



CONGRESS OF
ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

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illuminating the Way: Beholding Power and Place



MMIWG2S+ ACTION PLANNING & SUPPORTS

May 5 – Red Dress Day (Canada) Official name:

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+)

What is Red Dress Day?

Red Dress Day is a national day of remembrance, awareness, and action honouring Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people who are missing or have been murdered. It also raises awareness of ongoing systemic violence linked to colonialism, racism, and gender-based discrimination.

Why the Red Dress?

The red dress symbolizes absence and visibility. Empty red dresses represent those who should still be here. Red is often described as a colour the spirits can see and represents life, blood, and connection. Origins Red Dress Day emerged from the REDress Project created in 2010 by Métis artist Jaime Black, who used public art installations of empty red dresses to confront the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Why this day matters Indigenous women and girls make up less than 5% of Canada's population but account for approximately 24% of female homicide victims. In 2019, a national inquiry concluded that this violence amounts to genocide

How does your community observe May 5 ?

- Wear red or a red dress pin?
- Display red dresses in public or personal spaces?
- Participate in ceremonies, walks, or vigils?
- Learn about and support the Calls for Justice?

During CAP's 2026 MMIWG2S+ Summit Sandra Delraonde presented on the Red Dress Alert Project and walked attendees through the process and answered any questions. Dan Martel presented on Aboriginal alert a current functional website with a active alerting tool. For more information please see below.

Why a Red Dress Alert matters

The Red Dress Alert Pilot Report emphasizes that ongoing delays in responding to missing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people have life-and-death consequences. In the report, Sandra DeLaronde, Chair of Giganawenimaanaanig, writes: **“This is a crisis that demands co-ordinated, urgent action.”** and that an Indigenous-led Red Dress Alert is essential to mobilize communities and services quickly during the critical early hours after someone goes missing, and describes the Manitoba pilot as a model that could guide the development of similar alert systems across Canada.

[Red Dress Alert Pilot Report:](#)

https://www.giganawe.ca/_files/ugd/67fd56_6789b5e80d484a27ab2f2c1c040c0064.pdf

[CBC News summary:](#)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/indigenous-led-red-dress-alert-program-must-be-implemented-in-manitoba-without-delay-report-9.6991334>

[Aboriginal Alert](#)

Aboriginal Alert is an Indigenous-led, community-driven platform supporting families searching for missing loved ones by quickly sharing information through online networks. As the organization explains, “To capitalize on the power of the Internet and the untold amounts of people searching each day, we created Aboriginal Alert to assist those whose loved ones are missing.”

<https://www.aboriginalalert.ca/about>

<https://www.aboriginalalert.ca/compassionate-circle>

June 3, 2026



June 3, 2019 – The National Inquiry releases its Final Report, identifying the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people as genocide and issuing 231 Calls for Justice.

2021 – The National Action Plan is released, outlining shared responsibilities to end violence.

Every June 3 – Communities across Canada observe a day of awareness, remembrance, accountability, and action.

Please see here for reporting: [Federal Pathway Progress Report](#)
Please see here for reporting tool: [Calls for Justice reporting tool](#)

How does your community hold space?

[Click here for information about the 231 Calls](#)

231

CALLS FOR JUSTICE

Issued in 2019 through the
National Inquiry into MMIWG

MMIWG2S+ National Summit **Congress of Aboriginal Peoples 2026**

MMIWG2S+ National Summit in Ottawa, brought together families, survivors, Elders, community members, service providers, and leaders from across Canada. The Summit created a safe, culturally grounded space to share lived experiences and speak openly about the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

CAP held the event parallel to the Indigenous–Federal–Provincial–Territorial Roundtable where CAP communities were once again not meaningfully included. The Summit ensured these voices were heard, respected, and documented.

Alongside presentations on Indigenous-led missing-persons responses, human trafficking, and the impacts of major projects, the Summit reinforced the urgent need for family-centred, culturally grounded, and Indigenous-led solutions supported by sustained resources and real accountability to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Safety and Wellbeing

Delegates emphasized that safety and wellbeing are holistic, encompassing housing, transportation, mental-health supports, cultural connection, and Indigenous-led services. A key focus of the Summit was the Safety and Wellbeing Project workshop, where communities contributed directly to the development of a national toolkit to track progress on the 231 Calls for Justice.

Through trauma-informed, strength-based discussions, delegates defined what safety looks like in their communities and identified community-driven ways to measure progress and accountability.

CAP calls for action from government, partners, and allies to recognize off-reserve Indigenous communities, invest in Indigenous-led solutions, and uphold accountability to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Call for Justice 2.4: Refers to measures to restore and revitalize identity, place, and belonging



Call for Justice 17.1: Refers to governments upholding their responsibility to Metis and non-Status).

Human Trafficking

At the MMIWG2S+ National Summit, communities raised concerns about human trafficking and sexual exploitation as ongoing threats to the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Participants also emphasized the impacts of major projects, including transient workforces, housing pressures, transportation gaps, and limited access to culturally safe supports, which can increase vulnerability in both urban and rural settings.

In response to these concerns, CAP is sharing resources that communities may find useful as they continue their own safety planning and prevention work. While Indigenous-led, community-driven solutions remain central, accessible awareness tools can help support early identification, community education, and harm-reduction approaches.

To support the conversation around Human Trafficking, Minwaashin Lodge shared their program, The Street Team OutReach Mobile (STORM). This is a Ottawa based Indigenous led organization that supports people with:

- Emergency transportation to medical facilities, detox centers, homeless and VAW shelters, and other locations deemed appropriate
- Crisis interventions, referrals and information to community supports (legal aid, soup kitchens, support groups, housing, walk-in clinics for medical and mental first aid, cultural programs)
- Basic harm reductions: brown bag lunches, hygiene products, clothing, condoms (male, female, dental dams), stems, needles, meth pipes, needle dispensaries, and basic first aid.
- Information and education on health issues (HIV/AIDS, STIs, party safe tips)

You can take a look at their website resources here: [Minwaashin Lodge](#)



One such general awareness resource is **#NotInMyCity's** “Learn” platform, which offers a free, 30-minute online course and downloadable materials focused on understanding human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada. While this resource is not Indigenous-specific, it can be used alongside Indigenous-led and culturally grounded initiatives to support community awareness and prevention efforts.

The platform includes:

- Clear information on how human trafficking occurs and common warning signs
- Practical guidance on responding safely and supporting those at risk
- Sector-based indicators relevant to housing, transportation, healthcare, shelters, and other community settings

Indicator resources available in several Indigenous languages, including Blackfoot, Dene, Plains Cree, Inuktitut (South Baffin), and Inuinnaqtun.

These materials may assist communities, service providers, and frontline workers as part of broader, community-driven approaches to safety and wellbeing, including those addressing risks linked to major projects.

Learn more: <https://notinmycity.ca/learn/>



Funding to support community-based human-trafficking prevention, awareness, and safety initiatives may be available through federal, provincial, and philanthropic sources aligned with MMIWG2S+ priorities. Strengthening community safety and resilience amid economic and infrastructure development is crucial please see information below!

TELUS Indigenous Communities Fund

What it is:

A TELUS grant program supporting Indigenous-led community projects that strengthen wellbeing, safety, prevention, and community resilience. Canada wide.

Who it's for:

Indigenous-led organizations (Band Councils, Indigenous governments, community groups, non-profits). Non-Indigenous organizations may apply with an Indigenous partner.

How much:

\$5,000-\$25,000 in one-time project funding.

When it closes:

Fall 2026 intake — September 10 to October 7, 2026, or until the first 200 applications are received.

How to apply:

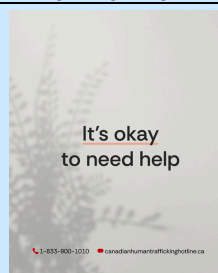
Apply online through the TELUS Indigenous Communities Fund portal:
<https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/giving-back/community-grants/indigenous-communities-fund>

Canadian Human Trafficking hotline

Available 24/7 *Confidential*

Call 1-833-900-1010

Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking website



Major Projects and Community Safety

Indigenous communities continue to raise concerns about how large-scale development projects impact the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Key community topics and concerns include:

- Increased risks of violence, exploitation, and trafficking linked to transient workforces
- Housing shortages and rising costs that push women and families into unsafe situations
- Strained shelters, health care, and counselling services
- Limited culturally safe supports
- Exclusion of off-reserve Indigenous Peoples from consultation and decision-making
- Environmental impacts affecting land, water, food security, and cultural continuity

These concerns align directly with the Extractive Industry *Calls for Justice (13.1-13.5)*, which call for safety and security, prevention and accountability, access to services, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous-led oversight throughout the full lifecycle of major projects. To learn more please click the Calls for Justice (13.1-13.5) link.

CAP continues to hold space for communities to share lived experiences and define safety on their own terms. Over the next year, CAP will bring these community-driven concerns forward through policy engagement, advocacy, and reporting working to ensure that development does not come at the expense of the community. Please see below examples of tools from across the country.

Ontario created a Community Safety Wellbeing planning tool-kit template for communities to use.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/community-safety-and-well-being-planning>

Project Accountability Impact & Benefit Agreement (IBA)

Benefit Agreements: A Wayfinding Guide is an example of how urban Indigenous communities can use agreements to protect their communities and gain benefits when major projects move in.

<https://fnnga.com/benefit-agreements/>

Other Funding Opportunities

Indigenous Youth Roots – CREATION Grants (Youth Empowerment Stream)

Provides small, flexible grants to Indigenous youth-led groups for community-based projects focused on culture, arts, wellness, land-based learning, and intergenerational knowledge. The application is intentionally lightweight and designed for emerging or first-time applicants. Supports

Indigenous-led and community-driven initiatives that advance truth, reconciliation, education, healing, and commemoration, including cultural and learning activities. The fund uses a rolling intake and prioritizes community relevance over technical complexity.

Deadline April 30th, 2026

How to apply:

<https://indigenouslyoutroots.ca/creation-community-grants>

Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives (Canadian Heritage)

Funds projects that address racism, promote intercultural understanding, and support youth and community engagement, including reconciliation-aligned dialogue and education. Rolling intake allows flexibility in timing and project scale. [bkia.ca]

How to apply:

Apply via the Canadian Heritage Funding Portal by submitting a project narrative, outcomes, and budget; projects are assessed on relevance, reach, and community impact.

This process has no specific deadline for the submission of applications, so applicants can apply for funding at any time. Assessment of applications is based on program-specific assessment criteria, objectives and expected results, as well as budget availability.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/multiculturalism-anti-racism.html>

Funding Continued

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation – Community Support Fund Na-mi-quai-ni-mak (I remember them) Community Support Fund

Supports Indigenous-led and community-driven initiatives advancing truth, reconciliation, education, healing, and commemoration, including cultural and learning activities. The rolling intake and focused criteria make this a lower-burden federal option. [bkia.ca]

How to apply:

Submit an online application describing the reconciliation goals, activities, timeline, and budget; **applications are accepted year-round.**

<https://nctr.ca/support-for-communities/>

CAP Action Timeline

**2015–
2016**

- CAP provided pre-Inquiry input to CIRNAC; PTOs initiated early MMIWG work.

**2018–
2019**

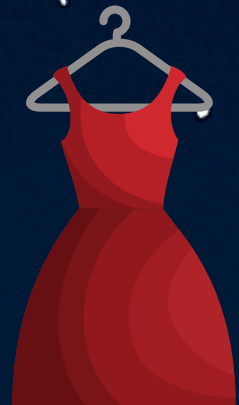
- CAP became a Party with Standing in the National Inquiry; participated in hearings and submissions.
- CAP and Canada established MMIWG as a priority under the Political Accord; launched the MMIWG Commemoration Project.

2020

- CAP hosted a National MMIWG Summit and supported regional PTO engagements.
- CAP contributed to Core, Urban, and Data working groups for the National Action Plan.
- CAP launched the MMIWG Commemoration website and released six thematic reports.

2023

- CAP advanced systems reform through engagement on Red Dress Alert, Missing persons data standards, incarceration, victim services, and the Indigenous Ombudsperson Office.



2023

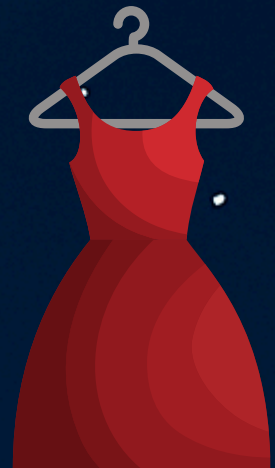
- CAP expanded coordination, awareness campaigns, and PTO-level action planning.

2024

- CAP focused on accountability, capacity-building, and improved federal reporting.
- CAP supported PTO action plans and developed a CAP-specific safety and wellbeing methodology.

2025

- CAP hosted a National Illuminating the Way summit.
- CAP influenced federal reporting, human trafficking policy, and community safety initiatives while maintaining monthly Canada CAP MMIWG engagement



Free Tax Filing Help

Community Volunteer Tax Program (CVTP)

- Free tax clinics for people with modest incomes and simple tax situations
 - Community organizations can register to host clinics
- Grant funding is available to help cover eligible clinic costs (e.g., administration and volunteer support)
- No requirement to assist a minimum number of people to participate

Easy & Simplified Filing Options

SimpleFile (CRA)

- Free service for lower-income individuals with simple returns
 - File taxes online, by phone, or by paper
 - No CRA login required for phone or paper filing
- Phone and paper options are by invitation, while digital filing may be available without one
[\[canada.ca\]](https://canada.ca),

Auto-Fill My Return

- Available to people with a CRA My Account
- Automatically fills parts of your tax return using CRA information
 - Used within NETFILE-certified tax software
 - Helps reduce errors and save time
[\[canada.ca\]](https://canada.ca), [\[tmcnet.com\]](https://tmcnet.com)

Upcoming Automatic & Pre-Filled Filing

Deemed (Automatic) Filing Pilot

- Planned launch Fall 2026
 - Designed for people facing significant barriers to filing
- CRA prepares a pre-filled return, with the option to review or opt out
 - Starting at scale and expanding nationally over several years
[\[msn.com\]](https://msn.com), [\[irpp.org\]](https://irpp.org)

Education & Awareness

- Shareable resources, including QR codes and digital materials, are provided to community partners
 - Materials promote benefits, credits, and free tax-filing support

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MMIWG2S+ PUBLIC
EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY**

- **Feb 14-** Women's Memorial March / Valentine's Day
- **March 8** - International Women's Day
- **March 21** - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **May 5** -National Day of Action for MMIWG2S+ peoples
- **May 14th** - Mothers Day June - Indigenous History
- **June 3** - Marks the anniversary of the release of the Final Report of the National Inquiry in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women ,Girls and and 2SLGBTQQA+
- **June 21** - National Indigenous Peoples Day
- **Aug 9** - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples Day
- **Sept 30** - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day
- **Oct 4** - #SisterinSpirit October - #WomensHistoryMonth #herstory #IndigenousHistoryMonth
- **Nov 7** - International Inuit Day
- **Nov 8** - #IndigenousVeteransDay - celebrate Indigenous women who served
- **Nov 16** - #louisrielday, founder of Manitoba and advocate for Metis
- **Nov 18** - World Day for Prevention & Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence
- **Nov 20** - #TransgenderDayofRemembrance and World Children's Day
- **Nov 28-** #16Daysof Activism against Gender Violence
- **November** - Family Violence Prevention Month
- **Dec 6** - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

- **Dec 9** - 75th Anniversary of the International Convention on the prevention and punishment of Genocide
- **Dec 10** - International Human Rights Day
- **Dec 11**- 75th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Keep watch for upcoming MMIWG Action Planning, Implementation, and Workshops. CAP will be sharing opportunities to connect, build capacity, and advance action. More information coming soon.



RESOURCES AVAILABLE

CALL 24/7: 1-844-413-6649

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Toll-free Support Phone Lines For immediate mental and emotional wellness support, toll-free support phone line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The service is available in English, French, Cree, Ojibway and Inuktitut.

CALL 24/7: 1-855-242-3310

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line provides culturally grounded assessment, referrals, support in times of crisis, and suicide intervention. Services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in English, French, Ojibway, Cree and Inuktitut.

1-855-554-HEAL (4325) or text at talk4healing.com

Talk 4 Healing 24/7 support for indigenous women

Other Resources

[CAP website Unveiling the Truths](#)

MMIWG2S+ Awareness

Spread awareness of the work that you are doing to end the MMIWG2S+ crisis and provide pathways for the safety and security for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Contact: reception@abo-peoples.org

Website: abo-peoples.org

Address: 867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, Ontario, K1K 2T4