

# Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Plus People (MMIWG2S+)



## MMIWG2S+ crisis

The national MMIWG2S+ crisis continues to occur at disproportionate levels.

In 2022, homicides of Indigenous women and girls across Canada occurred at nearly seven times the overall rate for non-Indigenous women and girls, and 54 per cent of Indigenous women reported extreme forms of family violence, versus 37 per cent of non-Indigenous women.

In Alberta, the rate of murdered Indigenous women was 4.82 per 100,000 people as compared to 0.81 per 100,000 people for non-Indigenous women.

While there is little data regarding violence against 2S+ people, various reports have found that 2S+ people similarly experience disproportionate rates of violence arising from racism and sexism in addition to homophobia, transphobia and other forms of discrimination.

## Alberta's response to MMIWG2S+

The Government of Alberta is committed to ensuring Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people are treated with dignity and respect and live in safety and security, free from violence.

### Alberta MMIWG Roadmap

In 2022, the Government of Alberta released the [Alberta Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Roadmap](#) (Roadmap). The Roadmap is a comprehensive framework to guide all government ministries in designing, implementing and evaluating laws, policies, programs and services. It identifies four pathways for action to holistically

address the four root causes of violence (i.e., historical, multigenerational and intergenerational trauma; social and economic marginalization; lack of institutional will and maintenance of status quo; and lack of inclusion of the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+) identified by the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

### **Pathway 1: Community connections, healing and cultural supports**

Focus on supporting language, culture, community connections, healthy relationships and well-being. Some government initiatives under this Pathway include:

#### [Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative \(IRI\)](#)

The IRI provides grants of up to \$100,000 to support Indigenous-led initiatives that enhance, protect or revitalize Indigenous languages, heritage, cultures and arts.

#### [Recovery Communities](#)

Alberta is building 11 recovery communities throughout the province, including working in direct partnership with First Nations to build four recovery communities in Enoch Cree Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation, Siksika Nation and Blood Tribe. This is part of ongoing efforts to remove barriers to land-based, culturally safe services for Indigenous peoples in Alberta.

### **Pathway 2: Education, economic independence, and infrastructure**

Focus on improving employment, economic development, housing, transportation and income supports. Some government initiatives under this Pathway include:

#### [Bridging Classrooms to Communities Grant](#)

Alberta's government invested \$10.5 million over three years into the Bridging Classrooms to Communities Grant pilot program to help Indigenous communities and school authorities build relationships to support student success and advance reconciliation.

#### [Soaring Hearts - Housing for Blackfoot women](#)

In 2022, the GoA partnered with the Blackfoot Family Lodge Society and the federal government to support the Soaring Hearts project, which provided \$3.4 million to build 14 units of affordable housing in Lethbridge for Blackfoot women and their children who are relocating from the Kainai, Siksika and Piikani reserves.

### Pathway 3: Community wellness and improving the justice system

Focus on violence prevention, safety, health, children and youth services, and justice. Some government initiatives under this Pathway include:

[Public Security Indigenous Advisory Committee](#)

The committee advises on public safety initiatives, including police and peace officer reform, restorative justice, victim services and crime prevention to help ensure government policies, programs and processes align with the needs of Indigenous communities across the province.

[Indigenous Primary Health Care Advisory Panel](#)

Informed by recommendations of an Indigenous advisory panel, Alberta is taking action to transform its primary health care system to provide accessible, relevant and culturally safe primary health care to First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals. Actions include developing a new Indigenous Health Division; a \$20-million fund for Indigenous communities to design innovative health care services; an Indigenous complaints investigator to investigate instances of racism; and a community-based program to help Indigenous peoples navigate the system.

### Pathway 4: Accountability to and inclusion of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people

Focus on data and research; and increasing awareness of and meaningful engagement with Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people to share their perspectives and lived experiences. Some government initiatives under this Pathway include:

[Premier’s Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Plus People](#)

The Premier’s Council was established in September 2022 to provide advice by collaborating with Alberta ministries on actions to address violence and increase safety and economic security of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people. The council includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit and 2S+ individuals, families and survivors with lived experience.

[Community Support Fund \(CSF\)](#)

The CSF provides \$4 million annually to support Indigenous-led initiatives that address violence and increase the safety and economic security of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people. This grant fund creates opportunities for government to partner with Indigenous communities, organizations, governments and civil society on initiatives that implement the Roadmap.

Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3	Pathway 4
<b>Community Connections, Healing and Cultural Supports</b>	<b>Education, Economic Independence and Infrastructure</b>	<b>Community Wellness and Improving the Justice System</b>	<b>Accountability to and Inclusion of Indigenous Women, Girls and 2S+ people</b>
<p><b>1.1</b> Healing and strengthening relationships</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Commemorating MMIWG2S+ people</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Recognizing and protecting Indigenous languages and cultures, including their connection to the land</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Improving Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ peoples wellness through accessible and culturally safe health services, including mental health and addictions</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Creating and expanding leadership, education and training programs serving Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Increasing and improving opportunities to create and maintain economic independence</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Making sure housing, transportation, communication and internet, and other types of infrastructure are available to meet the needs of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Improving violence prevention, safety programs, victim services, including addressing human trafficking</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Increasing protection of children and youth through culturally safe prevention and services</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Addressing inequities in health, well-being and services</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Improving the justice system and law enforcement to meet the needs of Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Ongoing MMIWG2S+ engagement and inclusion in government process</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Provide public information, training and education about MMIWG2S+ issues</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Provide education and training to government employees to include Indigenous perspectives in the development of program and services</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Collecting accurate data to understand the issues to advance safety and prevent violence</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Reviewing and reporting on progress of actions on safety and violence prevention</p>

For more information, visit: [alberta.ca/increasing-safety-for-indigenous-women-and-girls](https://alberta.ca/increasing-safety-for-indigenous-women-and-girls)

