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Calls for Justice: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

A Preliminary Status Report for the Government of Prince Edward Island

June 2020

Introduction

On December 8th, 2015, the Government of Canada announced the launch of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Four Commissioners were mandated to examine systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people through the identification of common trends and contributing factors. At least 2380 people participated in the National Inquiry, including eight families (14 individuals) from Prince Edward Island, who contributed and gave testimony at the National Inquiry hearings in New Brunswick and Newfoundland in 2018. Each woman and family member shared their experiences through community hearings, private or in-camera sessions, statement gathering, and artistic expressions. Expert witnesses, Elders and knowledge keepers, front-line workers, and officials also provided testimony in nine Institutional and Expert and Knowledge Keeper Hearings.

Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people have generously and selflessly shared experiences and knowledge with organizations such as the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba, Amnesty International for their 2004 Stolen Sisters report, and the Native Women's Association of Canada's "Sisters in Spirit" research, education, and policy initiative. They have shared their stories at five National Indigenous Women's Summits and two National Roundtables on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We recognize that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people may be re-traumatized by sharing their experiences and knowledge and must be provided a culturally safe environment for continued collaboration. While we will continue to work together to document and hold our collective attention on the issue, we are committed to a practical and sensitive process that will result in improved outcomes for Indigenous women and their families.

On June 3, 2019, the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls came to a close with the release of its Final Report and Calls for Justice. In a clear message to the nation, the Commissioners call for a world "within which First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families can raise their children with the same safety, security, and human rights that non-Indigenous families do, along with full respect for the Indigenous and human rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families." The Government of Prince Edward Island shares this vision and recognizes that violence is not an isolated issue, but part of a complex spectrum of social, economic, historical, cultural, political and other contributing factors as is evident in the 231 Calls for Justice. We cannot hope to make progress in one area without attention to the others.

Over the past several years, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat, Interministerial Women's Secretariat and Victim Services have worked closely with representatives from MCPEI, the Native Council and the Aboriginal Women's Association to share information and learn more about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the challenges experienced by Indigenous people in Prince Edward Island.

On November 26, 2019, during the 1st Session of the 66th General Assembly of the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly, Motion 41 was passed, urging government to establish an

advisory committee to oversee the work of implementing and honouring the Calls to Action of the TRC and the Calls for Justice of the MMIWG. Since 2015, the Indigenous Relations Secretariat has maintained an evergreen status report on the Truth and Reconciliation Report. This was first tabled in the PEI legislature on June 26, 2019, and reported on collaborations between the Province of Prince Edward Island, the PEI Mi'kmaq and Indigenous organizations to improve outcomes for Indigenous people in our province. Today we table two reports, *Calls for Justice: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, A Preliminary Status Report for the Government of Prince Edward Island* and *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action, A Status Report for the Government of Prince Edward Island*. To the extent that the TRC Calls to Action and MMIWG Calls for Justice share common ground, a program or service may respond to recommendations raised in both reports.

In March 2020, recognizing that a review and implementation of the Calls for Justice will require an effort across all departments, Executive Council approved a process to establish an Interdepartmental Working Group and an Indigenous Working Group to determine and coordinate priorities, next steps, and future actions within the provincial jurisdiction. Requests were sent to each department for representation, as well as the Aboriginal Women's Association, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island, Native Council of Prince Edward Island, Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation.

We table this report in an unprecedented time. With the outbreak of COVID-19, public health measures have effectively required changes in everyone's lives. Issues prevalent in our communities, such as domestic violence, are frequently heightened in challenging circumstances. According to a survey conducted by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), the global pandemic has put First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women at increased risk. While the Government of Canada continues to work with PEI and all provinces and territories to finalize a national action plan, the urgency heightens. In the interest of making progress in a COVID adapted environment, the Government of Prince Edward Island has confirmed representatives for each of the Interdepartmental and Indigenous Working Groups and engaged a facilitator to develop draft agendas and a work plan. Planning is underway to develop the vision and the process to address priorities identified by First Nations and Indigenous organizations.

The 231 Calls for Justice outline a national issue of gravity and magnitude, and it is important to recognize that analysis and implementation of the recommendations will require a whole of government collaborative approach grounded in thoughtfulness and sincerity.

Transformative change must be embraced by governments, institutions, and industries in the short and long term. The actions undertaken must be guided by the familiar axiom "Not about us without us" to ensure they are inclusive and postcolonial. Practical priorities and realistic goals will be achieved with the guidance of the First Nations and Indigenous organizations. As stated in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, *everyone in Canada has a duty and responsibility to take action to address the issue of violence*

against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Together, let us realize the paradigm shift toward a society in which there is zero tolerance for violence of any form.

In the passages below we have provided a preliminary look at current provincial actions that relate to the Calls for Justice Recommendations. Recognizing the complexity and magnitude of the undertaking and the importance of maintaining an Indigenous centered approach, we must respectfully allow time for the Interdepartmental and Indigenous Working Groups to collaboratively review and analyze the 231 Calls for Justice. Together, we will explore concrete opportunities to advance reconciliation in Prince Edward Island.

Calls for Justice for All Governments

Human and Indigenous Rights and Governmental Obligations

- The Calls for Justice in this section focus on the following topic(s) related to areas of human and Indigenous rights. The summary below comprises only the Calls which correspond to work being presently performed /undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island and is not an exhaustive list of all the Calls contained in the Report: Governments should develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people with regionally specific plans. National Action Plans should include devoted funding, timetables for implementation, measurable goals, long-and term solutions.
- Make publicly available annual reports that monitor ongoing actions and developments related to the National Action Plan.

The implementation of the Calls for Justice will require a whole of government effort, including departments, divisions, and agencies. Through ongoing collaboration, the Government of PEI has undertaken the following to begin addressing the Calls for Justice in this section:

- The Government of PEI participates on a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group which provides an opportunity to collaborate with other jurisdictions and provide input that would help inform the National Action Plan.
- The Government of Prince Edward Island has created an Interdepartmental Working Group, comprised of representatives from all government departments. This Working Group will collaborate to coordinate a provincial response to the Calls for Justice and work with an Indigenous Working Group to help set priorities and goals. This work will

culminate in an annual report, which will outline the Government of PEI's actions to move the Calls for Justice forward while working concurrently and collaboratively with the goals of the federal National Action Plan currently under development.

Culture

The Calls for Justice in this section focus on the following topic(s) related to areas of culture and language. The summary below comprises only the Calls which correspond to work being presently performed /undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island and is not an exhaustive list of all the Calls contained in the Report:

- All governments should make funds available to Indigenous people to support the work required to revitalize and restore Indigenous cultures and languages.

The implementation of the Calls for Justice will require a whole of government effort, including departments, divisions, and agencies. Through ongoing collaboration, the Government of PEI has undertaken the following to begin addressing the Calls for Justice in this section:

- Mi'kmaq Language Initiative - The Province will provide funding for a proposed project called, "Every Child Counts - Every Child Can!" The project's goal is to connect Mi'kmaq families with federal government supports such as Child Tax Credits, RESPs and the Canada Learning Bond. This support is meant to contribute to the production of promotional material (video and/or print) in the Mi'kmaq language. Costs will include translation and production of materials and content.
- As part of the Provincial 5 Year Cultural Action Plan, the Province will collaborate with Indigenous people to develop learning initiatives about Mi'kmaq history and culture for Islanders and newcomers, including:
 - Renewed annual investment in the Provincial Artbank and commitment to having work displayed in public spaces. Establishing new Artbank investment for the acquisition of visual art by Island artists;
 - Investment in public art, festivals and events in communities across Prince Edward Island that reflect and celebrate our local identity;
 - Supporting Island artists to create and disseminate their artwork;
 - Supporting the development of Mi'kmaq led business in the creative and applied arts.
- The Public Library Service in Prince Edward Island is committed to celebrating the province's rich Mi'kmaq history and culture while serving First Nations people, and has a number of collections that are written, produced, and focused on Indigenous people in a wide variety of areas and formats.

- A Mawi'omi Day pilot project provided for 65 students from Stonepark Intermediate, Mount Stewart Consolidated, and École François-Buote to gather with their peers at Abegweit First Nation to gain perspective, knowledge, and to start the working progress of reconciliation. Students had the opportunity to meet community members, participate in cultural activities, and enjoy traditional food while celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- A collaborative project between Senator Francis, Georgina Francis, Harmony Wagner, Catherine MacLellan, and Tara MacLean promoted the singing of the National Anthem in Mi'kmaq in schools across Prince Edward Island. This initiative led to the production of a Youtube video of Islanders singing in the Mi'kmaq language and a short documentary. Schools continue to routinely sing the National Anthem in Mi'kmaq.

Health and Wellness

The Calls for Justice in this section focus on the following topic(s) related to health and wellness. The summary below comprises only the Calls which correspond to work being presently performed /undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island and is not an exhaustive list of all the Calls contained in the Report:

- Establishing culturally competent and responsive crisis response teams to meet the immediate needs of an Indigenous person, family, and/or community after a traumatic event.
- Providing necessary resources including funding, to support revitalization of Indigenous health, wellness, and child and Elder care practices. This includes teachings that are land-based and about harvesting and the use of Indigenous medicines for ceremony and health issues.
- That institutions and health service providers ensure that all persons involved in the provision of health services to Indigenous people receive ongoing training, education, and awareness in areas including: the history of colonialism in the oppression and genocide of Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people, anti-bias and anti-racism, local language and culture, and local health and healing practices.

The implementation of the Calls for Justice will require a whole of government effort, including departments, divisions, and agencies. Through ongoing collaboration, the Government of PEI has undertaken the following to begin addressing the Calls for Justice in this section:

- Healthcare sites have been directed to consider alternative methods, including cultural healing practices of Indigenous peoples, and other elements on a case-by-case basis, depending on the request of individuals and families, while factoring risks.

- The Primary Care and Chronic Disease Unit will be required to report on incoming Accreditation Canada Standard to ensure a safe, non-judgmental space is created for clients to discuss traditional / complementary or alternative medicine, when the client wishes to discuss such options as part of their care.
- In the area of Mental Health and Addictions, staff going to both First Nations have been involved directly in some healing practices. These have included assisting with a photo project and the provision of clinical services such as Wampum Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). This is a First Nations critical incident stress debriefing model considered to be grounded in cultural practice.
- Health PEI coordinates the Indigenous Cultural Awareness, Sensitivity and Competency training sessions through their Primary Care and Chronic Disease Unit. The training focuses on the historical, political, and cultural issues that impact the health of Indigenous peoples, as well as Indigenous concepts of healing and health. The content of the training was designed in partnership with Abegweit First Nation, Lennox Island First Nation, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Native Council of PEI and the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI. The training is delivered over 3.5 days and is co-facilitated by an MCPEI representative and a professional facilitator. Approximately 220 HPEI clinicians and others have taken training sessions.
- The Diversity Employment Program, administered by the Public Service Commission's Staffing and HR Planning Division, has been in existence for over a decade. The PSC encourages departments and agencies to identify potential employment opportunities, including casual and temporary positions, for qualified candidates from designated groups who are registered in the PSC diversity inventory. The Diversity Program can also refer diversity group applicants, who meet job requirements, to departments for term positions for which they qualify. Community Health also supports Aboriginal health care providers in training opportunities.
- First Nations Health Center mental health staff are also able to access staff training directly from the mental health and addictions training calendar. For some, this has included mental health first aid and dialectical behavioral training (DBT). Feedback on these has been quite positive.
- Health PEI is committed to policy that guarantees and facilitates fairness and equity in dealing with the diversity among Health PEI employees, clients and general public. All individuals associated with Health PEI operations has a right to equal treatment with respect to all services, programs, employment, goods and facilities provided by Health PEI, without discrimination and free from harassment.
- Health PEI executive leadership team is responsible to:
 - Ensure that the diversity among Health PEI employees is acknowledged in all operations.
 - Provide protection of the inherent human dignity of all persons within the respective service operations.
 - Ensure that any violation of the Policy will not be tolerated

- Accreditation Canada (AC) requires organizations to be culturally competent with respect to the populations that they serve - so understanding the culture and increasing awareness of Health Care providers would be very well received by AC surveyors.

Human Security

The Calls for Justice in this section focus on the following topic(s) related to human security. The summary below comprises only the Calls which correspond to work being presently performed /undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island and is not an exhaustive list of all the Calls contained in the Report:

- That all governments recognize Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in the pursuit of economic and social development. Governments must support and resource economic and social progress and development on an equitable basis and support and resource community-based supports and solutions designed to improve social and economic security.
- That government provides supports and resources for educational, training, and employment opportunities for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- That governments commence construction of new housing and provision of repairs to meet the housing needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people
- That governments establish a Child and Youth Advocate in each jurisdiction, with a specialized unit with the mandate of Indigenous children and youth.

The implementation of the Calls for Justice will require a whole of government effort, including departments, divisions, and agencies. Through ongoing collaboration, the Government of PEI has undertaken the following to begin addressing the Calls for Justice in this section:

- The Government of Prince Edward Island established an independent Child and Youth Advocate Office in November 2019. A Child and Youth Advocate was appointed in the Spring 2020 Legislative sitting.
- In February 2020, the Department of Social Development and Housing announced a partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association and the province to address housing needs through The Community Housing Fund. The Native Council of PEI is receiving \$50,000 for pre-construction support to develop 20 units for off-reserve Indigenous people that require temporary housing.
- Skills PEI is supporting the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Social Enterprise Initiative by providing \$444,500 over four years to support social enterprise projects. The initiative will assist 18 Indigenous entrepreneurs to create social enterprises in Lennox Island and

Abegweit First Nations in the areas of craft tourism, agriculture and property maintenance. This project is especially targeted to women and youth.

- The Department of Fisheries and Communities has provided support to the Lennox Island First Nation Bideford Marine Centre shellfish hatchery and continues to provide technical support to the hatchery. The Aquaculture Division of the Department has worked with the Lennox Island Band in supporting the shellfish hatchery by providing \$80,000 of equipment and currently provides assistance to the land based finfish hatchery through loans of equipment and technical support.
- The Province has committed \$2.2 million to support building the Urban Indigenous Centre on the Charlottetown waterfront.
- Innovation PEI has partnered with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy on many diverse and significant economic development initiatives. Over \$3.5 million has been invested by Innovation PEI in the past 10 years on initiatives such as:
 - Signing a comprehensive economic development agreement with MCPEI;
 - Commitments towards the construction of the new Cultural Center on the waterfront; and
 - Establishing a Powwow fund that supports all four PEI Powwows each year.
- Tourism PEI (TPEI) allocated space within the Cavendish Visitor Information Centre called Epekwitkewaq to MCPEI to house information on the Indigenous community on PEI and to enable retail sales of indigenous crafts and product.
- Tourism PEI has given eight sessions/workshops on experiential tourism to the Indigenous community in Charlottetown and in Scotchfort. TPEI continues to work with Indigenous individuals to develop tourism products.
 - Over the past two years, Tourism PEI has supported two different paddling festivals which integrated Indigenous culture into the Festival programming (Sea the Coast Paddling Festival and the Waterways Paddling Festival). Tourism PEI has hosted international media and travel bloggers to visit Lennox Island to participate in their experiential packages ("The Beat of The Drum", "Quill Work on Birch Bark", and "Bannock and Clams").
- Tourism PEI has utilized the professional services of Mi'kmaq photographer Patricia Bourque on photo shoots for the provincial visitor guide.

Justice

The Calls for Justice in this section focus on the following topic(s) related to justice. The summary below comprises only the Calls which correspond to work being presently performed /undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island and is not an exhaustive list of all the Calls contained in the Report: That federal, provincial, and territorial governments and all actors in the justice system consider Gladue Reports as a right and to resource them appropriately.

- Guaranteed access to financial support and meaningful and appropriate trauma care provided for victims of crime and traumatic incidents.
- Victim Services must be independent from prosecution services and police services.
- Adequate and reliable culturally relevant and accessible victim services must be provided to family members and survivors of crime, and funding must be provided to Indigenous and community-led organizations that deliver victim services and healing supports.
- Increase accessibility to meaningful and culturally appropriate justice practices by expanding restorative justice programs and Indigenous Peoples' court.
- That federal, provincial, and territorial governments provide community based and Indigenous specific options for sentencing.

The implementation of the Calls for Justice will require a whole of government effort, including departments, divisions, and agencies. Through ongoing collaboration, the Government of PEI has undertaken the following to begin addressing the Calls for Justice in this section:

Gladue Reports

- In 2018, the Department of Justice and Public Safety (JPS) and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) entered into a MOU to confirm the submission of Gladue Reports to the Courts. Gladue Reports are outlined in s. 217 in the Criminal Code and grant Indigenous people in conflict with the law the right to request a Gladue Report, which outlines their background/history, and any contributing factors that resulted in them engaging in unlawful activity. Gladue Reports are submitted to the Judge who is required to consider the Gladue factors prior to sentencing an Indigenous person.
- The Province currently contracts MCPEI for a fee for service to write Gladue Reports; the MOU confirms this important relationship. Since 2014, there have been approximately 53 reports requested from the Courts.

Victim Services Program

- Through the provincial Victim Services Program, Indigenous victims of crime in PEI have access to all services available to victims of crime in PEI (information about the justice system, court preparation, emotional support and short term counseling, help to prepare a victim impact statement, Criminal Injuries Compensation, help for victims of family violence, etc.).
- Services are available to victims of crime regardless of whether they report to police, and whether the perpetrator is charged or there is a conviction.
- PEI Victim Services has a Criminal Injuries Compensation Program which provides compensation to eligible victims of personal injury crimes. Compensation can be

provided for pain and suffering, wage loss, counseling costs, medical or dental costs, funeral costs, etc.

- Victim Services in Prince Edward Island was established as system-based service to victim of crime. The system-based approach has a number of key attributes including operating within the criminal justice system, but independently from the police, Crown attorneys and the courts. It is a client-centered model that maintains close working relationships with criminal justice personnel and community agencies.
- There is Indigenous representation on the Victim Services Advisory Committee, which provides advice to the Minister of Justice and Public Safety on issues of concern to victims of crime. There is also an Indigenous representative on the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention.
- Victim Services and Native Council of PEI staff have worked together in a series of cross training meetings to build partnerships and increase awareness of each other's programs and services.
- Victim Services participates in training for Circle Keepers and other victim awareness initiatives.
- Victim Services staff participated in a one day information session hosted by RCMP on investigation and response to Missing and Murdered Persons Cases.
- Victim Services and other staff of the Community and Correctional Services Division participated in a number of training initiatives including a two day "Cultural Retreat for Justice System Professionals" hosted by MCPEI in November 2018; a two day conference "Bringing Balance to the Scales of Justice Training" hosted by MCPEI indigenous Justice Program, in partnership with Justice Canada's Justice Strategy and the PEI Department of Justice and Public Safety. (November 2019); and Blanket Exercises hosted by MCPEI.

Family Information Liaison Unit

- With the launch of the National Inquiry, funding was announced for Provincial and Territorial Victim Services to establish Family Information Liaison Units (FILUs) within their Victim Services Divisions for the duration of the Inquiry (up to March 31, 2019, and a further extension to March 31, 2023). The PEI Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) provides a centralized, coordinated mechanism for family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls to access requested information related to the loss of their loved one. As a result of their involvement with the PEI FILU, a number of families were able to obtain information from police reports, autopsy reports, and court records, which helped to answer questions and bring closure. This process has also helped to reduce further trauma to next generations of adults and children who will now have answers.
- The FILU unit also compliments and works collaboratively with other existing mechanisms that assist families and victims. Funding has been provided by the PEI FILU to a number of Indigenous organizations (AWA, Native Council of PEI, and MCPEI) for projects that have come forward through follow up from the recommendations of the April 2018

Conference Board of Canada report "Understanding Violence Against Indigenous Women and the Supports they need in Prince Edward Island". These projects include:

- Abegweit Mi'kmaq Nation Wellness Centre received funding for a project "Reclaiming cultural connection and healing through traditional dance". This was a 10 week program (January to March, 2019) with weekly dance sessions targeting children and youth up to age 30, but open to all community members.
- The FILU is partnering with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat to fund a project of the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association "Finding Our Way Through Prevention and Knowledge". The project is designed to raise awareness about violence against women while providing a safe environment to receive information about available programs, services and cultural knowledge sessions.
- MCPEI received funding to develop a "PEI Missing Indigenous Persons Tool Kit – A Guide for Families and Communities". This will assist in responding in a case of a missing or murdered Indigenous person.
- In 2018, the Aboriginal Women's Association was approved for the funding amount of \$25,400 for the project "Finding Our Way through Prevention and Knowledge" through the IWS Violence Against Women Prevention Grant. This project will raise awareness about violence against women while providing them with a safe environment to receive information about available programs, services and cultural knowledge sessions. An additional \$10,500 was made available for this project from the PEI Family Information Liaison Unit through Victim Services.

Indigenous Justice Forum

- Each year, staff of the Community and Correctional Services Division participate in the Indigenous Justice Forum, both on the planning committee and as participants. Staff also participate in the annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil to honour and remember missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Indigenous Justice Program

- PEI, Justice Canada and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI are a part of a tripartite agreement to fund the Indigenous Justice Program (IJP). The agreement was renewed in spring 2017 and has an ongoing mandate. The Province continues to support the IJP and the important work it does in providing culturally specific, holistic programming to Indigenous people (and their communities) that are in conflict with the law.
- In 2019, the Province increased its funding to MCPEI's IJP to better support the important, culturally - relevant justice services MCPEI provides, in particular upstream, crime prevention activities.
- The IJP is administered by MCPEI and advised by an Indigenous Advisory Committee made up of representatives appointed from three Indigenous organizations and bands:

the Lennox Island First Nation, the Abegweit First Nation, and the Aboriginal Women's Association. Representatives from the RCMP, Charlottetown Police, Federal and Provincial Governments also sit on the Advisory Council.

- The IJP has improved and strengthened mutual understanding of Indigenous people and the justice system through both training and cross-cultural sharing and continues to work to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in contact with the justice system.
- The Community and Correctional Services staff, in concert with the Division's Indigenous Case Worker and MCPEI's Indigenous Justice Program, offer effective community based alternatives including an Alternative Measures Program and working in collaboration with the Indigenous Justice Program to ensure individuals have access to/awareness of Sentencing and Healing Circles, and restorative justice forums.
- The Indigenous Caseworker facilitates access to Elders in the community with Indigenous offenders who request this support. This includes arranging visits to the provincial correctional centre and ensuring that Elders are available.
- The Province contracts with MCPEI to deliver Gladue Reports. One of the outcomes of the Gladue Report is to provide sentencing recommendations. MCPEI is currently working with Probation Services to ensure culturally-relevant recommendations are made and align with pre sentence report material to the greatest extent possible.
- The Community and Correctional Services staff, in concert with the Division's Indigenous Case Worker and MCPEI's Indigenous Justice Program, offer effective community based alternatives including an Alternative Measures Program and working in collaboration with the Indigenous Justice Program to ensure individuals have access to/awareness of Sentencing and Healing Circles, and restorative justice forums.
- The Indigenous Caseworker facilitates access to Elders in the community with Indigenous offenders who request this support. This includes arranging visits to the provincial correctional centre and ensuring that Elders are available.
- Primary among the services offered by the MCPEI Indigenous Justice Program are the Indigenous Justice Circles led by trained Circle Keepers.
- Circle Keepers are trained to facilitate the following processes:
 - Conflict-Resolution Circles
 - Early Intervention Circles
 - Sentencing Circles
 - Healing Circles

Education

The Calls for Justice in this section focus on the following topic(s) directed at educators and educational institutions. The summary below comprises only the Calls which correspond to work being presently performed /undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island and is not

an exhaustive list of all the Calls contained in the Report: That educational institutions educate and provide awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Curriculum development and planning should be done in partnership with Indigenous people and should include teaching Indigenous history, law, and practices from Indigenous perspectives.

The implementation of the Calls for Justice will require a whole of government effort, including departments, divisions, and agencies. Through ongoing collaboration, the Government of PEI has undertaken the following to begin addressing the Calls for Justice in this section:

- All education professionals have access to a professional learning certificate delivered via online learning module called, “Four Seasons of Reconciliation”, which provides a historical perspective for teaching Indigenous ways of being.
- English programs for grades 9 and 10 social studies “Human Rights Unit” explores the Indian residential schools legacy. These lessons explore issues, e.g., intergenerational impacts, systemic racism, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, poverty, educational gaps, reconciliation.
- An Indigenous Education Committee was formed with the mandate to identify and monitor successes and gaps that currently exist for Indigenous learners in the early childhood sector, the K-12 education system, post secondary institutions, and other adult training opportunities. The goal of the committee was to implement these successes province-wide if possible; and to address the gaps by putting in place plans, resources, supports and initiatives to address those gaps. The Committee is comprised of staff from the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning, Abegweit First Nation, and Lennox Island First Nation.
- In November 2019, the Indigenous Education Committee met to address issues of concern in Island schools from the Indigenous community. The committee will continue to meet and identify successes and gaps.
- A subcommittee will be formed from this group to specifically examine Indigenous education for non-Indigenous students.
- Each year on September 30, schools across PEI promote Orange Shirt Day to honour survivors of the Residential School system. The Indigenous Relations Secretariat coordinates this annual event to provide employees the opportunity to learn, participate, and engage on this important day. This is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.
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Social Work and Child Welfare

The Calls for Justice in this section focus on the following topic(s) related to child welfare. The summary below comprises only the Calls which correspond to work being presently performed /undertaken by the Government of Prince Edward Island and is not an exhaustive list of all the Calls contained in the Report:

- Ensure that distinctions-based and culturally safe culture and language programs for Indigenous children in the care of child welfare are available and accessible.
- Child and family services agencies engage in recruitment efforts to hire and promote Indigenous staff, as well as promote intensive and ongoing training of social workers and child welfare staff in the following areas: history of child welfare system in the oppression and genocide of Indigenous People, anti-racism and anti-bias training, local culture and language training, sexual exploitation and trafficking training to recognize signs and develop resources.

The implementation of the Calls for Justice will require a whole of government effort, including departments, divisions, and agencies. Through ongoing collaboration, the Government of PEI has undertaken the following to begin addressing the Calls for Justice in this section:

- The Department of Social Development and Housing, Child Protection Services program, works in partnership with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI), Child & Family Services program.
- In 2013, a protocol entitled "*Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Child & Family Services and Department of Community Services & Seniors¹ Child Protection Services Protocol: A Collaborative Approach for Child Protection Services to PEI First Nations Children and Families*", was developed to ensure that Child Protection Services provided to Prince Edward Island's First Nation children and families are delivered in a manner that preserves and promotes the Indigenous cultural identity of children and families. The protocol also recognizes that Child Protection Services of PEI consult and collaborate with the First Nations on decisions regarding PEI's First Nations children involved with Child Protection Services
- The Department of Social Development and Housing continues efforts to actively recruit and retain Indigenous Foster Parents. The Director of Child & Family Services for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI is a member of the Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Committee of Child Protection Services.
- Additionally, culturally appropriate parenting programs for Prince Edward Island's First Nation children and families are provided by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Child &

¹ Changed to Family & Human Service in May 2015 and Social Development and Housing in April 2019

Family Services, through the Mi'kmaq Family PRIDE program. The MCPEI Family PRIDE program provides prevention and support services to children and families living on Reserve in Prince Edward Island. Child Protection Services works collaboratively with the Mi'kmaq Family PRIDE program on behalf of children and families of Prince Edward Island First Nations.

- The Department of Social Development and Housing, Child & Family Services, continues to collaborate with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to develop and provide training for employees of Child & Family Services to include Family Service Workers, Child Protection Youth Workers, Child Protection Social Workers, Child Protection Supervisors, Residential Services (group home) Youth Workers and Supervisors, and Senior Management of Child & Family Services. This training includes continued education and engagement specific to the history and impacts of residential schools.
- This training is integrated into the core training which is required for all new child protection social workers and is open to family service workers and youth workers. The training is developed in collaboration with the Director of Child & Family Services for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, to include an Elder.

Conclusion

- This report provides an overview of initiatives the Province of Prince Edward Island has undertaken in recent years to improve the overall health, safety and wellbeing of the Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous people on Prince Edward Island. Much of this work could not be completed if not for their generosity and willingness to collaborate. The Province remains firmly committed to working together to advance reconciliation and achieve positive and lasting outcomes for the Mi'kmaq and all Indigenous people on the Island.