service, Service BC, and the Vancouver Police Department helped create clearer pathways for families seeking information.

The team also continued its commitment to learning, participating in ongoing training in trauma-informed practice, cultural safety, Indigenous justice, and victim-centered services. This learning helps ensure that FILU's work remains grounded in respect, responsiveness, and cultural humility.

Sexual Assault Services and Centres

2026 marks the 3rd year of funding for 70 Sexual Assault Services and five Sexual Assault Centres.

All four new centres in Prince George, Surrey, and Kamloops expanded their space and undertook renovations to create calm, trauma-informed spaces. Renovations are expected to be completed in 2026. Victoria's Sexual Assault Centre celebrated its 10th year of operation in 2026, and has provided important learnings and advice to the four new centres.

The new funding for sexual assault programs created an opportunity for Indigenous focused programs. The 22 new programs include cultural responses to sexual assault such as:

- Medicine
- Smudging, cedar brush offs, time at the longhouse
- Ceremonies
- Elder support
- Counselling in places outside for example walking or by a river
- Group counselling

The programs are also working with community through providing presentations and workshops (including in schools) to talk about how to prevent and respond to sexual assault.

Justice Sector Initiatives

New Indigenous Justice Centres

Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC), operated by the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC), provide legal advice, information, and representation in both criminal and child protection matters for Indigenous people. The IJCs take a holistic approach to client and community wellness by facilitating connections to various supports and providing wrap-around services that may include guidance from Elders and Knowledge Keepers, housing, mental health and addictions treatment, and employment services. The IJCs are responsive to the specific needs of the communities in which they are situated and facilitate client connection to already existing social services.

As part of the Safer Communities Action Plan, the Province committed funding to open an additional 10 IJCs bringing the total number of IJCs in the Province to 15. The Fort St. John IJC opened in May 2025 and joined the 14 other IJCs operating in Burns Lake/Hazelton, Chilliwack, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Kelowna, Merritt, Nanaimo, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Port Hardy, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria, and Williams Lake. The opening of these centres completes Strategy 4 of BCFNJC’s First Nations Justice Strategy.

Additionally, there is one virtual IJC that offers no-cost legal services to Indigenous clients living in underserved areas where legal advice or representation is hard to access or completely unavailable.



New Indigenous Justice Centre located in Victoria. Photo Courtesy of BC First Nations Justice Council / Upper Left Photography.



Indigenous Justice Centres in Nanaimo (left) and Vancouver (right). Photos Courtesy of BC First Nations Justice Council / Upper Left Photography

Corrections

The overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the Canadian criminal justice system is recognized as a direct and devastating impact of colonization on generations of Indigenous people and communities in our country. The destruction of Indigenous social structures caused by residential schools, as well as the racist attitudes that have been allowed to prevail in society, and systems and structures that disadvantage Indigenous people, have all contributed to what is considered to be the greatest human rights crisis facing Canada.

Recognizing these factors, BC Corrections has prioritized working with Indigenous Justice Programs and communities to reduce Indigenous over-representation in the justice system for over two decades, and this work remains a priority.

In 2025, an emphasis was placed on enhancing the orientation and training resources for Indigenous Justice Workers (IJWs) to continue preparing them for their roles and responsibilities within the operational context of Community Corrections in B.C., and the role and responsibilities of probation officers (POs) and other justice stakeholders with whom they will work.

Recognizing that the rates of Indigenous women in Corrections has been on the rise for decades the IJW orientation and training manual now includes additional strategies on how to engage and better support Indigenous female clients. These include:

- **Acknowledge** and show how gender and other intersecting identity factors make a difference in how people experience the criminal justice system.
- **Create** a trauma informed environment based on safety, dignity, and respect.
- **Encourage** and share opportunities to improve socio-economic status (i.e., attending courses and programs, using community resources).
- Use a **strength-based approach**.
- **Advocate** to remove barriers to services which might exist.

- Refer Indigenous women to Indigenous **culture-based** programs whenever possible.
- A highly **integrated approach** by all service providers helps to ensure complete wraparound services.

To address systemic discrimination and the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system, an emphasis has been placed on enhancing and expanding access to effective culture-based justice programs. The BC Prosecution Service and BC Corrections have a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the delivery of the alternative measures program, and in 2021, Sec. 5 of the Community Corrections Policy Manual (Alternative Measures) was revised to permit the consideration of referrals for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Sexually Motivated Offences (SMO). A risk assessment, conducted by BC Corrections, is now applied to assist Crown in their consideration for participation in the Alternative Measures process.

Policing Initiatives

Police Act Reform

Government continues to advance reforms aimed at modernizing policing and public safety in British Columbia. These changes were guided in large part by extensive consultations with First Nations and Indigenous leadership organizations throughout 2024, and by a joint working group involving staff from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG), the First Nations Leadership Council, and the BC First Nations Justice Council.

Following substantial amendments that were made to the *Police Act* in April 2024, government has since updated and/or introduced several regulations to further enhance policing and public safety, including:

- Providing the Police Complaint Commissioner with a new authority to investigate systemic policing issues.
- Expanding the oversight mandate of the Independent Investigations Office to include civilian detention guards.
- Introducing a code of conduct and training requirements for municipal police boards.

PSSG is continuing to develop regulations that are needed to bring the 2024 *Police Act* amendments into force. Additionally, PSSG has begun collaborative efforts to develop safety officer models for use in First Nations and local government contexts. It is envisioned that these safety officers will work alongside police, the community, and other essential services to provide locally minded public safety and law enforcement supports in communities. The regulations and logistics required for safety officers will be developed in partnership with First Nations, local governments, police, and other key partners and contributors over the coming years.

Natural Resource Sector Initiatives

GBV Awareness and Risk-Mitigation Training for EAO Staff

As part of the Environmental Assessment Office's (EAO) work to develop a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) policy framework, the EAO partnered with the Ending Violence Association of BC to develop and deliver specialized GBV awareness and risk-mitigation training. This training was tailored for project assessment staff and Compliance and Enforcement Officers to strengthen organizational capacity to understand GBV-related risks associated with industrial projects. Through this partnership, EAO staff are gaining practical tools and enhanced awareness that support more informed decision-making, more effective engagement with communities, and stronger oversight throughout the lifecycle of assessed projects.

Developing Standardized Conditions to Enhance Community Safety Near Industrial Projects

The EAO is also advancing its efforts to strengthen safety and community well-being in communities located near natural resource and industrial project sites by developing a standardized template condition for future projects assessed under the *Environmental Assessment Act* that propose workcamps. This condition is intended to ensure that project

proponents proactively identify, assess, and mitigate risks associated with large, transient workforces, with particular attention to gender and cultural safety considerations. As part of this initiative, the EAO is engaging in consultation and cooperation with First Nations to ensure the condition reflects lived experiences, community priorities, and culturally informed approaches to preventing and reducing harm. These discussions are helping to shape expectations around planning, monitoring, and reporting, while supporting the development of measures that support the well-being of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals who may be disproportionately affected by the presence of temporary workforce accommodations in or near their communities. Further, this initiative is in line with the BCFNJC Indigenous Women's Justice Plan Strategy 8 that prioritizes enhancing safety around man camps and resource extraction.

Housing Initiatives

Women's Transition House Funding

Many women leaving violence and trauma have nowhere safe to go and may be navigating precarious housing with their children, as well as being impacted by poverty and homelessness. Access to housing and support is vital for safety and wellbeing, including for survivors of gender-based violence. In 2018, the Province created the Women's Transition Housing Fund (WTHF), investing \$734 million over 10 years to build and operate 1,500 transition housing, second-stage housing, and long-term housing spaces for women, gender-diverse people, and their children leaving violence. In 2023 as part of the Homes for People action plan, government further invested nearly \$1.2 billion. Through these investments, government has committed to building up to 3,000 units to support women experiencing homelessness, including women experiencing or at risk of homelessness with children.

To date, almost 1,400 units across the province are complete or underway. Throughout 2025 and into early 2026, notable successes for the WTHF program include the opening of:

- A 78 unit building in East Vancouver operated by YWCA BC, including 33 second-stage transition homes and 45 long-term housing units for women and children leaving violence.
- Kw'í Lelum in Duncan, a 33 unit second-stage housing project operated by Cowichan Women Against Violence Society offering programming for women and children who have experienced gender-based violence, with the intention of creating readiness to move into market-rate housing.
- 50 transition beds in the West Shore, operated by the Victoria Women's Transition House Society with input from an Indigenous women's advisory committee, where women can stay for up to two years. The space includes pet-friendly units, group spaces and playgrounds, and an Indigenous cultural gathering space.
- A 56 unit, permanent, pet-friendly long-term housing complex in Burnaby, where families have priority access to 37 childcare spaces in the on-site childcare centre.

Health Initiatives

On May 24, B.C. health leaders were blanketed at a ceremony on Coast Salish territory. During the ceremony each leader were gifted six Coast Salish teachings. The purpose of the blanketing was to call upon leaders of the province's health-care system and the work needed to eliminate Indigenous-specific racism.



The Gift of Coast Salish Teachings: B.C. health leaders were blanketed on Coast Salish Territory. Pictured, left to right: Minister Josie Osbourne, Cynthia Johansen, David Byres, Tiffany Ma, and Diana Clarke. Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Health.

In Plain Sight Report Update

Since the report's release in November 2020, all 24 recommendations to address systemic Indigenous-specific racism have been accepted. Considerable progress has been made, with most deliverables having completed the initiation stage, and many moving into implementation. Recent highlights implementing *In Plain Sight* (IPS) report recommendations include:

- A provincial Indigenous-specific Anti-Racism (ISAR) forum with health sector unions, along with a physician-specific committee on ISAR and cultural safety, has been established. Collective bargaining is in progress, with ISAR, cultural safety, and humility identified as key priorities in collective agreements, building on shared commitments made in 2023.
- A new medical school is being established at Simon Fraser University (SFU) with curriculum designed to embed and equalize Indigenous knowledge systems. SFU is now accepting applications from those aspiring to become physicians. The first cohort of 48 students will begin their studies at SFU's Surrey campus, with construction of the new medical school starting in late 2026 and slated to open for classes in Fall 2030.
- The Ministry of Health's strategic priorities for the next two years include implementing an ISAR Action Plan. The Ministry has submitted proposed Indigenous-specific racism actions to be considered to the draft Anti-Racism Act action plan that elevate specific work from the IPS report and reflect priorities identified in the Ministry's ISAR plan.

- ▶ A Métis Partnership Table with Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and the Province was established to advance Métis health and wellness priorities and address gaps in key priority areas. MNBC recently hosted Girls Gatherings with cultural teachings on mental health, as well as harm reduction gatherings in early 2025 that supported community connection and shared Métis approaches to harm reduction and healing.

Progress continues to be monitored through Action 3.7 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan.

Anti-Racism Initiatives

Anti-Racism Data Act

In June 2022, the provincial government introduced the *Anti-Racism Data Act* (ARDA; the Act). The Act enables government to collect, use and share demographic information such as Indigenous identity, race and ethnicity to better understand and eliminate systemic racism within government programs and services. Under the Act, the Province is required to determine research priorities to help guide government's approach to addressing systemic racism. ARDA Research Priorities for 2025-2027 were developed with First Nations, Métis Peoples, and the provincial Anti-Racism Data Committee. Since 2022, the Province has released research on education, health, racial diversity in the BC Public Service, representation on B.C.'s boards, and economic inclusion.

In May 2026, Government published its fourth annual anti-racism research findings. In January 2026, the Province published the Indigenous Identity Data Standard (IIS) and the Racial Identity Data Standard (RIS), as well as accompanying Guidelines under ARDA. The IIS provides a consistent and distinctions-based way to collect, use and share Indigenous identity data. This recognizes the unique identities of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and supports Indigenous data sovereignty and self-determination. The RIS supports a consistent and culturally safe approach to the collection, use and sharing of racial identity data. RIS includes a broad set of identity categories, such as race, ethnicity and religion to more accurately reflect the racial identities of people in B.C. The Province worked

with Indigenous Peoples, the Anti-Racism Data Committee and others, such as the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner and Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, to develop these standards.

Transportation and Connectivity Initiatives

BC Bus North

BC Bus North continues to operate with funding from the Province, providing safe, reliable, and affordable transportation between communities. In 2024/25, 15,951 passengers used BC Bus North, an increase of 10% over 2023/24 ridership.

In April 2025, the successful applicants of the fall 2024 intake of the Northern Community Shuttle Program were announced. Eight community-based shuttle services would benefit from \$1.3M over two years. The eight shuttle services include seven existing shuttles that received funding in previous intakes and one new provider, Yekooche First Nation, which began operating in summer 2025 connecting the community of Yekooche with Fort St. James, Vanderhoof and Prince George.

Highway 16 “Highway of Tears” Cellular Expansion Project

The provincial and federal governments are supporting a Rogers Communications project to provide 252 km of continuous cellular coverage between Prince Rupert and Smithers on Highway 16 – the Highway of Tears.

Rogers Communications Inc. received approval for up to \$4.5 million in joint funding from the Connecting British Columbia program and the federal Universal Broadband Fund to build 11 new cellular towers between Prince Rupert and Witset (formerly Moricetown).

As of December 2025, 10 out of 11 towers have been built and are operational providing coverage along 200 kms of Highway 16. Rogers plans to complete the project in 2026, closing gaps to ensure coverage along the entire 720-kilometre corridor. This will establish a safer environment for travel and fulfill one of the recommendations in the 2006 Highway of Tears Symposium report to enhance safety for Indigenous women and girls.

Nation-wide Strategies and Initiatives

Fourth Annual National Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ People

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2026, IN OTTAWA

The annual meeting organized by Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada brings together Indigenous leaders, Federal, Provincial and Territorial ministers and officials, with survivors and families, to discuss issues related to the shared responsibility to protect the lives, rights and inherent human rights of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQAI+ people.



Discussions to advance the [National Action Plan](#) and the [National Inquiry's](#) 231 Calls for Justice in 2026 focused on:

- Addressing the trafficking and sexual exploitation of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including through the work of Canada's Chief Advisor to Combat Human Trafficking and the renewal of the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, in partnership with Indigenous communities, survivors, and advocates.

- Exploring the Red Dress Alert, building on Manitoba's engagement work, including the recently released final report, for rapid, coordinated and culturally appropriate responses when Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people go missing.
- Developing stronger safety, prevention and mitigation measures throughout major resource projects (including a presentation by LNG Woodfibre and the Squamish Nation), along with Indigenous communities and partners, to address the increased risks Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people experience, particularly along major project corridors.

This year's Roundtable was co-hosted by Hilda Anderson-Pryrz, President of the National Family and Survivors Circle; Rebecca Alty, Federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations; and New Brunswick Minister responsible for Seniors and Women's Equality, Dr. Lyne Chantal Boudreau.

Federal Renewal of the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking



Announced in July 2024, the Federal Public Safety Canada has embarked on a renewal of the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking. The current National Strategy

(2019-2024) committed investment of \$57 million (2019-2024) and \$10.28 million annually beginning 2024/25 to new initiatives that included establishing a Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline to strengthen Canada's response. The current Strategy is grounded in five pillars: empowerment; prevention; protection; prosecution; and partnerships.

The renewal process focuses on how to ensure the approach remains modern, adaptable and responsive to the changing environment – and involves consultation with Province and Territories, survivors and key stakeholders. Priorities of the renewal included:

- Addressing all and emerging forms of human trafficking.
- Supporting populations experiencing increased risk.
- Employing international best practices and technological advancements.

Jennifer Richardson was announced as Canada's Chief Advisor to Combat Human Trafficking in January 2025 for a three-year term. Her role is to provide advice and recommendations to the Federal Minister of Public Safety on Canada's efforts to combat human trafficking and bring awareness both domestically and internationally. The Chief Advisor's expanded mandate includes working with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Indigenous partners to advance Calls for Justice respecting the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Chief Advisor has been undertaking strategic engagement with Provinces and Territories and met with B.C. government officials in November 2025. The Chief Advisor's engagement with the remaining Provinces and Territories will continue in Winter 2026, and the outcomes will inform her recommendations to the Federal government on addressing human trafficking in Canada.

Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime Report

In 2025, the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime published *Rethinking Justice for Survivors of Sexual Violence*. This report details a nationwide systemic

investigation that examined how survivors experience Canada's criminal justice system (CJS) and proposes reforms to address longstanding barriers. Its primary goal is to center survivors' voices, identify systemic failures, and recommend concrete reforms that uphold the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* (CVBR) and advance the implementation of the Calls for Justice.

The methodology involved an extensive mixed-methods process supported by qualitative and quantitative analysis of over 1,000 survivor survey responses, 107 survivor interviews, 450 stakeholder surveys, 36 consultation tables, 750+ court cases, and 300+ media articles.

B.C.'S CONTRIBUTIONS

British Columbia played an important role in the investigation, including through the provincial [systemic review led by Dr. Kim Stanton](#), to which 123 B.C. survivors and 93 stakeholders consented to contribute. Findings from this B.C. investigation align closely with the themes in the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime report: misuse of private records; retraumatizing court processes; and the need for trauma-informed, culturally-safe responses.

CONNECTION TO MMIWG CALLS FOR JUSTICE

The investigation is explicitly grounded in the 2019 MMIWG Calls for Justice, including Calls related to trauma-informed policing, Indigenous-led victim services, sustainable funding, culturally safe corrections, and distinctions-based data collection. Recommendations from this report map directly to these Calls (see Annex C of [Rethinking Justice for Survivors of Sexual Violence](#)).

MAJOR THEMES

Key themes include: chronic underreporting (only 6% nationally), widespread fear of disbelief, persistent myths and stereotypes, the impacts of *R v. Jordan*, invasion of therapeutic privacy, and uneven access to services – especially in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.

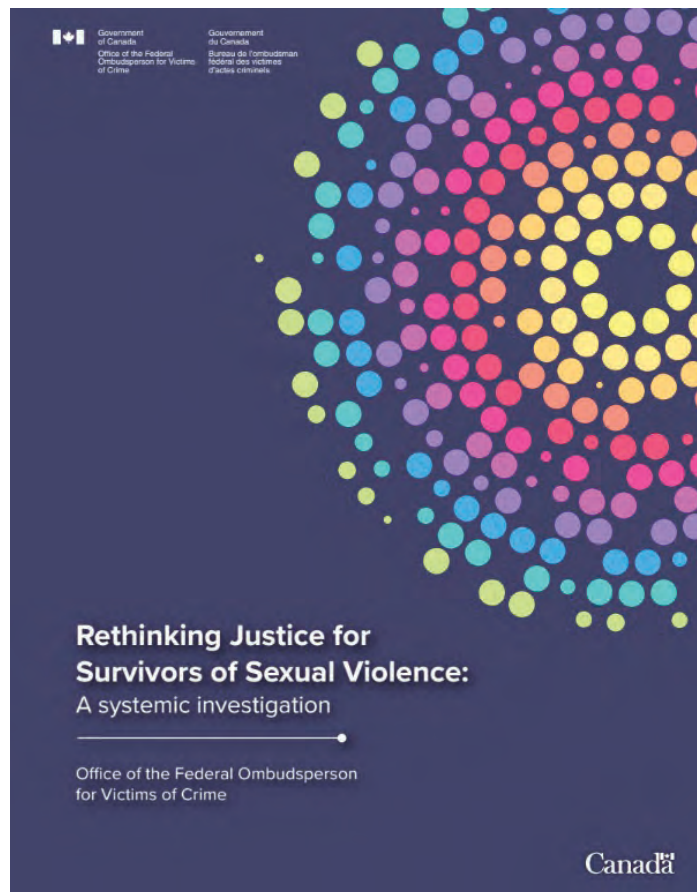
MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people face compounded harms due to racism, colonialism, and systemic bias. Survivors across B.C. and Canada reported fear of retaliation, economic vulnerability, and retraumatization through police practices, cross-examination, and records applications. The report concludes the criminal justice system is failing to ensure safety, dignity, and justice, especially for Indigenous and marginalized survivors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The report's first and overarching recommendation is to implement the MMIWG Calls for Justice. Other key recommendations include:

- Stop using 'KGB cautions' with survivors of sexual violence
- Ensuring trauma-informed police protocols.
- Guaranteeing independent legal advice.
- Strengthening privacy protections for therapeutic records.
- Making testimonial aids automatic.
- Supporting Indigenous-led and 2SLGBTQIA+-led services.
- Improving Sexual Assault Examination Kit (SAEK) access, including innovative tools like paceKit, piloted in B.C. to support survivors in remote and Indigenous communities.
- Reviewing restrictive policies that prohibit restorative justice processes for survivors of sexual assault.



Closing & Next Steps

This year's Path Forward Impact Report highlights the meaningful progress being led by Indigenous communities across British Columbia. From strengthened crisis response and culturally grounded healing programs to expanded youth, men's and 2SLGBTQIA+ initiatives, the work showcased throughout this report reflects determination, innovation, and deep community leadership. These successes demonstrate the impact of sustained, Indigenous-led approaches that honour lived experience, cultural knowledge, and local priorities.

As we look ahead, the call to action is clear: we must continue working together, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring communities have the long-term resources, flexibility, and support they need. Progress is underway, but lasting change depends on our collective effort to uphold safety, dignity, and justice for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE

A Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls support line is available to provide support for anyone who requires assistance at 1-844-413-6649. This line is available free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are a family member of an Indigenous person who is missing or has been murdered, the B.C. Family Information Liaison Unit can help you. Call 1-888-355-0064 or email BCFILU@gov.bc.ca.

A National Indian Residential School Crisis Line is available to provide support to former residential school students, who can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-Hour National Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419.

Support is also available through the Hope for Wellness Help Line for Indigenous Peoples at 1-855-242-3310 or through the online chat via the help line website at www.hopeforwellness.ca.

VictimLinkBC is a toll-free, confidential, multilingual service available across B.C. and the Yukon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be accessed by calling or texting 1-800-563-0808 or sending an email to 211-VictimLinkBC@uwbc.ca.

Appendix

Organization	Initiative	Amount
Renewed Projects		
DUDES Club Society	Reconnecting Our Men to Their Matriarchal Knowledge: Builds on the outcomes, learnings, and safety planning developed through DUDES Club Society's previous Path Forward Fund supported initiative. The project is scaling up to address the health and wellness of Indigenous and marginalized men who are absent from or reluctant to access health and social support systems.	\$200,000
Lillooet Friendship Centre	Engaging Community for Positive Change II: Provides a resource centre that is culturally safe and supportive space for survivors. Qualified staff support Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people in Lillooet and surrounding areas to access healing resources, empowerment opportunities and tools to address gender-based violence and support safety planning.	\$200,000
Métis Nation Greater Victoria	Walking in Wahkohtowin Continuing Our Work in a Good Way: The project centres on intentional, culturally grounded gatherings that strengthen connection, healing, and collective responsibility. Through traditional healing practices (sweat lodges, smudging, sharing circles, and land-based activities, self-defense education, and men's gathering). An Elders Table provides ongoing guidance, cultural teachings, and a safe, supportive space for those seeking wisdom and direction.	\$150,000
Nuu-chah-nulth Family and Child Services (NOFCS)	Fathers Support Program: The Fathers Support Program provides targeted support for fathers and their children as they work toward healthier relationships with their families. The project delivers relationship-based training programs for fathers and men, including anger awareness, healthy relationships, and attachment-based parenting education. By strengthening emotional awareness, parenting capacity, and relationship skills, the program promotes family wellness and contributes to the prevention of gender-based and family violence.	\$200,000
Okanagan Nation Alliance	You Empowered Strong (YES) Program: Through trainings, campaigns, and gatherings, the program addresses gender-based violence and sexual assault within the Syilx Nation through culturally grounded, trauma-informed practices. The project offers Syilx people opportunities to strengthen cultural connections while building individual and community capacity for prevention and response.	\$200,000
Prince George Friendship Centre	Outreach Counsellor Program: The Outreach Counsellor Program delivers individualized, client-centered counselling services with a strong focus on trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and cultural safety. The counsellor provides one-on-one sessions and group workshops across supportive housing units, shelters, and the Friendship Centre's healing centre.	\$200,000

Organization	Initiative	Amount
Stó:lō Service Agency	<p>Qwí:qwelstóm Wellness and Land-Based Healing: The Qwí:qwelstóm Wellness and Land-Based Healing program promotes holistic healing grounded in the interconnectedness of all living things and guided by S'í:wes te Siyolexwálh (ancestral teachings and upbringing). Qwí:qwelstóm wellness workers support Indigenous individuals at any stage of their healing journey. The program offers wraparound supports that address emotional, spiritual, physical, and mental well-being, including justice and wellness referrals, Elders' Panels, respectful relationships programming, day treatment, and quarterly workshops focused on wellness and justice.</p>	\$200,000
Support Network for Indigenous Women & Women of Colour	<p>Pathways to Safety Empowering Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA2S+ Communities Against Gender-Based Violence: This project creates clear and accessible pathways to safety for Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA2S+ individuals in Duncan by developing a comprehensive crisis resource map and personalized crisis response plans. Participants gain timely access to supports, services, and safety planning tools. The initiative delivers bi-monthly legal rights workshops, peer-led advocacy training, and survivor-led support groups.</p>	\$175,436
Squamish Nation	<p>Integrated Public Safety Strategy: Crime Prevention and Safety Planning: The Squamish Nation Integrated Public Safety Strategy ensures that community members, particularly those who are vulnerable or at risk, can access equitable supports and services that promote safety and well-being. The project focuses on the development of Squamish-led legal tools, including bylaws and policies, that reflect Squamish values and ways of being.</p>	\$200,000
Tillicum Lelum Friendship Centre	<p>Life Givers: The project recognizes the impacts of historical trauma and takes a holistic approach to wellness that honours "All Our Relations." Delivered through group and individual mentorship events, Life Givers is rooted in traditional culture and teachings as medicine. This trauma-informed, culturally safe initiative addresses violence and oppression impacting Indigenous women and gender-diverse people while supporting healing, resilience, and collective well-being.</p>	\$150,000
Tears to Hope Society	<p>Project 1: You Are Somebody Youth Conference – As I Am Workshop: Facilitated by Madelaine McCallum, this two-day workshop focuses on empowering girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth by strengthening self-worth, confidence, and self-acceptance. The workshop will meet youth where they are, supporting them to recognize their value, build resilience, and make healthier choices rooted in self-confidence and personal empowerment.</p>	\$150,000
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society	<p>Indigenous Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Healing Certificate Program: This project delivers a 24-month Indigenous Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Healing Certificate Program designed to empower Indigenous community members with the knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. The program will provide bi-weekly training sessions focused on violence prevention, equity, inclusion, and practical life skills such as résumé development, financial literacy, and self-advocacy.</p>	\$200,000
Wachiay Friendship Centre	<p>Reclaim Your Power: Through self-defense classes, this project aims to strengthen community safety and resilience through trauma-informed supports, cultural healing, and proactive violence prevention strategies. The initiative is rooted in Indigenous knowledge and community-led approaches to promote healing, empowerment, and long-term well-being.</p>	\$200,000

Organization	Initiative	Amount
New Projects		
BC Indigenous Housing Society	Addressing Gender-Based Violence Through a Full Circle Model: Develops and delivers wraparound programming that trains and equips staff with the skills, knowledge, and tools needed to identify, respond to, and prevent gender-based violence. The approach strengthens staff capacity to support individuals who are currently experiencing or have previously experienced gender-based violence, through advocacy training and workshops on gender-based violence prevention. These circles are led by Elders or Knowledge Keepers and incorporate traditional cultural practices to promote healing, connection, and safety.	\$153,500
Carrier Sekani Family Services	Inspiring Hope and Strength Through Billboards on Highway 16: This is a large-scale public awareness initiative through the installation of billboards along Highway 16, also known as the Highway of Tears. This project honours Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people and raises public awareness about the violence experienced along this corridor. The billboard campaign serves as both a memorial and a call to action, increasing visibility, encouraging dialogue, and reinforcing community responsibility to address and prevent violence against Indigenous peoples.	\$200,000
Carrier Sekani Family Services	Justice Outreach Worker: Funding supports an outreach worker, who fosters advocacy, education, and awareness through the Calls for Justice Outreach Worker program. The initiative works to disrupt harmful stereotypes and stigma while advocating for safety, systemic change, and improved policies within governmental and organizational systems that create barriers to justice for MMIWG2S+ peoples.	\$200,000
CEDARS R.I.S.E.	Empowering Resistance: A series of information sessions and interactive activities designed to raise awareness of gender-based violence. It supports participants in identifying healthy relationships, understanding family violence, strengthening communication skills, and recognizing the impacts of gender-based violence. By providing accessible education and community-based learning opportunities, the initiative builds a comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence and promotes prevention, resilience, and informed responses within the community.	\$200,000
Haisla Nation	A Comprehensive Approach to Address Gender-Based Violence in the Haisla Community: Implements self-defence training and personal boundaries sessions. Sessions are led by Indigenous trainers and include culturally grounded discussions on resilience and traditional practices that empower participants, particularly when it comes to healthy relationships and self-esteem.	\$200,000
Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society	Finding My Spirit: Employs a full-time anti-violence facilitator and a part-time cultural coordinator to add to the Family Violence Prevention Team. This initiative addresses violence against Indigenous peoples and provides tools for individuals who are abused. The team also works with abusers to provide support necessary.	\$200,000

Organization	Initiative	Amount
Kawatsi Consulting	Substance Use Emergency Response Planning: This project addresses acts of violence by targeting the underlying factors that contribute to harm, including trauma, substance use, and cycles of abuse. Kawatsi Consulting engages community members in a needs assessment, to assess needs, identify risks, and develop responsive strategies.	\$200,000
Kathleen Lounsbury, PhD Candidate	Indigenous Birthing Sovereignty: This phased dissertation project explores Indigenous Birthing Sovereignty and its role in strengthening families and communities through access to cultural teachings and practices. It examines how gender-based violence, obstetrical violence, and intimate partner violence impact Indigenous families during pregnancy, birth, and early parenting.	\$200,000
Lil'wat Nation Transition House	Stqakastumc Healing and Safety Training: The Stqakastumc-Lil'wat Nation Transition House delivers culturally safe, trauma-informed healing and safety training through prevention-focused education and awareness initiatives. A portion of the project focuses on renovating the Lil'wat Nation Outdoor School, a recently reacquired facility. These renovations enable the site to host land-based healing programs, mental health initiatives, and cultural gatherings, supporting long-term wellness and strengthening community connections to the land.	\$200,000
Loud Voice Society	Self-Determined Action Project to End Gender-Based Violence: This project delivers cultural workshops, healing circles, and outreach supports for Indigenous individuals and families impacted by gender-based violence. The initiative supports family reconciliation where appropriate and assists participants in navigating systems such as MCFD, policing, courts, and other child protection services. The focus is supporting pathways toward safety and recovery.	\$150,000
Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation	Healing Together Through Safety, Support, and Capacity Building: Held annually over a two-year period, provides culturally safe spaces for community members most impacted by gender-based violence to share their lived experiences, insights, and recommendations.	\$200,000
Nikihk Management and Community Development Society	Community Resource Toolkit and Healing Initiative: By hiring a Program Coordinator, this community-based initiative aims to enhance the safety of women and gender-diverse individuals who have experienced or are at risk of gender-based violence. The project hosts a series of healing events for community members affected by gender-based violence. Based on community-identified needs and priorities, it concurrently will develop an accessible resource toolkit that consolidates essential information, supports, and tools. This resource aims to support private healing, cultural practices, and ongoing safety planning for community members.	\$150,000
Parents Advocating Collectively for Kin Society	A Legacy of Love: Works alongside mothers and birthing parents who use or have used substances, recognizing the gendered impacts of the toxic drug crisis and the violence associated with the war on drugs. The project addresses the disproportionate risks faced by Indigenous women, including elevated rates of fatal overdose and the link between child apprehension and overdose deaths. Through advocacy, education, and community-led support, PAC(K) amplifies the voices of mothers and birthing parents, challenges unjust child apprehensions, and promotes safety, dignity, and justice for Indigenous families.	\$200,000

Organization	Initiative	Amount
Sekw'el'was First Nation	<p>Cátcal St'át'imc Lifting Up the St'át'imc People: The perpetrator prevention program is a course that addresses gender-based violence and intimate partner violence through a holistic, culturally grounded violence prevention approach. Central to this initiative is the annual Cátcal St'át'imc Domestic Violence Conference, a two-day gathering focused on prevention, education, and healing. The conference brings together participants from Sekw'el'was and neighbouring Northern St'át'imc Nations, including Tít'qet, Ts'kw'aylaxw, Tsalálh, Xaxli'p, and Xwísten First Nations.</p>	\$180,780
Splatsin Health Centre	<p>The Path Forward project delivers multiple violence prevention workshops in a safe, non-judgmental environment. These workshops create space for participants to explore experiences of violence and abuse within their own lives, families, and the broader Splatsin community.</p>	\$150,000
Takla Nation	<p>Takla Crisis Action Plan for MMIWG2S+: Develops a MMIWG2S+ Crisis Action Plan to support families of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people who are missing, at risk, or impacted by gender-based violence. The plan provides clear guidance for prevention, response, and community support.</p>	\$183,000
Tears to Hope Society	<p>Project 2: In Their Mocs and in Her Moccasins Training and Online Education Series: This two-day prevention-based workshop focuses on empowering girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth by strengthening self-worth, confidence, and self-acceptance. The workshop meets youth where they are, supporting them to recognize their inherent value, build resilience, and make healthier choices rooted in self-confidence and personal empowerment.</p>	\$200,000
T'sasala Cultural Group	<p>Community Voices Honouring Sacred Roles and Reclaiming Safety: A community-driven initiative led by the T'sasala Cultural Group in Alert Bay, British Columbia. The project addresses gender-based violence by revitalizing traditional Indigenous knowledge and restoring sacred roles within the community.</p>	\$142,360
Tseil-Waututh Nation	<p>We Are All Sacred: This project builds on existing Tseil-Waututh Nation programming for children, youth, parents, and Elders by expanding capacity in gender-based violence prevention and education services. The initiative includes training volunteers or hiring additional staff to support enhanced prevention and awareness activities. The initiative will integrate anti-violence curriculum into existing peer groups for youth, men, and women.</p>	\$200,000
Yun Yah Indigenous Society	<p>Holding On to Our People: aims to provide safe, culturally grounded spaces for ceremony, teachings, referrals, and support to address gender-based violence. The initiative will focus on education and workshops, combine traditional practices with contemporary, consistent methods to support healing and community connection.</p>	\$200,000
Yunesit'in Government	<p>Empower to Thrive: A Self-Determination Initiative to Address Gender-Based Violence: Through multiple community workshops, this initiative aims to empower Yunesit'in community members to acknowledge, address, and prevent gender-based violence through cultural education, community-led healing, and capacity building. The workshops focus on addressing the root causes of violence while strengthening resilience and self-determination.</p>	\$200,000