



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

NWAC's National Roundtable
on Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls

Highlights of the Key Findings & Recommendations



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NWAC'S Work on MMIWG

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a leading political voice of Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people and has made an important contribution to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

In September 2016, the Government of Canada officially launched the National Inquiry in order to identify the systemic social, political, and economic issues that have led to gender-based violence toward Indigenous women and girls.

Given its community-based and widespread grassroots reach, NWAC was strategically positioned to provide insights to the Inquiry.

NWAC made important contributions to the National Inquiry through **Sisters in Spirit**—a foundational research initiative that thoroughly and respectfully documented cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people.

NWAC provided sixty-one recommendations, grouped into six priority areas, to the National Inquiry during the Inquiry process.

Many of these recommendations are reflected in the Inquiry's final report entitled, ***Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls***, which was released in June 2019.

The final report from NWAC's National Roundtable emphasized that priority setting and the implementation that follows must be led by Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people and it is here where NWAC's work continues to be central.



NWAC'S National Roundtable

- Over 65 participants attended NWAC's National Roundtable on January 18th and January 19th, 2020.
- The objective was to engage Indigenous communities so that they could identify key priority areas in response to the 231 Calls for Justice outlined in the final report of the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)*.

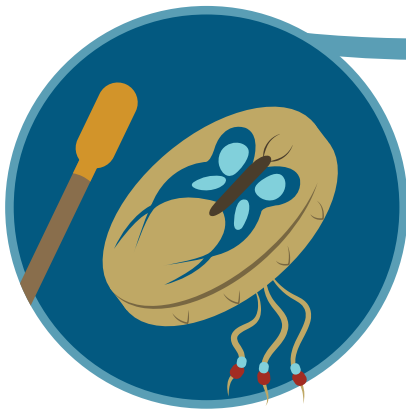


NWAC's Final Report on its National Roundtable

- NWAC's report establishes the steps necessary to successfully implement a National Action Plan based on the Roundtable responses.
- Findings from NWAC's National Roundtable, with participants from across Turtle Island and Inuit Nunangat, reveal numerous key priority areas.
- Some of the findings align with the six priority areas outlined by NWAC's Sisters in Spirit initiative and/or specific Calls for Justice in the Inquiry's Final Report.
- Other findings add to the existing 231 Calls, revealing some gaps as well as providing important suggestions on how to ensure that the National Action Plan is implemented based on a comprehensive and appropriate framework.

The final report from NWAC's National Roundtable provides the key priority areas highlighted by the Native Women's Association of Canada's Provincial and Territorial Member Associations (PTMAs) to inform the Government of Canada's 2020 National Action Plan.

Six Key Findings from NWAC'S National Roundtable



1. Identify priorities thematically rather than temporarily

PTMAs prioritized the Calls according to theme (e.g., policing, the education system) rather than in terms of short- vs. long-term. Most PTMAs saw the Calls as equally important and as requiring both immediate and continued action.

2. Reinforce existing priority areas

Reinforce the priority areas emerging from NWAC's Sisters in Spirit initiative as well as the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice.

3. Support Indigenous women's reoccupation of valued roles in their communities

Political, social, and cultural changes must be made so that Indigenous women can reoccupy the valued roles they had in their communities prior to colonization.

4. Accountability is key

Holding federal governments accountable is critical to ensuring the National Action Plan and related activities are adequately implemented through community-driven consultation and implementation processes rather than through government directives and agencies.



5. Understanding the context is essential for sustainable change

PTMAs called on decision-makers to take into account Indigenous realities when interpreting and applying laws and policies, particularly those that pertain to education systems and law enforcement.

6. Address the "isms" by changing laws and educating the public

The regions' priorities signal the need to change laws and policies across industries and service sectors (e.g., transportation, health care) while simultaneously educating the public (e.g., public awareness campaigns). This dual approach is needed to mitigate the impacts of racism, sexism, and homophobia on Indigenous communities.

Six Key Recommendations for the 2020 Nation Action Plan



1. Build on NWAC's Sisters in Spirit initiative

Build on the recommendations made by NWAC's Sisters in Spirit initiative, especially by taking a families-first approach and instigating widespread legislative and institutional changes.

2. Fund Indigenous initiatives directly and equitably

Provide permanent, direct, and equitable funding for Indigenous initiatives that are already addressing MMIWG, and related issues, at the grassroots level.

3. Employ a human rights-based approach

Employ a human rights-based approach to ensure Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people's rights to life, liberty, and security of the person, as laid out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and international declarations such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).



4. Simultaneously address short- and long-term needs and regional realities

Develop an Action Plan that simultaneously addresses short- and long-term needs as well as those that reflect local, provincial/territorial, and national realities.

5. Interconnect, rather than rank, priorities

Interconnect, rather than prioritize or rank, each of the 231 Calls for Justice in the National Action Plan (e.g., grouping Calls together in sets, as already laid out in the Inquiry's Final Report).

6. Fund NWAC to monitor progress made on the National Action Plan

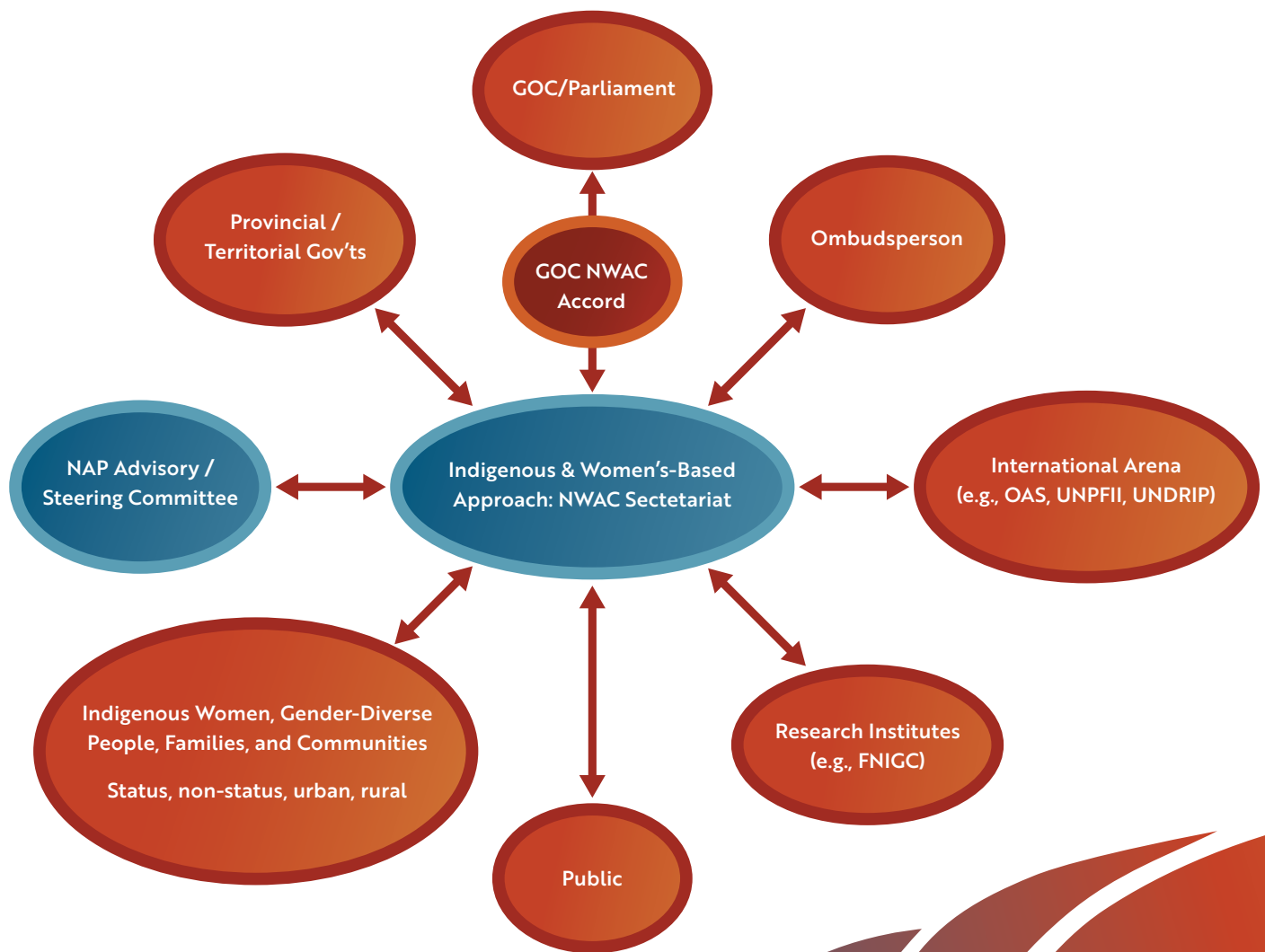
- establish a Secretariat with permanent NWAC staff mandated to monitor and evaluate the progress made to reduce systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls;
- establish an Advisory/Steering Committee to support the work of the Secretariat;
- prepare an annual report on the work of the Secretariat, which will include the progress made on the National Action Plan and the recommendations moving forward; and
- table the annual report to CIRNAC Minister and/or to Parliament.



The Nation Action Plan Ecosystem

Figure 1 illustrates where NWAC's proposed Secretariat and the Advisory/Steering Committee would be located in the broader socio-political ecosystem of stakeholder groups involved in the National Action Plan.

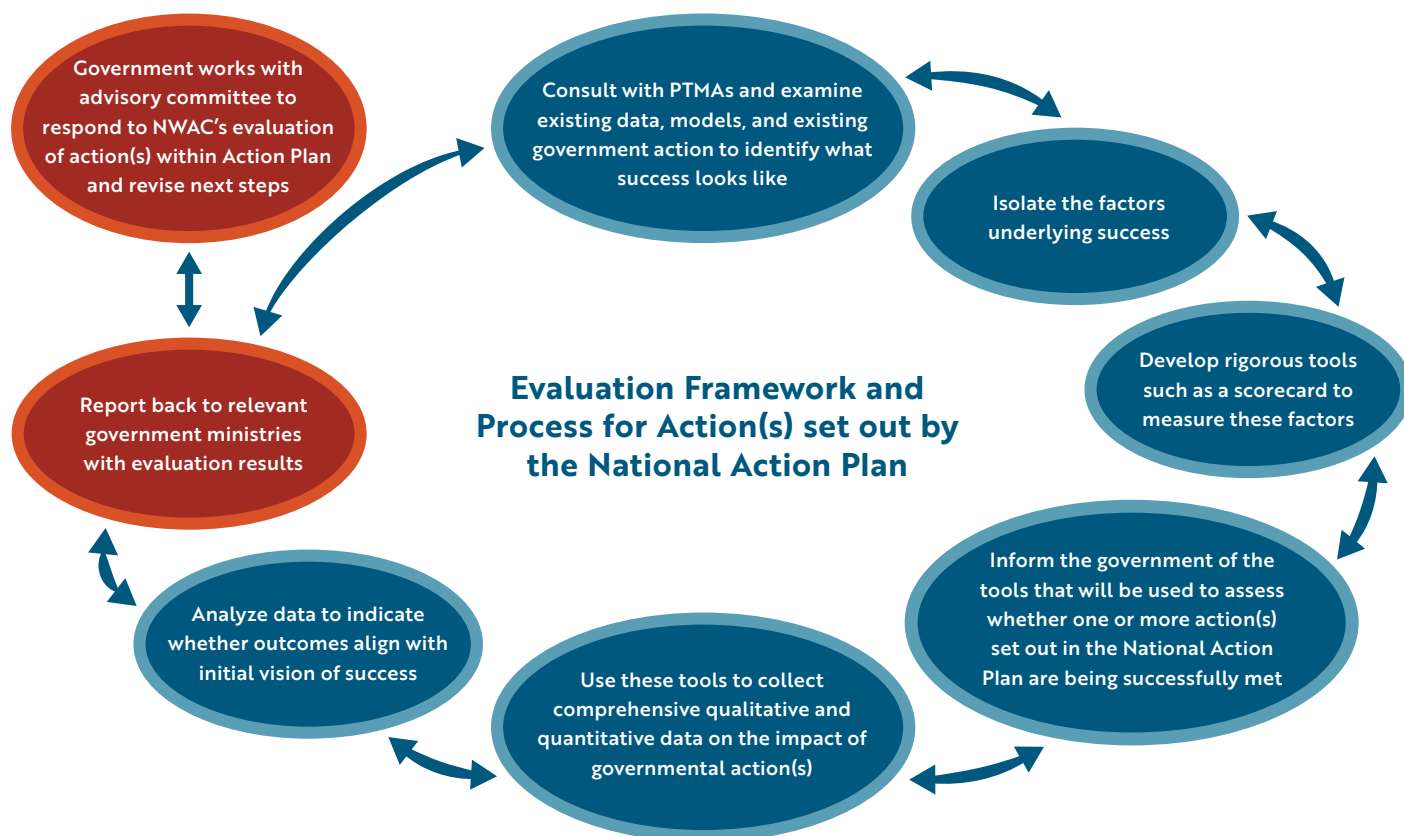
Figure 1: NAP Ecosystem



NWAC'S Proposed Evaluation Framework and Process

Figure 2 lays out the evaluation framework and process that NWAC would use in order to determine whether an action or set of actions laid out in the National Action Plan are meeting their intended objectives. i.e. Are the action(s) improving the life outcomes of Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse people, their families, and their communities?

Figure 2: NWAC's Evaluation Framework and Process



NOTE: "Success" is determined by Indigenous communities and can take many measurable forms.

The key findings, recommendations, and actionable next steps derived from NWAC's National Roundtable emphasize that complex and systemic problems require comprehensive and adaptable solutions. While some issues can be addressed immediately, others may require sustained action.

Any approach to addressing the issues related to MMIWG must respect Indigenous human rights. Such an approach must also incorporate the expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse

people with lived experience of violence and marginalization. As experts, they have a valuable and important perspective when it comes to advancing the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice.

As the only distinctions-based, national Indigenous organization specializing in gender advocacy, NWAC should remain a central part of the ecosystem needed to address the systemic inequalities that face Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, their families, and their communities.