

THE PATH TO RECONCILIATION ACT

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

PREPARED BY
MANITOBA INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION AND NORTHERN RELATIONS

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

Executive Summary: The Path to Reconciliation in Manitoba

The Path to Reconciliation Act recognizes that Manitoba is situated on the traditional lands and territories of Indigenous peoples. The Act also recognizes that the Manitoba government benefited and continues to benefit from the historical relationships and treaties with Indigenous peoples and Indigenous nations. The Manitoba government further recognizes that Indigenous peoples in Canada have been subject to a wide variety of human rights abuses that have caused great harm since European contact. Through legislation, we recognize that reconciliation is founded on respect for Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples and their history, languages and cultures, and that reconciliation is necessary to address colonization.

Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations is pleased to present the sixth Path to Reconciliation Annual Progress Report. The report focuses on the themes of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC's) 94 Calls to Action, which seek to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.

This report is subdivided into two broad categories based on the status of current and previous initiatives. The first half of this report focuses on new efforts undertaken by the Manitoba government between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021; while the second half focuses on previously reported or ongoing activities initiated prior to April 1, 2020.

The Manitoba government reports on its actions following the two broad categories of 'Legacies' and 'Reconciliation,' presented by the TRC in its final report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. A third category of 'Other Reconciliatory Activities' is included and lists a number of initiatives that further reconciliation outside of the TRC's Calls to Action. Due to the unprecedented circumstances of 2020/21, a special section on initiatives related to COVID-19 has also been added.

The section on Legacies outlines the Manitoba government's efforts to address the disparities that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Manitoba's social, political and economic systems and institutions. We have collaborated with many different service providers and organizations to address gaps in the areas of child welfare, education, health, justice, language and culture.

The section on Reconciliation highlights our work to establish and maintain mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and to create a more equitable and inclusive society. The Manitoba government, in partnership with many other organizations, have taken action towards reconciliation under many of the themes outlined in the TRC's Calls to Action.

The final section of this report discusses looking forward, and how the Manitoba government will continue to build on the progress it has made towards reconciliation in the province. Our government remains committed to continued engagement with Indigenous nations and peoples to guide the work and the development of a reconciliation strategy in our province.

Background

On June 2, 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) released its report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, which included 94 Calls to Action directed to governments, churches, organizations and all Canadians. The TRC released a final report on December 15, 2015.

In March 2016, the Manitoba government passed The Path to Reconciliation Act, with unanimous support in the Manitoba Legislature. The Act sets out the government's commitment to advancing reconciliation, guided by the TRC's Calls to Action and the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Our understanding of reconciliation refers to the ongoing process of establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; to build trust, affirm historical agreements, address healing, and create a more equitable and inclusive society. Guiding our government's efforts towards reconciliation are the principles of respect, engagement, understanding and action that are outlined as follows:

Respect: Reconciliation is founded on respect for Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples. Respect is based on awareness and acknowledgement of the history of Indigenous peoples and appreciation of their languages, cultures, practices and legal traditions.

Engagement: Reconciliation is founded on engagement with Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples.

Understanding: Reconciliation is fostered by striving for a deeper understanding of the historical and current relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and the hopes and aspirations of Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples.

Action: Reconciliation is furthered by concrete and constructive action that improves the present and future relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Manitoba's commitment to reconciliation has a particular focus on addressing the persistent and long-standing negative impacts of residential schools and reconciling relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Manitoba. The work of the TRC and the courage of survivors who shared their experiences serve as an important catalyst for change. Since reconciliation has a long history in Manitoba, our efforts are also guided by best practices and the partnerships developed over time with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis communities, and by work with Indigenous organizations and governments.

The Path to Reconciliation Act establishes a transparent mechanism to monitor and evaluate the measures taken by the Manitoba government to advance reconciliation, including the measures taken to engage Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples in the reconciliation process. As mandated by this legislation, Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations publishes an annual report on the government's activity to further reconciliation. Throughout this report, a collective responsibility is demonstrated through the many partnerships between the Manitoba government, Indigenous communities and organizations, and the private and not-for-profit service providers that work together to promote reconciliation in Manitoba. As the TRC emphasizes, establishing a collective responsibility is essential for reconciliation to right past wrongs, to heal, and to progress towards reconciled nations.

A Note on Terminology

In the context of this report, 'Indigenous nations' and 'Indigenous peoples' are inclusive terms for the original nations and peoples of North America and their descendants, which include: First Nations, Metis, Inuit and those of Indigenous descent who do not identify as one of these three distinct peoples. The term, 'Indigenous' has come to replace 'Aboriginal' in recent years, but some pre-existing programs still use the term 'Aboriginal' in their naming conventions. The reference to Indigenous nations' and 'Indigenous peoples' is an inclusive term, but we recognize and acknowledge the unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs of the distinct nations and peoples.

The term, 'Aboriginal' is still used in legal contexts, referring to people with specific legal rights under the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The Canadian constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal peoples: Indians (more commonly referred to as First Nations), Metis and Inuit. These are three distinct peoples with unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

First Nation(s): Status and non-Status Indigenous peoples in Canada identified by different cultural, national or linguistic groups who are neither Metis nor Inuit. For example, First Nations linguistic groups indigenous to Manitoba include Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, Ojibway-Cree, and Dene. The term First Nation came into common usage in the 1970's to replace the term 'Indian,' which many find offensive due to its incorrect origin, and connections to discriminatory and colonial policies under the *Indian Act*.

Metis: For purposes of section 35 rights, the term Metis refers to distinctive peoples who, in addition to their mixed First Nation and European ancestry, developed their own customs, and recognizable group identity separate from their First Nation and European forebears. It should be noted that the term *Metis peoples* refers to all individuals of mixed Indigenous and non-Indigenous ancestry, while *The Métis* refers exclusively to Indigenous peoples of mixed First Nations-French or Inuit-French ancestry. A Metis community is a group of Metis peoples with a distinctive collective identity, living together in the same geographical area and sharing a common way of life.

Inuit: Indigenous peoples in Northern Canada, who come from Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Northern Labrador. The word Inuit means 'the people' and the word Inuk is the singular term for Inuit. Inuktitut is their language.

Introduction

The sixth *Path to Reconciliation Act Annual Progress Report* follows the themes presented in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. We present our progress towards reconciliation according to the TRC's 94 Calls to Action that seek to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation in Canada. This report includes a summary of new actions taken by the Manitoba government and our partners between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, as well as a summary of previously reported and ongoing activities. This report is composed of eight sections:

New Initiatives

- 1) Calls to Action #1-42: Legacies
- 2) Calls to Action #43-94: Reconciliation
- 3) Other Reconciliatory Actions
- 4) COVID-19 Initiatives

Ongoing Initiatives

- 5) Calls to Action #1-42: Legacies
- 6) Calls to Action #43-94: Reconciliation
- 7) Other Reconciliatory Actions
- 8) Looking Forward

Each section in this report summarizes the actions taken to address the various calls to action outlined by the TRC. Engagement with Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples is key to our efforts towards reconciliation and it is reflected in the actions outlined under each theme.

Due to the challenges faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic a number of initiatives, funding opportunities, and projects were initiated or extended. Other funded projects experienced a necessary change of scope due to public health and safety measures. Additional information about the Government of Manitoba's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how it has been delivered within the spirit of reconciliation is detailed in the COVID-19 Responses section.

Calls to Action: Legacies - New Initiatives

This section focuses on addressing the legacy of impacts from residential schools on Indigenous peoples and the resulting disparities that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Manitoba's social, political, and economic systems and institutions.

Child Welfare

TRC Calls to Action: #1-5

In Manitoba, a disproportionate number of children in the care of Child and Family Services (CFS) are Indigenous. These numbers correspond with the circumstances in which many Indigenous families are living and are associated with the legacy of colonization, residential schools, and loss of cultural identity. These calls to action require governments to:

- Reduce the number of Indigenous children in care;
- Report on the number of Indigenous children in care and total spending on preventative services;
- Implement Jordan's Principle; and
- Provide culturally relevant care and enact legislation affirming the right of Indigenous governments to maintain their own child welfare agencies.

Progress to Date:

Actions to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care include:

- Provided \$500,000 in funding support to the Indigenous-led Winnipeg Boldness Project to foster social innovation for improved health and wellness for children and families in the Point Douglas area. The Winnipeg Boldness Project uses a community-driven approach to improve outcomes for children. The support will enable continued partnership with child welfare transformation initiatives, Granny's House and the Community Helpers Initiative.
- Provided \$5.6 million in support to the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association to support the creation of the Rent Back pilot program. Through partnerships with community organizations End Homelessness Winnipeg and SEED Winnipeg, the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association was able to provide fast access, interest-free, one-time loans to support stable housing for low- to moderate-income families. Rent banks have been proven effective in helping to prevent homelessness.
- Supported the creation of the *Community Helpers - Nagikueng Abinojiik* emergency response service for families living in Winnipeg's North End neighbourhood. This 24-hour Indigenous-led program works to reduce child welfare involvement and keep families together by increasing stability for families and caregivers, and improving both individual and family wellness. The initiative deploys paid community members, known as Community Helpers, to provide immediate, culturally-based community support, including mental health and addictions system navigation support, mobile crisis team intervention, brief treatment

therapy, and a 24-hour crisis line. The program is delivered in partnership through Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Macdonald Youth Services, and Fearless R2W.

- Supported the creation and implementation of *Wahbung Abinoojik: The Community Helpers* initiative. This program works to deliver 24/7 culturally-relevant, needs-based services to address situations where children and youth are at risk of having to leave their family or CFS placement. The Community Helper team works with trained volunteers to provide support for families through immediate crisis assistance, and collaborative planning to address longer-term needs.
- Provided support to the Community Addiction Response Team, which connects at-risk Metis families facing mental health or addictions challenges, or are involved with CFS, to family mentors, enabling access to services to prevent apprehension by CFS. The goal is to keep families together while supporting the recovery journeys of parents and caregivers. This program operates in partnership with the Metis CFS Authority.

Prevention and culturally relevant activities:

- Invested nearly \$400,000 to support the expansion of the Mothering Project at Mount Carmel Clinic. The Mothering Project works to keep families together by connecting vulnerable mothers with the services and supports they need, and provides a proactive route to reducing the number of children in care. The increased support programming through the Mothering Project is part of Manitoba's strategy to replace the use of birth alerts with preventative and community-based supports for families.
- Provided support to Granny's House, a community initiative providing 24/7 respite services to families from the North End of Winnipeg who are at risk of involvement with the child welfare system. Priority supports are given to Indigenous families, and the goals of the program are to improve mental wellness for parents and caregivers and reduce child welfare involvement for participating children and families.

Reporting on the number of children in care:

- Manitoba contributed to the Provincial-Territorial Indigenous Children and Youth in Care Working Group's 2020 Report on Indigenous Children and Youth in Care. This report was a point-in-time snapshot of data on Indigenous children in care, and demonstrated the significant challenges of comparing data between jurisdictions. The report was shared with Canada in April 2021. Manitoba saw a reduction of 3.6 per cent in 2017/18 in the number of children in care from the previous year, the first reduction in 15 years. Numbers from March 31, 2018 showed that family reunifications increased by more than eight per cent across Manitoba and apprehensions decreased by more than nine per cent from March 31, 2017.

Jordan's Principle:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Child welfare legislation:

- Supported the application of the national standards respecting the provision of CFS to Indigenous children.
- Supported the development of a training curriculum for foster parents caring for Indigenous children that focuses on cultural sensitivity and connection in partnership with CFS Authorities and Partners.

Education

TRC Calls to Action: #6-12

Manitoba is seeking to address the legacy of colonialism on the educational success of Indigenous peoples through the delivery of educational supports for youth and adults across Manitoba. Lower rates of educational achievement among First Nations, Metis and Inuit youth can be linked to the legacy of the impacts of colonialism such as experiences of poverty, unstable housing and health, and family violence. The legacy of impacts also affects the educational achievement and employment success of adults, including survivors and subsequent generations.

Although these calls to action are directed at the federal government, the Manitoba government has addressed many relating to:

- Eliminating educational and employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians;
- Eliminating and reporting on the discrepancy in funding between First Nations children educated on- and off reserve; and
- Developing culturally appropriate curricula, protecting languages and creating culturally appropriate early education programs.

Progress to Date:

Eliminating education and employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians:

- Provided over \$1.0 million in project funding for initiatives related to economic development, capacity building, and the preservation of lakes and fisheries in Northern Manitoba through the Indigenous and Northern Initiatives Fund (INIF). The INIF financially supports projects designed to improve Indigenous well-being.
- Provided Employment Assistance Services through the Service Provider Reporting Solution. This project offers employment assistance services such as resume and cover letter development, job interview preparation, labour market information and job development and matching. These services are offered through the Cross Lake Resource Center, Wabowden Employment and Training Resource Centre, Thicket Portage Resource Centre, and Lynn Lake Regional Resource Centre.

- Manitoba Education released the report from the Commission on K to 12 Education and the Better Education Starts Today: Putting Students First Strategy, which was developed in response to the TRC's recommendations. This strategy outlines actions to be taken over the next five years and beyond, including:
 - Developing an Indigenous Inclusion Strategy
 - Creating an Elders and Knowledge Keepers Initiative
 - Enhancing age-appropriate teaching on residential schools
 - Closing the achievement gap for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students
 - Increasing Indigenous students' graduation rate, which is 51% as of 2019.
 - Working across governments, faculties of education and within the K to 12 system to create a comprehensive school staff recruitment and retention strategy to address workforce needs in rural, remote and northern communities, and address limited supplies of Indigenous languages teachers.

Eliminating and reporting on the discrepancy in funding between First Nations children educated on and off reserve:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Improving education attainment levels and success rates:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Developing culturally appropriate curricula, protecting languages, and creating culturally appropriate early education programs:

- Developed the *Manitoba Remote Learning Repository* (2021), ensuring that resources posted to the repository, used by teachers and parents during times of remote learning due to the pandemic, included Indigenous perspectives. Some examples include:
 - Kindergarten: *Learning from the Land*;
 - Grade 1: *Louis Riel Day and The Metis Inquiry Project*;
 - Grade 3: *Indigenous Peoples of the World*;
 - Grade 4: *All about Treaties* and *St. Laurent: A Living Culture*;
 - Grade 5: *Three Sisters* (Indigenous agriculture); and
 - Grade 6: *Residential Schools System*.
- A Grade 9 Indigenous Languages and Cultures course began the pilot phase with school divisions and a First Nations school. Elder representations of Cree, Ojibwe, Ojibwe-Cree, Dakota, Dene, Inuktitut, Michif were included in the development process. Future development of Grade 10-12 courses is planned to begin in 2021.

Supporting parents to participate in the education of their children:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Language and Culture

TRC Calls to Action: #13-17

Colonization and the residential school system have affected the sense of identity for many survivors and subsequent generations of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. We recognize that connections to language, culture and heritage are essential, especially for youth, to reclaim identity and connection to community and society. These foundational first steps in reclaiming First Nations, Metis and Inuit identity and promoting an understanding of their languages, cultures and heritage, support the journey of reconciliation.

These calls to action are directed primarily at the federal government, but Manitoba has taken steps in the spirit of the calls to action to support Indigenous languages and culture. Actions within this theme emphasize the preservation and reclamation of Indigenous languages and supporting culture and heritage.

Progress to Date:

Supporting the preservation and reclamation of culture and Indigenous languages:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Health

TRC Calls to Action: #18-24

This section calls on all levels of government to acknowledge how the legacy of colonialism and residential schools have led to poor health outcomes for Indigenous peoples. These calls to action address:

- Closing the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations;
- Recognizing and using Indigenous healing practices;
- Improving cultural competencies; and
- Increasing the number of Indigenous professionals in the health care system.

Please note that measures and initiatives specific to COVID-19 are detailed in the COVID-19 Responses section of this report.

Progress to Date:

Closing the gap in health outcomes:

- Invested \$675,000 in PAX Dream Makers, a youth-led mental health and addictions initiative empowering youth to take on leadership roles within their communities to promote peace, health, happiness and productivity. This initiative has resulted in youth-led outreach projects in Pukatawagan, Norway House, Chemawawin, and Rolling River School Division. Support for PAX Dream Makers also aligns with recommendations made in the VIRGO report to expand mental health and addictions supports within communities. The funding is provided over three years.
- Expanded the Integrated Youth Services by creating five new Youth Hubs in Winnipeg, Selkirk and Brandon. The two Winnipeg hubs are respectively led by and partnered with Ka Ni Kanichihk and Eagle Urban Transition Centre, and the Selkirk hub was created by Peguis First Nation and services Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from Selkirk, Peguis First Nation, and other Interlake communities.
- Provided new annual funding in the amount of \$300,000 to WE24, a community safe drop-in space operated by Spence Neighbourhood Association. The annual funding allows WE24 to expand to a 24-7 drop-in service.
- Provided over \$88,000 to End Homelessness Winnipeg, an Indigenous-led organization, to assist provincially funded family violence agencies in implementing the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System, developed by the federal government. The Homeless Individuals and Families Information Systems will enable family violence agencies to better assist family violence survivors who have unique housing needs as well as challenges in accessing social housing programs. The system will lead to improved access and outcomes for those accessing shelter services.
- Distributed municipal funding to Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Morden, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, The Pas, Thompson and Winkler to address the housing needs of vulnerable Manitobans. Each municipality will be able to create tailored programming to best address the housing affordability and development needs of their communities.
- Expanded the eligibility criteria and supply of the high-dose influenza vaccine to include those living on a First Nation or remote community, and those who live north of the 53rd parallel of latitude.
- Continued investment in the development of a number of Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine Clinics in locations throughout Manitoba, including one in the north. This new model will serve all Manitobans including Indigenous persons both on and off reserve. Services are to be delivered by the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Regional Health Authorities and other regional resources such as Indigenous communities.

Culturally appropriate health care services:

- Supported communal capacity building to develop a culturally appropriate environment for future healing services to operate in partnership with the Clan Mothers.
- Please refer to the COVID-19 Responses section for more information on progress on these Calls to Action.

Culturally appropriate training and increasing the number of Indigenous professionals in the health care system:

- Please refer to the COVID-19 Responses section for information on progress on these Calls to Action.

Justice

TRC Calls to Action: #25-42

The high incarceration rates of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples can be linked to colonization, the harmful actions experienced by children in residential schools, and intergenerational trauma. The largest proportion of the calls to action fall under the justice theme. The calls to action directed at provincial governments include:

- Eliminating the overrepresentation of Indigenous adults and youth in custody;
- Providing culturally relevant services to offenders;
- Finding alternatives to imprisonment and recognizing Indigenous justice systems;
- Addressing the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD); and
- Adequately funding Indigenous-specific victim services programs.

Progress to Date:

Eliminating the overrepresentation of Indigenous adults and youth in custody:

- The Manitoba Government instituted the government-wide Balanced Scorecard initiative. The Balanced Scorecard initiative will allow Manitobans to track government's progress towards key strategic objectives, including advancing reconciliation. Manitoba Justice has implemented a measure tracking the per capita incarceration rates of Indigenous persons in custody in order to measure progress towards reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous persons in provincial custody. A per capita incarceration rate is also calculated for Manitoba's non-Indigenous population, and the two are compared. Progress will be reported annually in the department's annual report.
- Manitoba Justice released a call for expressions of interest to design a social impact bond program integrating Indigenous cultures, traditions, and knowledge to reduce youth recidivism. The program will include program users' families and provide skills, education, and mental health support.

- Conducted an independent review of the Police Services Act, resulting in 70 recommendations ranging from minor amendments to the creation of new standalone legislation and comprehensive regulatory standards and oversight regimes. An implementation team was established to conduct further research and consultation with a variety of stakeholders and subject matter experts, including Indigenous and non-governmental organizations.
- Supported Resource Assistance for Youth (RAY) through the provision of 15 units for emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless youth, five short-term units for youth exiting CFS, and seven long-term, independent living units for young adults with extensions of care through CFS.
- Provided \$2.8 million to the City of Thompson to establish and operate a sobering centre, which will provide a 24-7 safe and secure environment for non-violent, publically intoxicated individuals to stay while the effects of drugs and alcohol wear off.
- Created more court time for bail hearings and dispositions through the Weekend Bail Project, while reducing delays and decreasing the volume of bails province-wide through the Evening and Overnight Bail Program.
- Supported the creation of the Indigenous Prosecution Service Resource Council which consists of seven Indigenous Crowns and one support person.
- Ensured the Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice received counsel on matters related to policy, cultural safety, reconciliation and the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples within the justice system through the Indigenous Leaders in Justice program. This program is comprised of Indigenous leaders from throughout the department.
- Revised Core Competencies for Crown Attorneys to include recognition of Indigenous history and that knowledge of The Reconciliation Act is required for all Crowns to properly exercise discretion.
- The Department of Justice worked with the National Indigenous Lawyers Association and the Indigenous Bar Association to improve recruitment.
- Provided coordination and funding support for the National Online Discussion Session held June 18, 2020, on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls and Two Spirited and Gender Diverse People. The event was also attended by staff from different departments within the Government of Manitoba.

Providing culturally relevant services to offenders:

- Supported the development of Clan Mothers' governance structure and healing lodge programming.

Finding alternatives to imprisonment and recognizing Indigenous justice systems:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Addressing the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD):

- Introduced the new three-year pilot program to provide FASD assessments and diagnoses to individuals aged 18–25 interacting with the legal system in order to enable enhanced access to programs and supports and reduce future involvement with the justice system. The program operates in partnership with Life's Journey Inc., Manitoba FASD Centre, and CanFASD Research Network.

Adequately funding accessible Indigenous-specific victim services programs:

- Distributed \$6.4 million to 24 community organizations to support programming designed to address the diverse needs of victims and to combat violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people. These programs included:
 - Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc. (MKO) – Indigenous Men and Boys are Part of the Solution to Building Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. (MMF) – Métis Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Family Support Project;
 - Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO) – Preventing and Addressing Family Violence;
 - Clan Mothers' Turtle Lodge – Healing Village Social Enterprise Training Program;
 - Ka Ni Kanichihk – Heart Medicine Lodge;
 - Manitoba Moon Voices – Reclaiming our Power and Place; and
 - Portage La Prairie Bear Clan – Noozhek (an Ojibway term meaning “Woman Bear”) which provides support for Indigenous women taking meaningful action to search for stolen sisters.

Appointment of a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Indigenous women and girls.

- Supported initiatives designed to combat child sexual exploitation through the provision of over \$900,000. Examples of implemented initiatives include:
 - Training and awareness campaigns targeted at hotel staff to better enable them to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. This initiative will also bolster education and awareness to the public through the development of resources that will inform Manitobans on the duty to report;
 - Enhanced training for service providers working with sexually exploited youth, reflecting emerging best practices and enhanced supports. The training will be provided to group care staff, child welfare workers and community partner organizations.
 - Development of a new model of community-based supports for abused children at the Toba Centre for Children and Youth, in consultation with community stakeholders. The funding will also support the Centre's transition to a full child advocacy centre.
 - Implemented abuse investigation and online standards training to Manitoba staff.

- Introduced Manitoba's Framework: Addressing Gender-Based Violence, released by the Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet in December 2020. The committee is also serving as a forum for coordinating Manitoba's response to the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG. The Manitoba government introduced new online resources and supports for victims as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Introduced a new partnered approach with the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) to better support families experiencing domestic violence that will see specialized staff from Manitoba Justice co-located at WPS headquarters to facilitate a more coordinated response.
- Implemented additional supports within the justice system to ensure that victims and families at risk of or currently experiencing intimate partner violence get the support they need earlier and prior to criminal and family courts. The Domestic Violence Support Service has been expanded to provide enhanced support to victims who current or former partners are involved in restorative justice proceedings.
- Established the Walking Bear Therapeutic Community, a new trauma and addictions therapy unit at the Women's Correctional Centre that will provide a positive support system and proven approach to addictions treatment for people with traumatic histories.
- Established a partnership with the Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle to lead engagements with urban families and survivors as part of broader engagements regarding Manitoba's response to the 231 Calls for Justice put forward by the National Inquiry into MMIWG.
- Provided support to the Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle and the Supporting and Strengthening Families Working group to identify priorities specific to the City of Winnipeg contained in the MMIWG National Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice.

Calls to Action: Reconciliation - New Initiatives

Our efforts towards reconciliation are long-term and continually evolving. We are committed to the development of a fulsome reconciliation strategy that is informed through engagement with Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples. We would like to emphasize that reconciliation efforts began prior to our legislation and will continue to happen prior to the development and release of our strategy. Manitoba, in partnership with many other organizations, has taken action towards reconciliation under many of the TRC's Calls to Action themes that include:

- Canadian Governments and UNDRIP;
- Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation;
- Settlement Agreement Parties and UNDRIP;
- Equity for Indigenous people in the legal system;
- National Council for Reconciliation;
- Professional development and training for public servants;
- Church apologies and reconciliation;
- Education for reconciliation;
- Youth programs;
- Museums and archives;
- Missing Children and Burial information;
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation;
- Commemoration;
- Media and Reconciliation;
- Sports and Reconciliation;
- Business and Reconciliation; and
- Newcomers to Canada.

Canadian Governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

TRC Calls to Action: #43-44

Manitoba has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities when a government decision or action could infringe upon or adversely affect their ability to exercise their Aboriginal or treaty rights. In addition to our constitutional obligations, Manitoba recognizes the importance of Indigenous peoples' relationships to land and provides support for cooperative natural resources management.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) refers to a broad spectrum of rights, many of which fall under previous themes, such as Child Welfare, Education and Health. In an attempt to avoid duplication in reporting, the following actions are in response to the UNDRIP articles referring to Aboriginal and treaty rights, land and resource rights, and self-determination.

Progress to Date:

Aboriginal and Treaty Rights:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Land and resource rights and self-determination:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #45-47

These calls to action are directed towards Canada and the parties involved in the residential school system, to recommend a Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify the principles for advancing reconciliation. In response to the TRC's Final Report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, Manitoba proclaimed The Path to Reconciliation Act to guide provincial action towards reconciliation.

- Initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Settlement Agreement Parties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

TRC Calls to Action: #48-49

These calls to action are directed to church and settlement agreement parties and to religious denominations and asks them to comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System

TRC Calls to Action: #50-52

These calls to action are directed primarily to the federal government. They refer to establishing funding to support Indigenous law institutes and publishing legal opinions concerning the scope and extent of Aboriginal and treaty rights. The federal and provincial governments are also called upon to adopt legal principles pertaining to Aboriginal title claims.

National Council for Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #53-56

These calls to action are directed primarily to the federal government and Parliament to establish and fund a National Council for Reconciliation to monitor, evaluate and annually report to Parliament on the progress of reconciliation and develop a multi-year national reconciliation plan. Call to Action #55 calls upon all levels of government to report on progress towards reconciliation.

Progress to Date:

National Council for Reconciliation:

- No new actions identified. Refer to ongoing initiatives.

Professional Development and Training for Public Servants

TRC Call to Action: #57

This calls upon all levels of government to provide education to public servants on the history of Indigenous peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), treaty and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Indigenous-Crown relations.

Manitoba offers many corporate education and training opportunities, but individual departments and branches have also undertaken initiatives to train their staff to increase cultural awareness and understanding. The decolonization of service and program delivery is also taking place through the promotion of inclusive, respectful and mindful policies and processes. In 2020/21, the Manitoba government invested over \$150,000 on new and ongoing initiatives to train public servants.

Progress to Date:

Education and training for public servants:

- Established and implemented an ongoing training program for Department of Justice court staff, the judiciary and legal counsel on the use of eagle feathers in Indigenous culture.
- Educational opportunities in the Department of Justice focused on reconciliation, anti-racism, colonization and the treaties, including Blanket Exercises. These will become available again to staff once COVID-19 restrictions permit. Teachings and trainings on reconciliation have been offered in the interim, focused on the spirit and intent of the Treaties, as well as on current and historical issues related to colonization.

- Offered new virtual courses and speaker series available to Government of Manitoba staff through internal training services. Courses included *The Path to Reconciliation: A Historic and Contemporary Overview*, *Exploring the Historical and Modern Treaty Relationship*.
- Government staff in all departments participated in numerous training opportunities including webinar series, courses, workshops, documentary screenings, and exercises including the Kairos Blanket Exercise.
 - These opportunities were developed and/or led by numerous providers, including the Treaty Commission of Manitoba, Clear Direction, Willow Place, Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and Touchstone Indigenous Employees network.
 - Topics included racism, unconscious bias, and discrimination; First Nations, Metis, and Inuit history; intergenerational effects of colonization and residential schools; implementing UNDRIP; cultural competency; spirit and intent of the treaties; modern and historical treaty relationships; current and historical effects of colonization; truth and reconciliation; family violence; and respectful communication practices and working relationships with Indigenous peoples in Manitoba.
- Expedited access to training for civil servants and public employees, with a focus on courses specific to intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.

Church Apologies and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #58-61

These calls to action request apologies and education strategies for church congregations, clergy, religious organizations and other parties to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

Education for Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #62-65

Non-Indigenous people must have an understanding of First Nations, Metis and Inuit histories, cultures, and heritage to foster reconciliation. Manitoba recognizes the importance of building this understanding by supporting educational and training initiatives incorporating Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, history, culture and traditions, and establishing educational programs and resources. These calls to action strive to increase every student's knowledge and awareness of the legacy of residential schools, treaties and Indigenous history through inclusion in Kindergarten to Grade 12 and post-secondary curricula.

Progress to Date:

Kindergarten to Grade 12 Curricula:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Post-Secondary Curricula:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Council of Ministers of Education to maintain commitment to Indigenous education issues:

- Several initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Community-based youth organizations:

- No new actions identified.

Youth Programs

TRC Call to Action: #66

This call to action is directed at the federal government for multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation and share information and best practices for youth programming.

Progress to Date:

Develop community-based youth programs on reconciliation:

- Initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Museums and Archives

TRC Calls to Action: #67-70

Although these calls to action are directed at the federal government, the Manitoba government supports the calls to action relating to:

- Reviewing of museum policies and best practices; and
- Funding for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.

Progress to Date:

Supporting and Reviewing Museum Policies and Programming:

- Providing programming support to the Association of Manitoba Museums (AMM) to explore training workshops and the development of policies and best practices for member museums, and to support the Canadian Museums Association in their role as they address the TRC's Calls to Action.

Funding for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation:

- Initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Missing Children and Burial Information

TRC Calls to Action: #71-76

These calls to action are mainly directed at the federal government and relate to identifying and documenting deaths and burial sites related to residential schools.

Please note that this section of the report is representative of newly introduced initiatives from April 2020 to March 2021. Since the spring of 2021, the Government of Manitoba has pursued a number of additional actions pertaining to these Calls. An updated list of these actions is currently being compiled and will be available on Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations' website.

Progress to Date:

Identifying and collecting records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system:

- No new actions identified.

Developing and implementing strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried.

- No new actions identified.

Provisioning appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased:

- No new actions identified. Refer to ongoing initiatives.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #77-78

These calls to action require all levels of government to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to maintain records and support research relevant to the history of residential schools.

Progress to Date:

Provincial collaborative efforts identifying and collecting records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system:

- No new actions identified. Refer to ongoing initiatives.

Commemoration

TRC Calls to Action: #79-83

These calls to action are directed primarily towards the federal government to:

- Commemorate residential schools and the children who were lost to their families and communities;
- Honour survivors, their families and communities; and
- Recognize the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history.

Please note that this section of the report is representative of newly introduced initiatives from April 2020 to March 2021. Since the spring of 2021, the Government of Manitoba has pursued a number of additional actions pertaining to these Calls. An updated list is currently being compiled and will be available on Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations' website.

Progress to Date:

Commemorating and honoring residential school students, survivors, their families, and their communities:

- Initiatives pertaining to this call are currently in process. Please refer to the Ongoing Initiatives section to read further.

Recognizing the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history:

- No new actions identified.

Media and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #84-86

These actions relate to funding for the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, educating journalists on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the:

- History and legacy of residential schools;
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Treaty and Aboriginal rights;
- Indigenous law; and
- Aboriginal-Crown relations.

The Calls to Action also request the reflection of diverse Aboriginal cultures and perspectives in media programming.

Progress to Date:

Student education on history of Indigenous peoples for journalism and media schools:

- No new actions identified.

Sports and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #87-91

Sport and recreation are fundamental elements to health and well-being. These calls to action address inclusive sports policies, programs, initiatives and Indigenous athletic development.

Progress to Date:

Inclusive sport policies, programs and initiatives:

- Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council ran a three-day virtual event focused on the history of residential schools, Calls to Action 87-91 (Sports and Reconciliation), treaty education, land acknowledgments, holistic coaching, and sports. Many follow up meetings, workshops, and events followed this initial event. Work to create and implement more specific training and space for Provincial Sport Organizations to continue their learning is underway.
- The Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame Decade Galleries renovation is almost complete. The storyline, photos, and artifacts chosen for the exhibit focus awareness on celebrating honoured Indigenous members. Issues relevant to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), Paralympian's, and 2SLGBTQQA+ individuals are also featured in the exhibit.

- Supported the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council Inc. (MASRC) through the provision of research support and photographs for a forthcoming book that will become the basis of their inaugural inductee class for the Manitoba Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame members.
- Hall of Fame Management has recently undertaken anti-racism training through the Sport Manitoba Praxis sessions and Travel Manitoba Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Conference, featuring discussions and speakers on truth and reconciliation.
- The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Operations Coordinator coordinated the preparation for participation of Team Manitoba for the 2020 NAIG to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in July 2020. This was postponed due to COVID-19. The MASRC supported Manitoba's NAIG participants through this process.
- The Ethnocultural Community Support Program was established to further the principles of Manitoba's multiculturalism policy by funding projects that promote anti-racism (e.g., reducing racial stereotypes and discrimination), multiculturalism values (e.g., addressing the rights and responsibilities of multiculturalism), inter-faith inclusion (e.g., increasing respect and understanding for other faiths) and youth leadership and/or engagement.

Business and Reconciliation

TRC Call to Action: #92

This call to action recommends that the corporate sector adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and commit to consultation and relationship building with Indigenous peoples. Following these recommendations may result in economic opportunities and benefits, as well as the pursuit of consent before development of natural resources.

Progress to Date:

Relationship building, economic opportunities, and benefits in the corporate sector:

- Released "Boreal Wetlands Conservation Codes of Practice" for guidance on how to avoid, minimize, and offset for impacts to boreal wetlands from resource development.
- Supported key economic development activities by providing grants to two initiatives in the forestry and fishery sectors, with an additional grant of \$150,000 to support OneNorth.
- Engaged with various organizations, communities, and representatives to gather feedback for the Waste Diversion and Recycling Framework Review, including the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, Green Action Centre/Pathfinders and Indigenous Services Canada.

- Engaged with provincial and regional Indigenous organizations on the development of the Provincial Trails Strategy.
- Engaged with Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation to discuss a future bridge replacement.
- Worked to eliminate employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians by promoting increased representation and greater access to opportunities through the Leaders in Training Program (General, Financial, and Career Gateway program streams).
- Implemented the Mining Education in Northern Manitoba Narrative project, which develops community-specific mining education training packages for four northern communities, and provides coaching and mentoring supports for the trainees as required to enhance their abilities to liaise with their communities in mining development matters and/or explore future career opportunities.

Newcomers to Canada

TRC Calls to Action: #93-94

These calls to action include:

- Revising the citizenship test to reflect an inclusive history of the Indigenous peoples in Canada;
- Revising the information kits provided to immigrants; and
- Amending the Oath of Citizenship.

These Calls to Action are not directed specifically to the Manitoba government; there have been no actions identified under these calls.

Other Reconciliatory Actions – New Initiatives

Each year, the Manitoba government implements and supports a number of initiatives that further reconciliation outside of the TRC's Calls to Action. Highlights of new initiatives that support reconciliation include:

Climate and Environment

- Worked to protect Manitobans from future flood damage resulting from climate change in collaboration with the federal government through efforts to finalize the Canada/Manitoba funding agreement for the long-delayed Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Channels Project.
- Provided \$50,000 funding to Mother Earth Recycling for a one-year pilot to test recycling programs through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Fund. The funding also helped to provide opportunities for expansion.
- Provided \$150,000 through the Conservation Trust to the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources to work within the Collaborative Leadership Initiative, involving Indigenous and municipal leaders to deliver wetland restoration projects and demonstrate water quality trading as a nutrient-reduction tool in the Lake Winnipeg basin.
- Provided up to \$600,000 to organizations for local green initiatives through the newly announced Conservation and Climate Fund. Eligible applicants include incorporated non-profit organizations, educational institutions, municipalities, Northern Affairs communities, Indigenous communities, and businesses in Manitoba.
- Partnered with Peguis First Nation to employ student researchers to lead a focus group to capture Indigenous agricultural perspectives and identify interests and opportunities to explore them further.

Health and Wellness

- Formed a government steering committee to co-ordinate a whole-of-government response to recommendations from the auditor general's report on Drinking Water Safety Oversight, including investments into remediation initiatives, water testing, and further education.
- Provided \$25,000 to Circles for Reconciliation to further opportunities to learn about the shared history of Canadian Indigenous nations and peoples. The initiative aims to create trusting, meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
- Reinstated \$25,000 in provincial funding to Right to Play, a global organization that promotes life-skills and empowers children in a community-relevant and play-based framework. The Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program partners with Indigenous communities and urban organizations in Manitoba to train locally-hired Community Mentors

to deliver weekly play-based programs that promote healthy living, healthy relationships, education, and employability life-skills. It also provides training and support to Community Mentors by Right to Play staff, as the Mentors develops programs that are responsive to the individual needs of their community. In 2020, Right to Play partnered with St. Theresa Point First Nation, Duck Bay, Dauphin Friendship Centre and Brandon Friendship Centre to improve access to culturally relevant play-based programs for Indigenous youth.

- Through the Community Schools Program, which aligns place-based education, re-establishing and strengthening links to the community, training was offered for 49 community connectors and in-school supports to enhance capacity for mental health support in elementary curricula. Three virtual webinars were held supporting nutrition, safe and caring schools and staff well-being.

Housing and Infrastructure

- In partnership with the federal and city governments, the Government of Manitoba jointly implemented the Rapid Housing Initiative. This initiative supports women and children currently experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness through the building of 18 affordable, modular apartment units.
- Provided over \$2.5 million to the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association, which will select and oversee proposals from community partners for the delivery of tenant supports initially targeting 250 individuals experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. In addition to this, the rapid housing of 50 individuals was possible through assistance with community partner agencies including Siloam Mission, North End Community Renewal Corp., and the West Central Women's Resource Centre, amongst others.
- Invested \$225.4 million in the 10-year bilateral National Housing Strategy (NHS) with the Government of Canada. The NHS will protect, renew, and expand social and community housing, and support Manitoba's priorities related to housing repair, construction and affordability. Initiatives funded through the NHS include Habitat for Humanity's home-building program, transferring property to Wahbung Abinoonjiag for culturally-safe affordable housing for 24 families impacted by homelessness and family violence, and the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit.
- Improved infrastructure in several northern communities through an investment of \$3.9 million. Funded projects included community roads in Berens River, water treatment plant repairs in Camperville and Norway House, and a waste disposal site in Waterhen, amongst others.

Language and Culture

- Actively increased holdings at the Legislative Library pertaining to Indigenous history, current issues, revitalization, reconciliation, and education. Examples of holdings include annual reports of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, the pivotal report by Justice Kimelman on the Sixties Scoop, very rare copies of *The Aurora*, a publication of the Rupert's Land Indian Industrial School as well as a recent series of children's books by Charlene Bearhead.
- Engaged with multiple Indigenous communities across Manitoba as part of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives Names and Knowledge Initiative.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

- Supported costs associated with Manitoba Moon Voices' media campaign in recognition of MMIWG Honouring and Awareness Day.
- Supported costs associated with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak's virtual MMIWG event to create a safe space for families and survivors, and provide education and awareness on the issue to the larger public. The event was in recognition of MMIWG Honouring and Awareness Day.

Policies and Processes

- Reviewed the provincial Order of Precedence for the purpose of including Indigenous Leadership.
- Incorporated land acknowledgements within the Honours and Awards and Ceremonial events programming of the Manitoba Protocol Office and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.
- Introduced mandatory regulatory impact analyses for all regulation and statute submissions for the Regulatory Accountability Committee of Cabinet. The analyses consider positive and negative impacts on Indigenous communities within Manitoba.
- Formed the Shoal Lake Working Group as part of the Tripartite Agreement between Shoal Lake First Nation #40, the Government of Manitoba, and the City of Winnipeg.

Safety and Security

- Provided \$25,000 to the Brandon Bear Clan from the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund for the purchase of a van for their operations.
- Invested an additional \$2.6 million over three years in the First Nations Policing Program.

- Invested \$5.0 million into the newly formed Downtown Safety Partnership (DCSP); a community partnership focused on improving health, well-being and safety in downtown Winnipeg through expanded street outreach, including a 24-7 outreach presence in key areas for the first time. The DCSP includes a number of organizations including Aboriginal Health and Wellness, the Eagle Urban Transition Centre, End Homelessness Winnipeg, and Resource Assistance for Youth (RAY). The DCSP continues to build partnerships with organizations such as the Mama Bear Clan, OPK Manitoba, and the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development Inc. (CAHRD).
- Invested in northern Manitoba food security through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (\$240,000) and Manitoba's Northern Healthy Foods Initiative (\$370,000). These initiatives strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture and agri-food sectors, and support local and regional projects that contribute to the development of culturally relevant, healthy food systems, while improving health and well-being.
- Supporting the federal Family Violence Prevention Program, which works to improve the safety and security of Indigenous women, children and families. Manitoba Housing provides and maintains nine family violence shelter facilities as part of this program.

Skill Building and Training

- Increased the capacity in northern Indigenous communities to address the risks associated with climate change through the Manitoba Climate Resilience Training Project. The project is funded through Building Regional Adaption Capacity and Expertise (BRACE) Program of Natural Resources Canada. Partners include the Prairie Climate Centre and the Turtle Lodge Center of Excellence in Indigenous Education and Wellness.
- Created the Indigenous Adult Health Internship program, providing up to 20 Indigenous adults from Central Region, the Manitoba Métis Federation and band members with job shadowing and work experience in the healthcare field.
- Provided support to a variety of job training programs that primarily serve Indigenous participants. These programs equip participants with career-specific training and skills, and are operated out of Snow Lake, The Pas, Thompson, Brandon, Winnipeg, and communities throughout northern Manitoba. Partners include Sandy Bay First Nation, Assiniboine Community College, Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation, Red River Community College, and Friendship Centres in both Swan River and Dauphine. Programs include:
 - Skills Up!
 - Pork Process Certificate
 - STRIVE
 - Employability Skills and Essential Skills

- Partners for Careers
- Brandon Energy Efficiency Program
- Four Directions Employment Services

Youth

- Launched the Home Nutrition and Learning pilot project in partnership with several community organizations. The pilot has since been extended to better support a stronger evaluation and ensure that children affected by food insecurity continue to benefit from the project. Project partners include Andrews Street Family Centre Inc., Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc., Samaritan House, Food Matters Manitoba, Bayline Regional Round Table, the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, and Manitoba Egg Farmers. A total of \$7.1 million has been invested to date, and the program partners will continue to deliver the pilot project until the end of August 2021.

COVID-19 Responses

As identified in COVID-19 Infections in Manitoba: Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity External Report (March 2021), COVID-19 is not equally distributed across population groups. Between May 1 to December 31, 2020, Indigenous peoples within Manitoba represented 17 per cent of positive COVID-19 infections, despite accounting for only 13 per cent of the total population.

This section includes information on an array of initiatives that were implemented to help fight COVID-19. Only initiatives that further the province's goals of reconciliation and align with the spirit of the Calls to Action have been included.

- Engaged with First Nation leadership, political and community organizations, Indigenous clinicians and medical professionals to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 response. Several government and Indigenous community partnership tables were established to facilitate First Nations-led discussion and collaborative efforts. Governments and community partners worked closely with Indigenous leadership and communities to deliver pandemic and vaccine clinic planning within communities that were both accessible and culturally appropriate. Clinical and professional leadership within Indigenous communities were instrumental in devising community-driven templates and tools as part of the First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team.
- Implemented an Information Sharing Agreement with the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM) and the Manitoba Inuit Association (MIA) that aligns with the Principles of OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession), to collect and use Inuit identifier information about individuals who were diagnosed with, or received a vaccination for, COVID-19 for the purposes of protecting public health against the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Entered into an information sharing agreement with Indigenous Services Canada, with the approval of FNHSSM, to receive an updated copy of the Indian Status Registry that is used to help identify/validate records for Status First Nation individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or received a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Generated and shared reports about positive COVID-19 diagnoses to the Manitoba First Nation COVID-19 Pandemic Planning and Response Team, MIA, and other recipients agreed upon by the FNHSSM and MIA in order to assist community leadership and health care professionals to prevent or limit loss of life and harm to the safety, health, or welfare of community members.
- Signed an agreement with Canada to support essential air access to remote northern and Indigenous communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Initiated the Diploma in Practical Nursing, offering a community-based accredited training program to 20 northern Manitobans to help address the increased service demand during COVID-19.
- Expanded virtual care options to increase medical care accessibility throughout the pandemic, and decrease COVID-19-related risks associated with travel from northern Indigenous communities for medical appointments in Winnipeg.
- Increased funding support for Reaching Home, a 10-year federal strategy addressing homelessness. Reaching Home provides community-funding to urban Indigenous, rural, and remote communities. The program increased operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to address the increased housing needs of people experience homelessness.
- Improved access to timely hearings through the use of video courts, as well as meeting with specific communities to explore access to justice improvements. This includes Access to Justice pilots currently being developed with Grand Rapids and Cross Lake First Nations.
- Launched the Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy, a roadmap for the Government of Manitoba, industry, community, educational institutions, and Indigenous organizations to work together to accelerate recovery and advance Manitoba's economy and promote positive outcomes for individuals and businesses in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Calls to Action: Legacies - Ongoing Initiatives

This section focuses on addressing the legacy of impacts of residential schools on Indigenous peoples and the resulting disparities that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Manitoba's social, political and economic systems and institutions. These are the ongoing initiatives to address the disparities in the areas of child welfare, education, language and culture, and health and justice.

Child Welfare

TRC Calls to Action: #1-5

Progress to Date:

Actions to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care include:

- Continuing to partner with two community-based service providers, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre and Wahbung Abinoonjiag, to deliver supports to children, in particular working with parents to reduce CFS apprehension and children coming into care.
- Providing ongoing support for the delivery of the Restoring the Sacred Bond project that is designed to connect at-risk Indigenous mothers with doulas or birth helpers. The project matches doulas with up to 200 Indigenous mothers who are at risk of having their infant apprehended into the child welfare system. The Restoring the Sacred Bond aims to help support a strong connection between mothers, babies and their communities.
- Continuing to implement the Single Envelope Funding for Child and Family Services (CFS) Authorities to allow flexibility and the use of funds to be redirected toward prevention and reducing the overall number of children in care. This flexible funding approach allows child welfare agencies to focus on family preservation and reunification, with the intent of having placements in the traditional foster care system become less frequent.
- Continuing to implement the Child Welfare Transformation Plan to achieve better outcomes for children. This includes fewer children in care, stronger partnerships with families and communities, better coordination of services and greater public accountability. The Manitoba plan focuses on:
 - Reducing the number of children in care;
 - Reducing the number of days spent in care;
 - Fostering more lifelong connections; and
 - Enabling greater coordination of services and public accountability.
- Continuing to deliver training through CFS authorities and agencies on the residential school system, intergenerational effects of the system, and truth and reconciliation.

- Continuing to provide information to Indigenous governing bodies seeking to exercise jurisdiction over CFS under their own laws.
- Legal Aid Manitoba provides counsel to assist parents whose children have been apprehended, challenge the need and length of separation of children from their communities and families, and work to ensure the system recognizes the unique family relationships of Indigenous Peoples in Manitoba. Legal Aid Manitoba seeks better outcomes for their clients and combat the effects of colonization in individual cases.

Prevention and culturally relevant activities:

- Further developed foster parent training to include cultural competencies and a new system-wide communication protocol to guide various workers who become involved when Indigenous children are placed into care.
- Continued to provide support for the Peer Mentor Family Preservation Service program in partnership with the Metis CFS Authority to prevent CFS apprehension. This program is a mental health and addiction supported program to work with parents in their homes.

Reporting on the number of children in care and preventative services:

- Continuing to report on the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in care through the Department of Families Annual Report. This year, the number of children in care through apprehension or temporary order is reduced by two per cent, or 196.
- Continuing to collaborate with provinces and territories to gather numbers of children in care across jurisdictions.

Jordan's Principle:

- Continuing our participation on the Jordan's Principle Equity Roundtable Technical Advisory Group for the implementation of Jordan's Principle, led by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC).
- Maintaining the inter-departmental Jordan's Principle Working Group which coordinates information sharing, makes recommendations to senior management, and reviews policies and regulations.
- Continuing to be responsive and to work with partners and families by providing information, service navigation, and consultative support in order to improve the coordination of services. This involves working with the federal government and First Nations governments to implement Jordan's Principle.

Child welfare legislation and culturally relevant care:

- Maintaining our support for Indigenous CFS Authorities under provincial mandate to develop Interim National Standards in conjunction with federal child welfare legislation, respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families.
- Continuing to create an environment where service providers are able to collaborate and better share critical information to protect the safety and well-being of children through the Protecting Children (Information Sharing) Act. The Act allows government departments, organizations and others who provide services to at-risk and vulnerable children to collect, use and share personal information including personal health information, about supported children and their parents or legal guardians.
- Continuing to support post secondary institutions to develop and deliver training for Indigenous social workers through the Master of Social Work in Indigenous Knowledge Program. Indigenous forms of caring are applicable to the unique circumstances of Indigenous clients and communities and is rooted in traditional knowledge.
- Continuing to devolve CFS responsibility to the Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO), Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF).
- Continuing to offer culturally relevant services and programs through the following CFS authorities and agencies:
 - Metis Child and Family Services Authority;
 - Southern First Nations Network of Care;
 - First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority; and
 - General Child and Family Services Authority.
- Continuing to support community-based agencies to deliver programs and services that offer culturally appropriate programming for Indigenous children, parents, and caregivers.

Education

TRC Calls to Action: #6-12

Progress to Date:

Eliminating education and employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians:

- Provided \$3.1 million in core funding to SCO, MKO, AMC, MMF, Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, Eagle Urban Transition Centre, Manitoba Moon Voices, Indigenous Languages of Manitoba, Oyate Tipi Cumini Inc., and the Northern Association of Community Councils through the core funding stream of INIF.

- Continuing to implement and maintain the Employment Equity in Staffing Policy. These initiatives are focused on Indigenous people, persons with disabilities and visible minorities. They support, indirectly, calls to action aimed at eliminating employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.
- Maintaining the development of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Policy and Action Plan that sets out key policy intended to educate educators and increase achievement and attainment of Indigenous students. In addition, action-oriented recommendations obtained from the Manitoba Indigenous Education Roundtables are being embedded with the policy.
- Continuing to collaborate with Manitoba universities, colleges and the Manitoba School Board Association for the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint initiative that commits to making excellence in Indigenous education a priority in Manitoba.
- Continuing to deliver over \$2.3 million in grant funding to support education and training for Indigenous youth previously in contact with the CFS system. Programming includes:
 - Futures Forward;
 - Northern Youth Employment;
 - Youth in Care Tuition Waiver Post Secondary Initiative; and
 - Work2It.
- Continuing to provide support to the Youth Build program, providing at-risk youth with the opportunity to work towards high school credits and/or achieve a mature Grade 12 diploma and also prepares youth for employment, specifically in the building construction/carpentry trades (that may lead to apprenticeships).
- Continuing support for Songide'ewin, an alternative education program which operates nutrition, transportation, and school supply programming. Songide'ewin is a satellite of Niji Mahkwa School in the Winnipeg School Division, and offers individualized programming to 60 students ages 13-21. Students ages 19-21 can earn their mature Student Diploma.
- Maintaining support for Indigenous youth through the Bright Futures Fund Career Trek, Bright Futures Fund Medical Careers Exploration Program, Bright Futures Fund Community Engagement Development Association Pathways to Education, and Bright Futures Fund Wayfinders program. Approximately \$2.6 million is allocated to provide programming in education and career development, mentorship and support in academic, financial and social.
- Supporting adult education, literacy and skill development through the delivery of 31 adult literacy centres, 40 adult learning centres across Manitoba, and Adult Learning on Lombard, a full time literacy program serving clients primarily on Employment and Income Assistance. Manitoba provided approximately \$21.0 million to support this programming in 2020/21.

- Continuing to partner with various Indigenous communities and organizations to deliver education, training, drivers education and employment supports across the province, with a particular focus on Northern Manitoba. In 2020/21, Manitoba provided more than \$1.6 million to support initiatives such as:
 - Cross Lake; Wabowden; Thicket Portage; and Lynn Lake Resource Centres;
 - Flin Flon, Thompson, Churchill communities;
 - Pathways Project;
 - FireSpirit (includes FireSpirit Youth Internship Program);
 - Community Delivered Training (CDT);
 - Employment Links Development Centre;
 - Job Readiness and On-the-Job-Training on Tail Line Maintenance;
 - Inter-Provincial Examination Preparation for Carpentry Apprentices in Northern Manitoba; and
 - Northern Construction Trades Training program.
- Continuing to fund Tina's Safe Haven (Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre) to support programming aimed at improving the cultural, social, economic and personal prospects of Indigenous youth. The Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre provides Indigenous youth (13-24) a safe and supportive environment as an alternative to involvement with gangs, crime, violence and sexual exploitation.
- Continuing to implement the Look North Strategy and Action Plan. This plan includes six priority areas of action, based on what was heard through engagements with northern First Nations communities, Indigenous organizations, businesses and industry, economic development agencies and other northern stakeholders.

Eliminating and reporting on the discrepancy in funding between First Nations children educated on and off reserve:

- Continuing to support school division programming through the Indigenous Academic Achievement Grant to improve the academic success of Indigenous students. Changes to the grant include that 50 per cent of the nearly \$10.0 million in funding must be allocated to literacy and numeracy programming.
- Supporting a number of initiatives through partnership agreements between First Nations communities and school divisions, supporting several community schools on reserve and working with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre to implement joint professional development.
- Continuing to work with partners and stakeholders to promote and collect Indigenous identity self-declaration information for K-12 students to inform planning and programming within the education system. This aligns with the ongoing implementation of K-12 Framework for Continuous Improvement that requires School Divisions to analyze Indigenous student data to inform planning and set targets.

- Delivering approximately \$2.8 million in funding to support 36 schools in urban, rural and northern communities through the Community School Program. Almost half of the program funding is directed towards Indigenous students and their families.
- Continuing to partner with Assiniboine Community College Adult Collegiate and several First Nations Band Councils to deliver vocational/occupational and academic programming in First Nations communities (i.e. Mature Student High School Programming and/or Post-Secondary College Programming, such as nursing, electrical trades, plumbing).

Improving education attainment levels and success rates:

- Continuing to work with the CAHRD to support the implementation of the Shine On Initiative, which has been designed to increase student engagement, high school graduation rates and post-secondary participation rates for Indigenous and inner city students. The initiative helps to build strong relationships between the CAHRD, inner city schools and educators to provide students with increased awareness of career development opportunities.
- Continuing operation of the Indigenous Identity Declaration Manitoba Schools online training course. The course provides administrative staff with key information to help them better inform parents and guardians about the Indigenous identity declaration process.
- Maintaining our partnership with the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre to administer the Early Development Instrument (EDI) questionnaire to First Nations schools in Manitoba to measure 'readiness to learn' at school entry.
- Continuing our participation on the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Student Financial Assistance Policy Working Group to help identify gaps within the student financial assistance loan/grant funding and other barriers, including communications that may be contributing to low post-secondary participation.

Developing culturally appropriate curricula, protecting languages and creating culturally appropriate early education programs:

- Investing over \$530,000 to community-based organizations that serve vulnerable families to ensure qualified child-care providers are available at no cost to parents when seeking supports and services. This includes funding through the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement to support an early childhood educator at Wahbung Abinoonjiiag Inc. who focuses on empowering families and offering holistic healing through an Indigenous lens.
- Maintaining the inclusion of an Indigenous focus in the Early Childhood Educator competencies through the Manitoba Early Learning Child Care program. All Post Secondary Institutions must now provide programs that follow these competencies.

- Carrying forward with *Mamahtáwisiwin* – Indigenous Inclusive Education System Toolkit (in Cree translates to ‘wonder and my responsibility’) which supports the achievements of First Nations, Metis and Inuit learners by supporting educators in incorporating Indigenous identities, languages, and cultural practices into their teaching.

Supporting parents to participate in the education of their children:

- Continuing to offer the Parent Child Program in Community Schools, which enhances student success and parent involvement through culturally appropriate activities for First Nations, Metis and Inuit families.

Language and Culture

TRC Calls to Action: #13-17

Progress to Date:

Preserving and reclaiming Indigenous languages:

- Continuing to distribute the updated Trees of Manitoba Field Guide which includes Indigenous language names for trees. Languages include Cree, Dene, Michif, Ojibwe, Dakota, and Ojibwe-Cree. The field guide was widely distributed throughout northern Manitoba to support the science curriculum and preserve and promote Indigenous language names of trees.
- Continuing to lead work on the Manitoba Aboriginal Languages Strategy. This includes supporting Indigenous language programming across several post-secondary institutions in Manitoba (e.g., University of Winnipeg, University of Brandon, Red River College and University College of the North) and developing Indigenous language curricula in high schools.
- Providing support to Red River College for students to learn the fundamentals of the Anishinaabe (Ojibway) and Cree languages and cultural experiences within a bilingual environment. Likewise, support is provided to Brandon University for the ‘Speaking Michif’ language program developed by the Louis Riel Institute to assist teaching families the Michif language. In addition, support is ongoing for the University College of the North certificate in teaching ‘Ininimowin’ program that teaches Cree and is offered entirely in the Cree language.
- Continuing to make The Path to Reconciliation Annual Report accessible in the seven Indigenous languages of Manitoba as per The Aboriginal Languages Recognition Act, and as directed in The Path to Reconciliation Act.

Supporting culture and heritage:

- Continuing to support the Indigenous Place Names initiative to record, verify and enter geographic names (and supporting information) into the Manitoba and Canadian geographical names databases. This project facilitates the communication, engagement, and capacity of Indigenous communities and peoples to meet Article 13 of the UNDRIP to "designate and retain their own names for communities, places, and persons."

- Continuing to provide support for the Winnipeg Art Gallery’s Inuit Art Centre Quamajuq to inspire greater understanding of northern art and culture. Quamajuq is an innovative new museum to celebrate Inuit Art and Indigenous cultures through exhibitions, research and education.
- Continuing to support and provide over \$850,000 in funding to Indigenous culture and arts through various initiatives that includes dance, art centres or courses, film and music:
 - Aboriginal Arts Consultant job position;
 - Urban Art Centres Program: provides funding to not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations delivering arts-based programming to underserved or underrepresented urban communities;
 - Cultural Operating: provides cultural institutions with operating grants to enable public access to programs of artistic and cultural innovation and excellence and to develop audiences;
 - Film and Sound Development: provides support to cultural industry associations who contribute to the development and promotion of identified cultural industry sectors; and
 - Indigenous Music Development Program: supporting First Nations, Metis and Inuit music entrepreneurs.

Health

TRC Calls to Action: #18-24

Progress to Date:

Closing the gap in health outcomes:

- As part of health system transformation, an Indigenous Partnership Strategic Framework was developed through the leadership of an Indigenous Advisory committee whose members have extensive knowledge and experience in the health field. The framework was developed to enable and guide culturally relevant, authentic and appropriate engagement with First Nations, Metis and Inuit organizations and communities as Manitoba moves forward on health system transformation. Four foundational components of the strategy are:
 - Indigenous History
 - Traditional Knowledge and Wellness
 - Indigenous and Human Rights
 - Systems and Structures
- Work is ongoing to develop a strategy for Regional Health Authorities to include a chapter on Indigenous health in the Community Health Assessment reports and to improve communication, sharing and joint planning with Indigenous representatives.

- Continuing to implement the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. The mental wellness of Indigenous peoples of Manitoba is one of seven priority areas included in the Virgo report. Indigenous communities and stakeholders were asked to provide their perspectives during the Mental Health Addictions Strategy development and will continue to be engaged during its implementation. Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living will continue to work with other departments, as well as leaders at Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Shared Health, the Regional Health Authorities, Indigenous communities, and other service providers to plan for, implement, track progress and measure results of actions and initiatives undertaken to improve access to, and coordination of, mental health and addictions services in the province.
- Continuing to participate as a funding partner on Nanaandawewigamig/FNHSSM, which pursues a collaboration between federal, provincial and First Nations governments to deliver a unified health system in Manitoba. Progression towards a unified health system includes health data sharing agreements and the creation of First Nation Community Health Profiles.
- Collaborating with the Nanaandawewigamig and the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy on the First Nations Atlas Update to the Health and Health Care Use of Registered First Nations People Living in Manitoba: A population-based study released in 2002. The data will be used to inform policies and planning in governments and First Nations communities.
- Continuing to provide over \$1.0 million in funding through the Child and Youth Mental Health Strategy to support Intervention and Outreach Teams that provide 24/7 strength based community approaches to improving the life outcomes of youth with profound and co-occurring mental, behavioural, social/emotional, physical health and academic challenges.
- Supporting the Positive Adolescent Sexuality Support program which is a peer-based family support and community education program for Indigenous youth with a goal for reducing adolescent pregnancy while promoting healthy adolescent development.
- Delivering funding to organizations such as Ma-Mow-We Tak Friendship Centre, Ma Mawi Chi Itata and Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre for early intervention programs for youth. Programs include:
 - Northern Youth Councils Project and Positive Adolescent Sexuality Support to promote healthy adolescent development and reduce adolescent pregnancy;
 - Solvent Abuse Prevention Program, an early intervention and prevention program that promotes healthy lifestyles through leadership, role modelling, and family and community supports; and
 - Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy Education Initiatives Task Team, to implement education-based youth suicide prevention initiatives, programming and capacity building throughout the province. Initiatives include: safeTALK; Body Positive; the Everyone Matters Education and Awareness program; Best Practices in School-Based Suicide Prevention; School-based Youth Suicide Prevention Initiatives; and Assessing Suicide in Kids.

- Providing inpatient health services through the Selkirk Mental Health Centre. The centre provides services to Indigenous patients residing in Manitoba and Nunavut, including First Nations patients from both on and off reserve.
- Providing funding in 2017 to increase program space at Siloam Mission, and to create 50 new shelter beds. The project was completed in August 2020.

Culturally appropriate health care services:

- Maintaining expanded services for youth seeking substance use services. Youth counsellors from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba will now be accessible to existing and future participants from new locations across Winnipeg including Eagle Urban Transition Centre, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, and Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.
- Working with federal health partners and the Giigewigamig First Nation Health Authority (Sagkeeng, Black River, Bloodvein and Hollow Water First Nations) to fund and operate the Giigewigamig Traditional Healing Centre in Powerview-Pine Falls. The centre is managed by the four First Nations through the Giigewigamig First Nation Health Authority, and offers Indigenous spiritual and traditional care.
- Continuing to support and offer services through the Selkirk Mental Health Centre's Indigenous Service Program. Programming includes:
 - Weekly pipe ceremonies;
 - Smudging;
 - Emotional and spiritual support provided by Elders;
 - Year-round sweat lodge ceremonies;
 - Training sessions on traditional and cultural teachings; and
 - Various outings and centre activities that support cultural (re-)connections.
- Continuing to offer services through the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Indigenous Health Services. Cultural supports include spiritual and cultural care providers; facilities that accommodate smudging and ceremonial practices; and the Traditional Wellness Clinic at the Health Sciences Centre, which offers traditional approaches to healing.

Culturally appropriate training and increasing the number of Indigenous professionals in the health care system:

- Continuing to support the University of Manitoba's 'Ongomiizwin' Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, which provides leadership in Indigenous health across the five colleges of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences (dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and rehabilitation sciences) in the areas of education, research and health services.
- Continuing to provide funding and support to post-secondary institutions such as University College of the North (UCN) whose student population is more than 70 per cent Indigenous. Currently, the UCN offers nursing programs aiming to increase nursing students in Indigenous communities. In addition, the UCN also offers the approved Diploma in Practical Nursing which prepares students to write the national license examination for registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba.
- Continuing to provide the online Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Safety Training, within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

Justice

TRC Calls to Action: #25-42

Progress to Date:

Eliminating the overrepresentation of Indigenous adults and youth in custody:

- Continuing to operate a joint working group with the Department of Families and Justice that is reviewing the intersections between these two systems and the pathways that lead children and youth from one system into the other. Also included in this work is piloting successful approaches from other jurisdictions that have drastically reduced the number of youths ending up incarcerated, improving outcomes for these children in favour of therapeutic supports and providing an overall reduction in Children in Care files.
- Investing more than \$11.0 million to improve safety and enhance access to justice in the north for families living in Thompson. These investments will support further modernization of Manitoba's criminal justice system. The project will increase accessibility at the Thompson Court Office and make court proceedings more timely and efficient. The multi-phased construction project will create jobs for skilled tradespeople in the region including graduates of the UCN trades programs. This includes \$300,000 being provided to support collaboration between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), City of Thompson, and other stakeholders in the development of a public safety strategy for Thompson.
- Developed the Indigenous Court Work Program to assist Indigenous clients in recognizing their rights and obligations and understanding how the criminal justice system functions, while providing information on alternative methods of justice, resources, and programs. The program also collaborates with justice officials and other justice stakeholders to improve

knowledge of Indigenous values, customs, and languages. In partnership with MKO, the SCO, the MMF, and the Island Lake Tribal Council, the Government of Manitoba is in the process of transitioning some of these services to community-based delivery.

- Continuing to use the *Criminal Justice Modernization Strategy* as a foundational guide to implement the necessary changes to modernize the criminal justice system. The four key objectives of the strategy that will support future action, are to:
 - Reduce crime, improve community safety and reduce the number of individuals coming into conflict with the law and the criminal justice system;
 - Deal with each case in a manner appropriate to the seriousness of the offence and the circumstances of the offender;
 - Use restorative justice options more effectively to improve public safety, reduce delay in the court system and ultimately reduce reliance on incarceration, especially in the case of Indigenous offenders; and
 - Reintegrate offenders from custody to the community with essential supports to prevent further offences and re-contact with the criminal justice system.

- Continuing to invest nearly \$200,000 to provide support and assistance to the Bear Clan Patrol's community crime prevention and intervention efforts. Part of this funding will support infrastructure and safety improvements including a 15-passenger van, first aid kits, safety gear and bikes for the patrol. The funding will enable the WPS to work in partnership with the Bear Clan Patrol, supporting information sharing and increased awareness of community situations.

- The policing services conversion process commenced officially in June 2019 with a senior officials transition team comprised of Manitoba Justice, Public Safety Canada, Manitoba First Nations Police Service, RCMP, Opaskwayak Cree Nation and the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council Police Commission. The transition team commenced monthly general meetings to address every aspect and concern of the transition process. The meeting process was changed to include an operational sub committee to discuss police operational aspects of the transition and meetings are held on a weekly basis. Transition occurred in April 2021

Providing culturally relevant services to offenders:

- Continuing to offer cultural supports in both youth and adult correctional centres and in the community correctional offices. Cultural supports include:
 - Manitoba Corrections has PITIMA, an Aboriginal Staff Advisory Group comprised of Indigenous (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) corrections staff from community and custody, including Aboriginal Spiritual Caregivers. In Cree, *pitima* means to bring to the forefront. PITIMA serves in an advisory role on recruitment, selection and retention of Indigenous employees and assists with development and implementation of policies, standards and service delivery to Indigenous offenders.

- Aboriginal Spiritual Caregivers (Elders/Kokums) in each adult and youth correctional facility as well as a Manager of Indigenous Spiritual Caregivers assigned to support its Elders and advise senior Corrections Management on matters related to cultural services to Indigenous Offenders. Examples include:
 - ventilation for smudging in a number of correctional centres and community offices;
 - sweat lodges; and
 - gathering of Medicines and Grandfathers.
 - Manitoba Corrections has revised the Indigenous Culturally Appropriate Program and rebranded to 'Reclaiming Our Identity'. Reclaiming Our Identity is a four-day self-awareness program that promotes healing, personal growth and identification through education of the historical impacts of colonization and residential school. Topics include the 60's scoop, discrimination, racism, and intergenerational trauma. The medicine wheel is used to facilitate the program.
- Delivering mandatory Aboriginal Awareness Training to correctional and probation officers.
 - The Provincial Court of Manitoba has established an FASD disposition docket for both youth and adults who have an FASD diagnosis. One of the goals of these dockets is to ensure the sentencing Judge can properly consider to what extent, if at all, the FASD diagnosis contributes to the offending behaviour. If there is a link between the identified impacts of FASD and the offending behaviour, the Court may consider how this link impacts the offender's degree of responsibility and can explore how the sentence imposed would best reflect and respond to that link. Additionally, the Court also explores the degree of existing and available supports connected to the individual for improved outcomes.
 - Continued use of the sacred eagle feather for Indigenous individuals to use for the swearing of oaths in the provision of testimony.

Finding alternatives to imprisonment and recognizing Indigenous justice systems:

- The Province of Manitoba marked Restorative Justice Week from November 15-22 with a formal proclamation and investments in effective restorative justice programs across the province. Manitoba invests more than \$2.8 million annually in restorative justice programs, supplemented with another \$1.4 million from the federal government. The Canada and Manitoba governments jointly fund restorative justice programs to provide community-driven and culturally appropriate prevention, diversion and reintegration services to Indigenous communities and organizations. Partners include Cross Lake; Fisher River; Hollow Water Community Holistic Circle Healing; MKO; MMF Community Justice Program; MMF Thompson Community Justice Program; Norway House; Onashowewin (Winnipeg and Bloodvein); St. Theresa Point First Nation Youth Court Project; and the SCO.
- Continuing to provide funding support to:
 - Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak's First Nations Justice Strategy;

- Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services; and
- Community Justice Committees.

Addressing the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD):

- Continuing to implement a comprehensive FASD training package in partnership with numerous FASD service providers. The training package includes four modules: 1) The Social Context of FASD, 2) Prevention/Stigma, 3) What is FASD?, and 4) Strategies for Support/Intervention. Module 1 includes two Elders teachings (a Unity Teaching and an Alcohol Teaching), which teach participants how colonization, residential schools and intergenerational trauma has impacted Indigenous communities.
- Continuing to lead the provincial FASD Strategy by funding and delivering prevention and support services, programs and events for individuals and families affected by FASD. Manitoba delivered over \$14.1 million in funding to support initiatives, such as:
 - Looking After Each Other: A Dignity Promotion Project;
 - FASD Youth Justice Program;
 - FASD in the Classroom;
 - InSight Mentoring Program;
 - Manito Ikwe Kagiikwe - The Mothering Project;
 - MB FASD Coalition;
 - MB FASD Network;
 - MB Key Worker Program;
 - Visions and Voices Program;
 - FASD Family Support Education and Counselling;
 - Project CHOICES;
 - Project Starfish;
 - Spectrum Connections and Rural Connections; and
 - Annual Elder's Gatherings.
- Bringing FASD program service providers and Indigenous leaders from across Manitoba together to share knowledge and exchange ideas on how to prevent FASD, and increase support to children and families affected by FASD, in a more culturally relevant manner.

Adequately funding Indigenous-specific victim services programs:

- Continuing to provide funding to Wahbung Abinoonjiiag Inc., a community based-Indigenous organization, to lead a network of community agencies to help improve housing options for women and children who have experienced family violence. Wahbung will collaborate with sister organizations to provide wrap-around supports and services for children and their families affected by violence to have safe, affordable housing to call home.
- Manitoba Victim Services partnered with Eyaa-keen Healing Centre and MKO to offer support of Indigenous Elders at meetings with victims and surviving family members.

- Manitoba translated the brochure ‘You Have Options: Help After Sexual Assault’ into both French and Cree; making it available on the Victim Services website.
- Continuing to provide funding support to various community partners for activities, events and family supports in recognition of MMIWG Honouring and Awareness Day October 4th.
- Providing funding to organizations that deliver culturally appropriate support to victims of crime through the Victims grants, which includes: Ka Ni Kanichihk, North End Women’s Centre, Ndinawe, Sage House, and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and Community Wellness Centre.
- Continuing to fund Ka Ni Kanichihk for the Heart Medicine Lodge rehabilitative Program to deliver programming in the community, and to engage with women who have been criminally involved. This program was the first Indigenous-led healing program for Indigenous survivors of sexual violence.
- Victim Services continues to work to improve the representation of Indigenous staff members across the province. Victim Services has established an Indigenous cultural safety committee to improve supports to Indigenous victims, as well as cultural safety in the workplace. Ongoing initiatives to improve culturally-safe services include:
 - The creation of a smudging room near the Law Courts in Winnipeg for victims to have access to smudge before Court or meetings;
 - Enabling victims who are accessing counselling benefits under the Compensation for Victims of Crime program to use the funding for cultural supports such as Elders, traditional medicine, and attending ceremony; and
 - Ongoing training for staff on colonization, reconciliation, and Indigenous culture.
- Continuing to provide direct support to families of MMIWG through Family Liaison Contacts housed within Project Devote (RCMP) and the WPS, who:
 - Assist families with access to services and information;
 - Attend community and healing events with family members;
 - Connect families with culturally safe programs and counselling services;
 - Serve as a direct link to the police and community agencies; and
 - Establish connections with Family Liaison Contacts in other provinces and territories to address requests for information.
- Continuing to broaden the Family Information Liaison Unit to include community-based supports for victims of crime and their families. Based on feedback from Indigenous organizations, Manitoba contracts with Ka Ni Kanichihk and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak to deliver these supports.

- Continuing to participate and support the National Inquiry into MMIWG and continuing to raise awareness of the injustices through recognizing and honouring October 4th as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Honouring and Awareness Day.
- Continuing to support Indigenous self governance initiatives. For example, Manitoba is a signatory to the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Governance Agreement which recognizes the jurisdiction of First Nations to pass laws and to enforce those laws through local courts and by traditional means.

Calls to Action: Reconciliation - Ongoing Initiatives

Manitoba, in partnership with many other organizations, has taken action towards reconciliation under many of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC's) Calls to Action themes that include:

- Canadian Governments and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);
- Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation;
- Settlement Agreement Parties and UNDRIP;
- Equity for Indigenous people in the legal system;
- National Council for Reconciliation;
- Professional development and training for public servants;
- Church apologies and reconciliation;
- Education for reconciliation;
- Youth programs;
- Museums and archives;
- Missing Children and Burial information;
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation;
- Commemoration;
- Media and Reconciliation;
- Sports and Reconciliation;
- Business and Reconciliation; and
- Newcomers to Canada.

Canadian Governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

TRC Calls to Action: #43-44

Progress to Date:

Aboriginal and Treaty Rights:

- Continuing development of a renewed and strengthened duty-to-consult framework for respectful and productive consultations with Indigenous communities.
- Working cooperatively with 29 Entitlement First Nations, Canada and the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Committee to fulfill the outstanding TLE obligations by transferring Crown lands into reserve lands:
 - As of June 30, 2021, Manitoba has transferred 696,450 acres to Canada under all TLE agreements in Manitoba.
 - Since September 2019, 12,610 acres of land have been transferred.

- For the 2020/21 fiscal year, 3,459 acres have been transferred with an anticipated 13,715 acres to be transferred next year.
- Continuing to negotiate and implement provincial settlement agreements relating to the adverse effects of hydroelectric development and other natural resource-related issues.

Land and resource rights and self-determination:

- The Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Protocol creates certainty of the process for all parties involved in Crown-Indigenous Consultations related to mineral exploration and development, including First Nations, industry and government. Central to the approach is a process of engagement and relationship building that helps ensure First Nations can be actively involved in all phases of mineral development to create and share in the benefits of growth in this sector.
- The Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels project is the largest infrastructure project built by the Manitoba government since the Red River Floodway Expansion Project. The province has been consulting and engaging with 39 Indigenous communities and groups identified by provincial and federal requirements. Eight consultation agreements have been signed, which represent communities potentially impacted by the project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the consultation and engagement processes were adjusted to respect public health orders. The project has advanced to phase two of the consultation process.
- Manitoba signed a forestry option licence with four First Nations to explore Indigenous-led forestry development. The licence is a first of its kind in Manitoba and is between the provincial government and Black River First Nation, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Hollow Water First Nation and Sagkeeng First Nation. The consortium will investigate:
 - Determining wood supply and suitability for commercial forestry;
 - Pursuing private partnerships and investment for commercial developments;
 - Preparing a proposal for an Indigenous-owned and operated company to manage, develop, harvest and renew the area's forest; and
 - Making an application for a long-term forest management licence as well as supporting greater participation by Indigenous communities in economic development and sustainable management of the province's natural resources.
- Supporting northern communities through connections to the land and increased access to healthy and traditional foods. Partners under the Northern Healthy Food Initiative continue to fund and implement local food security projects.
- Working with representatives from various Indigenous communities on resource management boards and committees to sustain long-term furbearer, moose, caribou, polar bear and fisheries populations.

- Working with various Indigenous communities in the planning, development and implementation of community-specific integrated watershed management plans.
- Work proceeds in partnership with Canada, Manitoba and First Nations to purchase and install directional highway and community boundary signage.

Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #45-47

Progress to Date:

Principles for Advancing Reconciliation:

- Proclaiming The Path to Reconciliation Act and committing to a public engagement process in collaboration with Indigenous communities and all Manitobans. This will develop a comprehensive reconciliation framework and action plan for advancing Indigenous priorities. Although the engagement process was delayed due to COVID-19, it will re-commence in 2021/2022.

Settlement Agreement Parties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

TRC Calls to Action: #48-49

These calls to action are directed to church parties, to the settlement agreement, and to religious denominations, asking them to comply with the UNDRIP. These calls to action are not directed specifically to the Manitoba government, and there have been no actions identified under the calls.

Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System

TRC Calls to Action: #50-52

The Manitoba government notes that the legal principles that apply to the determination of Aboriginal title have been set by the Supreme Court of Canada through several cases including Delgamuukw, Marshall, Bernard and Tsilhqot'in.

National Council for Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #53-56

Progress to Date:

National Council for Reconciliation:

- In December 2017, the federal government appointed six members to the Interim Board of Directors for the National Council for Reconciliation to help advance their commitment to implementing the Calls to Action. The 2019 federal budget announced \$126.5 million in fiscal year 2020 to 2021 to establish a National Council for Reconciliation and endow it with initial operating capital. Although the Manitoba government is yet to be involved in this call to action geared towards the federal government, there is potential for participation in the future.

Reporting on educational and income attainment of Aboriginal peoples in Canada:

- Continuing to report on poverty reduction measures, initiatives and progress through Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy Annual Report, based on the strategy released in 2019. The strategy includes 13 indicators to measure progress, including the low-income rate (Market Basket Measure). On an annual basis, government will report on low-income rates and Indigenous status will be among the sub-group populations that will be included.
- Continuing to report on the graduation rate and credit attainment results for Grade 9 English Language Arts and Mathematics. Results of self-declared Indigenous and non-Indigenous students are publicly available.

Reporting on progress towards reconciliation:

- Released the 2019/2020 Path to Reconciliation Act Annual Progress Report, which focused the Manitoba government's efforts towards reconciliation around the themes of the TRC's 94 Calls to Action. Collaboration and engagement with Indigenous communities informs our priorities and methods of evaluating and reporting on progress towards reconciliation.

Professional Development and Training for Public Servants

TRC Call to Action: #57

Progress to Date:

Education and training for public servants:

- Continuing to offer educational and training opportunities to improve understanding and knowledge of the Call to Action #57 topic. Multiple departments continue to participate in various initiatives including but not limited to:

- Participating in the 'Reading and Discussion Group' on the TRC and its Calls to Action, as well as the Call to Action #57 Inter-Departmental Working Group;
 - Participating in training opportunities including Organization and Staff Development courses such as 'Indigenous Peoples: Building Stronger Relationships,' Kairos Blanket Exercises, the ReconcileACTION and Relational Training programs; and how to respectfully incorporate Indigenous themes into regular park programming.
- Continued the professional development of the Manitoba civil service through the delivery of multiple courses to increase knowledge and awareness on topics including: the history of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples in Canada; the direct and intergenerational effects of colonization and residential schools on Indigenous peoples; effective and respectful communication practices and working relationships with Indigenous peoples in Manitoba. This year, 667 government employees from multiple departments participated in the following workshops:
 - The Path to Reconciliation: A Historic and Contemporary Overview
 - Exploring the Historical and Modern Treaty Relationship
 - Building your Indigenous Cross-Cultural Awareness
 - Critical and Courageous Conversations on Race and Racial Discrimination: Our Stories
- Continued to provide support for employees to complete the Certificate of Indigenous Relations Program, and created an Agriculture Certificate of Indigenous Relations Program to increase cultural awareness within the Manitoba Agriculture Research and Innovation Committee board as they review Search and Innovation applications.
- In 2018, the Department of Agriculture and Resource Development established the Reconciliation Working Group to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship with Indigenous peoples. The ongoing Working Group encourages and supports professional development opportunities that share Indigenous perspectives and the history of Indigenous peoples.
- Since 2018, the Manitoba Planning Conference Steering Committee has included Indigenous programming, including increased sessions specific to Indigenous issues in planning, to provide education opportunities for provincial and municipal public servants and officials.
- The Manitoba government provided \$25,000 to Circles for Reconciliation to further the opportunity to learn about the shared history of Canadian Indigenous nations and peoples. The initiative aims to create trusting, meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples as part of the 94 Calls to Action.
- Continuing to operate the Truth and Reconciliation Training Committee, providing advice and guidance on reconciliation training for civil servants, and a forum for departments to share information about their department-specific reconciliation training activities.

Church Apologies and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #58-61

These calls to action request apologies and education strategies for church congregations, clergy, religious organizations and other parties to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

These calls to action are not directed specifically to the Manitoba government, and there have been no actions identified under the calls.

Education for Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #62-65

Progress to Date:

Kindergarten to Grade 12 Curricula:

- Manitoba Education partnered with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to implement a five-year Treaty Education Initiative in the fall of 2019. It ensures that all students grade K-12 and teachers learn about Treaties and the Treaty Relationship by providing classroom teachers with intensive professional development and treaty kits.
- Implementing mandatory learning outcomes relating to the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, residential schools and the treaty relationship in K-11 Social Studies curricula and textbooks, and promoting the development of resources that address the legacy and history of Indian Residential Schools within the education system.

Post-Secondary Curricula:

- Continuing to support a mandatory course on Indigenous Perspectives within post secondary institutions.
- The Manitoba government is working across the education system to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the province, and to improve pre-service and professional learning opportunities for all educators.
- Delivering funding to train teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods. Training is delivered through the:
 - Community-Based Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (University of Winnipeg);
 - Winnipeg Education Centre (University of Winnipeg); and the
 - Faculty of Education 'Kenanow Bachelor of Education' (University College of the North)

- Integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and learning into curricula, specifically for Français and French Immersion schools. L'intégration des Perspectives Autochtones dans le Milieu Scolaire de Langue Française supports this work.

Council of Ministers of Education to maintain commitment to Indigenous education issues:

- Manitoba Education is a member of the Council of Ministers of Education and collaborates with other provinces and territories on Indigenous education.

Youth Programs

TRC Call to Action: #66

Develop community-based youth programs on reconciliation:

- Continuing collaborations between the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate, Economic Development and Jobs and Immigration Manitoba to develop an approach for promoting relationships and understanding between Indigenous and newcomer youth.

Museums and Archives

TRC Calls to Action: #67-70

Supporting and Reviewing Museum Policies and Programming:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Manitoba Education and the Manitoba Museum was renewed February 11, 2020. The MOU allows the two parties to continue to collaborate on events and workshops such as Treaty Education to align Museum programming with the Manitoba Social Studies and Science curricula outcomes. The MOU addresses shared interests to ensure that Indigenous perspectives are explicitly reflected in the development of learning resources and programs, and improving literacy, student engagement, and education and career opportunities.

Funding for commemorative projects on theme of reconciliation:

- Continuing to provide support to the Association of Manitoba Museums (AMM) through the Provincial Heritage Agencies Program. The program support allows the AMM to explore training, workshops, policy development and best practices for member museums, as well as support to the AMM in their role in addressing the TRC's Calls to Action.

Missing Children and Burial Information

TRC Calls to Action: #71-76

These calls to action are mainly directed at the federal government and relate to identifying and documenting deaths and burial sites related to residential schools.

Appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased:

- Continuing to provide Crown land records and ownership information to assist in the research and identification of residential school burial sites.
- Manitoba continues to work with Indigenous partners to support the protection of Indigenous cultural heritage. Ceremonial rights are considered and appropriate re-burial practices are undertaken as per consultation with community.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #77-78

Progress to Date:

Provincial collaborative efforts identifying and collecting records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system:

- No ongoing initiatives identified.

Commemoration

TRC Calls to Action: #79-83

Progress to Date:

Commemorating and honoring residential school students and survivors:

- Provided funding support to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation for the ‘Reconciliation through Education: Every Child Matters’ event. This intergenerational event was held on September 30, 2020 to coincide with Orange Shirt Day, and featured live-streamed activities including survivor stories, cultural celebrations, educational sessions, and opportunities for community engagement. September 30th is historically used to mark advancements in truth and reconciliation.

Media and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #84-86

Progress to Date:

Student education on history of Indigenous peoples for journalism and media schools:

- No ongoing initiatives identified.

Sports and Reconciliation

TRC Calls to Action: #87-91

Progress to Date:

Inclusive sport policies, programs and initiatives:

- Continuing to support provincial sport organizations (softball, paddling, badminton, basketball, and ball hockey) and community groups (Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg and Sport Programs in Inner City Neighbourhoods) through the Active Start, FUNdamentals, and Learn to Train programs. The goal of these initiatives is to create opportunities for youth to improve their physical literacy skills, sport specific and personal development skills. Examples of initiatives through this funding include:
 - Training leaders and/or coaches through the Athlete and Leadership Development program.
 - Providing disadvantaged children and youth access to community-based sport by minimizing obstacles and barriers that many youth face in order to participate in sport.
 - Supporting under-served and socio-economically disadvantaged locations within Manitoba's remote, isolated, and inner urban communities through targeted sport and recreational activities. Efforts are particularly directed towards involving Manitoba's Indigenous, ethno-cultural and new-immigrant populations.
 - Developing and delivering sport-specific "learn-to-play" in partnership with Sport Manitoba and Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreational Council (MASRC). Provincial Sport Organizations work in cooperation with local groups to provide child-entered programming.
- Through ongoing partnerships with the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council we continue to deliver the X-Plore Sports program. Over the course of 2020/21, a number of activities were pursued including virtual sport nights and anti-bullying through physical literacy. Significant support was also provided to community volunteers through employability training in activities such as report tracking and grant writing. Strong and collaborative relationships have been forged with the community through this program.
- Supporting the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre (WASAC) in the delivery of community-based programming for children, youth, and adults throughout Manitoba. WASAC's approach is to enable a continuous process for development within our participants. WASAC provides year-round sport and recreation programming to Indigenous children, youth, and adults in high-need community areas, encourages youth leadership development, and interaction with positive role models, and bridges the gap between Indigenous youth and mainstream sports and recreation within Manitoba. Examples of initiatives implemented through WASAC include:

- WASAC welcomed 988 participants aged 7-12 to summer camp in 2020. The summer camp also provided employment for 87 youth aged 14-24. Camp operations were drastically modified to operate in accordance with COVID-19 public health regulations.
 - WASAC NORTH worked with the northern communities of Duck Bay (Camperville and Pine Creek), Lac Brochet, Pauingassi, Shamattawa and Oxford House to provide weekly after school recreational programming throughout the school year and into the summer months. Youth leaders are trained and equipped with leadership skills to plan and deliver weekly programming.
 - The Summer Youth Achievement Program provides leadership development programming to 30 youth aged 13-17. The program provides youth with daily activities designed to increase leadership, self-confidence, life and employability skills.
 - Delivered sport equipment into communities, and operated online programming with educational and recreational games through the STAR program.
 - WASAC combined recreation, culture, and art by offering the community a traditional Metis jigging program. The program was held online with a positive turnout as many youth want to learn cultural dance during the pandemic.
- Supporting a virtual, land-based, outdoor education session with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.
 - Fit Kids Healthy Kids facilitated two virtual physical literacy training sessions to the Boys and Girls Club in Thompson, and to 40 physical education teachers in partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.
 - Supported and delivered a variety of activities through partnership with the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council:
 - Delivered four Aboriginal Coaching Modules in partnership with MASRC and increased coaching capacity within Indigenous communities through the Canada Games Internship.
 - Supported virtual community initiatives to deliver weight loss challenges, outdoor education sessions, and land-based activities.
 - The Leadership Coordinator continued to develop coaches and volunteers for a virtual Manitoba Indigenous Games. This year this role was crucial due to the enhanced needs of participants during the pandemic.
 - Delivered Traditional Games Programming to multiple schools through the virtual Manitoba Indigenous Games that occurred in May 2021.
 - The MASRC hosted a one-day forum on Truth and Reconciliation for a variety of staff, allies, and community members. The forum included an Elder, speakers from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and residential school survivors.

- The Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame held a recent feature exhibit on the Great War and Manitoba athletes who partook; a feature case dedication was given to Joe Keeper and Angela Chalmers (for Women in Sport exhibit). In addition, the current Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame exhibit includes celebrating 40 years of inductions and features 500+ individuals and teams since 1980 that also include Indigenous members photos on the Hall of Fame wall.
- Provided funding support for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Operations Coordinator and preparation for Team Manitoba to participate in NAIG games to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia July 2020 (*now postponed to 2021).
- Provided financial support to the Community Sport Development Grants program that facilitates the development and delivery of community-based sport by local clubs or teams. Grants are provided to support the development of athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers. In parallel, Sport Manitoba is conducting an Impact Study specific to areas of Indigenous participation in sport and sport development.
- Provided ongoing funding support to MASRC for various Indigenous awareness/education growth initiatives that includes:
 - Traditional Games Programming - provide access to the Indigenous games resource (book) and training to be used as a tool by educators, organizations, parents and the MASRC in communities; and
 - Supporting Dene communities to work with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society to help provide equipment needed for a five-day wilderness expedition for youth: O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation, Northlands Denesuline, Barren Lands First Nation, Sayisi Dene First Nation (Tadoules Lake).

Business and Reconciliation

TRC Call to Action: #92

Progress to Date:

Relationship building, economic opportunities and benefits in the corporate sector:

- Administered multi-year renewal agreements for the Job Seeker Manager Agreements in partnership with Manitoba Hydro and participating communities; one with each of the four Keeyask Cree Nation Communities (Fox Lake, Tataskweyak, York Factory, and War Lake First Nations) and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.
- Partnered to deliver the Northern Industry Collaborative Employment program that designs and implements training to employment activities for unemployed/underemployed northern Manitobans with project management oversight and partnership development supports from Northern Manitoba Sector Council, and also engages northern youth and industry workforce in career awareness and growth in many sectors.

- The Manitoba government, Travel Manitoba and the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce have launched a new provincial tourism strategy aimed at increasing tourist expenditures of \$2.2 billion by 2022. There is significant demand for travel experiences Manitoba can offer, including northern and Indigenous tourism, and world-class water-based experiences.
- Established an economic development office within the Department of Economic Development and Jobs to better address our mandate to engage with Indigenous communities to foster Indigenous contributions to Manitoba's economy.
- Continued consultations and engagements with 39 Indigenous communities and groups potentially impacted and interested in the Lake Manitoba/Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project.
- Provided new funding for sector councils which includes strategies to support underrepresented groups in the workforce, such as Indigenous peoples, youth and newcomers who lack work experience and/or face barriers to employment. The Manitoba government is investing \$24.0 million over four years to help sector councils provide workforce training and develop human resource services.
- Partnered with Manto Sipi Cree Nation to advance mineral development with the signing of a new consultation protocol agreement, the first to be developed through the Manitoba-First Nations Mineral Development Protocol initiative. Manitoba is in discussions with 10 other First Nations relating to consultation protocols. The process is open to all Indigenous communities with immediate or potential mineral development opportunities.
- Collaborating with Manitoba Hydro and Keeyask Cree Nation partners to offer the Keeyask Engagement Project. This initiative identifies barriers to employment faced by job seekers and apprentices from the four Keeyask Cree Nation communities, and refers the candidates for employment and training opportunities at the Keeyask Hydro project.

Newcomers to Canada

TRC Calls to Action: #93-94

- No ongoing initiatives identified.

Other Reconciliatory Actions – Ongoing Initiatives

Health and Wellness

- Supported and collaborated with Neecheewam on the development of ‘Ata Chiminis Misigew’ which translates to ‘Eagle Embracing You,’ a program designed to address addictions and mental health through access to a treatment facility that is flexible and includes cultural connections for Sexually Exploited Youth.
- Supported a new Indigenous Spiritual Advisory and Mental Health Clinicians on the Winnipeg StreetReach Team in coordination with the Tracia’s Trust, the provincial strategy to address sexually exploited children and youth. Supported an intensive Peer Mentor Family Preservation Service program through the Metis Community Addiction Response Team to prevent Child and Family Services apprehension.

Housing and Infrastructure

- Continuing to honour the 10-year bilateral housing agreement under the National Housing Strategy (NHS) shared by the governments of Canada and Manitoba. The \$450.8 million investment is available to families, Indigenous communities, and vulnerable Canadians who require long-term funding for community housing in Manitoba.

Language and Culture

- Provided Operational and Collection Development Grants to three First Nation Libraries to enable communities to collect materials and provide programming that reflect the interests of the community. Some of the communities encourage local authors and have published their own materials. University College of the North/First Nation Libraries have presented workshops about their services at provincial conferences.
- Provided core funding to Indigenous Languages of Manitoba, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the strength and survival of Indigenous languages in Manitoba.
- The Public Library Services Branch organized a webinar with the Circles for Reconciliation project. The webinar was promoted in the public library community and is available for viewing on-demand.
- Supported the participation of a group of Indigenous Elders to attend the National Gathering of Elders conference that focused on Reconciliation, Revitalization of Culture and Language, MMIWG, and Climate Change. The purpose of this event was to promote the sharing of culture, tradition, and language from Elders to other Indigenous Canadians as well as the youth.

- Provided funding to not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations delivering arts-based programming to under-served or underrepresented urban communities, as well as additional support for Qaumajuq at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Administration of this grant was transferred to the Manitoba Arts Council in 2020. Organizations receiving funding through the Urban Art Centres Operating Grant in 2020-21 include:
 - Art City Inc.
 - Artbeat Studio Inc.
 - Freeze Frame
 - Gas Station Arts Centre
 - Graffiti Art Programming Inc.
 - Manitoba Printmakers Association Inc./Martha Street Studio
 - Manitoba Theatre for Young People
 - Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.
 - NorVa Center
 - The Edge Urban Art Centre

- Continuing to provide over \$300,000 in annual funding to Festival du Voyageur. The annual winter festival has strong ties to the francophone and Métis communities and brings voyageur, Métis and First Nation histories to life.

Skill Building and Training

- Continuing the Indigenous Internship Program within the department of Finance. The initiative is aimed at building Indigenous representation in Manitoba Finance by allowing a qualified Indigenous candidate a one-year internship. This internship will provide valuable work experience to the candidate and will help to strengthen Manitoba Finance with diverse knowledge. Outreach to Manitoba colleges and universities has been done to target recently graduated Indigenous students looking to enter the workforce.

Economic Development

- Continuing the process toward an agreement on the transfer of assets, ownership and operations of the province's Northern Airports and Marine Operations to First Nations. On February 20, 2020 Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister and Grand Chief Arlen Dumas, AMC, signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize these discussions. Once reached, the agreement will facilitate First Nations independence in controlling the transportation infrastructure they depend on daily and benefit northern economies.

- Continued to deliver the First Peoples Economic Growth Fund, in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. This joint economic development initiative is a collaborative process between AMC and Government of Manitoba, and provides financing to support Manitoba First Nation business proposals that are economically viable. There are seven program areas of the fund:
 - Business plan assistance;
 - Skills development;
 - Entrepreneur loans;
 - Community economic expansion loans;
 - Joint-venture investments;
 - Professional support aftercare; and
 - Resource and energy investment.

Looking Forward

The Path to Reconciliation Act establishes a transparent mechanism to monitor and evaluate the measures taken by the Manitoba government to advance reconciliation, including the measures taken to engage Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples in the reconciliation process. One of the tools implemented by our government to monitor our progress is The Path to Reconciliation Act Annual Progress Report, outlining our actions that contribute toward reconciliation in our province.

Reconciliation is rooted in respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Determining which specific actions should be taken can only be done in a collaborative fashion in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. The Manitoba government is committed to a public engagement process to hear the reconciliation priorities of Indigenous nations, Indigenous peoples and all Manitobans. This public engagement will guide the development of a reconciliation strategy in Manitoba. The strategy will also be guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There remains much work to be done in Manitoba to address reconciliation, and the Government of Manitoba recognizes that these efforts must be collaborative and involve both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, from all sectors of society. The Manitoba government is committed to walking this path with Indigenous leaders and community.

Available in alternate formats upon request