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# Our Liberal Government's Progress On **RECONCILIATION**



COVID-19 Indigenous Supports



Progress since 2015 with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation



Ongoing Work with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation



National Progress



Ongoing Challenges

## Introduction

In 2015, when our Liberal Government was first elected, we made it clear that there is no relationship more important to the federal government than the Nation-to-Nation relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. Having been re-elected in 2021, we outlined further commitments in the most recent Speech from the Throne to continue this important work. We've expedited work to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation and a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy. We've accelerated work on the National Action Plan and our implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls for Action. We've supported more affordable and sustainable Indigenous housing and made significant progress in our plan to close the infrastructure gap and end all boil-water advisories across Canada. We're committed to moving forward together. Our Liberal Government has also passed Bill C-15, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which was developed with Indigenous partners, fulfilling our commitment to introduce legislation to implement the Declaration as government legislation.

We are investing over \$18 billion to improve the quality of life and create new opportunities for people living in Indigenous communities. As we work to move past the pandemic, we are ensuring that Indigenous communities have strong access to vaccines and healthcare support. We will continue to support communities and economies so that they fully benefit from the strongest recovery in the G7. We will provide families with the tools they need. Reckoning with our colonial legacy and all the wrongs done to Indigenous Peoples will not be easy. It means having hard conversations, listening, and grieving. It certainly won't be a finished process within a year or before the next election. But few things worth doing are easy. This report is not intended to be an exhaustive list of every single investment and discussion our Liberal Government has undertaken to advance reconciliation. Still, I hope it will give a clearer picture of some of the strides our Liberal Government has taken and our ongoing work. By working in partnership with individual Indigenous communities on a Nation-to-Nation basis, we will be able to make progress. That starts right here in Burnaby and North Vancouver.



The Prime Minister and I recently met with Chief Jen Thomas and members of the Tsleil-Waututh Community.



Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada

To learn more about the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, visit [TRC.ca](https://www.trc.ca) and [NTRC.ca](https://www.ntrc.ca).

## COVID-19 Indigenous Supports

First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities all across Canada are varied and diverse, and we are committed to working closely on a Nation-to-Nation basis to address challenges as partners. COVID-19 has presented unique challenges to each community, and we have developed these unique solutions accordingly to work in tandem with the existing supports available to Indigenous Peoples.

We created a new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund and, in past years, invested \$305 million to support this initiative. Furthermore, we are providing \$760.8 million to support the Indigenous Community Support Fund to help Indigenous communities and off-reserve Indigenous organizations serving Indigenous Peoples meet the unique needs of their populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will:

- Support Elders and vulnerable community members.
- Create and expand measures to combat food insecurity.
- Advance culturally appropriate, tailored education that better supports children.
- Improve mental health assistance and emergency response services.
- Reinforce COVID-19 preparedness measures.

For areas of federal responsibility, we are providing \$100 million to help:

- Respond to identified needs to update and activate pandemic plans.
- Support an effective allocation of limited public health and primary health care capacity.
- Align response efforts with scientific evidence as determined by a medical officer of health.
- Address immediate needs in the short term.
- Help Nutrition North Canada to increase subsidies so families can afford much-needed personal hygiene products and nutritious food with a \$25 million investment.
- Fund community-led responses to the pandemic and provide targeted increases in primary health care resources for First Nations communities.

We also provided \$75.2 million in additional distinctions-based support to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis post-secondary students. Our COVID-19 response in Indigenous communities includes \$478.1 million to support hiring nurses, help at-risk people to isolate, and distribute personal protective equipment. Vaccination efforts are well underway in Indigenous communities across the country.

The federal government continues to work with provinces and territories to ensure Indigenous Peoples in cities can get the vaccine. As of August 2022, 687 indigenous communities have reported that vaccine administration is underway. Indigenous communities have worked hard to combat the virus, but the pandemic is not over, and Indigenous communities remain at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Indigenous communities and businesses.

Some of the measures in place to ensure the long-term resilience of Indigenous economies are:

- To support the Indigenous tourism industry with an additional \$2.4 million on top of the previous \$16 million to the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada to help the Indigenous tourism industry rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Indigenous communities continue to face unique challenges in responding to COVID-19.
- Budget 2022 proposes to invest an additional \$190.5 million in 2022-23 to Indigenous Services Canada for the Indigenous Community Support Fund to help Indigenous communities and organizations mitigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

- Increase the Indigenous Growth Fund to help provide a long-term source of financing to support continued success for Indigenous businesses. The \$150 million addition to the fund will provide capital to Aboriginal Financial Institutions and, ultimately, Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs. The unique structure leverages an initial government investment to help recruit other investors and, most importantly, grow and sustain the fund on an ongoing basis.
- To support Indigenous businesses through the pandemic, we have the Indigenous Business Initiative and the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. To make sure these businesses can continue to access support, the Federal Government will extend the application deadline for support under the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund and the Indigenous Business Initiative until June 30, 2021. We will provide \$80 million to do this.
- Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$150 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to Indigenous Services Canada's Lands and Economic Development Services Program and Community Opportunity Readiness Program to advance shovel-ready economic opportunities in Indigenous communities.
- To ensure that all communities are well positioned to benefit from these investments, Budget 2022 also proposes to provide \$35 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to Indigenous Services Canada to increase economic capacity supports, including specialized training opportunities delivered by Indigenous-led organizations. We also know that the cumulative effects of multiple waves of COVID-19 have had a significant impact on Indigenous businesses, with more than 75 percent of businesses surveyed by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business reporting decreases in revenues as a direct result of the pandemic. To further support Indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises, Budget 2022 proposes to forgive up to 50 percent of the COVID-19 Indigenous Business Initiative loans that supported businesses in need during the pandemic. This action will help ensure that Indigenous-owned businesses are positioned for long-term success.
- We will renew the Indigenous Community Business Fund with \$117 million to ensure First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities can continue to provide services and support jobs for their members through collectively owned businesses and micro businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support the First Nations Finance Authority pooled borrowing regime to establish a First Nations Finance Authority Emergency Fund to provide repayable financial support for borrowing members encountering difficulties due to COVID-19 or future widespread economic shocks. We will provide \$33.4 million for this initiative.



Signing a partnership agreement to monitor the Burrard Inlet with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Ocean Networks Canada.



Speaking with former Chief Leah George-Wilson and former Councillor Carleen Thomas.

- An additional \$100 million to triple the financing of the Enabling Accessibility Fund and support small and mid-sized projects with Indigenous organizations and other groups to help offset the costs of renovations, retrofits, and accessible technologies in workplaces.
- Expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program. This will directly support Indigenous-led businesses and help Indigenous communities generate wealth by improving access to capital and business opportunities.
- Providing tools, services, and resources to increase the number of Indigenous women entrepreneurs with \$22 million for the Indigenous Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative.
- Strengthening Diversity in Corporate Governance by holding a public consultation on measures that would adapt and apply the Canada Business Corporations Act diversity requirements to federally regulated financial institutions. This objective is to promote more significant gender, racial, ethnic, and Indigenous diversity among senior financial sector ranks and ensure more Canadians have access to these opportunities.
- Supplementing the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program and addressing increased demand on the program to help individuals and families meet their essential living expenses and hire additional staff to better serve First Nations communities with \$270 million in 2020 and \$618.4 million after starting in 2021.

## Progress since 2015 with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Our federal riding of Burnaby-North Seymour contains the traditional, unceded territory of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. The Tsleil-Waututh's oral histories tell of up to 10,000 members living before contact with Europeans. The wrongs of the past cannot be washed away or ignored, but we can and must do our best to rebuild often broken relationships. In this context, we have been working not only to rebuild these relationships but also to support Indigenous Partners to build better economic conditions in Indigenous nations, including the Tsleil-Waututh, and improve the lives of community members in real and sustainable ways.

Building infrastructure is one of the best ways to ensure long-term prosperity for any community. We also recognize the unique needs of the Tsleil-Waututh community and the need for genuine partnership in any project we pursue. Since we took office in 2015, many key projects have been completed:

- In partnership, we designed and constructed a new \$2.7 million community health facility.
- Maintenance and repairs to an existing early learning and childcare facility.
- Invested \$55,000 in the Tsleil-Waututh Child and Family Development Centre.
- Supported the British Columbia First Nations Housing Conference on housing program reform with roughly \$238,000.
- Provided \$100,000 to support the ability of First Nations across the country, including the Tsleil-Waututh, to govern, manage and maintain their housing portfolios.
- Conducted housing policy workshops and provided homeownership policy toolkits.
- Provided \$300,000 to develop a community-led land use plan that underlines the community's vision, including priorities, strategies, and policies for land and resource use and infrastructure development.

Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$398 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to Indigenous Services Canada to support community infrastructure on-reserve, of which at least \$247 million will be directed toward water and wastewater infrastructure.

## Ongoing Work with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation

While we have been able to work together and accomplish a lot, there are still ongoing projects that are yet to be completed. These are in a few different categories:

### Waste Management

- Compiling and distributing complete Waste Education toolkits to the First Nations schools that had not yet received one during the 2018-2019 distribution. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the toolkit will be expanded and made accessible to off-reserve schools with high First Nations attendance and relevant to adult education programs.
- Supporting the creation of Indigenous-led Waste and Environmental Advisory Committees, which will allow First Nations to share information on best management practices, provide input on waste policy and programming, and support other First Nations in their waste and environmental initiatives.
- Providing funding to help create a Zero Waste Education course, standards of excellence for the operation of waste management programs/systems, an incentive/recognition program to encourage compliance with standards of excellence, and educational videos for communities to learn about effective waste management.
- Helping to support their Zero Waste Circuit Rider program and providing direct funding to the Tsleil-Waututh to train operators and circuit riders on their water and wastewater systems.
- Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$398 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to Indigenous Services Canada to support community infrastructure on-reserve, of which at least \$247 million will be directed toward water and wastewater infrastructure.

### Training and Education

The Community Infrastructure Branch of Indigenous Services Canada is working with several First Nations-led organizations to establish lines of evidence to support the transformation of infrastructure service delivery to First Nations communities. Engagement with communities and First Nations will drive this policy development and the transformation of how the federal government and Indigenous communities plan projects together.

### School Facility Infrastructure Projects

200 projects, including:

- Construction of 61 new schools
- Renovation or upgrade of 85 existing schools
- 46 feasibility studies and projects in the design phase
- 8 supporting projects and initiatives



Answering questions from members of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation at an all-candidates Q & A.

## National Progress

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action is the critical framework for understanding our work. Between 2008-2015, the Commission travelled all over Canada, heard from over 6500 witnesses, hosted seven national events, and created a historical record of the residential school system from over 5 million government records. In a final, 6-volume report, the Commission laid out 94 Calls to Action for our Liberal Government to undertake. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accepted the report in December 2015, and we've been working toward our implementation of the TRC's Calls to Action. Over 80% of the Calls to Action we are responsible for are completed or underway, and we are working to move faster with our partners to meet them. We will continue to take the sustained and consistent action required to progress on Canada's journey of healing and reconciliation. However, these investments are building progress to address the inequalities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada. But there is more work to be done, and the federal government will continue working alongside Indigenous Peoples to address historical injustices.

### A NOTE ON THE FOLLOWING SECTION

**The list below is not intended to be an exhaustive account of all the government's work on the Calls to Action. It is intended to give you a snapshot of some of the more important work we have done and to emphasize that reconciliation is far more about the process than a specific result. While the Government of Canada is committed to resolving as much of this work as possible, some of it lies outside our federal government's scope. Some resolutions can only be implemented by other levels of government or other organizations, and as such, the Government of Canada cannot ultimately resolve those calls of action. As stated, we are hard at work to do everything in our power. If you have any questions about anything below, want more information, or want a deeper dive into our Liberal Government's work, please do not hesitate to contact our office.**

## Child Welfare

Healthy and safe childhoods form the basis for stable communities, and we recognize that when Indigenous children are taken from their homes, it disrupts Indigenous communities. We are committed to changing this and making amends. This has helped Indigenous communities across the country deliver crucial programs and services for residents. We will provide \$1.6 billion to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program to support this plan through the 2022 fiscal year.

Indigenous Services Canada hosted an emergency meeting with federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners on child and family services to discuss how to work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to transform Indigenous child welfare. This included 65 engagement sessions with nearly 2000 participants. The government is working with these partners to develop a data and reporting strategy to inform future service delivery improvements.

Our Liberal Government is committed to supporting the well-being of Indigenous children and families. We have a plan to increase support to First Nations communities for prevention activities to help First Nations children and families stay together within their communities through the Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative and to permanently ensure that First Nations youth who reach the age of majority receive the support they need to transition to independence successfully.

On June 21, 2019, we passed Bill C-92, An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families. Co-developed with Indigenous partners, it affirms Indigenous Peoples' inherent right to exercise jurisdiction over their own child and family services. We will provide \$73.6 million to support the implementation of the Act.

## Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare

Canada's Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework, co-developed with Indigenous partners in 2018, adopts a distinctions-based approach to strengthening high-quality, culturally appropriate child care for Indigenous children guided by Indigenous priorities. The federal government will build upon Canada's Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework to continue the progress towards an early learning and childcare system that meets the needs of Indigenous families. Our investment in Indigenous early learning and childcare will include ensuring that more Indigenous families have access to high-quality programming through a \$1.4 billion investment that will create up to 3,300 new spaces and a \$1.1 billion investment for improving existing Indigenous early learning and child care centres through collaboration with Indigenous partners. Budget 2022 has allocated \$2.5 billion over five years to build on the distinctions-based approach to Indigenous early learning and child care, including before- and after-school care on-reserve.

## Education and Increasing Opportunities

Education and training are vital for jobs and growth. To build thriving communities, we are working with Indigenous partners to increase opportunities and give everyone a fair chance at building a better life. Proposed investments will also strengthen First Nations' control over elementary and secondary education on-reserve. Education is key to a strong start in life. In 2019, the federal government implemented a new co-developed policy and funding approach to help ensure First Nations children living on-reserve receive a high-quality education that meets their unique needs. Since then, First Nations education systems have benefited from more than \$3.8 billion in investments. These historic new investments in education are creating and enhancing learning environments that are safe, healthy and achieving positive educational outcomes for First Nations students living on-reserves. These include, but are not limited to:

- \$2.6 billion over five years for primary and secondary education on-reserve.
- Almost \$1 billion over five years for construction, maintenance, and repair of education facilities.
- A new, formula-based regional funding model co-developed with Indigenous partners.
- Providing new resources which will support full-time kindergarten programs in every First Nations school for children aged four and five.
- Providing First Nations schools with \$1500 per student per year to support language and culture programming.
- \$815 million over ten years to support Indigenous post-secondary education. This will come in the form of direct support for students, the development of regional education strategies, and support for Inuit and Métis led strategies.
- New, distinctions-based Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care framework, reflective of the unique cultures and needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and families across Canada.
- Replaced outdated proposal-based programs with improved access to predictable core funding. Moreover, we are ensuring base funding is comparable to provincial systems across the country while working towards additional funding agreements to better account for remoteness, school size, language, and socioeconomic conditions.
- Signed the BC Tripartite Education Agreement, which will benefit all First Nations students in BC and 200 First Nations, supporting students who attend any of the 131 on-reserve First Nations schools or those who attend public or off-reserve independent schools in BC.
- \$2 billion over five years and approximately \$408 million annually to create a new Indigenous Skills and Employment Training program. Extensive engagement with Indigenous partners from 2016-2017 led to this program. We are also creating new separate funding streams for First Nations, Métis Nation, Inuit, and urban/non-affiliated people.



- In Budget 2021, we made plans to invest \$1.2 billion to extend COVID-19 support so children living on-reserves can continue to attend school safely and First Nations can control First Nations education by including more Regional Education Agreements to expand access to adult education.

## Boil Water Advisories and Water-Related Projects

Budget 2016 proposed a significant investment of \$1.8 billion over five years to support water and wastewater infrastructure in First Nations communities. With the help of these investments, 349 water-related projects in 275 communities have been supported so far. The work done in partnership between First Nations and our Liberal Government is delivering tangible results for communities. Budget 2018 builds on prior investments and reaffirms our Liberal Government's commitment by proposing to provide an additional \$172.6 million over three years, beginning in 2018-19, to improve access to clean and safe drinking water on-reserve. Announced in December 2020, our Liberal Government made an additional investment of \$1.5 billion to accelerate work to lift all long-term drinking water advisories on-reserves, and \$114.1 million per year ongoing thereafter to support daily operations and maintenance for water infrastructure on-reserves.

As of 2022, 135 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted since 2015. In Budget 2021, we committed \$6 billion to support infrastructure in Indigenous communities. This is a part of a long-term commitment to repair historical inequities and generational failures. We are listening to communities and want to let them know that our Liberal Government will be here for the long run.

## Housing and Infrastructure

Long-term investments in housing and infrastructure are solid foundations for building strong, sustainable communities, and this is true of our biggest cities and smallest towns. This includes our long-term goal of lifting all boil water advisories on-reserve in Canada. We are making progress in partnership. Bolstered by previous investments, Budget 2022 seeks to shore up the foundations necessary for healthy communities, including housing and clean drinking water. These measures will result in a combined \$6.3 billion over seven years towards improving and expanding Indigenous housing in Canada. Additionally, Budget 2023 proposes to commit an additional \$4 billion, over seven years, starting in 2024-25, to implement a co-developed Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

From consultations with Indigenous leaders, we implemented new, distinctions-based housing strategies, including:

- \$600 million over three years to support housing on-reserve as part of a 10-year First Nations Housing Strategy that is being developed in partnership with First Nations leadership across Canada.
- \$400 million over ten years to support an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and Inuvialuit. This is in addition to the \$240 million over ten years announced in Budget 2017.
- Past investments of \$500 million over ten years to support the Métis Nation's housing strategy, and in 2021 we made plans to invest \$600 million for First Nations Housing, \$400 million for Inuit Housing, and \$500 million for Métis Housing.
- Completed 172 community and recreational infrastructure projects, with 39 more in progress, to provide 159 First Nation communities with new playgrounds, youth centres, and sports fields.



We are working closely with all levels of government to build more housing. We are investing to double the number of new homes being built.

- Helping to build 12 new shelters over five years, which will protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence. This will be funded with a \$44.8 million investment. This funding will help build 10 shelters in First Nations communities on-reserve across the country (funded through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program) and two in the territories (funded through National Housing Co-Investment Fund) to support Indigenous women and children.
- Providing funding to support the ability of First Nation to govern, manage and maintain its housing portfolio; and to support the development of housing authority models.
- We will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years and \$10.2 million annually ongoing.
- We also announced \$1 million a year ongoing, starting in 2020, to support engagement with Métis leaders and service providers on shelter provision and community-led violence prevention projects for Métis women, girls, and LGBTQQIA+ and two-spirit people.
- The process to access the funding for the shelters will be through an Expression of Interest. First Nations on-reserve across the country and Indigenous governments and/or organizations in the territories will be eligible to submit proposals.
- Access to safe and affordable housing is critical to improving health and social outcomes and ensuring a better future for Indigenous communities and children. That is why the federal government has committed more than \$2.7 billion to support housing in Indigenous communities since 2015.

#### LONG-TERM DRINKING WATER ADVISORIES BY THE NUMBERS

# 138

LTDWAs LIFTED SINCE NOV. 2015

# 32

LTDWAs CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN 28 COMMUNITIES

#### CURRENT REMAINING PROGRESS ON LTDWA RESOLUTION

# 1%

IN FEASIBILITY STUDIES

# 2%

IN DESIGN

# 8%

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

# 8%

PENDING LIFTING

Building on these investments, Budget 2022 proposes to provide a further \$4 billion over seven years, starting in 2022-23, to Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to accelerate work in closing Indigenous housing gaps as follows:

- \$2.4 billion over five years to support First Nations housing on-reserves.
- \$565 million over five years to support housing in First Nations Self-Governing and Modern Treaty Holders communities.
- \$845 million over seven years to support housing in Inuit communities.
- \$190 million over seven years for housing in Métis communities.
- We also know that Indigenous Peoples, regardless of where they live, face unique barriers to affordable housing.
- Budget 2022 proposes to invest \$300 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to co-develop and launch an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.
- Along with these new investments, the federal government will allocate \$2 billion of the \$20 billion provided for long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program to target the housing needs of First Nations children once a final settlement agreement is reached. This is in addition to the \$1.66 billion in housing investments that have been made since 2016 to address housing needs on-reserves.

## Supporting Indigenous Self-Governance

Stamping out Indigenous culture was a stated goal of the administrators of our colonial past. We cannot turn the clocks back, but we are doing our best to redress these grievous wrongs with a number of different initiatives and programs. Core governance support is essential for First Nations leaders to effectively serve their communities and advance self-determination. We will support the administrative capacity of First Nations governments and other organizations that deliver critical programs and services with \$104.8 million. We will provide wrap-around support for First Nations with the most significant community development need with \$151.4 million. Lands are central to First Nations traditions, identity, and prosperity. In Budget 2021, we provided \$43 million to work with Indigenous partners and other stakeholders to redesign the federal Additions to Reserve policy and to accelerate work on existing requests from First Nations across the country. Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$150 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to Indigenous Services Canada's Lands and Economic Development Services Program and Community Opportunity Readiness Program to advance shovel-ready economic opportunities in Indigenous communities.

On June 21, 2019, we passed Bill C-91, An Act Respecting Indigenous Languages. This legislation aims to:

- Reclaim, revitalize, strengthen and maintain Indigenous languages in Canada.
- Establish measures for the provision of long-term, sustainable funding for Indigenous languages.
- Contribute to the objectives of the UN Declaration.
- Support and promote the use of Indigenous languages in Canada.
- Commit to working with provinces, territories, Indigenous representative organizations, and Indigenous governments to create effective support for Indigenous languages in Canada through a variety of mechanisms.
- Establish an Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages.

In 2019, we started providing \$333.7 million to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages, partially through implementing Bill C-91. We are furthering this support with \$275 million to support various initiatives such as languages and culture camps, mentor-apprentice programs, and developing Indigenous languages resources and documentation.

A dedicated, permanent space to share culture is key to building strong Indigenous identities. Establishing cultural spaces that are inclusive of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people will help ensure they have a seat at the decision-making table. To reestablish and revitalize inclusive Indigenous cultural spaces, we are providing \$108.8 million. This proposal responds to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which calls for all Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to be provided with safe, no-barrier, permanent, and meaningful access to their cultures and language. To support these efforts, we created an efficient process for residential school survivors and their families to reclaim names that were changed by the residential school system on passports and other IDs. We've also committed \$23.9 million over five years, starting in 2018-19, to Parks Canada to integrate Indigenous views, history, and heritage into the national parks, marine conservation areas, and historic sites.



The most important relationship we have in our community is with the Chiefs and Councils for the Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam, and Squamish Nations. Our nation-to-nation partnership has allowed for incredible progress, and we will always be there to listen and advocate for them.

## National Council for Reconciliation

Budget 2019 announced \$126.5 million to establish the National Council for Reconciliation and endow it with initial operating capital. The purpose of this Council is to:

- Monitor, evaluate, and report annually to Parliament on the progress of reconciliation, including the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Develop and implement a multi-year National Action Plan for Reconciliation.
- Initiate innovative dialogue, thought, and action on reconciliation.

## Professional Development and Training for Public Servants

The Canada School of Public Service is a common learning service provider for the federal public service. It continues to develop and use the Indigenous Learning Series, intended for all public service employees, Indigenous employees, leaders, and functional specialists. This is to make sure Indigenous perspectives and histories are well-known for public servants, transforming how public policy is made.

## Museums and Archives

Canadian Heritage is working with the Canadian Museums Association to support and review museum policies and best practices to ensure Indigenous artifacts, exhibits, and the like are properly respected and handled. Library and Archives Canada is digitizing and preserving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis-related content and supporting communities holding Indigenous language recordings. To commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools, honour survivors, their families, and communities, and support celebrations and commemoration events during the proposed National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Canadian Heritage will receive and administer \$13.4 million.

## Commemoration

Our Liberal Government is working with various partners to change the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada membership to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation. Budget 2022 also proposes to provide \$25 million over three years, starting in 2022-23, to Parks Canada to support the commemoration and memorialization of former residential school sites.

## Church Apologies and Reconciliation

On May 29, 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican. During this meeting, the Prime Minister formally asked the Pope to deliver a papal apology for the Catholic Church's role in Residential Schools. On March 28, 2018, the Prime Minister received a letter from a senior representative of the Catholic Church in Canada stating that Pope Francis would not issue an apology. Our Liberal Government continued to push the Catholic Church to issue an apology, and on July 25, 2022, Pope Francis delivered a formal apology to residential school survivors and victims. Our Liberal Government still believes that the church needs to provide further recognition of the wrongs it committed, and we will continue to push for them to do so.

## Media

CBC/Radio-Canada undertook key Indigenous initiatives, such as creating additional Indigenous and Cree content.

Local Indigenous staff in Yellowknife digitized and preserved decades of audio programming in 8 Indigenous languages: Dogrib, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, Chipewyan, North Slavey, South Slavey, Gwich'in, Cree.

Canadian Heritage, with the support of the Indigenous Screen Office, is ensuring Indigenous Peoples can tell their own stories and see themselves reflected on-screen.

## Sports

We re-launched the annual Tom Longboat Awards in 2017, a program honouring Indigenous athletes for their outstanding contributions to sport in Canada.

Sport Canada is reviewing the manner in which Indigenous groups were engaged during the planning and delivery phases of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Toronto 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games. This review will ensure that territorial protocols are respected for any event that Canada provides support to.

We invested \$47.5 million over five years and will invest \$9.5 million per year to expand the use of sport for social development in more than 300 Indigenous communities. This is based on a similar model developed by Right To Play. Nearly 90% of participants had a more positive attitude toward school and a greater sense of identity.

To ensure that Indigenous women and girls have access to meaningful sports activities through the Sport for Social Development in Indigenous Communities program, we are providing \$14.3 million.

## Newcomers to Canada

Working closely with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council, as well as Indigenous historians, to update the text and photos of the citizenship guide and the wording of the Official Oath of Citizenship. Following the launch of the revised citizenship guide, a new citizenship test will be created that will encompass revisions made to the citizenship guide, including new questions related to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis history and perspectives.

## Education for Reconciliation

Our Liberal Government is working with the Council of Ministers of Education to enhance our shared knowledge of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis history and culture across Canada. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and its partners must now consider and incorporate the perspectives and knowledge systems of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities across Canada. The SSHRC is one of the three major Federal granting agencies, and it promotes and supports post-secondary research and training in the Social Sciences and Humanities.



An important part of increasing youth participation in our democracy is elected officials taking the time to answer their questions and listen to their concerns. If you ever want me to visit a classroom, don't hesitate to contact our office, and we will make sure to schedule a time to speak with your students.

## Indigenous Health

The Government of Canada recognizes that the current state of Indigenous health is a direct result of the shameful historical legacy of colonialist policies and interventions against the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and communities, including Indian residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, and other harmful practices. Meaningful improvements in Indigenous health outcomes will only be achieved if there are fundamental changes in the design, delivery, and control of health services. The goal is to address ongoing health and mental wellness challenges by ensuring continued access to culturally-appropriate services that meet the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples and communities. Simply put, health systems have to be more responsive to community needs.

Since 2015, we've invested over \$5.5 billion, and we've been focusing on taking positive steps forward with significant new investments for Indigenous health. These include, but are not limited to:

- \$69 million over three years for mental wellness teams and crisis stabilization.
- Roughly \$828 million over five years for communicable diseases, primary care transformation, mental wellness, children's oral health, and home and community care.
- \$200 million over five years, with \$40 million ongoing to address the needs of high-risk communities in the area of addictions.
- Making an escort, such as a family member, accessible to all First Nations and Inuit women who must leave their home community during their pregnancy. This is provided through the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Medical Transportation Policy Framework for First Nations and Inuit.

We invested \$1.4 billion to ensure Indigenous Peoples can access high-quality health care. This plan includes:

- Ensuring continued high-quality care through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, which supports First Nations and Inuit people with medically necessary services not otherwise covered, such as mental health services, medical travel, medications, and more.
- Increasing the number of nurses and other medical professionals in remote and isolated First Nations communities and improving access to high-quality and culturally relevant health care for Indigenous Peoples.
- Since 2016, the government has made available almost \$2 billion to Jordan's Principle to improve access to lifesaving care and essential services. Jordan's Principle helps First Nations children access the products, services, and supports they need. Since July 2016, 717,000 products, services, and supports have been approved. These included speech therapy, educational support, medical equipment, mental health services, and more. Funding has also been used for responding to high rates of tuberculosis in Inuit communities and supporting the Métis Nation in gathering health data and developing a health strategy to address their unique needs.
- Budget 2022 proposes to invest \$268 million in 2022-23 to continue to provide high-quality health care in remote and isolated First Nations communities.



Receiving a medicine pouch from a member of the Tsleil-Waututh community on Truth and Reconciliation Day. An important part of reconciliation is respecting and understanding Indigenous communities' medical practices. We are committed to ensuring that Indigenous communities have the resources and professionals to meet their medical needs.

## Mental Health

The National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy has been implemented by and for Inuit people. In addition to these significant investments in Indigenous-designed and implemented health and wellness initiatives, the Government of Canada is actively supporting Indigenous Peoples to take control over their health services.

We funded \$235 million to work with First Nations partners to transform First Nations health systems by expanding successful models of self-determination so that health programs and services are developed, delivered, and controlled by and for First Nations.

In 2021 we announced a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy with Indigenous Peoples, including continuing support for former residential school students and their families. This \$597.6 million program will build on existing strengths, help address gaps, and respond to current, emerging, and future needs.

The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program can also provide access to elders, traditional healers, and other community-based cultural and emotional supports or professional mental health counselling. Survivors and family members can access the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line when in need. This line has been set up to provide emotional and crisis referral services to former residential school students. It's available 24 hours a day at 1-866-925-4419.

## Indigenous Treatment in Hospitals and our Health Care System

Indigenous Services Canada included cultural competency training for new registered nurses and nurse practitioners employed by its First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

We are taking serious steps to improve mental health services for Indigenous Peoples. Joyce Echaquan, a 37-year-old mother of seven children from the Atikamekw de Manawan, died at the Joliette Hospital after receiving degrading insults from two hospital staff. Joyce's Principle aims to guarantee to all Indigenous Peoples the right of equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services and the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. In Budget 2021, we made plans to provide \$126.7 million to take action to foster health systems free from racism and discrimination where Indigenous Peoples are respected and safe. Addressing the unique and deeply rooted traumas of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities—which include intergenerational trauma; overt and systemic racism and discrimination; and social and economic inequality—requires a distinctions-based approach to mental health and wellness that is developed and delivered by Indigenous Peoples.

Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$227.6 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to maintain trauma-informed, culturally-appropriate, Indigenous-led services to improve mental wellness and to support efforts initiated through Budget 2021 to co-develop distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategies.

- Created a national network of 45 treatment centres that provide a range of mainstream and culturally relevant services for Indigenous youth, adults, and families experiencing issues with substance use.
- Invested \$200 million toward delivering culturally appropriate substance use treatment and prevention services.
- Invested \$118.2 million to support additional capacity for essential mental health services, including on-the-land activities and culture-as-medicine.
- Invested in 176 health infrastructure projects. These projects include building or repairing nursing stations, health centres, drug and alcohol treatment centres, and Aboriginal Head Start on-reserve facilities in 164 First Nation communities.

## Public Safety

Like all communities in Canada, Indigenous communities should be places where people and families feel safe and secure. A well-funded, culturally sensitive, and respectful police service is essential for community safety and well-being. Budget 2022 also proposes \$5.1 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to Public Safety Canada to ensure the Royal Canadian Mounted Police can support community-led responses to unmarked burial sites.

We will provide \$861 million to support culturally responsive policing and community safety services in Indigenous communities. This includes:

- Co-developing a legislative framework for First Nations policing that recognizes First Nations policing as an essential service.
- Supporting Indigenous communities currently served under the First Nations Policing Program and expanding the program to new Indigenous communities.
- Repair, renovate, and replace policing facilities in First Nation and Inuit communities.
- Enhance Indigenous-led crime prevention strategies and community safety services.
- A new Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities Initiative to support Indigenous communities to develop more holistic community-based safety and wellness models. For too long, the justice system has been used to perpetrate injustice. This road will be long, but we must both restore confidence in the system, and root out the causes of these past injustices. Strides are being taken, such as expanding the use of culturally relevant and effective processes within Indigenous communities.

On January 11, 2019, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada issued the Directive on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples. The directive guides the Government of Canada's legal approaches, positions and decisions taken in civil litigation involving Aboriginal and treaty rights and the Crown's obligation towards Indigenous Peoples. This has resulted in fewer issues in dispute and signals our respect and recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights. Further, in several cases, the decision was made not to appeal or seek judicial review. This acknowledges the Government of Canada's responsibility to redress past wrongs.

The Government of Canada has committed to resolving Indigenous Childhood Claims Litigation outside of the courts. This includes:

- Expanding the use of culturally relevant and effective processes within Indigenous communities, like restorative justice.
- Introducing a more transparent process for choosing federally appointed judges and establishing a more diverse judicial bench, so as to build confidence in our institutions.
- On June 21, 2019, our Liberal Government passed Bill C-75, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.
- This requires that particular consideration be given to the unique circumstances of members of vulnerable populations when imposing bail conditions, encourages the use of alternatives to charges for justice offences, and limits the use of custodial sentences.
- The Correctional Service of Canada has increased the number of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers to better respond to Indigenous needs.



- To improve Indigenous Peoples' access to justice to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous People in the justice system, we are providing \$74.8 million in funding to enable Justice Canada to provide help and support to Indigenous families as they navigate the family justice system and access community-based family mediation services. In addition, this funding will enable Justice Canada to support engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations on the development of legislation and initiatives that address systemic barriers in the criminal justice system.
- Through the Justice Canada Federal Victims Strategy, our Liberal Government partners with provincial and territorial governments, community agencies and organizations to increase access to justice for victims and survivors of crime and give them a more effective voice in the criminal justice system.
- Exonerated the six Tsilhqot'in Chiefs, who died defending their lands, their people, and their way of life.

## Support for Indigenous-led Data Strategies

Access to reliable and culturally relevant data on Indigenous Peoples is critical to building a complete portrait of Indigenous lived experiences, unmasking inequalities, and ensuring effective policies and programs. Indigenous-led data strategies can further self-determination by providing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation governments and organizations with the data they need to support their communities. We will invest \$81.5 million to continue working towards developing and implementing a First Nations Data Governance Strategy and supporting the development of distinctions-based Inuit and Métis Nation data strategies.

In collaboration with federal, provincial, and territorial partners, Statistics Canada has developed a comprehensive data strategy to collect and publish information on the victimization of Indigenous Peoples. Understanding the nature and extent of victimization of Indigenous Peoples is key to responding to issues related to safety and well-being. To modernize Canada's justice system, support evidence-based policies, and ensure accountability within the criminal justice system, we are providing \$6.7 million to Justice Canada and Statistics Canada to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data. This is part of ongoing efforts to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples and racialized groups in the justice system.

## Missing Children and Burial Information

- Providing funding so that communities can decide, at their own pace, how and when they want to make plans to locate children who died under the residential school system.
- Provided funding to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to support the development of a database registering the children who died or went missing while at Residential schools.
- Developing and maintaining the National Residential School Student Death Register.
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has begun discussions with various partners towards collaborating on an engagement strategy to gain a better understanding of Indigenous family and community interests. This partnership will help us move forward in a comprehensive manner on all of the calls to actions regarding children who died or went missing while attending Residential schools.

## MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

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The Commission of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls delivered its final report, titled *Reclaiming Power and Place*, on June 3, 2019. It provided over 230 recommendations to governments, police services, and the Canadian public to help address levels of violence directed at Indigenous women and girls, as well as 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Our response to the interim report has been substantive and includes nearly \$50 million in new funding to:

- Increase health support and victim services for families and survivors.
- Support an RCMP National Investigative Standards and Practices Unit.
- Fund organizations with expertise in law enforcement and policing to review police policies and practices.
- Commemorate the lives and legacies of Indigenous women and girls.

Additionally, on June 3 2021, the *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People* was released. Guided by the principle “nothing about us, without us,” the national action plan is being co-developed to address the unique needs, experiences and cultural contexts of Indigenous Peoples and communities from coast to coast to coast. It is:

- A whole-of-Canada action plan with federal, provincial and territorial governments as partners with Indigenous governments and organizations. This Evergreen plan is Distinctions-based, regionally relevant, and reflective of the lived experience and expertise of family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+ people and survivors of gender-based violence. Together, these components will drive the transformative change needed to keep Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people safe wherever they live.
- To support an approach that addresses the root causes of violence, recognizes the scope of the problem, and factors in the different experiences of Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast to coast, we will provide \$2.2 billion.

## Engagement with Indigenous Peoples

Our Liberal Government is committed to renewing the relationship with Indigenous Peoples through increased engagement, partnership, and co-development of policy and programs. In Budget 2016, the government announced new investments to support the capacity of Indigenous Representative Organizations to engage with the government. We will provide \$60 million to renew and make permanent dedicated consultation and policy development funding to support this vital work.

## Implementation of Legislation on the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It became law in June 2021, providing a framework to uphold Indigenous rights, both now and in the future. It guides cooperative relationships with Indigenous Peoples based on the principles of equality, partnership, good faith, and mutual respect for Indigenous Peoples' survival, dignity, and well-being. In December 2020, the government introduced Bill C-15, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which was developed with Indigenous partners, fulfilling its commitment to introduce legislation to implement the Declaration as government legislation. In Budget 2021, we made plans to provide \$31.5 million to support the co-development of an Action Plan with Indigenous partners to implement this legislation and achieve the Declaration's objectives.

## Climate Change and the Environment

Working alongside Indigenous communities across Canada is crucial if we are going to truly combat climate change. Traditional knowledge is vital to understanding climate impacts and adaptation measures and is essential for Indigenous infrastructure development. Some of the investments we've made and initiatives we've taken on with Indigenous communities and leaders regarding climate change include:

- Investing \$2 billion over 11 years to support a broad range of infrastructure projects to meet rural and northern communities' unique needs, with a significant focus on sustainability.
- Creating an Arctic Energy Fund to address energy security for communities north of the 60th parallel, including Indigenous communities, and providing it with \$400 million.
- Investing \$83 million to integrate Indigenous knowledge into community resilience and infrastructure planning.
- Launching a \$25 million pilot Indigenous Guardians Program, which empowers communities to manage ancestral lands according to traditional laws and values.
- Providing \$21.4 million over four years to support renewable energy projects in Indigenous and northern communities that rely on diesel for electricity and heating.
- Providing \$18 million for a climate change and health adaptation program for First Nations and Inuit communities.

The Strategic Partnerships Initiative is a unique federal program that supports Indigenous communities at the early stages of complex, extensive economic opportunities. To date, the federal government has invested more than \$136 million in the Strategic Partnerships Initiative, supporting over 50 large-scale initiatives and fostering the creation of more than 200 successful partnerships in clean energy, tourism, and fisheries. These efforts have benefitted over 400 Indigenous communities and organizations across the country. In Budget 2021, we made plans to invest \$36 million through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative to build capacity for local, economically sustainable, and beneficial clean energy projects in Indigenous communities.



Touring marine areas in Tsleil-Waututh Nation alongside Nation members and leaders.

## Northern Economic Development

Canada has significantly invested in supporting economic development in Northern regions and granting more autonomy over reserve land. Natural Resources Canada has also received funding to engage more deeply with Indigenous partners. The Canada Infrastructure Bank will also provide loans to Indigenous communities to support their purchase of equity stakes in infrastructure projects, allowing them to participate more fully in the economic development of their regions.

## Gottfriedson Band Class Settlement Agreement

Our Liberal Government has agreed to pay \$2.8 billion for the Band Class settlement to establish a trust to support healing, wellness, education, heritage, language, and commemoration activities. This trust, independent of the government, will be guided by the Four Pillars developed by the Representative Plaintiffs.

The Four Pillars include:

- Revival and protection of Indigenous languages.
- Revival and protection of Indigenous cultures.
- Protection and promotion of heritage.
- Wellness for Indigenous communities and their members.



We will always stand with our Indigenous communities in the House of Commons. Together, we will continue to build a stronger Canada that respects and supports everyone.

## Ongoing Challenges/Conclusion

Reconciliation is an ongoing process. From a policy perspective, it is different that there is no specific, clear end goal, a specific action item to accomplish that will indicate we have reconciled with Indigenous Peoples. There's no one thing to tell us if the job is done, and it likely never will be. The upsetting discovery of the remains of Indigenous children on the former Kamloops Residential School grounds and additional bodies of children at the former Brandon Manitoba Residential School and the Marieval Residential School located at Cowessess First Nation reminds us of the immense importance of reconciliation. The discovery of these unidentified and stolen children was part of a larger initiative from our Liberal Government to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register and help maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries. This work has been Indigenous-led, community-based, survivor-centric, and culturally sensitive to the needs of Canada's Indigenous communities. It is expected that more discoveries are to come in the following years as this sensitive and essential work continues. These wounds are far from healed, and we must stand in support of our Indigenous communities as they happen and grieve alongside them. We must work together to determine how best to navigate forward in light of these discoveries. This means acknowledging the outstanding racial discrimination, harm, and prejudice our Indigenous communities face and that this has come as a direct result of colonialism. On a national level, this means continuing to engage with communities to develop culturally appropriate approaches to identifying the deceased children, locating burial sites, and commemorating or memorializing those who died or went missing in the residential school system. It also means helping those who now carry trauma due to their time at residential schools. These schools are not just history - they are lived experiences for individuals who walk with us today. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has identified more than 4,100 children who died while attending a residential school. This number represents just a portion of the number of unaccounted children who died or went missing because of the Residential School system. Reconciliation is about much more than the support of our Liberal Government through policies and funding. It is about changing Canada's culture, building a shared future together, and being more inclusive of Indigenous voices. This work is in progress, and I am proud to be part of a government that is rolling up its sleeves and getting to it.



Walking with Tsleil-Waututh Nation members on Truth and Reconciliation Day in memory and solidarity of the victims of the residential school system. Bringing local leaders and community members together to recognize past wrongs is a key part of the reconciliation process. We will continue to do everything we can to support reconciliation.