



**Native Women's
Association of Canada**



**L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada**

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in
Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget**

Submitted by: The Native Women's Association of Canada

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List of Recommendations

- **Recommendation #1:** That the Government of Canada make significant and sustained investments to ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people have access to safe and affordable housing regardless of their status under the Indian Act or place of residence.
- **Recommendation #2:** That the Government of Canada make significant and sustained investments to ensure the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people in all aspects of their daily lives regardless of their status under the Indian Act or place of residence.
- **Recommendation #3:** That the Government of Canada make significant and sustained investments to ensure the health and wellbeing of all Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people regardless of their status under the Indian Act or place of residence.
- **Recommendation #4:** That the Government of Canada make significant and sustained investments to ensure that Indigenous women and gender diverse people have access to trauma informed employment and training resources regardless of their status under the Indian Act or place of residence and to financially support traditional entrepreneurship.
- **Recommendation #5:** That the Government of Canada make significant and sustained investments to empower Indigenous women and gender diverse people to become leaders in the field of social and cultural innovation in Canada.
- **Recommendation #6:** That the Government of Canada make significant and sustained investments to ensure that Indigenous women and gender diverse people have access to post-secondary education in Canada.
- **Recommendation #7:** That these investments be made in full consultation with representative Indigenous women's organizations including NWAC and its PTMAs and that such organizations be provided with the core capacity funding to fully engage in a manner that is meaningful and respectful of the spirit and intent of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as decisions made by the Courts of Canada.



The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) respectfully submits the following recommendations to the Standing Committee of Finance for consideration in their preparation of the 2021 federal budget.

1) Recommendation #1


These investments must include but are not limited to:

- a. Establishing a dedicated program that provides Indigenous women and gender diverse people including young people and seniors living on and off-reserve with a pathway to home ownership.
- b. Increasing the number of affordable rental units dedicated to Indigenous women and gender diverse people including young people and seniors living on and off-reserve; and
- c. Establishing a dedicated program that provides financial assistance for the maintenance and repair of housing units that are occupied, including those occupied by young people and seniors living on and off-reserve.

2) Recommendation #2

These investments must include but are not limited to:

- a. Increasing the number of Indigenous women's shelters including second-stage shelters and day/hybrid shelters across Canada, including shelters in urban and rural localities;
- b. Establishing shelters including second-stage shelters and day/hybrid shelters dedicated to serving and gender diverse people in major metropolitan areas across Canada;
- c. Increasing the availability of trauma informed services dedicated to supporting Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people who have experienced violence or who have been impacted by violence in all its forms. These services must be developed and delivered by Indigenous women and gender diverse people and be inclusive of all individuals regardless of their status under the Indian Act or their place of residence;
- d. Full funding for the establishment and sustainability of residential trauma recovery centres across Canada aimed at providing intensive trauma informed culturally grounded support to Indigenous women and gender diverse peoples for whom non-residential services have not been sufficient. Such centres include but are not limited to those found in NWAC's growing network of Resiliency Lodges.
- e. Increasing the availability of cultural and safety training for police, court officials, probation/parole service workers and associated professionals who work within the criminal justice system to ensure the fair and just treatment of Indigenous women and gender diverse people who become involved in the system as either offenders or victims.
- f. Funding dedicated to establishing a non-governmental entity whose role is to identify, track, monitor and report on the occurrences of violence, in all of its forms, against Indigenous women and gender diverse people in the workplace and to provide support



to the victims of such violence. This entity would also monitor and report on any violence that has occurred in geographical areas surrounding large natural resource extraction sites.

- g. Dedicated capacity funding be provided to representative Indigenous women's organizations including NWAC and its Provincial Territorial Membership Associations (PTMAs) to ensure their full and equitable participation in all aspects of the development and implementation of the National Action Plan arising from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This funding must include but should not be limited to funding for the engagement of youth and Elders through dedicated councils or other mechanisms that have been identified by representative organizations. It must also include funding aimed at supporting the development of policy and research as well as supporting representative organizations to align their operational frameworks including their strategic plans and evaluation frameworks with the National Action Plan.

3) Recommendation # 3

These investments must include but are not limited to:

- a. Increasing access to trauma informed wholistic health care services for Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people in urban and rural communities including support for the establishment of Indigenous managed women's health care clinics and centres.
- b. Expanding Indigenous midwifery and doula training programs to ensure that Indigenous women have access to trauma informed family planning services that include but are not limited to pre/post-natal care that is grounded in Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- c. Increasing available funding for trauma informed Indigenous mental health and addictions programming and expand eligibility requirements to include all Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people regardless of their status under the Indian Act and regardless of their place of residence.
- d. Restoring the National Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Program and expand eligibility requirements to include access by all Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people regardless of their status under the Indian Act and their place of residence.
- e. Restoring the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative with a focus on supporting Indigenous women and gender diverse people to pursue careers in the health field.
- f. Providing adequate, reliable and sustained core funding support to representative Indigenous women's organizations including NWAC and its PTMA's to ensure that they are able to fully participate in government initiatives aimed at addressing the social determinants of health as they relate to Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse peoples.
- g. Expanding the jurisdiction of all federally funded health and wellness programs to include all Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people.



4) Recommendation #4

These investments must include but are not limited to:

- a. Support the development and implementation of trauma informed employment and training readiness programs that empower women to move beyond the trauma that they have experienced so that they can take full advantage of employment and training opportunities.
- b. Establish a dedicated Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Strategy targeting the unique and diverse employment and training needs of Indigenous Women and gender diverse people.
- c. Establish an Indigenous women's micro-lending program for the purposes of supporting entrepreneurship among Indigenous women and gender diverse people and that this program include a funding stream dedicated to supporting traditional forms of traditional entrepreneurship including but not limited to Indigenous arts and crafts.
- d. Establish an Indigenous women's and gender diverse people's entrepreneurship training program.

5) Recommendation #5

These investments must include but are not limited to:

- a. The expansion of existing social innovation funding programs to include a stream dedicated to supporting Indigenous women and gender diverse people to fully engage in and drive Indigenous social innovation in Canada.

6) Recommendation #6


These investments must include but are not limited to:

- a. The development of a sustainable post-secondary education scholarship fund to support Indigenous women and gender diverse people who do not qualify for funding under current programs or who may be prevented access to these programs due to their place of residency.

7) Recommendation #7

This includes:

- a. Ensuring that Indigenous women representative organizations, including NWAC and its PTMAs, are adequately funded to participate in consultative activities undertaken by all levels of government and fellow civil society organizations who undertake activities that have the potential to impact the lives of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people;

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- b. Ensuring that representative organizations are fully funded to carry out all governing activities in accordance with their established by-laws including those related to the establishment and support of youth and Elder's Councils; and
 - c. Ensuring that the needs of Indigenous women's organizations are prioritized in all decisions related to funding allocations.

About the Native Women's Association of Canada: The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national Indigenous organization representing the political voice of Indigenous grassroots women in Canada. Incorporated in 1974, NWAC works to advance the well-being and equality of Indigenous women through advocacy, education, research, and policy. NWAC is an aggregate of thirteen Indigenous grass roots women's organizations across Canada. NWAC was founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of Indigenous women within their respective communities and Canadian societies. Ending violence towards Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people has been a core mission of the Organization.

NWAC has amassed an unparalleled level of expertise in all matter of issues impacting Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people. These include but are not limited to violence, human rights, law, economic empowerment and other areas related to the social determinants of health. Expertise in these areas has been vital to the success of the work of NWAC as the advancement of these policy areas is key to addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people. Unfortunately, NWAC's ability to fully engage in these policy areas has been limited by the lack of available long term stable core funding for Indigenous organizations whose mandate is to represent the rights and interests of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people.

NWAC's work is conducted using project-based funding which significantly restricts NWAC's ability to fully engage in initiatives that are not directly connected to the contribution agreements that it currently has with the Government of Canada. This includes activities related to the provision of capacity support to non-Indigenous organizations who have been funded to perform Indigenous specific work. NWAC believes self-determined, sustained and meaningful change in the life chances of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people will not be possible until the organizations that are dedicated to leading and informing Indigenous people are able to access equitable and reliable long term stable core funding. Finally, NWAC believes that any meaningful change will continue to be hindered until Indigenous women and gender diverse people are provided with the capacity to drive the development of culturally grounded and trauma informed programs and services aimed at ensuring their future prosperity.