

ANNUAL SCORECARD:

NWAC's Action on the 231 Calls for Justice

June 3, 2026



Native Women's
Association of Canada

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L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada



The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national Indigenous advocacy organization representing the political voices of Indigenous women, in all their diversities, in Canada. NWAC advocates for and works with Métis, Inuit and First Nations - on- and off-reserve, status and non status, disenfranchises - across Canada. NWAC works to enhance, promote and foster the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of Indigenous women, in all their diversities, within their respective communities and Canadian society.

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The Native Women's Association of Canada acknowledge the support, input and contributions of our Provincial and Territorial Member Associations:

BC Native Women's Association - Femmes Autochtones du Québec/Quebec Native Women  
Indigenous Women's Association of the Wabanaki Territories - Institute for the Advancement of  
Aboriginal Women - Keepers of the Circle - Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. - The Native Women's  
Association of the Northwest Territories - Nova Scotia Native Women's Association - Nunavut Inuit  
Women's Association - Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council

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Crown-Indigenous Relations  
and Northern Affairs Canada  
Relations Couronne-Autochtones  
et Affaires du Nord Canada

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## Introduction

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national Indigenous organization that promotes the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of Indigenous women, in all their diversities, across Turtle Island and Inuit Nunangat. NWAC, with our Provincial and Territorial Member Associations, is dedicated to advocating and advancing action to end the ongoing genocide of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit+ people (MMIWG2S+).

As we have done in years past, NWAC is reporting on our annual actions towards answering the 231 Calls for Justice, as outlined by the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+. This report is intended to provide a high-level summary of our actions over the past year, including by highlighting work done by our Provincial and Territorial Member Associations (PTMAs). In doing so, this report outlines progress made through (1) advocacy, (2) policy and research, (3) programs and support, and (4) grassroots engagement.



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### Action Through Advocacy

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Over the last year, NWAC has continued to prioritize advocacy efforts to address the ongoing MMIWG2S+ genocide in Canada. Since June 2025, NWAC has continued to conduct campaigns and participate in events that have drawn considerable attention to MMIWG2S+. This includes:

- National Indigenous History Month (June 2025)
- Safe Passage Campaign (August to October 2025)
- Sisters in Spirit Day (October 4, 2025)
- 16 Days of Activism (November 25 to December 10, 2025)
- Women's Memorial March (February 14, 2026)
- Red Dress Day (April 30 to May 6, 2026)
- Calls for Justice Campaign (Ongoing)

This year, NWAC continued to support and participate in events across Canada, including co-hosting the annual Sisters in Spirit Day vigil on Parliament Hill alongside Families of Sisters in Spirit. Working with PTMAs, NWAC also supported Sisters in Spirit events across Canada by promoting smaller community-led vigils and compiling a national list of events to increase awareness and participation nationwide. In total, NWAC promoted 27 Sisters in Spirit vigils and supported community organizers through the distribution of Sisters in Spirit materials, including flags, pins, educational resources, and awareness materials.

Beyond these outreach efforts, Sisters in Spirit Vigils continue to serve as sacred community-led spaces of remembrance, advocacy, resistance, and collective healing for families, survivors, and communities impacted by MMIWG2S+. These gatherings remain critical in ensuring Indigenous women, in all their diversities, are honoured, remembered, and never forgotten.

Over the last year, NWAC's President continued their dedicated advocacy in addressing the MMIWG2S+ crisis. In doing so, President Nepinak released several statements through NWAC's social media calling on all levels of government to



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address MMIWG2S+. Notably, on April 8, 2026, President Nepinak stood in solidarity with the National Family and Survivors Circle Inc., Giganawenimaanaanig, and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, to call on the federal government to provide critical funding to address the 231 Calls for Justice.

NWAC has continued to advance its advocacy efforts through ongoing participation in national and international events. Since June 2025, NWAC has continued to engage in United Nations gatherings to advocate for ending the MMIWG2S+ genocide, including through delegations to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (March 9-19, 2026) and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 20-May 1, 2026). In addition, over the past year, NWAC participated in several national roundtables and Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial (IFPT) discussions focused on advancing coordinated responses to issues impacting Indigenous women in all their diversities. These included:

- IFPT on the Status of Women (July 7-9, 2025)
- Meeting of Premiers and Leaders of National Indigenous Organizations (July 21, 2025)
- IFPT Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ People (February 11-12, 2026)

## PTMA Highlights

- The BC Native Women's Association hosted an anti-human trafficking symposium on April 29, 2026, to raise awareness, share culturally grounded solutions, and empower Indigenous communities.
- The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association established a provincial roundtable focused on MMIWG2S+, bringing together survivors, government representatives, Mi'kmaq and Indigenous organizations, Mi'kmaq communities, and NSNWA leadership to strengthen collaboration and dialogue.





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- The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association launched a Human Trafficking Advisory Group to strengthen cross-sector collaboration in human trafficking and gender-based violence.
- The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association hosted a Red Dress Awareness Event to raise awareness of MMIWG2S+, with participation from government representatives and local leadership.
- Over the last year, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc has led their annual honouring project, bringing together MMIWG2S+ impacted families to share photos of their loved ones in a collective space of remembrance and visibility.
- Manitoba Moon Voices Inc marked the Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse Individuals on October 4, 2025, by call for action through outreach to Members of Parliament and promoting community events and advocacy initiatives.
- Manitoba Moon Voices Inc issued a public statement in response to the release of the individual responsible for the deaths of Tanya Nepinak, Carolyn Marie Sinclair, and Lorna Blacksmith, expressing concern and solidarity with impacted families and communities.
- The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women has continued its participation on Alberta's Premier's Council on MMIWG2S+, contributing to ongoing provincial-level dialogue and action on addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people.
- On May 5, 2026, Indigenous Women of the Wabanaki Territories screened a new documentary sharing the stories and lived experiences of MMIWG2S+ families, centering their voices and truths.
- Last year, Quebec Native Women, together with Cree and Inuit women's organizations and the Atikamekw Council of Opitciwan, hosted the roundtable "From Words to Action: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women." The event focused on creating a broad mobilization plan that promotes collaboration, partnership and concrete initiatives to address violence against Indigenous women through Calls to Justice 5, 8, and 11.



## Action Through Policy and Research

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NWAC plays a critical role in policy development and research to support Indigenous women in all their diversity. This work encompasses a broad spectrum of issues that overlap with MMIWG2S+, including health, justice, violence prevention, language and cultural preservation. Over the last year, NWAC has continued conducting several projects, including:

- **MMIWG2S+ Engagement:** Over the last year, NWAC has engaged at the regional, national, and international levels to ensure that the voices and experiences of Indigenous women, in all their diversities, are represented in discussions on MMIWG2S+.
- **Safe Passage:** Providing ongoing monitoring and reporting on cases of MMIWG2S+ through our community-driven, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered platform. NWAC has also continued to add and develop resources shared on the platform.
- **Annual Scorecards:** On June 3, 2025, NWAC published our annual scorecards to evaluate progress towards ending the MMIWG2S+ genocide. In [Annual Scorecard: NWAC's 231 Calls for Justice \(2025\)](#), we provided a summary of our actions in advocacy, policy and research, programming, and grassroots engagement and affirmed our ongoing commitment on MMIWG2S+. In [Annual Scorecard: The Federal Government's MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan](#), we were once again critical of the federal government's lack of progress in addressing the ongoing MMIWG2S+ genocide.
- **UNDA Implementation Project:** Through this project, NWAC is supporting Justice Canada's efforts to align the laws of Canada with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. To support this, NWAC has released a discussion paper on [Indigenous Women and Self-Government](#) prepared by Brenda Gunn. The discussion paper explores new ways to address challenges around Indigenous women's inclusion in self-government processes, arguing for the benefits of engaging in a culturally relevant gender-based analysis.



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Along with our policy and research efforts, NWAC also met regularly with working-level staff in federal departments and agencies. During these meetings, NWAC staff engaged in discussions and provided recommendations on how the 231 Calls for Justice can be advanced. Last year, NWAC met regularly with the MMIWG2S+ Secretariat to share working-level insights based on recommendations heard from our MMIWG2S+ Working Group. Moreover, NWAC engagements provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about ongoing initiatives at the federal level to share information on ongoing MMIWG2S+ work with NWAC's executive and PTMAs.

### PTMA Highlights

- Keepers of the Circle led an UNDRIP Act project aimed at gathering community input on land use practices, economic participation, and long-term priorities for communities and traditional territories.
- Keepers of the Circle participated in the National Indigenous Women's Housing Network to advocate for political action addressing homelessness and housing insecurity faced by Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people across Canada.
- Keepers of the Circle undertook the "Mining, MMIWG and Market-Based Instruments: Impact Assessment in Treaty 9 First Nations Territories" project, which examined the role of impact assessment in addressing the disproportionate impacts of resource development on Indigenous women.
- Quebec Native Women unveiled its MMIWG2S+ mapping project on March 31, 2026, documenting cases of Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit individuals who have gone missing or have been murdered in Quebec.



## Action Through Programs & Supports

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Since June 2025, NWAC has continued to support survivors and families affected by MMIWG2S+ by providing navigation supports, trauma-informed engagement, and access to culturally safe and timely resources. Over the last year, this has come through the delivery of two main programs:

- **Supporting Family Justice System Providers in Facilitating Trauma-Informed and Culturally Relevant Services:** Working with Justice Canada, NWAC is supporting the well-being of Indigenous women, in all their diversity, in accessing the family justice system. To support this research, NWAC hosted two engagement sessions with 50 participants and conducted a survey of 39 professionals, intermediaries, and service providers working with Indigenous families in the family justice system. In March 2026, we published the [Canadian Family Justice Report](#) where we outline our engagement findings.
- **Support for Sexual Misconduct Survivors:** Funded by the Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces, this project sought to provide support to military personnel by providing access to appropriate supports. Last year, NWAC published the [Bridging the Gap: A Culturally Relevant Guide to Supporting Indigenous Sexual Misconduct Survivors](#) to support service providers in addressing sexual misconduct. Further, this funding has allowed NWAC to enhance our Safe Passage platform, allowing us to make continued updates to the resource map and survivor-centered training materials.

Over the last year, NWC has continued to support several additional programs that indirectly advance the Calls for Justice. Collectively, these initiatives aim to address the systemic barriers and ongoing challenges experienced by Indigenous women in all their diversities:

- **Generation 4 Equality (G4E) – Phase 2:** NWAC has continued to engage Indigenous youth in post-secondary and career advancement opportunities. Last year, NWAC published the [Generation for Equality: Job Search and Career Planning Toolkit](#), to support Indigenous youth in achieving their career aspirations. Further, NWAC hosted four community engagement sessions in Iqaluit, Winnipeg, and Toronto in support of Indigenous youth pursuing their post-secondary and career aspirations.





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- **Red Path:** NWAC has continued to deliver programming to Indigenous women who are incarcerated or recently released. Through this program, NWAC has provided workshops on sexual health, healthy relationships, and traditional healing in correctional facilities over the last year.
- **Indigenous Skill and Employment Training (ISET):** NWAC provides Indigenous women with education, training, and employment support through the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program. The program helps empower Indigenous women to access economic opportunities, strengthen long-term economic security, and reduce vulnerability to violence.
- **Indigenous Languages:** Funded by Canadian Heritage, NWAC supports the documentation, preservation, and revitalization of Indigenous languages across Canada. Through this initiative, NWAC has continued to strengthen our Library and Archives and has delivered a range of promotion activities. Working with PTMAs, NWAC delivered 6 Indigenous language workshops with community members in Manitoba and New Brunswick.
- **Water Carriers:** This project honours the sacred role of Indigenous women and girls, in all their diversities, within water governance. Rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems and guided by community leadership, this project aims to address the ongoing impacts of unsafe drinking water, failing infrastructure, and climate- and industry-driven changes to water sources. Over the last year, the Water Carriers project has supported community water workshops across Canada, supporting Indigenous women's role in water governance.
- **Culturally Relevant Gender-based Analysis (CRGBA):** Through this project, NWAC is forwarding our implementation of the CRGBA framework in our advocacy, initiatives, and frameworks. As part of this work, NWAC developed the Indigenous Data Sovereignty toolkit, which discussed Indigenous data sovereignty using MMIWG2S+ data as an overarching case study.



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Over the last year, NWAC has continued to deliver critical programming in support of survivors and families of MMIWG2S+. These programs will continue to play a critical role in shaping our response to MMIWG2S+ moving forward. Further, NWAC continues to identify new funding opportunities to expand programming in support of Indigenous women, in all their diversity, across Canada.

## PTMA Highlights

- The BC Native Women's Association continued delivering Family Violence Prevention Programming aimed at creating safe and supportive spaces where Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals can access resources, build life skills, and health through culturally centered programming.
- The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association delivered a Gender-Based violence Workshop Series, ranging from human trafficking to MMIWG2S+ awareness, in response to Call for Justice 3.3.
- The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women remained an active member of the Premier's Council on MMIWG2S+, monitoring the provincial government's response to the 231 Calls for Justice and Alberta's 113 Pathways to Justice.



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### Action Through Grassroots Engagement

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The Native Women's Association of Canada is grounded in grassroots engagement and works to advance the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of Indigenous women across Canada. The community-driven approach informs our response to the ongoing MMIWG2S+ genocide, ensuring that advocacy and policy priorities reflect the lived experiences and needs of Indigenous women in all their diversities.

Established in July 2024, NWAC's national MMIWG2S+ Working Group has been meeting to help coordinate our ongoing response to the 231 Calls for Justice. The Working Group plays an important role in integrating grassroots perspectives into our work on MMIWG2S+. Since June 2025, the Working Group held 9 meetings where they established terms of reference, priorities, and began engaging with parliamentarians and senior government officials. To support the Working Group's ongoing discussions, NWAC supported 8 Provincial/Territorial Members Associations and one community partner in hosting grassroots engagements with 194 community members. The Working Group has served as an important formal mechanism for community feedback to guide NWAC's national policy positions and actions.

Beyond formal engagement processes, NWAC also:

- Actively participated in community-led ceremonies and marches to honour lost loved ones. NWAC supported PTMAs in hosting Sisters in Spirit vigils across Canada, while staff in the National Capital Region attended the vigil on Parliament Hill in solidarity with survivors and families.
- Acknowledged and elevated the importance of the annual February 14<sup>th</sup> Women's Memorial Marches across Canada.
- Launched a Red Dress Day campaign to spread awareness on the MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice, as well as to amplify Red Dress Day events.





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- Attended the BC Native Women's Association Anti-Human Trafficking gathering, which brought together Indigenous organizations, survivors, advocates, frontline workers, and community members to raise awareness on human trafficking, share culturally grounded approaches to prevention and support, and strengthen the response against our women.
- Launched a Call for Justice social media campaign to bring awareness to the many Calls that remain unanswered.

## PTMA Highlights

- On Red Dress Day (May 5, 2026), Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. Walked alongside the Gerard-Roussin family in support of justice for Mackaylah Gerard-Roussin and to raise awareness on MMIWG2S+.
- On February 14, 2026, the Nunavut Inuit Women's Association hosted a gathering to honor and remember MMIWG2S+ loved ones, the event was an opportunity to reflect, uplift, and renew their calls for justice, safety and meaningful action for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council continued delivering its MMIWG2S+ Outreach Centre and Program, guided by family members of MMIWG2S+. The program provides five core services to families in Yukon and Northern British Columbia, including outreach circles, aftercare circles, one-the-land healing camps, self-advocacy and peer-led healing training, and ongoing communication and support.



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NSNWA Sisters in Spirit March



BCNWA Sisters in Spirit Gathering

Sisters in Spirit on Parliament Hill



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## Moving Forward

Across communities, NWAC continues witnessing the strength, leadership, and resilience of Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, families, survivors, Elders, youth, and grassroots advocates who continue carrying this work forward despite ongoing systemic barriers and delayed implementation of the Calls for Justice and the National Action Plan. Through advocacy, policy development, grassroots engagement, Sisters in Spirit Vigils, Red Dress Day initiatives, and culturally grounded programming, NWAC remains committed to advancing Indigenous-led solutions rooted in community realities, healing, accountability, and self-determination.

Moving forward, NWAC will continue strengthening partnerships with PTMAs, families, survivors, grassroots organizations, and communities across Canada to ensure Indigenous voices, lived experiences, and community priorities remain central to national advocacy and policy discussions connected to MMIWG2S+. The ongoing investment in Indigenous-led, distinctions-based, trauma-informed, and culturally grounded initiatives remains critical to supporting long-term healing, prevention, safety, and systemic change.



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Even still, the solutions have long been identified through the voices of families, survivors, grassroots advocates, and Indigenous communities across the country. What continues to be needed is sustained accountability, meaningful action, and long-term commitments that match the scale and urgency of this ongoing crisis. Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people deserve more than awareness alone. They deserve safety, justice, dignity, accountability, and the ability to live free from violence.

We carry forward not only the memory of those we have lost, but also the strength, leadership, and resistance of those who continue fighting for justice. The path forward has already been clearly identified through the voices of families, survivors, grassroots advocates, and Indigenous communities across the country. NWAC remains committed to ensuring those voices continue guiding this work with the same urgency, accountability, and purpose Indigenous Peoples have carried for generations.



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