

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



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BRIEFING NOTE

TO: BC Chiefs and Leadership
FROM: BCAFN
DATE: December 18, 2020
RE: National Action Plan on MMIWG2S Engagement

PURPOSE

To provide an update to BC Chiefs and Leadership regarding development of the National Action Plan on MMIWG2S.

UPDATE

Engagement Sessions

- BCAFN resolutions 2019/21(a) and 2020/11 direct BCAFN to work and advocate for the implementation of the Calls for Justice and a National Action Plan.
- AFN resolution 67/2019 directs the AFN to seek out appropriate funds and resources for the Women's Council to coordinate engagement with First Nations on a National Action Plan, and develop a First Nations led National Action Plan with input from the regions and First Nation survivors, families and the First Nations Coalition for Grassroots Families. This work must respect any Nation, women, or regional-led processes.
- The Assembly of First Nations Women's Council is working with regional representatives to host engagement sessions in each region to contribute to the development of the National Action Plan on MMIWG2S.
- We can confirm that regional sessions have not yet been held in BC by the BCAFN or AFN, despite some initial reporting that the engagement sessions were underway.
- In collaboration with the BCAFN Women's Representative, Louisa Housty-Jones, and BCAFN staff, the AFN held three engagement *planning* meetings with BC regional representatives, MMIWG2S advocates, family members, survivors, and front line service organizations in September and October. A presentation was also made to the BC MMIWG2S Coalition.
- At these planning sessions a draft engagement framework was presented and adapted based on feedback received. BCAFN received many valuable comments and input.
- Throughout the course of planning it became clear that more time was needed to determine the best approach to hosting engagement sessions on the National Action Plan in BC.
- BCAFN is currently determining next steps to ensure this important dialogue can be supported in a good way, and will ensure timely engagement and reporting with membership on this priority topic.

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bcafn

Federal Working Groups

- The federal government has established a Core Working Group and Family and Survivors Working Group to lead the visioning and development of the National Action Plan. This work is supported by a number of Sub-Working Groups regarding Data, 2SLGBTQQA People, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Urban, Provincial/Territorial, and Federal. The Chairs and Co-Chairs of each of these Sub-Working Groups form the Core Working Group, along with the Chair of the Family and Survivors Working Group.
- The members will focus on development of the framework of the National Action Plan (vision, high level principles, high level priorities and themes, desired outcomes, etc.) and will determine accountability for results going forward
- Chief Connie Big Eagle (Chair of the AFN Women’s Council) is Chair of the First Nations Sub-Working Group.
- On December 6, 2020 the MMIWG National Action Plan Core Working Group released a Statement on their progress, and can be found here <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1607207513882/1607207535679>
- A list of the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the federal working groups can be found here <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1607208114360/1607208136120>
- On December 15, 2020 CIRNAC published a press release regarding New Investments to Continue to Work to End the Tragedy of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQA people <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2020/12/new-investments-to-continue-to-work-to-end-the-tragedy-of-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-girls-and-2slgbtqqa-people.html>

“The Government’s recent Fall Economic Statement builds on these efforts through a proposed investment of \$781.5 million over 5 years, starting in 2021–22, as well as \$106.3 million in ongoing funding to address systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples and expand efforts to combat violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA people.

This proposed investment includes:

- *\$724.1 million to launch a comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy to expand access to a continuum of culturally relevant supports for Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQQA people facing gender-based violence. This strategy will support new shelters and transition housing for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples across the country, including on reserve, in the North, and in urban areas;*
- *\$49.3 million to support the implementation of Gladue Principles in the mainstream justice system and Indigenous-led responses, in order to help reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice and correctional systems; and*
- *\$8.1 million to develop Administration of Justice Agreements with Indigenous communities to strengthen community-based justice systems and support self-determination.”*

