



National First Nations Water Leadership Award

The annual [National First Nations Water Leadership Award](#) recognizes First Nations individuals or organizations that have demonstrated leadership and outstanding dedication to the advancement of clean and safe drinking water in First Nations communities, today and for future generations. National First Nations Water Leadership Award began in 2018 and is open annually to nominations for eligible candidates. Eligible candidates include:

- First Nations individuals, community members or leaders
- First Nations organizations
- First Nations communities

Nominations for the 2025 National First Nations Water Leadership Award are now being accepted. **Submit your nomination using the online [form](#) by May 31, 2025.**

Canada’s first federal Indigenous Justice Strategy to address systemic discrimination and overrepresentation in the Canadian justice system

On March 10, 2025, as part of the commitment to advance reconciliation through meaningful action, the Government of Canada released the first-ever federal [Indigenous Justice Strategy](#). The strategy sets out a vision and priority areas to guide collaborative work going forward by Indigenous peoples, Canada, and provinces and territories, to advance transformative reforms throughout the criminal justice system and to support the revitalization of Indigenous laws and legal orders.

The strategy was developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis, including Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners, and was also shaped by feedback from engagement with Indigenous women, youth, Elders, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQI+ persons, as well as urban and other Indigenous organizations and groups and justice system practitioners.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

National Indigenous leaders and Canada sign a letter of intent to advance the national space for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples

On March 4, 2025, Canada and National Indigenous leaders took an important step toward lasting reconciliation. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council, [signed a Letter of Intent and a Collaboration Implementation Framework](#) that further solidifies the permanent First Nations, Inuit and Métis presence in the heart of Canada’s Parliamentary Precinct.

The signing of these agreements advances the efforts of the National Indigenous Organizations and provides a solid foundation to build upon as the Government of Canada works toward the restoration and modernization of the buildings. Guided by the National Indigenous Organizations, Canada will continue to collaborate in true partnership to shape the space’s long-term vision and design and ultimately redevelop the buildings to achieve this vision.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

**HELP IS AVAILABLE
WHENEVER YOU
NEED IT.**

Immediate support is available 24/7
for all Indigenous people in Canada.

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat
1-855-242-3310 or www.hopeforwellness.ca

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line
1-866-925-4419

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
and Girls Support Line
1-844-413-6649

CANADA HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

HOUSING PLAN IN ACTION!

Housing, Infrastructure
and Communities CanadaLogement, Infrastructures
et Collectivités Canada

The federal government is investing \$1B to support critical infrastructure in communities across the country. Communities with infrastructure projects that support homes, such as drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste infrastructure, can [apply today](#).

Indigenous applicants will have until May 19, 2025, 3 pm Eastern Time to submit their applications.

Launch fo the \$5 billion Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program

The [Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation](#) was launched in December supporting Indigenous groups in benefiting from the economic opportunities of natural resource development. It will provide up to \$5 billion in Indigenous loan guarantees to help unlock access to the capital needed for Indigenous groups to pursue ownership in natural resource and energy projects.

Loan guarantees work by providing a guarantee that the debt will be repaid by the guarantor (the federal government) should the borrower be unable to repay, which lowers the interest rate on the loan. Loan guarantees will help enable Indigenous communities and businesses to access private financing and to become meaningful equity partners and owners of natural resource and energy projects.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Measles prevention: What you need to know

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent measles. Measles vaccines are tested and effective at protecting you and others from serious illness. Parents and caregivers should make sure that children are up to date with their measles vaccines according to their [local routine vaccination schedules](#). If an adult or a child in their care has missed any doses of the vaccine or are unsure if vaccines are up to date, it is very important to contact their healthcare provider or local public health department.

If you may have been exposed to measles and are not fully vaccinated, immediately contact your healthcare provider or local public health department for advice. They may recommend the measles vaccine or a medication that contains protective antibodies. These should be given as soon as possible after exposure. Symptoms of measles include: fever; cough; runny nose; red, watery eyes; or rash (which looks like red spots and blotchy patches that start on the face and then spread down the body, arms and legs).

For more information, please visit [Measles: Symptoms and treatment](#).



PROTECT THEM FROM THE MEASLES

Regional

Canada to provide advance payments on active claims to 14 Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba First Nations

On March 8, 2025, Chief Nelson Genaille, President, Treaty Land Entitlement Committee; and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for CanNor, Gary Anandasangaree, issued the following statement today:

“The Treaty Land Entitlement Committee represents 14 First Nations in Manitoba who signed onto the 1997 Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement. These First Nations filed claims against Canada after a determination was made that Canada was in breach of that Agreement. The Government of Canada believes that the best way to address these outstanding claims and advance reconciliation is through ongoing negotiation and dialogue.”

Please visit the link to read the [full statement](#).

The Government of Canada takes another step to reduce homelessness in Winnipeg

The federal government is allocating an additional [\\$27.3 million in funding to End Homelessness Winnipeg](#) through the [Designated Communities](#) and [Indigenous Homelessness](#) streams of [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#). This brings the total allocation for Winnipeg from 2019 through 2028 to \$174.7 million. This funding will help service providers in Winnipeg prevent and reduce homelessness.

As the Reaching Home Community Entity in Winnipeg, End Homelessness Winnipeg works closely with stakeholders and community members on the front lines seeking to end homelessness in the region. Through Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, the federal government is committed to preventing and reducing homelessness across the country in urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Canada and Manitoba collaborating to advance nature protection and climate adaptation

On March 7, 2025, the Government of Canada announced the signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Government of Manitoba that sets the stage for the development of a nature agreement to advance nature conservation and protection across the province. [Nature agreements](#) are designed to support work to protect critical habitat for species at risk and migratory birds, to lessen impacts and build resilience to climate change, and to address biodiversity loss through the creation and expansion of [Protected and Conserved Areas](#).

Nature agreements are also intended to support and expand opportunities for Indigenous leadership in conservation and stewardship. As such, the Government of Canada has committed up to \$2 million over the next fiscal year, with the support of Manitoba, to enable Indigenous participation in the development of the nature agreement. This unique collaboration will support coming together to make ambitious progress on shared nature priorities, including Indigenous leadership in conservation, as well as advancing progress on Protected and Conserved Areas and action for species at risk and migratory birds.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Eligibility for Children's disABILITY Services expanded to First Nations communities

Effective February 4, 2025, eligibility for [Children's disABILITY Services](#) (CDS) has expanded to include residents of First Nations communities (that is, children living on reserve). This means children with disabilities, and their families who live in First Nation communities, may now access the provincially funded CDS program and its services and supports.

The CDS program supports families who are raising a child (or children) with developmental and physical disabilities to meet some of the additional needs they may have. Children's disABILITY Services offers families a variety of resources and supports to assist them to care for their children at home in their own communities, where children grow and thrive.

For more information, including [program eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit [Children's disABILITY services](#). You may also contact the program at (204) 945-8311 or email at cds@gov.mb.ca.