

Update on NWAC's MMIWG2S+ Action Plan

on Missing and Murdered Indigenous
Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and
Gender-Diverse (MMIWG2SG+) People

2023-24



L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

Native Women's
Association of Canada



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Update on NWAC's MMIWG2S+ Action Plan

on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse (MMIWG2SG+) People

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national Indigenous organization that promotes the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse (WG2STGD+) people across Turtle Island and Inuit Nunangat. NWAC, with our Provincial and Territorial Member Association partners, is dedicated to advocating and acting on ending the ongoing genocide of missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse People (MMIWG2S+). Our advocacy efforts include releasing our own action plan to end this genocide and begin the healing process for Indigenous WG2STGD+ people.

In [Our Calls, Our Actions](#) (June 2021), NWAC outlined 66 practical, measurable, and costed actions that we are taking to address the Calls for Justice outlined by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In previous years, NWAC published an annual scorecard to evaluate our progress towards ending the genocide. Last year, we reported progress on over 95% of our actions—a substantial increase from the previous year. This year, we simplified our reporting approach to provide a high-level examination of our actions over the past year and to highlight work done by our Provincial and Territorial Member Associations (PTMAs).



**Today, we are
thrilled to report
that we have
made progress
on each of the 66
actions outlined
in our action plan.**





Analysis of Progress

NWAC assessed actions and measurable landmarks outlined in our action plan to provide insight into the progress since we last released our scorecard on June 3, 2023. Our overall assessments are determined by how we met the measurable landmarks outlined in our action plan in seven key areas.



Culture and Language

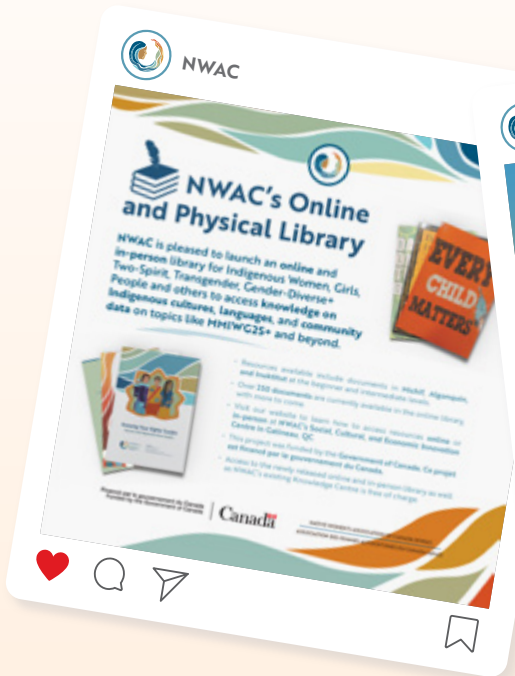
NWAC continued to prioritize the right of Indigenous WG2STGD+ people to access, participate in, and enjoy their culture. We had already met many of the priorities listed in this section in previous years through the development of culture and language programming. Over the last year, we continued to deliver on many of our projects and programs. For example, we:

- 🌀 **Engaged our Youth Council** in two virtual sessions to discuss Indigenous languages with the support and guidance of Indigenous language experts.
- 🌀 **Submitted five funding proposals** since June 2023 to continue supporting the development and delivery of culture and language programming.
- 🌀 **Received additional funding** in February 2024 to improve Indigenous language accessibility from Canadian Heritage, and project work has begun to enhance access to Indigenous languages, including through the development and delivery of events and workshops.






UPDATE ON NWAC'S
MMIWG2S+ ACTION PLAN





PTMA Highlights

Several PTMAs hosted healing and cultural gatherings throughout the year, including:

-  **Educational and cultural workshops** hosted by the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI (AWAPEI).
-  **An MMIWG2S+ healing gathering** hosted by the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNWA).
-  **An MMIWG sewing group and MMIWG sharing circles** coordinated by the Native Women's Association of NWT (NWANWT).





Health and Wellness

A central tenet of Our Calls, Our Actions was our ongoing commitment to supporting the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health and well-being of Indigenous WG2STGD+ people. This critical pillar is linked to many of the other fundamental aspects of our action plan and speaks to the need for culturally relevant and trauma-informed services. Last year, we reported that all actions in this category were complete or had achieved substantial progress through research, training, and dedicated online resources. This year, we continued to research and address health-related issues impacting Indigenous WG2STGD+ people through several notable projects titled:

- 🌀 **Perspectives on MAiD** Amongst Indigenous WG2STGD+ People in Canada.
- 🌀 **Building Health and Social Services Provider Capacity** to Provide Culturally Safe Care: An Approach to Reducing Harm and Removing Barriers for Indigenous Women and Gender-Diverse People Who Use Cannabis.
- 🌀 **Supporting Culturally Safe and Trauma-Informed** Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare for Indigenous WG2STGD+ People.
- 🌀 **In addition to these projects**, we ran four virtual healing workshops on human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Through these projects and workshops, we were able to leverage our expertise in health and wellness to support Indigenous WG2STGD+ people throughout their healing journey.



PTMA Highlights



The Newfoundland Native Women's Association (NNWA) collaborated with Meridian Holistic Health Centre to provide faceless doll kits for their art therapy and healing sessions.



Women of the Swift Flowing River – Cultural Network Inc. (WSFR-CNI) created MMIWG-related newsletters for their membership and attended the MMIWG New Dawn Conference in Regina.



Human Security

Since 2021, NWAC has recognized human security as a key element to ending the ongoing MMIWG2S+ genocide. We have consistently recognized and advocated for Indigenous WG2STGD+ people's right to security and the guarantee of protections for health, housing, access to water, food, employment, and education. Last year, we supported several key initiatives pertaining to human security, which has resulted in substantial progress on all actions in this category. For example, we:

- 🌀 **Submitted feedback to Statistics Canada** in June 2023 on tracking access to consistent and affordable high-speed internet in Indigenous communities.
- 🌀 **Continue to provide workshops and peer support sessions** to Indigenous WG2STGD+ entrepreneurs through #BeTheDrum—over 49 sessions hosted since June 2023.
- 🌀 **Hosted five Youth Council meetings** and supported the development of a Youth Council Strategic Plan since June 2023, and recently secured more funding for our Generation4Equality (G4E) program to continue supporting Indigenous youth.
- 🌀 **Completed a feasibility study** to support the development of our affordable and culturally appropriate housing model, and engaged in research on the Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy to provide the perspectives of Indigenous Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people on housing, and recently were approved to conduct research on urban Indigenous housing.
- 🌀 **Developed a national survey** in winter 2024 on the guaranteed basic income with the intention of conducting this survey over the next year.



PTMA Highlights



Amautiit: Nunavut Inuit Women's Association (NIWA) participated in the signing of Canada and Nunavut's gender-based violence action plan in Iqaluit.



NSNWA attended the in-person Technical Gathering to discuss First Nations women, girls, Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual people on safety and human security.



The British Columbia Native Women's Association (BCNWA) provided awards to Indigenous women who are making a difference related to the MMIWG2S+ crisis.



International

As a key part of our MMIWG2S+ advocacy, our international initiatives seek to promote awareness, build communities, and ensure accountability internationally. Actions under this priority area leverage our ability to advocate on behalf of Indigenous WG2STGD+ people at the international level. Since we released our action plan, NWAC's presence has grown immensely on the international stage. Last year, we attended several international events, including the United Nations 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women, the general assembly of the Organization of American States, COP28 (the UN Climate Change Conference), and the 23rd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Over the last year, we provided input to several international mechanisms through important submissions and meetings. This includes meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Professor Tomoya Obokata, as well as presenting submissions and input to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Canada's fourth Universal Periodic Review, and Canada's Beijing +30 Progress Report.

NWAC's recent international advocacy initiatives have been critical to promoting awareness on the issues facing Indigenous WG2STGD+ people. As a result, we have been able to complete all the actions under this priority area.



In addition to international events, NWAC has also become a welcomed voice for other international mechanisms.



Justice

A significant part of our action has been focused on addressing the Canadian justice system, and its disconnect with the needs and experiences of Indigenous Peoples. In response to this ongoing disconnect, NWAC has focused action on the police, courts, and the corrections system, which continue to inflict harm on Indigenous WG2STGD+ people.

Over the past year, we have made considerable progress in this area. For example, we:

- ☯ **Participated in preliminary consultations** with the federal government on the development of a Red Dress Alert System.
- ☯ **Supported MMIWG2S+ data collection** by participating in engagements related to the missing persons data standards consultation.
- ☯ **Met with the National Indigenous Policing Services Office** within the RCMP to discuss shared priorities and identify areas for future collaboration.

Since June 2023, NWAC has continued to develop helpful training materials and resources to support Indigenous WG2STGD+ people. We published the Know Your Rights: Policing Toolkit on our Safe Passage platform and hosted an engagement session, where the outcome will help us develop training toolkits on sexual misconduct and violence prevention for the Canadian Armed Forces and Department of National Defence.

Since June 2023, NWAC has continued to develop helpful training materials and resources to support Indigenous WG2STGD+ people. We published the Know Your Rights: Policing Toolkit on our Safe Passage platform.



NWAC's legal unit was also involved in extensive legal analysis and interventions. Over the last year, we made sure the voices of Indigenous WG2STGD+ people were heard by providing a mediation proposal grounded in Culturally-Relevant Gender-Based Analysis + (CRGBA+) and Indigenous restorative justice principles to resolve a 12-year long human rights complaint related to Indigenous corrections. We also analyzed and reported to Justice Canada on the implementation of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families.

PTMA Highlights



Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. (MMVI) advocated for the search of the Brady landfill, supported the families of Morgan Harris and Linda Beardy, and promoted the call-out for red dresses.



The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) worked with the Edmonton Police Service to identify the human remains of two Indigenous women from the mid-1970s.



The Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council (YAWC) supported the release of the implementation plan for Yukon's strategy on MMIWG2S+ and the subsequent annual accountability forum hosted by the Yukon Advisory Committee.



Public Awareness

Over the last year, NWAC has made it a priority of our public awareness initiatives to generate greater awareness of the MMIWG2S+ genocide. This has resulted in our ability to complete all the actions listed under this priority.

We undertook several initiatives to generate awareness of the ongoing MMIWG2S+ genocide across Canada. This includes several campaigns conducted over the past year to address racism and gender-based violence, including campaigns related to the genocide in Canada (June 2–30, 2023), the Sisters in Spirit vigil (October 4, 2023), 16 days of activism (November 25–December 10, 2023), and Red Dress Day (May 5, 2024).

We also developed resources and materials related to these public awareness campaigns for Indigenous WG2STGD+ people. For example, we:

- ☪ **Published a graphic publication** in June 2023 titled *Genocide in Canada: A Legal Explanation* to align with our genocide in Canada campaign, and are working with the author Fannie Lafontaine to adapt the report into an educational guide.
- ☪ **Published the CRGBA+ policy roadmap** last year and supported federal employees in their efforts to implement the CRGBA+ framework.
- ☪ **Published 24 issues of Kci-Niwesq** as of March 2024, including seven issues since June 2023.
- ☪ **Continued to expand on and revise the Safe Passage platform** by publishing five new toolkits; also received over 200 submissions on the Safe Passage reporting tool last year.



A cornerstone of our public awareness initiatives is our work with our PTMAs, which help support Indigenous WG2STGD+ people at the grassroots level. For example, we supported the PTMAs in developing proposals, provided 11 training sessions on such topics such as proposal writing, and held over 20 meetings with PTMA leadership to ensure that we capture their grassroots experiences and needs.

PTMA Highlights



Several PTMAs hosted Sisters in Spirit vigils in their region, including Keepers of the Circle, WSFR-CNI, IAAW, YAWC, and AWAPEI.



NNWA joined the MMIWG Say Their Name Gathering at Mikwite'tm Garden.



NIWA participated in the Red Dress Alert program discussions with the federal MMIWG Secretariat.



MMVI held a march for justice for Mackaylah Gerard-Roussin.



Keepers of the Circle hosted an Every Child Matters Powwow and a vigil on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.



BCNWA attended two MMIWG2S+ rallies in Vancouver and made 100 MMIWG2S+ skirts with their members.



Implementing and Monitoring NWAC's Action Plan

In addition to the 63 measurable and concrete actions listed under our other priorities, we also established our own implementation and monitoring commitments. Since June 2023, we successfully supported these actions through several initiatives. For example, we:

- 🌀 **Released our second annual report** on June 3, 2023, that outlined ongoing progress on our action plan (this is the third rendition of our annual progress report).
- 🌀 **Submitted over 40 funding proposals** to federal departments and agencies, of which 15 were approved.
- 🌀 **Engaged with over 50 public- and private-sector entities** to support shared priorities and identify future opportunities.

Through ongoing implementation and monitoring efforts, continued to identify future pathways to bring an end to the ongoing MMIWG2S+ genocide. Despite each action under this priority being previously completed, we recognize the ongoing nature of every action in this category.

In addition to the 63 measurable and concrete actions listed under our other priorities, we also established our own implementation and monitoring commitments.





UPDATE ON NWAC'S
MINDSISE- ACTION PLAN



Moving Forward

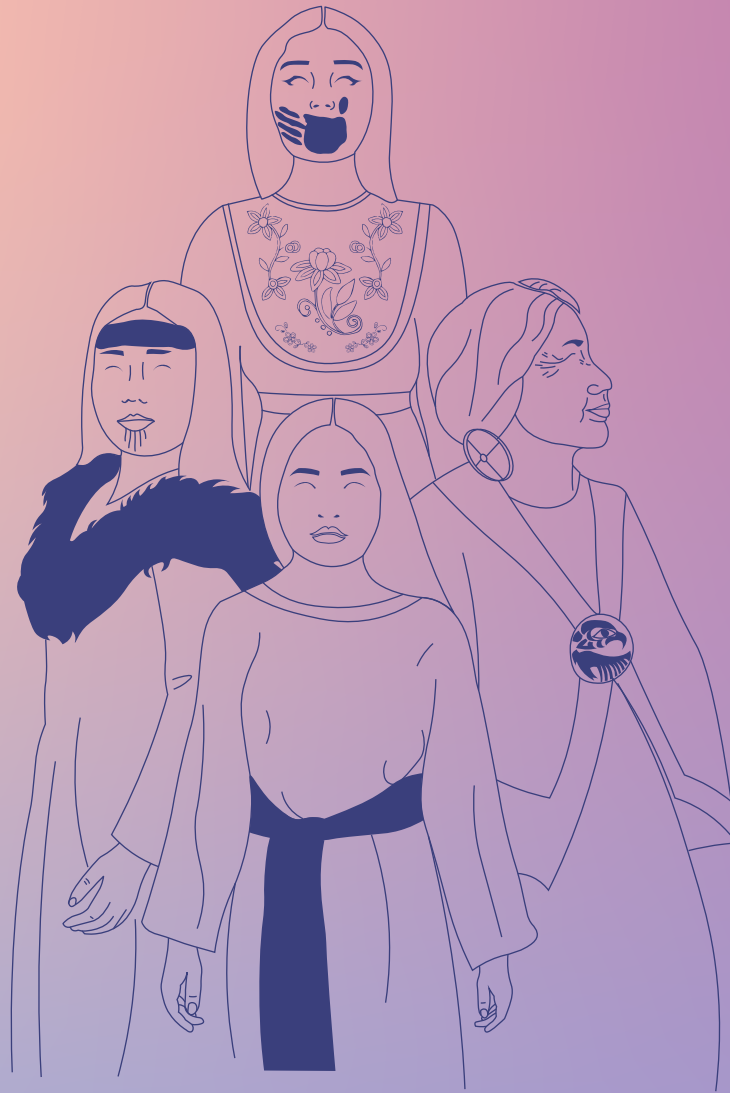
Over the past year, NWAC has made considerable progress in advancing and addressing all the actions outlined in [Our Calls, Our Actions](#). Central to this work has been the continuation of critical research, grassroots advocacy, and ongoing capacity building with PTMAs.

Over the past year, we made substantial progress or fully completed all 66 of our actions. Although many of these actions require ongoing work, the fact that this work has been completed represents a major step in addressing the pathways to violence outlined by the National Inquiry into MMIWG and ending the ongoing genocide.

However, we know our work is not done.

We are committed to continuing our work to address the ongoing MMIWG2S+ genocide and upholding the rights of Indigenous WG2STGD+ people. We are committed to continued action to ensure the **safety, independence, and self-determination** of Indigenous WG2STGD+ people across Canada.





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