

THE PATH TO RECONCILIATION ACT

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

PREPARED BY
MANITOBA INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION AND NORTHERN RELATIONS

2021-2022



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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 that Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

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

Acronyms

Full Text	Acronym
Association of Manitoba Museums	AMM
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs	AMC
Calls for Justice	CFJ
Calls to Action	CTA
Child and Family Services	CFS
Downtown Community Safety Partnership	DCSP
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	FASD
Manitoba First Nations Police Service	MFNP
Manitoba Inuit Association	MIA
Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.	MKO
Manitoba Métis Federation	MMF
Memo of Understanding	MOU
Métis Nation Heritage Centre	MNHC
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	MMIWG
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation	NCTR
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	RCMP
Southern Chiefs' Organization	SCO
Treaty Land Entitlement	TLE
Truth and Reconciliation Commission	TRC
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	UNDRIP
University College of the North	UCN

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 has 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 (IRNR) is pleased to present the seventh Path to Reconciliation Annual Progress Report. The report largely focuses on the themes of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC's) 94 Calls to Action (CTA), which seek to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation.

This report is subdivided into two broad categories based on the status of current and ongoing initiatives. The first half of this report focuses on new efforts undertaken by the Manitoba Government between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022; while the second half focuses on previously reported or ongoing activities initiated prior to April 1, 2021.

The Calls to Action: Legacies section 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, in the spirit of the first 42 CTA. 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 CTA: Reconciliation section 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 CTA.

A third category of 'Other Reconciliatory Activities' is included and lists a number of initiatives that further reconciliation outside of the TRC's CTA. A section has also been included to address how Manitoba responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in the spirit of reconciliation.

In March 2022, the Path to Reconciliation Act was amended to include the Calls for Justice (CFJ) of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) as a guiding tool in Manitoba's continuing journey on the path of reconciliation. A section has been added to this report to include measures, initiatives

and activities taken to address violence against Indigenous women and girls and provide information on Manitoba's response to the National Inquiry and CFJ.

The final section of this report looks forward, and deals with how the Manitoba Government will continue to build on the progress it has made towards advancing reconciliation in the 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 CTA directed to governments, churches, organizations and all Canadians. The TRC released its 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 CTA 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 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 colonization, and to reconciling relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Manitoba. The work of the TRC and the courage of survivors who shared their experiences serves 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 Métis 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 IRNR 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 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, Métis, 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), Métis 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 Métis 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*.

Métis: For purposes of section 35 rights, the term Métis 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 *Métis 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 Métis community is a group of Métis 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 seventh *Path to Reconciliation Act Annual Progress Report* follows the themes presented in the TRC 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 CTA 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, 2021, and March 31, 2022, as well as a summary of previously reported ongoing activities. This report is composed of eleven sections:

New Initiatives

- 1) CTA #1-42: Legacies
- 2) CTA #43-94: Reconciliation
- 3) Other Reconciliatory Actions
- 4) Addressing MMIWG
- 5) COVID-19 Initiatives

Ongoing Initiatives

- 6) CTA #1-42: Legacies
- 7) CTA #43-94: Reconciliation
- 8) Other Reconciliatory Actions
- 9) Addressing MMIWG
- 10) COVID-19 Initiatives
- 11) Looking Forward

Each section in this report summarizes the actions taken to address the various CTA outlined by the TRC. Engagement with Indigenous nations and peoples is key to advancing reconciliation.

In March 2022, the Path to Reconciliation Act was amended to include the CFJ of the National Inquiry into MMIWG as a guiding tool in Manitoba's approach to advancing reconciliation. Numerous actions are taken to address the systemic issue MMIWG, and a section has been added to this report to detail these activities.

Due to the challenges faced throughout the ongoing 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 CTA 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:

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

Prevention and culturally relevant activities:

- Partnered with Mount Carmel Clinic to re-establish the SuperDads parenting program, a 12-week culturally-based program providing parenting curriculum to high risk fathers. The SuperDads program provides meals to participating families and is led by Indigenous staff.

Reporting on the number of children in care:

- The Department of Families reports annually on the number of children in care. The number of children in care decreased by 357 over 2021/22, a decrease of 3.7 per cent. Indigenous children represent 91 per cent of children in care.

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:

- In 2021/22 Manitoba engaged with Peguis First Nation and the Manitoba Métis Federation to establish a coordination agreement to support them in exercising jurisdiction over CFS.
- Began coordination with the Southern First Nations Network of Care to mandate Kinonje Abinoonjiag Niigan Inc., a new CFS agency serving Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation.

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, Métis 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 issues 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 core funding to the Manitoba Inuit Association (MIA) to strengthen their organizational capacity and assist them in their work to enhance the lives of Inuit in Manitoba and connect Inuit with services to meet their evolving needs. This funding will support core operations that, in turn, work to build capacity toward increased high school/post-secondary graduation rates for Inuit, increased employment opportunities and training for Inuit living in Manitoba.
- Supported the creation of a multi-year project in Swan Valley School Division to assist youth transitioning from high school to post-secondary training. As part of the Swan Valley School Division, the Northern Lights Institute of Trades and Technology will work to establish partnerships with key stakeholders, including nearby First Nations and other Indigenous communities to create important educational and training opportunities for youth in the region. This includes introductory Ojibwe

language and cultural programming, mental health skill building, and literacy initiatives.

- Partnered with Futurpreneur Canada to provide \$250,000 to the Start-Up Program, which connects young entrepreneurs with essential business resources including pre-launch supports, up to \$60,000 in collateral-free, low-interest loan financing, and up to two years of one-to-one mentoring with expert business advisors. In 2021, the Start-Up Program helped address barriers faced by many aspiring Indigenous entrepreneurs.
- Supported 154 youth formerly in care, or youth who are currently in extensions of care, through the provision of the new Advancing Futures Bursary to support their post-secondary training and employment opportunities.
- In partnership with New Directions, dedicated \$810,100 to establish the Training Resources Youth Program, which supports youth who are no longer in the K-12 school system. The program seeks to educate and guide youth to develop healthy and productive lifestyles that lead to steady employment or a return to school.
- Provided \$479,700 in funding support to the Momentum NOW Project, which offers pre-employment and work experience placements to individuals on Employment Income Assistance, or who otherwise face barriers to gaining or maintaining sustainable employment.
- Partnered with the North End Community Renewal Corporation – Employment Assistance Services to provide \$519,000 in support for employment planning, assessments, career coaching, case-management, job search assistance, job referral information, follow-up, and statistical reporting programs.
- Established the Women in Trades Training Project in Cross Lake and Pinaymootang to support the recruitment and retention of Indigenous women in the construction industry. The program includes training in job readiness, safety, blast hole drilling and other practical skills.
- Partnered with the Winnipeg Foundation to establish the Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Scholarships, and with the Business Council of Manitoba to provide over 200 awards to Indigenous students.
- Partnered with the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute to create the Retention and Support Worker program, which supports individuals participating in the Indigenous Carpentry Program.
- The Department of Justice worked with the National Indigenous Lawyers Association and the Indigenous Bar Association to improve recruitment.

- Partnered with 4 Directions to provide a range of employment related services to assist Indigenous job seekers to find, prepare for, and maintain employment.
- Made new investments to support and strengthen education and employment skills, abilities, planning and achievement programs, increasing funding to over \$3.1 million. Services include employment planning, assessments, career coaching, case-management, job search assistance, job referral information, follow-up and statistical reporting. Programs are located in First Nations communities, or are targeted to serve numerous demographics with high numbers of Indigenous peoples, including those on Employment Income Assistance, young mothers, and those aging out of care. Programs include:
 - M-Power;
 - Salvation Army – Work Readiness Program;
 - Town of Swan River Employment Programming;
 - Fieldstone Ventures Employment Assistance Services;
 - J.U.S.T. Training Corporation;
 - Samaritan House Ministries Inc. and Employment Partnership;
 - Essential Skills Manitoba Inc.;
 - Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Association Project;
 - Assiniboine Community College Strive Program;
 - Manitoba Possible Services Inc. – Supported Employment Programming in Thompson; and
 - Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation.

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:

- As part of Manitoba's K-12 Education Action Plan, the Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With—An Indigenous Education Policy Framework was developed in partnership with the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate Advisory Council. It aims to empower Manitoba teachers to embed strategies and practices into their educational settings and classroom routines in order to reflect Indigenous languages, cultures, and identities. Ultimately, the core goal is to enhance the educational achievement and well-being of Indigenous students, setting them up for success in school and beyond. Mamàhtawisiwin's seven guiding principles provide the foundation for the provincial Indigenous Education Policy Framework that guides the actions at all

levels in the kindergarten to Grade 12 education system. The foundations of this Indigenous-inclusive education system are articulated through four policy directions:

- authentic involvement;
 - centering students;
 - understanding world views, values, identities, traditions and contemporary lifestyles; and
 - inclusive and culturally safe learning.
- Implemented the Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative pilot program to support learning and student/teacher interactions. Elders and Knowledge Keepers assist in effectively promoting Indigenous worldviews in curriculum, as well as ensuring positive and thoughtful engagement between school staff and family and community members.
 - A Grade 9 Indigenous Languages and Cultures course continues to be under development, with further courses at the Grades 10 to 12 level to follow.

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 Métis 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, Métis and Inuit identity and promoting an understanding of their languages, cultures and heritage, support the journey of reconciliation.

These CTA are directed primarily at the federal government, but Manitoba has taken steps in the spirit of the CTA 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:

- The University of Winnipeg offers the Thematic Major in Indigenous Languages which focuses on revitalization and can be taken in conjunction with a Bachelor of Education to increase the number of K-12 teachers who speak Indigenous languages.

- Manitoba provided \$300,000 over three years to Indigenous Languages of Manitoba to support the development of programming and training aimed at increasing the number of speakers and translators within the province.
- In collaboration with Indigenous Languages Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg established the Teaching Indigenous Languages Certificate Program in spring 2021. The program focuses on language revitalization by increasing the number of Indigenous speakers, and on training Indigenous language speakers to effectively teach languages in Manitoba schools.
- Established the Manitoba Indigenous Languages Group with the mandate to share knowledge of Indigenous language, and to conceive of a provincial strategy for language preservation, education, and revitalization. This group includes representatives from the Manitoba Government, University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, the Winnipeg School Division, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, Brandon University, the Prairie to Woodlands Indigenous Languages Revitalization Circle and the Government of the Northwest Territories.
- Funded Brokenhead Ojibway Nation to support the development of bilingual English/Ojibway signs along a community trail system. Subjects/texts were developed in consultation with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- Partnered with the Fort Whyte Foundation and provided funding for Indigenous language signage.
- Many organizations supported by the Manitoba Government's Sector Council Program have established and provided Indigenous awareness training. This training seeks to enhance the cultural awareness amongst economic sectors in order to ensure their work and efforts effectively incorporate Indigenous perspectives. These Sector Programs include:
 - Bioscience Association Manitoba;
 - Manitoba Music Industry Association;
 - Film Training Manitoba;
 - Manitoba Aerospace Inc.;
 - Manitoba Construction Sector Council;
 - Food and Beverage Manitoba;
 - Manitoba Environmental Industries Association;
 - Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters; and
 - Creative Manitoba.

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 CTA 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:

- The province allocated an additional \$193,000 in funding to support increased access to affordable and healthy foods, and help alleviate acute food security pressures in northern Manitoba. The funding was distributed to the five community-based regional partners of the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative program: Bayline Regional Roundtable, Four Arrows Regional Health Authority, Frontier School Division, Food Matters Manitoba and the Northern Association of Community Councils to ensure community-led solutions to food security challenges.
- In partnership with the federal government, \$1.5 million in funding was provided to the Main Street Project, a non-profit organization that serves the unsheltered and those dealing with addiction issues in Winnipeg.
- A Pathway to Mental Health and Community Wellness: A Roadmap for Manitoba was launched in February 2022. This five year plan builds a responsive and reliable system for mental health, substance use and addictions services as well as chronic disease prevention and health promotion. The roadmap recognizes that colonial practices, past and present, have contributed to reduced access to culturally safe and relevant care and resulted in poor outcomes for Indigenous peoples. Further, the roadmap shares the department's commitment to advancing reconciliation by working collaboratively to address these challenges while respecting the distinct nature and lived experience of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.
- Manitoba is providing funding in support of a three year program operated by Ka Ni Kanichihk, to establish an Indigenous-led sexually transmitted infection/blood-borne pathogen testing program. Ka Ni Kanichihk and public health have developed an approach to respond in real time to the increase in sexually transmitted and blood-borne infection rates experienced by urban Indigenous people in Winnipeg.

Culturally appropriate health care services:

- Partnered with the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre of Winnipeg to deliver the Insight Mentoring Program, a voluntary outreach program that gives intensive support to people who are pregnant or have recently had a baby and use substances. Manitoba is providing more than \$825,000 over three years to deliver the evidence-based program to participants in Winnipeg who self-identify as Indigenous and the Centre provides Indigenous cultural supports to its clients as an integral part of its service model.

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

- Brandon University's nursing program has incorporated the study of the social determinants of health, poverty, social justice, social inequity and healthy public policy among Indigenous populations.
- Work has been initiated to provide Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Safety Training to public health staff, with a goal of 50 per cent staff completion by March 31, 2024.
- The Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology's Pharmacy Technician Program offers courses examining colonialism, the Indian Act, Sixties Scoop, residential schools, and the recent identifications of unmarked graves at former schools. Courses also explore Indigenous knowledge and ways of learning, and incorporate Indigenous guest speakers to share their perspectives and lived experiences.
- Red River College Polytechnic's Nursing Program provides courses that examine the history of Indigenous people in Canada, including concepts of cultural sensitivity, and cultural safety with respect to client centered care. They explore specific health issues prevalent in Indigenous populations, the relationship between biomedicine and Indigenous worldviews, and provide an overview of innovative culturally based approaches.
- The University of Manitoba's Undergraduate Medical Education Program at Max Rady College of Medicine covers historical and current context of Indigenous health gaps, anti-racism, and cultural safety. It is delivered through assigned readings, small group teachings and lectures.
- The University of Manitoba's College of Nursing's degree in midwifery has now incorporated traditional Indigenous midwifery practices into its curriculum.

Justice

TRC Calls to Action: #25-42

The high incarceration rates of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples can be linked to colonization, the harmful actions experienced by children in residential schools, and intergenerational trauma. The largest proportion of the CTA fall under the justice theme. The CTA 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:

- Engaged with Indigenous leadership and organizations to shape and inform amendments to the Police Services Act.
- Established an Indigenous Elders Advisory Council to provide guidance in addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. The Indigenous Elders Advisory Council is a grassroots, non-partisan group of community members that reflects the vast diversity in gender, language, nationhood and lived experience of Indigenous people in Manitoba. Its mandate is to guide and enhance the work of the department of Justice with the Indigenous community through meaningful, respectful involvement and innovative solutions.
- In April 2021, jurisdiction over policing services in Opaskweyak First Nation was transferred from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to the Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNP), at the request of the community. A transition team of senior officials from Manitoba Justice, Public Safety Canada, MFNP, RCMP, Opaskweyak Cree Nation and the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council Police Commission met regularly to coordinate the transition.
- Entered into an Interchange Agreement between the Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Centre and MFNP. The Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Centre has recently partnered with MFNP as a Category 1 police agency in Manitoba. This relationship has formally tied MFNP into the Manitoba intelligence community. This relationship will increase public safety and relationship building for all jurisdictions that MFNP serves.
- Protective Services Officers are increasingly engaged with unsheltered Indigenous peoples in Winnipeg and rural communities. This includes consultation and collaboration with local police, social service agencies, and community corrections officers to provide a more sensitive and helpful approach to unsheltered Indigenous peoples. The goal is to move towards an engagement based approach and away from enforcement measures.

Providing culturally relevant services to offenders:

- Transferred services of the Indigenous Court Work Program to the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO), Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and the Island Lake Tribal Council to ensure community and Indigenous-led service delivery. The Indigenous Court Work Program assists

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.

- Indigenous awareness and sensitivity has been integrated into the Intelligence-Based Security Screening Program investigator training modules to prevent bias during the screening process based on feedback from Indigenous peoples.

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.

Work to address and prevent FASD and better respond to the needs of offenders with FASD:

- Partnered with Ka Ni Kanichik to support the Indigenous-led FASD Training and Kinship Support Initiative, which offers focused FASD wellness and prevention supports and train service providers in working with those affected by FASD in a culturally safe way. The program will also include Kinship Circle focused on prevention information, community outreach, practical strategies and tools that are culturally appropriate and ceremony.
- Initiated the InSight Mentoring Program: An evidence-based FASD prevention program for women who are pregnant or have children under 1 year old, use substances, and are not connected to services. It offers women a three year relationship with a mentor who provides practical support, advocacy and connection to community resources. Three of the funded organizations providing the InSight program are Indigenous-led organizations, and provide Indigenous cultural supports. All InSight sites connect participants to cultural resources when requested.

Adequately funding accessible Indigenous-specific victim services programs:

- Provided \$1 million in funding, plus \$2 million annually for operating a youth healing lodge created to better serve Justice involved youth. The Healing Lodge will be implemented in partnership with MKO to address intergenerational trauma using traditional Indigenous healing techniques.

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

- Please refer to the Addressing MMIWG section of this report for information on how Manitoba is responding to the issue of MMIWG.

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 CTA 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 (NCTR);
- 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 Métis 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 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:

- All transportation and infrastructure projects include engagement with Indigenous Nations, seeking to ensure that projects built in Manitoba are properly informed by Indigenous perspectives. Initial assessments of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's duty to consult were completed for over 150 departmental projects. Approximately 30 projects required some form of consultation or engagement, and 25 project information letters were sent.
- Established a new Indigenous Consultation Branch created within the Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure Corporate Services Division, and mandated it with furthering the process of reconciliation and collaboration, fostering relationships with Indigenous communities, and building sustainable relationships through trust, communication and common understanding.
- Working with representatives from various Indigenous communities on resource management boards and committees to sustain long-term furbearer, moose, caribou, bison, polar bear and fisheries populations.

Land and resource rights and self-determination:

- Working with various Indigenous Nations to assess and understand the decline in moose populations in the Duck Mountain and Porcupine Mountains. In 2022, the Interim Moose Hunting Opportunity was established, and the development of the long-term sustainable moose management strategy for these areas through the Shared Management process was initiated. Engagements and policy development regarding ceremonial moose harvest in conservation closures is ongoing.
- Working with the Manitoba Métis Federation to assist with their Elder Fuelwood program, and engaged with Chief Peguis Industries to support their tree planting initiatives.
- Supporting consultations between governments and multiple northern First Nations regarding crown lands and mineral exploration studies.

Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #45-47

These CTA 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 CTA: #48-49

These CTA are directed to church and settlement agreement parties and to religious denominations and asks them to comply with the UNDRIP.

Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System

TRC CTA: #50-52

These CTA 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.

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 CTA: #53-56

These CTA 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. CTA #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 CTA: #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 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 2021/22, the Manitoba Government invested over \$265,000 on new and ongoing initiatives to train public servants.

Progress to Date:

Education and training for public servants:

- Staff from the Tax Information Branch completed courses on topics such as residential school impacts and effects, Sixties Scoop, Indigenous customs, traditions and governance, numbered treaties, Truth and Reconciliation, UNDRIP, land acknowledgements and sweet grass teachings.
- Staff from Community Programs and Services Branch completed a nine-hour training program entitled The Path to Reconciliation - Historic and Contemporary Overview, and other available courses that covered subjects such as treaty relationships, advancing reconciliation and Indigenous cultural awareness.
- Public servants are participating in the Indigenous economics workshop series delivered by the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics. The series includes five separate workshops designed to build knowledge and understanding of economic reconciliation, urban reserve development, First Nations fiscal powers, improved First Nation-Provincial-Federal fiscal relationship, and improving the resource development investment climate.
- Circles for Reconciliation is initiating a pilot project at a one-time cost of \$54,000 in 2021/22 whereby it would facilitate 18 'Circles' involving the participation of approximately 150 Government of Manitoba public servants. Manitoba is also providing Circles for Reconciliation with an annual operating grant of \$125,000 for a term of three years beginning in 2021/22 to fund their core staff while they establish self-sufficiency as an organization.

Church Apologies and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #58-61

These CTA 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 CTA: #62-65

Non-Indigenous people must have an understanding of First Nations, Métis 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 CTA 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:

- University College of the North (UCN) Learning Council approved an updated and revised the policy related to the Indigenization of the curriculum. The policy focuses on the expectation that all curriculum at UCN incorporates Indigenous content and pedagogy. The Learning Council and its committees expect that all programs and courses incorporate factual information about the history of Indigenous people, cultures, languages and/or contemporary diversity of lifestyles.

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 CTA: #66

This CTA 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 CTA: #67-70

Although these CTA are directed at the federal government, the Manitoba Government supports the calls 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:

- Archives of Manitoba staff are reviewing and revising current practices to better identify records that are relevant to the history of Indigenous Peoples, and to ensure that these records are more accessible. The archives is also developing online guidance and research tools to improve Indigenous history research.

Funding for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation:

- Provided \$100,000 in funding to the Manitoba Métis Federation to support the pre-development of the Métis Nation Heritage Centre (MNHC) at 335 Main Street. The MNHC will display Métis artifacts and contemporary art and educate the public on Métis culture and heritage. As a prominently located institution intended to safeguard the history, language, culture and legacy of the Red River Métis, the MNHC represents one of the most significant infrastructure investments for Métis Peoples in Manitoba.
- Multiple grants were provided to support museum and archival initiatives and programming related to Indigenous peoples, culture, and heritage as follows:
 - Louis Riel Repatriation Exhibit;
 - Engagement with Keeseekoowenin Elders and leadership regarding exhibitions at the Prairie Mountain Regional Museum;
 - St. Boniface Historical Society pilot project to decolonize the Indigenous Archives at the Centre du patrimoine;
 - St. Boniface Historical Society to edit, supplement, and decolonize website texts in a number of high-demand areas, including Métis (prominent figures, rights, traditions, oral history) and First Nations (residential schools, treaties) history;
 - MMF to update the MNHC Collections Policies and Practices Manual; and
 - Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre to support the Learning Together Project, which seeks to increase community understanding and awareness of Manitoba history, cultures, and peoples by engaging with The Heritage Collection.
- A Heritage Initiatives program was established to provide grants supporting Indigenous-led heritage historical perspectives. Funding was utilized by the MMF in the development of the recent Louis Riel Repatriations Exhibit and the MNHC Collections Policies and Practices Manual.

Missing Children and Burial Information

TRC CTA: #71-76

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

Progress to Date:

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

- The Manitoba Burials Policy and Heritage Resources Act requires Community Programs and Services staff to assist Indigenous Nations in the search for unmarked graves by conducting preliminary research, creating maps, groundtruthing internal documents and records, and preparing historic imagery and maps.
- Archives of Manitoba staff are reviewing and revising descriptions of Chief Medical Examiners' records and providing updated information to the NCTR to support the NCTR in the identification of those who did not make it home from residential schools.
- Archives of Manitoba staff continue to work to identify records relevant to the history and legacy of residential schools, including indexing some records. Archives of Manitoba is in conversation with the NCTR to share information and discuss possible collaborative projects.

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.

- Manitoba established the First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis Advisory Council and its technical subcommittees to support research and planning efforts, and to offer technical advice and perform on-site visits and assessments upon request. This council will provide guidance and advice on how best to support Indigenous-led searches for children who died attending residential schools. The council's transformative work is led by First Nations, Inuit and the Red River Métis using a distinctions-based approach and is supported by municipal, provincial and federal governments. The council is co-chaired by the province and SCO, and has representation from Indigenous leadership organizations and governments, including the AMC, SCO, MKO, MMF and the MIA. Other members include Wa-Say Healing Centre, Anish Corporation, Cree Nation Tribal Council, Keewatin Tribal Council, the NCTR, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and the City of Winnipeg. The council's preliminary discussions have identified five overarching principles that will guide its work, including:
 - the search for the missing children must be Indigenous-led and with support from municipal, provincial and federal governments;
 - families and survivors must be at the heart of all search efforts;
 - health supports are essential to the wellness and healing of families, survivors, communities and all of those who are engaged in this work;
 - the remains of the children who died while attending residential schools and their burial locations be protected at all times; and
 - commemorations are essential for healing, truth telling and education.

- Allocated \$2.3 million to SCO, MKO, MMF, MIA, AMC and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to support initiatives requiring extensive participation from Indigenous governments and community organizations, residential school survivors, families, Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

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

- Allocated \$200,000 to SCO to establish a commemorative gathering place and monument in honour of the children who died as a result of residential schools.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #77-78

These CTA require all levels of government to work collaboratively with the NCTR 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:

- Archives of Manitoba staff continue to work to identify records relevant to the history and legacy of residential schools, including indexing some records. Archives of Manitoba is in conversation with the NCTR to share information and discuss possible collaborative projects.

Commemoration

TRC CTA: #79-83

These CTA are directed primarily towards the federal government to:

- develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration;
- establish a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 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.

Progress to date:

- Partnered on numerous community and grassroots-led events to observe the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Multiple departments provided \$325,000 to support events that built public awareness of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. Event partners included:
 - Anish Corporation;
 - Cree Nation Tribal Health Centre;
 - Wa-Say Healing Centre;

- Keewatin Tribal Council;
 - South East Resource Development Council;
 - West Region Treaty 2 and 4 Health Services; and
 - Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre.
- Manitoba provided \$75,000 in funding to support Truth and Reconciliation Week 2021 events led by the NCTR. Truth and Reconciliation Week ran September 27, 2021, to October 1, 2021, and the NCTR provided workshops and activities for students supported by artistic and cultural performances by First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists. It also offered video content to build greater awareness among Canadian youth, demonstrating the interconnectedness of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and exemplifying how honouring Indigenous knowledge is essential in building an equitable and thriving nation. Video content continues to remain available online.
 - Partnered with the Manitoba Museum to offer free and public Orange Shirt Day programming for multiple days surrounding September 30, 2021. The Orange Shirt Day initiative provided a variety of programs and exhibits to deliver meaningful education, awareness and interpretation to visitors about the history and effects of residential schools.
 - Initiated engagement with Sixties Scoop, residential and day school Survivors and Indigenous leadership to hear perspectives on how Manitoba can appropriately observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Feedback from these engagements will be used to shape provincial legislation formally recognizing the day. Engagement remains ongoing into the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Progress to Date:

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

- Partnered with members of the First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis Advisory Council to hold a collaborative media event that centered on Survivors, Elders and Indigenous ways of governance. The event was held at Portage La Prairie residential school and included ceremony, prayer, cultural performances and a community feast.

Media and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #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;
- UNDRIP;
- Treaty and Aboriginal rights;
- Indigenous law; and

- Aboriginal-Crown relations.

Progress to Date:

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

- No new actions identified.

Sports and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #87-91

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

Progress to Date:

Inclusive sport policies, programs and initiatives:

- Supported and delivered a variety of activities in partnership with the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council:
 - supported virtual community initiatives to deliver fitness challenges, outdoor education sessions, and land-based activities;
 - the Leadership Coordinator continued to develop coaches and volunteers for a virtual Manitoba Indigenous Games. This role was important to supporting the enhanced needs of participants during the pandemic; and
 - delivered Traditional Games Programming to multiple schools through the virtual Manitoba Indigenous Games that occurred in May 2021.

Business and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #92

This CTA calls on the corporate sector to adopt the UNDRIP and commit to consultation and relationship building with Indigenous peoples.

Progress to Date:

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

- The Manitoba Mineral Development Fund provides grants to support northern economic development and mining projects that create partnerships between Indigenous communities and industry, increase local employment, and stimulate investment in northern Manitoba. In 2021, the Fund approved \$2.2 million in funding to support 17 projects focused on Indigenous enterprise and partnerships, community economic development, and mineral exploration. The Fund's 2021 investments resulted in 53 new short-term jobs, six long-term jobs, 25 project partnerships, and over \$6 million in leveraged project funding.

- Partnered with the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development to assist Indigenous peoples to attend education and training programs in pursuit of greater self-sufficiency, independence, and long-term sustainable employment aligned with labour market needs.

Newcomers to Canada

TRC CTA: #93-94

These CTA 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 CTA 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 CTA. Highlights of new initiatives that support reconciliation include:

Health and Wellness

- Staff in some departments collected donations of clothing, personal items, hygiene products, children's toys, and games, etc. Four boxes of items were donated to Velma's House on December 20, 2021. Velma's House is a 24/7 safe space for women and LGBTQ+ people that need shelter.
- Provided \$25,000 to the Brandon Bear Clan from the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund for the purchase of a van for their operations.

Housing and Infrastructure

- Manitoba Housing is partnering with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre on The Village Project to help provide 22 units of culturally appropriate, low-income housing for people exiting unsheltered homelessness. Construction is currently underway.

Language and Culture

- Provided funding to support the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. The Learning Together Project aimed at increasing community understanding and awareness of Manitoba history, cultures and peoples.
- Provided a grant to Friends of Dalnavert Museum to support their undertaking an audit aimed at assessing and encouraging reconciliation and culturally aware operational practices.
- Provided a grant to Fort la Reine Museum: Indigenous Community Liaison Project to build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities.
- As part of Indigenous History Month, a calendar and a booklet outlining the TRC's 94 CTA were provided to staff. The calendar featured information about Indigenous languages and cultures.
- Shaquille Ducharme was selected as one of 19 Indigenous artists for the First Nations Health and Wellness Colouring Book.
- Supported the Rec and Read Mentorship Program for All Nations, a culturally-based healthy living program for Indigenous youth and young people living in diverse communities. The purpose of Rec and Read is to create safe, relevant and meaningful physical activity spaces of Indigenous youth and young people living in diverse communities.

Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – New Initiatives

Manitoba IRNR, with support from Manitoba Status of Women and other departments, is leading the work that forms the basis of Manitoba's response to the National Inquiry and CFJ, under the umbrella of Manitoba's Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet.

Manitoba is working to develop a concrete and effective response to the National Inquiry that builds on work that is underway at the community-level and aligns with the main pillars of Manitoba's Framework for Addressing Gender-Based Violence, which are:

1. Prevention
2. Support
3. Intervention

Manitoba is pursuing a wide variety of more immediate activities that align with the CFJ and support efforts to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. Initiatives are grouped under the three main pillars listed above.

Prevention

- Partnered with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to support the co-development of a provincial implementation plan to raise awareness and end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples in Manitoba.
- Mamahtawiswin - An Indigenous Education Policy Framework is foundational in the Framework for Learning, and provides education resources to incorporate MMIWG into curriculum.
- Provided \$350,000 in support to the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation for the Buffalo Riders program, which delivers early interventions for Indigenous youth at risk for substance use and addictions.
- A one time payment to the Family Violence Prevention Program was used to support shelters operating at or beyond capacity due to an increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. To address the immediate needs expressed by the shelters, the Manitoba Government was able to provide \$45,000 in short-term funding relief. This money enabled Family Violence Prevention Program to hire of two full-time positions, focused on increasing capacity by transitioning people from temporary living arrangements into longer-term housing. This opened up shelter space in Winnipeg and thereby enabling shelters operating at capacity in rural Manitoba to find safe shelter for people in Winnipeg.

- The Path to Reconciliation Act was amended to include the CFJ of the National Inquiry into MMIWG as a key component of its approach to advancing truth and reconciliation in Manitoba.
- Partnered with the Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle to lead engagements with urban families and MMIWG survivors. This effort was a part of broader engagements with the province in responding to the 231 CFJ 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 231 CFJ of the National Inquiry into MMIWG.

Support

- In alignment with CFJ 1.8, Manitoba partnered with trauma-informed and Indigenous-led organization to support a number of healing and commemorative events in relations to MMIWG, Survivors, and their families. These initiatives included:
 - Manitoba Moon Voices and Two-Spirited Peoples of Manitoba MMIWG2S+ Social Media Campaign;
 - Wahbung Abinoonjiiag Soles on Fire Walk/Run Half Marathon;
 - Gaynor Family Library Sacred Spirits of Turtle Island Mural Unveiling;
 - Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata October 4th Ceremony, Healing Support, and National Panel Discussion; and
 - 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Light of Helen Betty Osborne.
- Provided funding to the North End Women’s Centre to maintain its eight-bed transitional housing program to support women in long-term recovery from substance use and trauma. Using reconciliation and anti-oppressive lenses, a holistic model, and a harm-reduction approach, North End Women’s Centre provides services to women who are homeless or living in poverty and facing multiple barriers to maintaining their substance use recovery and mental health.
- Engaging with key Indigenous stakeholders in discussions toward integrating Indigenous-led approaches regarding Pillar 4 (impact) of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- Provided funding to assist with programs and services offered through Candace House, a non-profit organization that supports victims and survivors of violent crime.
- Announced the first supportive recovery-housing units in rural and northern Manitoba. Through a partnership with Men Are Part of the Solution Inc., the Phoenix House in Thompson, Manitoba has been expanded to offer an additional 12 supportive housing-recovery units for women. These efforts address significant needs within the region for transitional housing for women.

- Provided \$3 million to Clan Mothers, a grassroots, Indigenous women-led organization to support the construction of a healing village that will provide supports for women who have been victims of multi-generational trauma, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.
- Supported the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters in the development and delivery of a virtual mental health and addictions training program for domestic and family violence agencies. The new funding addresses existing service gaps identified by agencies and improves the capacity for holistic prevention and intervention services.
- Provided funding to End Homelessness Winnipeg for N'dinawemak (Our Relatives), a 150-bed, low-barrier, Indigenous-led community care camp and warming space.
- Launched a request for proposals in search of a vendor to provide web-based crisis line services to improve support access for Manitobans experiencing family, domestic and intimate partner violence. This improved violence crisis line will enhance supports for vulnerable Manitobans through the implementation of a new, web-based crisis chat system.
- Provided annual funding to the Canadian Mental Health Association to operate 26 overnight beds at the Oscar's Place shelter to support the continued protection of vulnerable populations in The Pas and surrounding areas.
- The MMIWG2S Manitoba Coalition in partnership with Manitoba Moon Voices hosted a virtual gathering on February 14 in memory of the victims of gender-based violence. February 14 marks the annual Women's Memorial March to honour all missing and murdered women, Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse peoples. In support of this event, the Legislative Building was lit with the symbolic red dress designed by Natalie Thiessen in partnership with MKO. The projection provided a visual reminder of the tragic issues surrounding missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse peoples across Canada.
- Participated in an October 4 Planning Committee led by Indigenous and Community-based organizations, and provided over \$50,000 funding for four events: 'Sacred Spirits of Turtle Island MMIWG2S+ Mural Unveiling in Selkirk (Gaynor Family Regional Library); Soles on Fire Walk/Run in Winnipeg (Wahbung Abinoojiag); an MMIWG2S+ Social Media Awareness Campaign (Manitoba Moon Voices and Two-Spirited People of Manitoba); and both a Healing Ceremony and Discussion Panel held in Winnipeg (Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata).
- Manitoba IRNR created several web pages dedicated to MMIWG to better communicate current steps Manitoba is taking toward the CFJ. Information on the history of the National Inquiry, the National Action Plan, relevant legislation, and other reports and resources are also included.

Intervention

- Provided \$6.4 million in funding support to 24 community organizations to deliver programs that address the diverse needs of victims, including Indigenous Men and Boys are Part of the Solution to Building Healthy and Safe Communities (MKO); Métis MMIWG Family Support Project (MMF); and Preventing and Addressing Family Violence (SCO).
- Provided funding to Men Are Part of the Solution and Community Health and Housing Association Westman Region to develop new supportive recovery housing units in rural and northern Manitoba. Men Are Part of the Solution Inc. is based in Thompson and will provide an additional 12 units in the northern region targeted to women, while Community Health and Housing Association Westman Region Inc. will provide nine units for the Brandon region. Studies show supportive recovery housing is an effective option for those in need of alcohol and drug-free housing accommodations, and improves success rates for addictions treatment.

COVID-19 Responses

This section includes information on 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 CTA have been included.

- The Manitoba Government invested nearly \$2.8 million to support and expand the role of urban Indigenous clinics and other outreach efforts intended to increase vaccination rates against COVID-19 among First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people. Manitoba partnered with external organizations including the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Portage la Prairie Renewal Corporation, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, Brandon Friendship Centre, Ongomiizwin Health Services, and the Manitoba Inuit Association to operate vaccine clinics and ensure COVID-19 immunizations are available to people who might face barriers at other locations.
- Partnered with Indigenous organizations to launch the grassroots Protect Our People Vaccination Campaign. Protect Our People focuses on those aged 18 to 35, primarily through social media platforms, in partnership with recognized First Nation influencers and trusted community leaders. The campaign focuses on their stories, why the vaccine is important to them, and how it can protect people, their Elders and communities as a whole.

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 CTA: #1-5

Progress to Date:

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

- Providing \$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.
- Providing the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association with \$5.6 million to support the creation of the Rent Back pilot program that will operate through the 2021-2023 fiscal years. According to an interim street census conducted in Winnipeg in 2021, at least two thirds of Manitoba's homeless population is Indigenous. 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.
- Continuing to support *Community Helpers - Nagikueng Abinojiik*, an 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.
- Maintaining our partnership with the *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.

- Continuing to support to the Community Addiction Response Team pilot, which connects at-risk Métis 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 Métis CFS Authority.
- Maintaining the Single Envelope Funding for 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 to child welfare practitioners through CFS authorities and agencies on the residential school system experience, 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 continues to provide 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. Legal Aid Manitoba seeks better outcomes for their clients and combats the impacts of colonization in individual cases.
- Manitoba's Family Resolution Service developed an Engagement and Training Strategy to ensure the unique needs of Indigenous populations are understood, communicated broadly and met. It has sought to:

- increase the percentage of fully implemented applicable TRC CTA and MMIWG National Inquiry CFJ;
- increase percentage of services and supports (including policies, practices and procedures) reviewed and revised to ensure they are culturally appropriate and reflect no bias or racism toward Indigenous peoples; and
- increase the percentage of implemented recommendations received from Indigenous peoples.

Prevention and culturally relevant activities:

- Continuing to support the Mothering Project at Mount Carmel Clinic with \$420,000. 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.
- Providing 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.
- Offering foster parent training to include cultural competencies and system-wide communication protocols to guide various workers who become involved when Indigenous children are placed into care.
- Continuing to provide support for the Peer Mentor Family Preservation Service program in partnership with the Métis CFS Authority to prevent apprehension.
- Continuing to provide funding to the Parenting Student Support Program, which operates out of seven high schools in Winnipeg to offer support to students who are pregnant or are young parents looking to return to school. The program coordinator liaises with schools on how to promote holistic health and education to students who are parenting. Participants have access to pre and perinatal care, cultural programming including drumming, singing, medicine picking, beading, cultural teachings, Elder visits, ceremonies and a range of other supports during pregnancy and as the students become new parents.

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. The number of children in care decreased by 357 over the 2021/22 fiscal year, a decrease of 3.7 per cent.
- Continuing to collaborate with provinces and territories to track the numbers of children in care across jurisdictions.

Jordan's Principle:

- Maintaining the inter-departmental Jordan's Principle Working Group which coordinates information sharing, makes recommendations to senior management, and reviews policies and regulations.
- Continuing our inter-departmental work and engagement with Indigenous organizations to build Manitoba's understanding of the application of Jordan's Principle to provincially funded services and supports for children with disabilities and their families.
- Continuing to respond to issues related to Jordan's Principle as they emerge at the first point of contact, usually by front-line staff. Provincial staff are available to Jordan's Principle coordinators and case managers to provide consultation on all aspects of service delivery in Manitoba and will continue to coordinate with partners and families by providing information, service navigation and consultative support in order to improve the coordination of services. Staff consult with service providers and First Nations as needed to share information and problem-solve.

Child welfare legislation:

- Supporting the application of the national standards respecting the provision of CFS to Indigenous children.
- Supporting the implementation of training curriculum for foster parents caring for Indigenous children that focuses on cultural sensitivity and connection in partnership with CFS Authorities and Partners.
- 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 Métis 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 devolve CFS responsibility to the SCO, MKO and the MMF.
- Continuing to offer culturally relevant services and programs through the following CFS authorities and agencies:
 - Métis CFS Authority;
 - Southern First Nations Network of Care;
 - First Nations of Northern Manitoba CFS Authority; and
 - General CFS Authority.

- Continuing to support community-based agencies to deliver programs and services that offer culturally appropriate programming for Indigenous children, parents, and caregivers to strengthen cultural understandings and connections.

Education

TRC CTA: #6-12

Progress to Date:

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

- Continuing to support the Martin Family Initiative's Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) through the provision of \$120,000. AYEPE is offered in four sites and is intended to encourage Indigenous youth to remain in school and develop the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to achieve success in secondary school, post-secondary education or vocational training in the workplace and daily life. Manitoba Education further supports the Martin Family Initiative's Model School at Waywayseecappo First Nation School with \$225,000 in funding.
- Maintaining the Indigenous Adult Health Internship program, providing up to 20 Indigenous adults from Central Region, the MMF and band members with job shadowing and work experience in the healthcare field.
- Maintained our partnership with numerous community organizations to provide employment assistance for unemployed youth, including resume and cover letter development, job interview preparation, labour market information and job development and matching. Services include those that are designed to prepare clients to compete within the northern labour market; delivers services locally with improved access for northern Indigenous members rather than individuals having to wait for itinerant service from other areas. Funding totalled \$169,600 and was provided to the following partners:
 - Network 4 Change;
 - Cross Lake Resource Centre – Employment Assistance Services;
 - Wabowden Employment and Training Resource Centre;
 - Thicket Portage Resource Centre; and
 - Lynn Lake Employment Assistance Services Project.
- Continuing to implement and maintain the Employment Equity in Staffing Policy. These initiatives are focused on Indigenous people, persons with disabilities and visible minorities. This policy works in the spirit of the CTA aimed at eliminating employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.
- Maintaining the development of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy and Action Plan that sets out key policy intended to educate educators and increase achievement and attainment of Indigenous students. Action-oriented

recommendations from the Manitoba Indigenous Education Roundtables are embedded with the policy.

- Continuing to deliver over \$1 million in grant funding to support education and training for Indigenous youth previously in contact with the CFS system. Programming includes the Youth in Care Tuition Waiver Post Secondary Initiative and Work2It.
- Continuing to provide support to the Youth Build program in Thompson, providing at-risk youth with the opportunity to work towards high school credits and/or achieve a mature Grade 12 diploma and preparing 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 \$2.8 million is allocated to provide programming in education and career development, mentorship and academic, financial and social support.
- Supporting adult education, literacy and skill development through the delivery of 29 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 million to support this programming in 2021/22.
- Continuing to partner with various Indigenous communities and organizations to deliver education, training, driver's education and employment supports across the province, with a particular focus on northern Manitoba. In 2021/22, Manitoba provided more than \$950,000 to support initiatives such as:
 - Flin Flon, Thompson, Churchill communities;
 - Employment Assistance Services in Opaskwayak Cree Nation and The Pas;
 - Northern Youth Employment;
 - Pathways Project;
 - Community Delivered Training (CDT);
 - Employment Links Development Centre;
 - Job Readiness and On-the-Job-Training on Tail Line Maintenance;
 - Northern Construction Trades Training program; and
 - Training to Employment

- 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.

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 million in funding must be allocated to literacy and numeracy programming.
- Supporting a variety 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 \$2.1 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.

Improving education attainment levels and success rates:

- Continuing to work with the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development Inc. 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 Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development Inc., inner city schools and educators to provide students with increased awareness of career development opportunities.
- Continuing to offer provincial academic assessments for grades 3, 7 and 8 to on-reserve schools. These optional assessments can provide important information regarding how schools compare across the province, identifying strengths and weaknesses to be addressed.
- 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 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.
- Maintaining additional funding for Indigenous post-secondary students to work towards closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous education and attainment rates. Indigenous students can apply to Manitoba Student Aid for financial assistance as all Manitoba students can. In addition to loans, low-income Indigenous students are eligible for the Manitoba Bursary, an up-front grant which includes \$2,000 for low-income students and an additional \$1,500 for Indigenous students.
- Continuing our partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Early Childhood Working Group which has developed resource documents focused on supporting early childhood development for children in First Nation communities.

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

- Maintaining the Manitoba Remote Learning Repository, 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 Métis 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*.
- 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, Métis and Inuit learners by supporting educators in incorporating Indigenous identities, languages, and cultural practices into their teaching.
- Continuing to work towards a data sharing program that strengthens understanding of Indigenous engagement with provincial and federal approaches to education. The data sharing program has been developed in partnership with First Nations and part of the K-12 Education Action Plan.
- Maintaining our work with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba to provide Treaty Education training to teachers across the province.

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, Métis and Inuit families.
- Maintaining support for the Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents initiative, designed to enhance Aboriginal parents’ involvement in the education of their children.

Language and Culture

TRC CTA: #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 UCN) and developing Indigenous language curricula in high schools.
- Providing support to Red River College for students to learn the fundamentals of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) 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 UCN certificate in

teaching 'Ininimowin' program that teaches Cree and is offered entirely in the Cree language.

- Continuing to make a summary of The Path to Reconciliation annual progress 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 – Qaumajuq - to inspire greater understanding of northern art and culture. Qaumajuq is an innovative new museum that celebrates Inuit art and Indigenous cultures through exhibitions, research and education.
- Continuing to support and provide over \$859,600 in funding to Indigenous culture and arts through various initiatives that includes dance, art centres or courses, film and music:
 - 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.

Health

TRC CTA: #18-24

Progress to Date:

Closing the gap in health outcomes:

- Maintained support for Integrated Youth Services' 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.

- 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.
- Work is ongoing to develop a strategy for Regional Health Authorities to include a chapter on Indigenous health in 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 (formerly 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/First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, 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.
- Continuing to provide over \$1 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 of reducing adolescent pregnancy while promoting healthy adolescent development.
- Maintaining over \$247,000 in funding for organizations such as Ma-Mow-We Tak Friendship Centre, Ma Mawi Wi 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.
- Continuing to operate the Manitoba Take Home Naloxone program to support people with opioid addiction. Many of the distribution sites are First Nations Health Centres and Nursing Stations in First Nations communities, providing both federal and provincial modes of coverage for take home naloxone among registered First Nations.
 - Maintaining services to support those suffering trauma, and child and adolescent mental health services through the Klinik Health Centre, the Laurel Centre, and the Health Sciences centre.
 - Continued support for mental health peer support programming, implemented through Crisis Response Centre and Dauphin Regional Health Centre, with planning underway for additional peer support at the Health Science Centre. The peer support programming is operated by Peer Connections Manitoba and uses evidence-based services and lived experiences to support the recovery of people struggling with mental health and addictions issues.
 - Continued to deliver financial support for 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. \$675,000 is provided over three years and will provide training and engagement to an additional 88 youth from northern First Nations, Rolling River and other school divisions. This initiative has resulted in youth-led outreach projects in Pukatawagan, Norway House, Lac Brochet, Nelson House, Wuskwi Sipiik, Grand Rapids and Easterville. Support for PAX Dream Makers also aligns with recommendations made in the Virgo report to expand mental health and addictions supports within communities.
 - Maintaining funding for 100 supportive recovery housing units for those dealing with mental health and addictions issues.

Culturally appropriate health care services:

- 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, Métis 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; and
 - Systems and Structures.
- 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.
 - Continuing work 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.
- Maintaining funding and support to post-secondary institutions such as 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 train health care professionals in the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Safety Training course, in partnership with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and other entities such as the University of Manitoba.
- Provided funding to support the Brandon Community Residential Withdrawal Management Units, as they work to conduct comprehensive mental health and addiction evaluations.

Justice

TRC CTA: #25-42

Progress to Date:

Eliminating the overrepresentation of Indigenous adults and youth in custody:

- Manitoba Justice continues to track 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 through Manitoba Justice's balanced scorecard in the department's annual report.
- In partnership with the City of Thompson, Manitoba is maintaining support for Thompson residents dealing with alcohol addiction issues by opening an interim sobering centre while a permanent centre is constructed. In 2020, Manitoba 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.
- Maintaining support for the Indigenous Prosecution Service Resource Council which consists of seven Indigenous Crowns and one support person. The Resource Council has been directly incorporated into competition boards, case conferences to decide what should occur in a given case, and internal education efforts to ensure topics such as bias and racism are incorporated into core training and Crown conferences.
- Ensuring the Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice receives 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 Path to Reconciliation Act is required for all Crowns to properly exercise discretion.
- 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.
- 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 Winnipeg Police Service to work in partnership with the Bear Clan Patrol, supporting information sharing and increased awareness of community situations.

Providing culturally relevant services to offenders:

- Maintained support for the development of Clan Mothers' governance structure and healing lodge programming.
- Continuing to offer cultural supports in both youth and adult correctional centres, as well as in the community correctional offices. Cultural supports include:
 - Manitoba Corrections has PITIMA, an Aboriginal Staff Advisory Group comprised of First Nation, Métis and Inuit corrections staff from community and custody, including Indigenous 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.

- Indigenous Spiritual Caregivers (Elders/Kokums) in each adult and youth correctional facility, as well as a Manager of Indigenous Spiritual Caregivers, are assigned to 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.
- Delivering mandatory Aboriginal Awareness Training to correctional and probation officers.
- 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:

- Manitoba invests more than \$2.8 million annually in restorative justice programs, supplemented with another \$1.4 million from the federal government. The governments of Canada and Manitoba 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; Island Lake Tribal Council, and the SCO.
- Continuing to provide funding support to:
 - MKO's First Nations Justice Strategy;
 - Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services; and
 - Community Justice Committees.

Work to address and prevent FASD and better respond to the needs of offenders with FASD:

- The Provincial FASD Strategy operates under the guidance and direction of the FASD Interdepartmental Committee comprised of Economic Development, Investment and Trade; Education and Early Childhood Learning; Families; Health; Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations; Justice; and Mental Health and Community Wellness.
- 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 operating the three-year pilot program to provide FASD assessments and diagnoses to individuals aged 18–25 interacting with the legal system. The program seeks to provide enhanced access to services and supports that reduce future involvement with the justice system. The program operates in partnership with Life's Journey Inc., Manitoba FASD Centre, and CanFASD Research Network.
- Continuing to implement a comprehensive FASD training package in partnership with numerous FASD service providers. The training package includes four modules that teach participants how colonization, residential schools and intergenerational trauma has impacted Indigenous communities. The modules are:
 - The Social Context of FASD;
 - Prevention/Stigma;
 - What is FASD?; and
 - Strategies for Support/Intervention.
- 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 Justice Program Adult Diagnosis Pilot;
 - FASD in the Classroom;
 - InSight Mentoring Program;
 - Manito Ikwe Kagiikwe - The Mothering Project;
 - MB FASD Coalition;
 - MB FASD Family 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:

- 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:
 - MKO – Indigenous Men and Boys are Part of the Solution to Building Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - MMF – Métis MMIWG Family Support Project;
 - SCO – Preventing and Addressing Family Violence;
 - Clan Mothers’ Turtle Lodge – Healing Village Social Enterprise Training Program;
 - Clan Mothers’ and Winnipeg Street Reach Indigenous Youth establishing Land Based Healing program;
 - Ka Ni Kanichihk – Heart Medicine Lodge;
 - Manitoba Moon Voices – Reclaiming our Power and Place; and
 - Portage La Prairie Bear Clan – Noozhek (an Ojibwe term meaning “Woman Bear”) which provides support for Indigenous women taking meaningful action to search for stolen sisters.

- Continuing to provide funding to Wahbung Abinoonjiiag Inc., a community based-Indigenous organization, to lead a network of community agencies that help improve housing options for women and children who have experienced family violence. Wahbung will collaborate with sister organizations to provide supports and services for children and families affected by violence.

- 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. The translations are available on the Victim Services website.

- Continuing to provide funding support to various community partners for activities and family supports in recognition of MMIWG Honouring and Awareness Day October 4.

- Providing funding to organizations that deliver culturally appropriate support to victims of crime through the Victims grants. Funded organizations include: 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, and now has 12 Indigenous Staff. 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 the RCMP's Project Devote and the Winnipeg Police Service, 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 MKO to deliver these supports.

- 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.

- Manitoba Corrections has revised the Indigenous Culturally Appropriate Program, and rebranded to 'Reclaiming Our Identity'. The program 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 Sixties Scoop, discrimination, racism, and intergenerational trauma. The medicine wheel is central to the curriculum, and is used to facilitate and organize teachings and materials presented.

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

- Initiatives to address the disproportionate victimization of Indigenous women and girls are ongoing. Please refer to the Addressing MMIWG section of this report to learn more about Manitoba's work to address this issue.

Calls to Action: Reconciliation - Ongoing Initiatives

Manitoba, in partnership with many other organizations, has taken action towards reconciliation under many of the TRC's CTA 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;
- NCTR;
- 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 CTA: #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.
- The Archaeological Assessment Services Unit supports the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process as requested and upon invitation, through the provision of research, access to records, or planning support for work performed under heritage permits.
- Working cooperatively with 29 Entitlement First Nations, Canada and the 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 clearly defines 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, and share in the benefits of sector growth.
- Government representatives sit on the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Indigenous Engagement Committee. Monthly conference calls with forestry representatives across Canada are held to discuss topics related to Indigenous engagement in forestry and natural resources industries.
- 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 continued 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 continues to 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 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 CTA: #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.

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

TRC CTA: #48-49

These CTA are directed to church parties, to the settlement agreement, and to religious denominations, asking them to comply with the UNDRIP. These 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 CTA: #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 CTA: #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 CTA. The 2019 federal budget announced \$126.5 million 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 CTA 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 2020/21 Path to Reconciliation Act Annual Progress Report, which focused the Manitoba Government's efforts towards reconciliation around the themes of the TRC's 94 CTA.

Professional Development and Training for Public Servants

TRC CTA: #57

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 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*, and *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 Relations 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, Métis, 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.
 - Continuing to offer educational and training opportunities to improve understanding and knowledge of the CTA #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 CTA, as well as the CTA #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 ReconciliACTION 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 Métis 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, many 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; and
 - 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 a Reconciliation Working Group to advance reconciliation and renew relationships 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.
- Continuing to operate the Truth and Reconciliation Training Committee, which provides advice and guidance on reconciliation training for civil servants, and acts as a forum for departments to share information about their specific reconciliation training activities.

Church Apologies and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #58-61

These CTA are directed toward apologies and education strategies for church congregations, clergy, religious organizations and other parties to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

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

Education for Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #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 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);
 - Build from Within, a partnership with Winnipeg School Division and Indspire (University of Winnipeg);
 - Faculty of Education 'Kenanow Bachelor of Education' (UCN);
 - Information Technology Readiness North program incorporates the Sweetgrass component that focuses on decolonisation (UCN); and
 - Program for the Education of Native Teachers (Brandon University).
- 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 CTA: #66

Develop community-based youth programs on reconciliation:

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

Museums and Archives

TRC CTA: #67-70

Supporting and Reviewing Museum Policies and Programming:

- Providing programming support to the Association of Manitoba Museums 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 CTA.

- 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 CTA.

Missing Children and Burial Information

TRC CTA: #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 CTA: #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. Refer to the New Initiatives section.

Commemoration

TRC CTA: #79-83

Progress to Date:

Commemorating and honoring residential school students and survivors:

- Continuing to provide funding support to the NCTR, the Manitoba Museum, Wa-Say Healing Centre, Anish Corporation, and other community organizations to hold events to commemorate and honour residential school Survivors, and those who did not return home.

Media and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #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 CTA: #87-91

Progress to Date:

Inclusive sport policies, programs and initiatives:

- Hall of Fame Management continues to provide anti-racism training through the Sport Manitoba Praxis sessions.
- Supporting a virtual, land-based, outdoor education session with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.
- 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 ongoing funding support to the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council 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 Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council 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 (Tadoule Lake).

Business and Reconciliation

TRC CTA: #92

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.
- The Indigenous Engagement Initiative (IEI) is a federal/provincial joint working group with a mandate to provide information on labour and occupational health and safety topics to northern Indigenous communities in Manitoba.
- 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).
- 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 the 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 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 CTA: #93-94

- No ongoing initiatives identified.

Other Reconciliatory Actions – Ongoing Initiatives

Climate and Environment

- In collaboration with the federal government, worked to protect Manitobans from future flood damage through efforts to finalize the Canada/Manitoba Lake St. Martin Channel Project funding agreement.
- Provided \$50,000 funding to Mother Earth Recycling to increase the effectivity of recycling programs. The funding also helped to provide opportunities for expansion of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Fund.
- 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 seeking to deliver wetland restoration projects, and demonstrate water quality trading as a pollution 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.
- In 2021, the Manitoba Government proclaimed the month of November as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month. Indigenous Disability Awareness Month brings awareness to the barriers and issues that Indigenous peoples living with disabilities face, and celebrates the achievements and recognizes the significant and valuable social, economic, and cultural contributions Indigenous peoples with disabilities make to communities.
- Indigenous Nations and advocacy organizations have been engaged by varying departments regarding seniors and long term care strategies, care home regulation, and long-term indigenous health strategies.
- 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 program partners with

Indigenous communities and urban organizations in Manitoba. It trains locally-hired community mentors to deliver weekly play-based programs that promote healthy living, healthy relationships, education, and employability life-skills.

- 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 mental health supports in elementary curricula.
- 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.
- 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.

Housing and Infrastructure

- Maintained support for the Manitoba Rent Relief Program, which helps support those at risk of eviction, or who need to move to more suitable housing, by enabling access to a quickly processed one-time interest free loan. \$5.6 million in funding for the program was announced in March 2021, and applications for the rent bank opened in June 2021.
- In partnership with the federal and city governments, Manitoba jointly implemented the Rapid Housing Initiative. This initiative supports women and children currently experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. In 2021/22, \$100,500 was allocated to build 21 new modular homes for 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples.
- Continuing to integrate Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) - a comprehensive case management system developed by the Government of Canada that will be used by family violence shelters across the province. Funding was provided to End Homelessness Winnipeg who will assist in implementing the system.
- 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 for 250 people experiences homelessness. Additionally, rapid housing of 50 individuals was possible through assistance with community 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 with the Government of Canada. The National Housing Strategy 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 National

Housing Strategy include Habitat for Humanity's home-building program, transferring property to Wahbung Abinoonjiiag 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.
- 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. UCN/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.
- 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.

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

- Manitoba announced additional \$2.6 million in funding for First Nations policing over three years, bringing total funding to over \$15 million annually by 2022/23, and securing four new officers.
- Invested \$5 million into the newly formed Downtown Community 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. The DCSP continues to build partnerships with organizations such as the Mama Bear Clan, Ogitjiita Pimatisiwin Kinamatawin Manitoba, and the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development Inc.
- 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

- Provided \$249,500 in 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 Dauphin. Programs include:
 - Employability Skills and Essential Skills;
 - Snow Lake Family Resource Centre;
 - Baker-Tilly Self Employment Program;
 - Partners for Careers;

- North Central Community Futures; and
- The Pas Association for Human Development Inc.
- Continued to deliver the First Peoples Economic Growth Fund, in partnership with the AMC. This joint economic development initiative is a collaborative process between AMC and Government of Manitoba, and provides financing to support Manitoba First Nations 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.

Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – Ongoing Initiatives

Prevention

- Continuing to co-lead engagement to prioritize the CFJ. Engagements to date have taken place with over 40 stakeholder organizations and several Indigenous leadership organizations. Engagement with families and survivors has been pursued by trauma-informed, Indigenous-led organizations with funding support from Manitoba.
- Ongoing work with Clan Mothers to enhance access to land-based teachings for Indigenous youth who are at high risk of sexual exploitation.
- Providing funding to support Family Outreach Coordinators who work across clusters of three community schools and provide direct and intensive support to the most vulnerable families in each of the school sites.
- Providing funding to the Together We Grow program through The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis (Aurora House).
- Ended Manitoba's long-standing practice of birth alerts, effective July 1, 2020.
- Initiated inter-departmental work to revitalize the Tracia's Trust strategy and to develop and align departmental initiatives that supports and examines gender-based violence, as well as Manitoba's response to the MMIWG National Inquiry report.
- Maintaining funding to Men are Part of the Solution Inc., First Peoples Development Inc., Resource Assistance for Youth Inc. and Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation to support projects related to the National Action Plan on MMIWG.

Support

- Providing ongoing annual investments to a number of initiatives related to sexual exploitation through Tracia's Trust, including culturally-based mentorship programs; educational opportunities for post-secondary certificates or diplomas in child and youth care; specialized placement resources for sexually exploited youth; and coordinating Provincial Tracia's Trust teams that connect community, and increase awareness on issues of sexual exploitation.
- Allocating funding from victim surcharge fees and the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund to Indigenous-led agencies who provide support to Indigenous victims of crime. Agencies include Ka Ni Kanichihk (Heart Medicine Lodge and Medicine Bear programs), Ndinawe (Child and Youth Care Practitioner program); and Safe House and Nisichawaysihk Cree Nation (Bereavement Group).

- Providing funding to 24 community organizations to deliver programs that address the diverse needs of victims, including Healing Village Social Enterprise Training Program (Clan Mothers' Turtle Lodge); Heart Medicine Lodge (Ka Ni Kanichihk); Reclaiming our Power and Place (Manitoba Moon Voices); and Noozhek (Portage La Prairie Bear Clan – an Ojibway term meaning “Woman Bear”).
- Supported costs associated with Manitoba Moon Voices' media campaign in recognition of MMIWG Honouring and Awareness Day.
- Supported costs associated with MKO'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.

Intervention

- Provided funding for an education and awareness campaign led by the Manitoba Hotel Association in partnership with the Tracia's Trust Strategy. The campaign provided comprehensive education on sexual exploitation and human trafficking to front line hotel staff.
- Developed and released Manitoba's Framework: Addressing Gender-Based Violence, which builds on the government's commitment to address gender-based violence and outlines how the government is organizing itself to address gender-based violence, including the CFJ.
- Provided grant funding to the City of Thompson to work with a consultant and develop a community safety and well-being strategy to better identify risk and social factors that contribute to crime and victimization, and to identify initiatives to address these factors and set measurable outcomes.
- Providing funding over three years to community organizations for the development of Indigenous-led treatment and services to support sexually exploited youth with complex needs, and to incorporate Indigenous ways of healing to reduce the impacts of colonization and break the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

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.

- Continued working closely with First Nation leadership, political and community organizations, Indigenous clinicians and medical professionals to deliver 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 and the 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 First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, 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 First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba 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.
- 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.

- Maintained 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.
- Continued to offer 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.

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 Métis 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 TRC of Canada's CTA and the principles of the UNDRIP.

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

